

Caribou-Targhee NF

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Final Environmental Impact Statement

Caribou Revised Forest Plan
Chapter Two--Alternatives

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Alternatives, including the Proposed Action

According to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Chapter 2 – Alternatives – is at the heart of the process. This chapter contains a detailed description of the Proposed Action and the Alternatives to the Proposed Action, including the No Action Alternative. Explanations are provided about how the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) developed the alternatives and describes why some were considered but eliminated from detailed study. At the end of this Chapter, a summary table compares the major features and effects of each Alternative.

Maps and other illustrations used throughout this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are graphic designs that explain or show relationships rather than true on-the-ground representation. Larger, more detailed maps are available for review in the Headquarters Office, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Idaho Falls, Idaho. Acre figures throughout this document are approximations and vary due to mathematical rounding.

CHANGES MADE BETWEEN DRAFT EIS AND FINAL EIS

Major changes between the Draft EIS and the Final EIS include the creation and analysis of a new alternative, Alternative 7R, based on comments received on the Draft EIS and changing direction on inventoried roadless area management. The alternative was developed using other components of other alternatives presented in the Draft EIS. These changes required some adjustment to management prescriptions for this alternative.

Several major issue sections were updated with additional analysis including livestock grazing, ecosystem management disturbance, recreation and access, recommended wilderness and roadless management. In addition, changes were made to several issue indicators to reflect the scope and scale of analysis in Chapter 4.

This Final EIS also contains new or updated appendices, including Appendix A, Public Involvement, Appendix B, Analysis Process, Appendix C, Wilderness Recommendations, Appendix D, Wildlife, TES Plants, and Fish Viability, and a new Appendix R, Roadless Areas.

Major and minor editorial changes were also made throughout the document, based on public comments or new information available between the release of the Draft EIS and the Final EIS.

PROCESS USED TO FORMULATE ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives under consideration were developed from the following sources:

- Monitoring and evaluation of current Forest resources
- A review of procedure and guidance from existing legislation and regulations, including the Code of Federal Regulations [CFR 219], the National Forest Management Act, and Forest Service Manual policy and direction
- A review of current management direction in the 1985 *Caribou National Forest and Curlew National Grassland Land and Resource Management Plan*
- An assessment of existing conditions, disclosed in the *Initial Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) for the Caribou National Forest* dated April 1999 and subsequent public comments
- Issues identified during the public scoping process as a result of the release of the AMS in April 1999; the Notice of Intent and Scoping Statement released August 9, 1999; and comments received at public meetings held in December 1999 and November 2000
- Management concerns and opportunities identified by the Interdisciplinary Team, including a review with the Intermountain Regional Office in Ogden, Utah

Nine significant planning issues were identified through these efforts: Access Management; Economics; Ecosystem Management; Livestock Grazing; Minerals Operations, Reclamation and Hazardous Substances Management; Riparian/Wetland Areas, Aquatic Habitat and Water Quality Management; Timber Sale Program; Recommended Wilderness and Roadless Area Management; and Wildlife and Habitat Management. These issues were used to develop a range of Alternatives to the proposed action as described in the Notice of Intent, dated August 9, 1999.

Fourteen preliminary Alternatives were initially identified, including the No Action and the Proposed Action. Seven of these preliminary Alternatives were eliminated from further analysis. The remaining seven were displayed and the effects analyzed in the Draft EIS. In response to public comments on the DEIS, the Forest developed another alternative, Alternative 7R. Thus, fifteen alternatives have been identified during the process. (See "Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study" for a discussion of these.)

ELEMENTS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

Each of the final eight Alternatives has identical or similar features to the others, and certain portions of a revised management plan would be the same for all Alternatives. In many other respects, the Alternatives are distinctly different from each other, especially in how they address the management concerns and issues generated through the formal public scoping process. Each

Alternative is, in effect, a blueprint for a stand-alone management plan, which, if chosen, would guide management of the Caribou for the next ten to fifteen years.

It was the intent to make all of the Alternatives considered in detail meet the purpose and need of this revision effort and to be fully implementable and achievable, subject to budget allocations. All of the Alternatives represent the principles of multiple use and sustained yield management, maintain or improve ecosystem health, and comply with environmental laws, although they may do so in slightly different ways. While all the Alternatives provide a wide range of multiple uses, goods, and services, some Alternatives give more or less emphasis to particular ones.

Historically, the Forest Service has not received the funds necessary to fully implement its management plans. Budgets were allocated based on the emphasis in the Alternative, the expected goods and services provided, and the necessary actions and expenditures required to deliver those goods and services.

Management objectives in each Alternative rely on adequate funding over the plan period and are subject to fluctuating budget levels, policy, and legislative decisions. The FY 2000 budget was used as a basis for developing Alternative budgets. Budgetary costs fluctuated between Alternatives depending upon the level of management activities. For example, those Alternatives with high vegetation treatment acres had higher costs for vegetation treatment than those Alternatives characterized by lower levels of treatment. Regarding the level of Congressional funding, if budget appropriations are less than the projected costs of management activities within an Alternative, the level of management activities correspondingly would be reduced. As a result, it will take longer to achieve desired outcomes associated with the Alternative.

All Alternatives use a consistent numbering scheme, provide basic protection for Forest resources, and comply with environmental laws. A consistent mapping approach is used in each Alternative using management area prescriptions. These prescriptions fall into broad categories called **Management Area Categories**.

Category 1 prescriptions are applied on lands that include Wilderness and backcountry areas where ecological processes, such as fire, insects and disease, are essentially allowed to operate relatively free from the influence of humans. Few, if any, man-made facilities are present. Travel is non-motorized with rare exceptions.

Category 2 prescriptions are applied on lands that provide for conservation of representative or particular rare and narrowly distributed ecological settings or components, such as riparian areas, wetlands, research natural areas or other special designated areas. These lands help insure conservation of ecosystems or ecosystem components that may provide important functions which insure the overall sustainability of larger landscapes. Human influences on ecological processes are limited to the degree possible but are sometimes evident. Human uses vary, but they are generally non-intensive.

Category 3 prescriptions are applied on lands that provide for a balance between ecological values and human uses. Resource management activities may occur, but

natural ecological processes and resulting patterns will normally dominate the landscape. Although these land areas are characterized by natural appearing landscapes, an array of management tools can be used to restore or maintain relatively natural patterns of ecological processes. Lands in this prescription category show some evidence of human activities and uses, including vegetation manipulation activities. Restrictions on motorized travel can vary by area and season.

Lands where **Category 4** prescriptions are applied provide for the management of ecological values to provide human recreational uses, such as developed and dispersed recreation areas. Recreation uses are within levels necessary to maintain overall ecological systems. Resource uses for other values generally are not emphasized and have little impact on ecological structure, function or composition. Sights and sounds of humans, on site, can be expected and even desired. Motorized transportation is common.

Category 5 prescriptions are applied on lands that are generally forested ecosystems and are managed to meet a variety of ecological and human needs. Timber harvest on lands under this prescription counts toward the ASQ. Ecological conditions are maintained with an emphasis on selected biological structures and compositions that consider the range of natural variability. These lands often display high levels of investment, use and/or activity, density of facilities, and evidence of vegetation manipulation activities. Facilities that support various resource uses are common. Motorized transportation is common, but some seasonal restrictions may occur.

Lands where **Category 6** prescriptions are applied are primarily non-forested ecosystems that are managed to meet a variety of ecological and human needs. Ecological conditions are maintained with an emphasis on selected biological structures and compositions that consider the range of natural variability. These lands may display high levels of investment, use and/or activity, and evidence of vegetation manipulation activities. Facilities that support various resource uses are common. Both motorized and non-motorized transportation is common.

Lands where **Category 8** prescriptions are applied are likely to be permanently altered by human activities beyond the level needed to maintain natural appearing landscapes and ecological processes. These land areas are generally small. Ecological values are protected where they affect the health and welfare of human occupancy. Mines, utility corridors or other concentrated uses are included in this prescription category. Human activities are generally commercial in nature and directly or indirectly provide jobs and incomes. Motorized transportation is common.

As directed by federal law, Forest Service policy, regulations, and guidance described in the Regional Guide for the Intermountain Region, **all Alternatives** will:

- Maintain basic soil, air, water, and land resources.
- Meet state and federal water quality standards.

- Provide a variety of life through management of biologically diverse ecosystems, though they may differ in how they emphasize native plant and animal management.
- Provide recreation opportunities and maintain scenic quality in response to the needs of National Forest users and local communities.
- Protect heritage resources in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, while also providing recreational and educational opportunities.
- Manage and protect fossils and antiquity resources.
- Suppress all wildfires that pose a threat to private property and public safety.
- Treat noxious weeds as described in the 1996 Forest-wide Noxious Weed EA.
- Sustain multiple uses, products, and services in environmentally acceptable manners.
- Update resource direction identified in the *Initial Analysis of the Management Situation for the Caribou National Forest (AMS)* that does not need to change in accordance with existing laws, regulations, and Forest Service Manual direction. (See AMS, pages 1-16 to 1-19.)
- Place emphasis on improved landownership and access patterns that benefit both private landowners and the public through cooperation with other landowners.
- Improve financial efficiency for most programs and projects by minimizing expenses, recognizing, that not all programs and projects produce revenue or are above cost.
- Emphasize cooperation with individuals, organizations, and other agencies to coordinate the planning and implementation of projects.
- Promote rural development opportunities to enrich rural cultural life, to enhance the environment, to provide employment, and to improve rural living conditions.
- Meet Federal Tribal Trust Responsibilities.
- Apply Wild and Scenic River management direction for eligible sites.
- Determine capability and suitability of rangelands to support livestock grazing.
- Determine the tentatively suited timber base on the forest.
- Require site-specific analysis for new Oil & Gas Leasing Proposals. The existing Plan allows leasing to occur; however, new regulations do not allow leasing under the Plan.
- Comply with Montana/Idaho Smoke Management Plan when planning, conducting, and reporting prescribed fires.

- Provide for non-declining, even flow and long-term sustained yield of wood products from lands suited for timber production.
- Provide for watershed health and restoration.
- Implement direction from the National Fire Plan.

ELEMENTS COMMON TO ACTION ALTERNATIVES 4, 5, 6 and 7

IMPLEMENTATION OF ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION RULE (2000)

Management direction for Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) was analyzed on a national scale through the Roadless Areas Conservation EIS, initiated by the Forest Service in the fall of 1999. In November 2000, the Forest Service issued the FEIS for the Roadless Area Conservation Rule in which the Preferred Alternative prohibited timber harvest and road building in inventoried roadless areas.

On January 12, 2001, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR) was published in Federal Register (36 CFR 294). The Roadless rule prohibited road construction, reconstruction and cutting, sale and removal of timber, with certain exceptions for the Inventoried Roadless areas identified in the FEIS maps. However, harvest for stewardship reasons could be done. The RACR had an effective date of March 13, 2001. This effective date was later delayed until May 12, 2002.

Later, several groups and States sued the Forest Service, alleging that there had not been adequate public involvement. The Idaho District Court agreed and on May 10 of 2001, the RACR was enjoined, thus was never in effect. Several environmental groups then appealed this decision to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. On December 12, 2002, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in a split decision reversed the injunction imposed by the lower Court. The Plaintiffs have requested that the entire 9th Circuit panel of judges review the ruling. This request is pending. The injunction is still in place until the 9th Circuit issues a mandate to the lower court to lift the injunction.

Although the RACR was not in effect at the time the Draft EIS was issued, in May of 2001, the preferred alternative in the DEIS, Alternative 7, incorporated the prohibitions of the RACR¹. A range of alternatives has been developed, some incorporating the Roadless Area Conservation Rule and some not. Each alternative description describes how the rule was addressed for that Alternative. In those alternatives where the RACR was applied, suitable timber acres were reduced in roadless areas because management objectives are not for timber production. However, capable forested acres within roadless areas could be harvested for stewardship purposes consistent with RACR.

¹ At the time the Forest went "to press" with the Draft Plan and DEIS in early April of 2001 it was anticipated that the RACR would be in effect once the documents were distributed to the public.

Alternative Descriptions

This section provides a narrative description, prescription tables, and prescription maps for each Alternative under consideration.

- Alternative 1 is the No Action Alternative required under the National Environmental Policy Act.
- Alternative 2 is the Proposed Action described in the Notice of Intent.
- Alternatives 3 through 7, including 7R, are action Alternatives to the Proposed Action, based on the issues identified through the scoping process discussed in Chapter 1.
- **Alternative 7R is the Selected Alternative.**

ALTERNATIVE 1 - NO ACTION (CURRENT PLAN DIRECTION)

Alternative 1 proposes to continue management under the existing 1985 Land and Resource Management Plan for the Caribou National Forest unless amended through site-specific project implementation. Analysis of this Alternative is a requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This Alternative reflects the likely outcomes of managing forest resources under the direction in the current plan into the future.

THEME

It includes a crosswalk of current Forest Plan direction, as amended by INFISH, using new management area prescriptions. Management prescription language in the 1985 Forest Plan has been updated to more accurately describe current management direction. In addition, prescriptions have been reclassified into broader Management Area Categories to simplify on-the-ground implementation, to improve consistency and understanding across and between National Forests, and to facilitate broad-scale analysis of issues, such as connectivity of habitat for wildlife. This Alternative addresses economics, commodity timber production, mining, and livestock grazing.

ACCESS AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Summer motorized recreation would be managed using open motorized road and trail densities at or near current levels on designated routes. No new motorized roads would be permitted unless an equal length of motorized road is closed elsewhere on the Forest. About 420,200 acres (~ forty percent) open to summer cross-country motorized use would be retained in this Alternative.

The Forest would remain open to winter motorized travel, except in that portion (~14,600 acres) of the Mt. Naomi Roadless Area recommended for Wilderness in the 1985 Forest Plan. Some

areas across the Forest would be seasonally closed for big game winter range or for non-motorized winter recreation, as displayed in the Forest Travel Plan.

Developed and dispersed recreation opportunities would be managed at the current level or increase as resources and budgets allow.

ECONOMICS

In this Alternative, economic outcomes would be the result of managing forest resources to provide sustained yields of timber, wood fiber, and livestock forage, while maintaining site productivity and environmental quality.

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Disturbance

Disturbances would not be permitted to operate naturally in order to protect commodity values. Insect and disease disturbances would be suppressed to reduce the risk of these occurrences and stand-replacing wildfires. Wildfires would be suppressed to protect public safety and resource values. Wildland fire use would not be allowed. Prescribed fire would be used to manage vegetation, reduce hazardous fuels, and recycle nutrients with priority on reducing fuels near interface communities.

VEGETATION STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION

Forested Vegetation

All conifer vegetation types and aspen would be managed to maintain stand vigor, productivity, and resilience to major disturbance events, including stand-replacing fires and epidemic and endemic insect and disease activity. Approximately 10 percent of the forested acres forest-wide would be maintained in an old age structure to provide habitat for old growth dependent species.

Approximately 16,800 acres would be treated over the decade. Treatments would include prescribed fire, thinning, harvesting, or other methods that would achieve resource objectives.

- *Table 2. 1. Alternative 1. Existing Acres, Desired Range of Future Conditions (DRFC), Estimated Total Acres Treated (Fire/Harvest per decade) Shown in Percent of Mature and Old Age Classes.*

Existing Acres in Mature and Old (% of Total Forested Acres)	DRFC Mature and Old (% of Acres)	Estimated Total Acres Considered	Estimated Total Acres Treated Per decade	Estimated Acres Treated by Fire Per decade	Estimated Acres Treated by Harvest Per decade
50-80%	N/A	550,000	16,800	0	16,800

Non-forested Vegetation

Rangelands, primarily sagebrush and mountain shrub, would be managed to provide a variety of uses, such as forage for livestock grazing, watershed stability, and wildlife habitat. Approximately 13,000 acres would be treated annually, primarily using prescribed fire, to improve wildlife habitat and vegetation condition. Herbicide treatments and seedings would be permitted at the site-specific level based on ecological need or to stimulate forage producing plant species in the understory.

Retention and restoration of tall forb sites, where they exist, would be addressed at the site-specific level, based on research findings.

- *Table 2. 2. Alternative 1. Non-forested Vegetation Conditions, Goals, and Proposed Treatments.*

Total Acres of Sagebrush and Mountain Shrub	Existing Acres Mature/Old Age Class (% of Acres)	Desired Range of Future Conditions (% of Acres)	Long-Term Goal (% of Acres)	Desired Years to Attain DRFC	Estimated Total Acres Treated Per Decade
404,500	50%	None Established	None Established	None Established	130,000

Other non-forested vegetation treatments in big tooth maple, juniper, mountain mahogany and tall forb communities would be permitted after a site-specific analysis.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Rangelands would be managed to provide forage for livestock and wildlife while protecting productivity and coordinating with other uses. Non-forested vegetation would be managed to provide high forage production for livestock and wildlife, including seedings of forage-producing plants and the installation of fences and water developments for livestock management systems and practices. No forest-wide upland or riparian livestock utilization levels would be proposed in this Alternative. Utilization rates would continue to be determined at the site-specific level through Allotment Management Planning activities. Current estimated utilization rates are shown below (For additional information see Chapter 4 Livestock Grazing):

Table 2. 3. Alternative 1. Estimated Livestock Utilization Levels by Type of Forage.

Type of Forage	Livestock Utilization Rates ¹
Upland Browse	35% -45%
Upland Herbaceous	50% -60%
Riparian Grazing Standards	Based on site-specific analysis only

¹ Rates shown represent estimated use. The current Forest Plan contains no specific standards. All utilization and stubble height standards are analyzed at the AMP level.

For Alternative 1, all acres that are suitable for livestock grazing are equal to the acres that are capable; except for those areas where grazing is presently not authorized or does not occur. Existing areas that are presently not suitable for livestock grazing, include but are not limited to developed campgrounds, Research Natural Areas, Administrative Sites, the Pocatello municipal

watershed, areas closed for watershed protection, exclosures, Highway 89 corridor, and some active mining sites. (For additional information see Chapter 4 Livestock Grazing).

MINING OPERATIONS, RECLAMATION, AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE MANAGEMENT

Under Alternative 1, mining operations, reclamation, and hazardous substance management would assure sediment control, control hazardous substance releases, and maintain acceptable levels of site restoration. Although not required in the existing Forest Plan, standard operating procedures for phosphate mines include topsoil salvage, pit backfill, and reclaimed slopes no greater than 3:1. These practices would continue. Future phosphate leasing would be considered on a case-by-case basis with site-specific NEPA analysis.

RIPARIAN/WETLAND AREAS, WATER QUALITY, AND AQUATIC HABITAT

The 1985 Forest Plan was amended in 1995 by the Inland Native Fish Strategy Environmental Assessment (INFISH). The strategy established new riparian goals, interim Riparian Management Objectives, standards, guidelines, and Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas for all new, proposed, and some ongoing projects and activities within the Snake River Basin. Although the amendment did not apply to National Forest System lands within the Bear River Basin, the Forest chose to informally adopt and apply INFISH standards in the Bear River Basin.

This new direction replaced the existing Forest Plan direction, except where the Plan provides more protection for fish habitat. In this Alternative, riparian and aquatic resource management would focus on attainment of water quality and aquatic habitat features through the application of INFISH direction and Best Management Practices, a system of accepted practices that protect key resources or prevent undesirable impacts while allowing for existing uses. Site-specific riparian livestock utilization rates would be established in this Alternative on a site-specific basis through allotment management planning.

TIMBER SALE PROGRAM

Forested lands would be managed to improve the productivity and vigor of timber stands, generally using even-aged management practices. A relatively high level (60 mmbf) of commodity timber outputs would be expected over the decade.

- *Table 2. 4. Proposed Timber Program Emphasis in Alternative 1.*

Alternative 1	Measurement
Suitable acres	125,300 acres
Types of forested vegetation emphasized in treatments	All forested types considered
Suitable forested acres harvested in the 1st decade	15,700 acres
Unsuitable forested acres harvested in the 1st decade	1,100 acres
Estimated Allowable Sale Quantity per decade	60 mmbf
Fuelwood harvest per decade	25 thousand cords
Miles of road needed for harvest activities per decade	81 miles
Silvicultural methods allowed	All methods
Use of even-age management	High
Regeneration	5,500 acres
Pre-commercial thinning	3,100 acres

RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AND ROADLESS AREA MANAGEMENT

The first Forest Plan Roadless Area evaluation was completed in 1985. As a result of this evaluation, portions of two Roadless Areas were recommended for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. In 1986, the Forest Plan decision was appealed and eventually resolved through a Settlement Agreement. In the settlement agreement, forest managers agreed to exclude scheduled timber harvest in eight other Roadless Areas – Caribou City, Stump Peak, Toponce, Gannett Spring, Bear Creek, Oxford Peak, Elkhorn Mountain, and Bonneville Peak – until the year 2000 or with revision of the 1985 Forest Plan.

Under Alternative 1, those portions (30,600 acres) of the Mt. Naomi and Worm Creek Roadless Areas recommended for Wilderness in 1985 would be retained and managed to protect and maintain Wilderness characteristics. Of these acres, approximately 14,600 acres in Mt. Naomi would be managed as non-motorized, both summer and winter. Approximately 16,000 acres in Worm Creek would be managed for summer motorized recreation on designated routes with cross-country motorized winter travel.

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR) would not be applied in this Alternative. The purpose of the No Action Alternative is to display the effects and opportunities of continued management under the 1985 Forest Plan. The RACR was not in effect for the fifteen-year period up to 2000; therefore, the RACR was not applied in Alternative 1. This permits a clearer display of the differences between current management and management proposed under the other Alternatives.

In Roadless Areas not recommended for Wilderness, new road construction and timber harvest on suited lands would be allowed. Roadless Areas currently managed for summer non-motorized recreation, such as Caribou City, would remain non-motorized in the summer. Roadless Areas currently managed for summer motorized recreation would remain open to motorized use.

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Wildlife habitats would be managed to ensure viable and continuing populations on the Forest. Wildlife habitat management would focus on developing effective habitat by managing vegetation condition. Protection of unique habitats and recovery of Threatened and Endangered Species would occur thru the appropriate recovery process. A minimum of ten percent of the forested acres forest-wide would be managed as old growth or old growth recruitment where sufficient old growth does not currently exist. Stronghold habitat for fish and wildlife addressed in specific recovery plans would be managed to meet legal requirements. Low emphasis would be placed on retaining and improving wildlife corridors.

Alternative 1

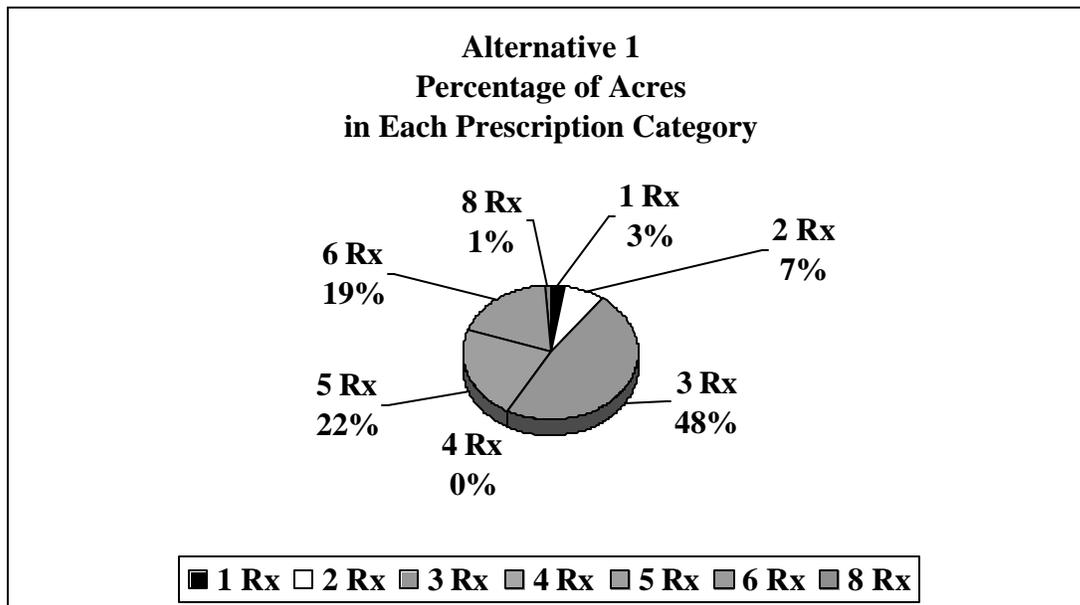
• Table 2. 5. Prescription Acres in Alternative 1.

Prescription Category	RX Name	RX No./Access	Acres in Prescription
Wilderness Back Country	Mt. Naomi year-round non-motor	1.3(a)	14,600
	Worm Creek year-round motor	1.3(d)	16,000
Special Management Areas	Municipal watersheds	2.1.3	6,500
	Research Natural Areas	2.2	5,700
	Wild and Scenic Eligible River	2.5	2,800
	Aquatic Influence Zone	2.8.3	60,700
Semi-primitive non-intensive	Summer non-motor; winter motor	3.1(b)	17,600
	Summer motor trails; winter non-motorized	3.2(a)	2,500
	Year-round motorized	3.2(b)	303,700
	Cross-country; year-round motor	3.2(c)	175,900
Developed Dispersed Recreation	Special Use Permit recreation sites access	4.2	100,078
Timber	Year-round motorized	5.1(b)	50,800
	Cross-country; year-round motor	5.1(c)	123,100
	Summer non-motor; winter motor	5.1(f)	55,300
Rangeland	Year-round motorized	6.1(b)	146,800
	Cross-country; year-round motor	6.1(c)	45,500
	Summer non-motor; winter motor	6.1(f)	4,200
Concentrated Development	Utility corridors, commercial and administrative sites	8.1	100
	Existing leases, undeveloped	8.2.1	3,200
	Active and reclaimed mines	8.2.2	6,100
Total			1,042,200

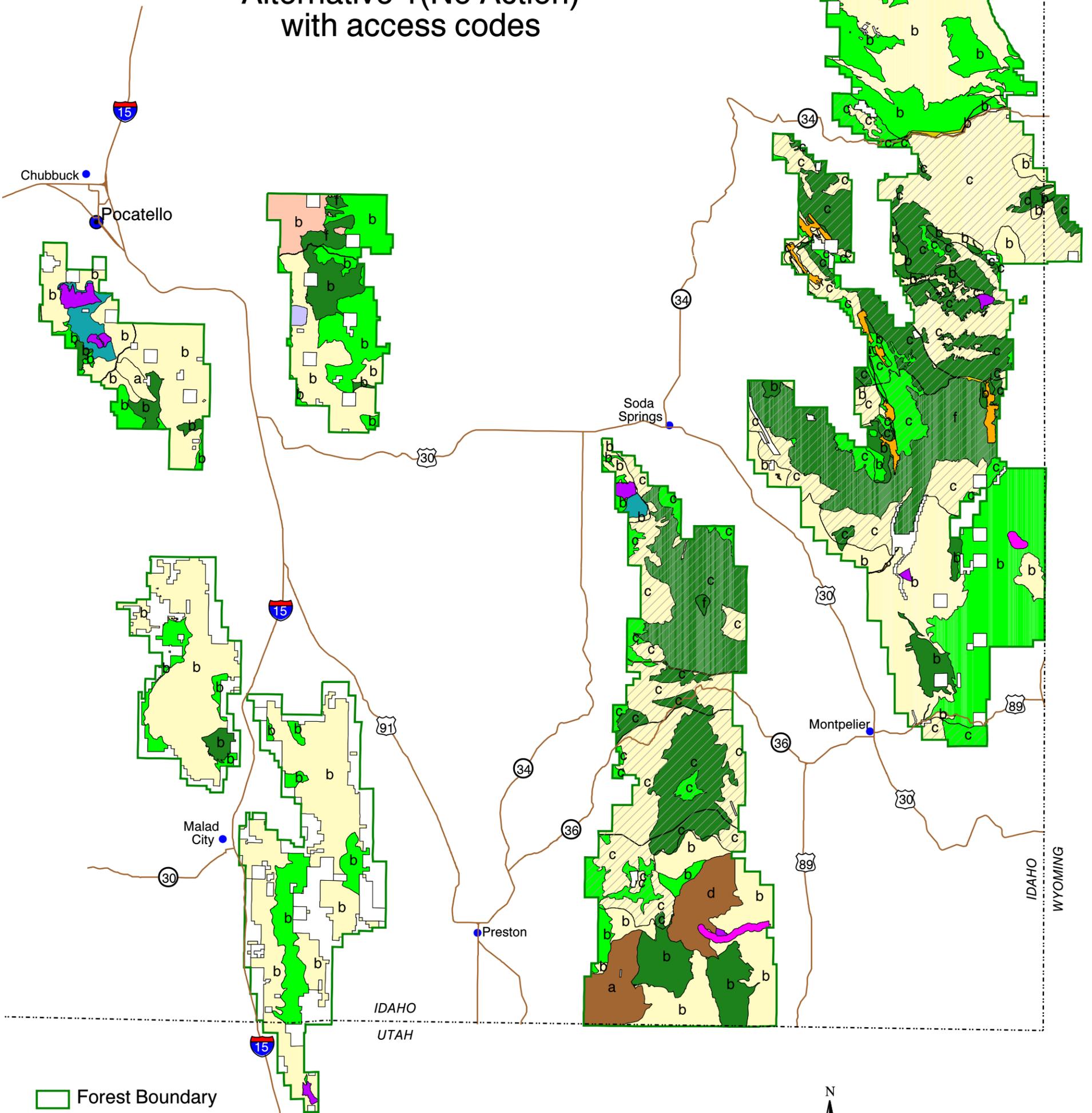
- *Table 2. 6 Probable Treatments in Alternative 1*

Probable Treatments in the First Decade	Alternative 1
Suitable Forested Acres Harvested	15,700
Unsuitable Forested Acres Harvested	1,100
Forested Acres Treated with Fire	None
Subtotal of Forested Acres Treated	16,800
Non-Forested Acres Treated with Fire	130,000
Total Acres Treated In Decade	146,800

- *Figure 2. 1 Percentage of Acres in each Prescription Category in Alternative 1.*



Caribou National Forest Forest Plan Revision Alternative 1 (No Action) with access codes



Forest Boundary

Areas Open to Motorized Cross-Country Travel

- Alternative 1 Management Prescriptions
- 1.3 (a,d) Recommended Wilderness - limited summer motorized access
 - 2.1.3 Municipal Watersheds
 - 2.2 Research Natural Areas
 - 2.5 W&SR Eligible Recreation River
 - 2.8.3 Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ) [not shown on map]
 - 3.1 (b) Non-motorized
 - 3.2 (a,b,c) Semi-primitive Motorized
 - 4.2 Special Use Recreation Sites
 - 5.1 (b,c,f) Timber Management
 - 6.1 (b,c,f) Range Management
 - 8.1 Concentrated Development - Admin Sites, Utility Corridors
 - 8.2.2 Concentrated Development - Mines
 - Other Ownership



5 0 5 10 15 Miles

1:500000

USDA FS, Caribou Forest Plan Revision
Alternative 1
May, 2001

MAP 2.1

ALTERNATIVE 2 (Proposed Action)

THEME

Alternative 2 proposes to strengthen existing direction in the 1985 Forest Plan to address the “needs for change” identified by the Forest Service and described in the *Analysis of the Management Situation* (AMS) dated April, 1999. This Alternative reflects the likely outcomes of managing forest resources to attain a range of “desired future condition” statements outlined in the AMS.

ACCESS AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Summer motorized recreation would be managed using open motorized road and trail densities at or near current levels on designated routes. As opportunities arise, trails would be redesigned or relocated out of riparian areas. No new motorized roads or trails would be permitted unless an equal length of motorized road or trail is closed, generally within the same prescription area. Approximately 420,200 acres (about forty percent) open to motorized cross-country use would be retained in this Alternative.

The Forest would remain open to motorized winter travel, except in that portion (~14,600 acres) of the Mt. Naomi Roadless Area recommended for Wilderness in the 1985 Forest Plan. Some areas would be seasonally closed for big game winter range or for non-motorized winter recreation, as currently managed.

Developed and dispersed recreation opportunities would be maintained at current levels or increased as resources and budgets allow.

ECONOMICS

Economic outcomes would be the result of managing resources to attain a clearly defined range of desired future conditions. Economic benefits would be determined by the rate of change (fast or slow) of achieving those conditions.

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Disturbance

Disturbances would be allowed to operate naturally in order to maintain or restore ecological processes and function. Insect and disease disturbances would be allowed to play their natural roles where appropriate and desirable, although epidemics generally would be treated for control. Prescribed fire, mechanical treatments, and wildland fire use would be used to manage vegetation, reduce hazardous fuels, and recycle nutrients with priority on reducing fuels near interface communities. Wildfires would be suppressed in some areas to protect public safety and resource values but would be allowed to burn in other areas to benefit resource values.

Forested Vegetation

Conifer sites, particularly mixed conifer, aspen/conifer, and aspen, would be managed to attain or maintain thirty to forty percent of these acres in a mature/old age structure. Approximately 34,100 acres would be treated over the decade. Treatments would include prescribed fire, wildland fire use, harvest, thinning, or other methods that would achieve resource objectives.

Aspen would be treated to restore the aspen component on the forest to historical levels. Treatments would include prescribed fire, wild land fire use, harvest, thinning, or other methods that would achieve resource objectives.

Desired Future Conditions for conifer and aspen sites are expected to be achieved within 100 years.

- *Table 2. 7. Alternative 2. Existing Acres, Desired Range of Future Conditions (DRFC), Estimated Total Acres Treated (Fire/Harvest per decade) Shown in Percent of Mature and Old Age Classes.*

Existing Acres in Mature and Old (% of Total Forested Acres)	DRFC Mature and Old (% of Acres)	Estimated Total Acres Considered	Estimated Total Acres Treated Per decade	Estimated Acres Treated by Fire ¹ Per decade	Estimated Acres Treated by Harvest Per decade
50-80%	30-40%	550,000	34,100	17,400	16,700

¹ A component of these acres is likely to be non-lethal fire.

Non-forested Vegetation

Sagebrush and mountain shrub sites would be managed to retain thirty to fifty percent of the acres per decade in greater than fifteen percent canopy cover. Approximately 77,500 acres would be treated during the decade. Treatments would include prescribed fire, wildland fire use, herbicide applications, or other methods that would achieve the desired outcome. Herbicide treatments and seedings would be permitted at the site-specific level based on ecological need.

Tall forb sites, where they exist, would be managed to maintain or restore sites, based on research findings. Areas that once were tall forb sites, but have lost the capability to maintain tall forb communities as a result of topsoil loss or site potential, would be managed for watershed stability.

The range of Desired Future Conditions in sagebrush and mountain shrub would be expected within 75 years, and within 100 years on tall forb sites where capability exists.

• *Table 2. 8. Non-forested Vegetation Conditions, Goals, and Proposed Treatments.*

Total Acres of Sagebrush and Mountain Shrub	Existing Acres Mature/Old Age Class (% of Acres)	Desired Range of Future Conditions (% of Acres)	Long-Term Goal (% of Acres)	Desired Years to Attain DRFC	Estimated Total Acres Treated Per Decade
404,500	50%	30-50%	40%	75 years	77,500

Other non-forested vegetation treatments in big tooth maple, juniper, mountain mahogany, and tall forb communities would be permitted after a site-specific analysis.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Rangelands would be managed to provide forage for livestock and wildlife while protecting productivity and coordinating with other uses. Non-forested vegetation would be managed to provide forage production for livestock and wildlife, which include the installation of fences and water developments for livestock management systems and practices. Livestock grazing would be managed through forest-wide livestock forage utilization levels, shown in the table below. (For additional information see Chapter 4 Livestock Grazing)

• *Table 2. 9. Estimated Livestock Utilization Levels by Type of Forage.*

Type of Forage	Livestock Utilization Rates
Upland Browse	35% -45%
Upland Herbaceous	45%
Riparian Properly Functioning Condition – on greenline Herbaceous Browse Stubble Height	45% Site-specific 4 inches
Riparian (At risk) – on greenline Herbaceous Browse Stubble Height	45% Site-specific 6 inches
Riparian (Non-Functioning) – on greenline Herbaceous Browse Stubble Height	45% Site-specific 6 inches
Percent Bank Disturbance	Does not apply
Percent Soil Disturbance	Does not apply
Winter Range Browse	10%
Winter Range Herbaceous	30%

Livestock suitability is the same as Alternative 1.

MINING OPERATIONS, RECLAMATION, AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE MANAGEMENT

Under Alternative 2, an adaptive approach to mining operations, reclamation, and hazardous substance management would require a greater use of native plants, on-site topsoil/subsoil management, and more stable, natural appearing landscapes in reclamation activities. Hazardous substance management would be adaptively applied using Best Management Practices. Research

and monitoring activities would continue to be used to improve Best Management Practices. Hazardous substance releases would be managed to prevent releases in excess of established state and federal standards. Future phosphate leasing would be considered on a case-by-case basis with site-specific NEPA analysis.

RIPARIAN/WETLAND AREAS, WATER QUALITY, AND AQUATIC HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Riparian and aquatic resource management would focus on maintaining or restoring properly functioning condition to streams and wetlands by implementing riparian livestock forage utilization levels and establishing zones of special emphasis for riparian areas and aquatic habitat (See Table 2.8 under Livestock Grazing for riparian utilization).

TIMBER SALE PROGRAM

In this Alternative, an ecological approach to vegetation management would be used to meet ecological objectives. Vegetation management activities would be designed to reduce risks to property, merchantable products, and economic and social opportunities that can result from large, epidemic disturbance events. The production of timber and wood fiber would be considered a by-product of vegetation treatments that are designed to restore landscapes closer to their historical range of variability.

- *Table 2. 10. Proposed Timber Program Emphasis in Alternative 2.*

Alternative 2	Measurement
Suitable acres	114,900 acres
Types of vegetation emphasized in treatments	Mixed conifer, aspen/conifer, aspen
Suitable forested acres harvested in the 1st decade	14,300 acres
Unsuitable forested acres harvested in the 1st decade	2,400 acres
Estimated Allowable Sale Quantity per decade	56 mmbf
Fuelwood harvest per decade	22 thousand cords
Miles of road needed for harvest activities per decade	73 miles
Silvicultural methods allowed	All methods
Use of even-age management	Moderate
Regeneration	5,000 acres
Pre-commercial thinning	2,800 acres

RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AND ROADLESS AREA MANAGEMENT

Under Alternative 2 those portions of the Mt. Naomi and Worm Creek Roadless Areas (30,600 acres) recommended for Wilderness in 1985 would be retained and managed to protect and maintain Wilderness characteristics. Of these acres, approximately 14,600 acres in Mt. Naomi would be managed as non-motorized, both summer and winter. Approximately 16,000 acres in Worm Creek would be managed for summer, motorized recreation on designated routes with cross-country motorized winter travel allowed.

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR) would not apply in this Alternative. The Proposed Action was released for public scoping in August 1999. The significant issues were developed from public comments on the Alternative; therefore, this Alternative will be analyzed

as described in the original proposal without the RACR. In Roadless Areas not recommended for Wilderness, new road construction and timber harvest would be allowed.

Roadless areas in this Alternative not recommended for Wilderness and currently managed for summer non-motorized recreation, such as Caribou City, would remain non-motorized in summer. Roadless areas currently managed for summer motorized recreation would remain open to motorized use.

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Wildlife habitats would be managed to ensure viable and continuing populations on the Forest. Wildlife habitat management would focus on developing effective habitat by managing vegetation condition. Protection of unique habitats and recovery of Threatened and Endangered Species would occur thru the appropriate recovery process. A minimum of twenty percent of the forested acres of each fifth code HUC would be maintained in a late seral/old growth condition (of which fifteen percent would be managed as old growth or old growth recruitment where sufficient old growth does not currently exist).

Big game winter range would be emphasized in selected areas where it is identified. Stronghold habitat for fish and wildlife addressed in specific recovery plans would be managed with a moderate emphasis. Moderate emphasis would be placed on retaining and improving wildlife corridors.

Alternative 2

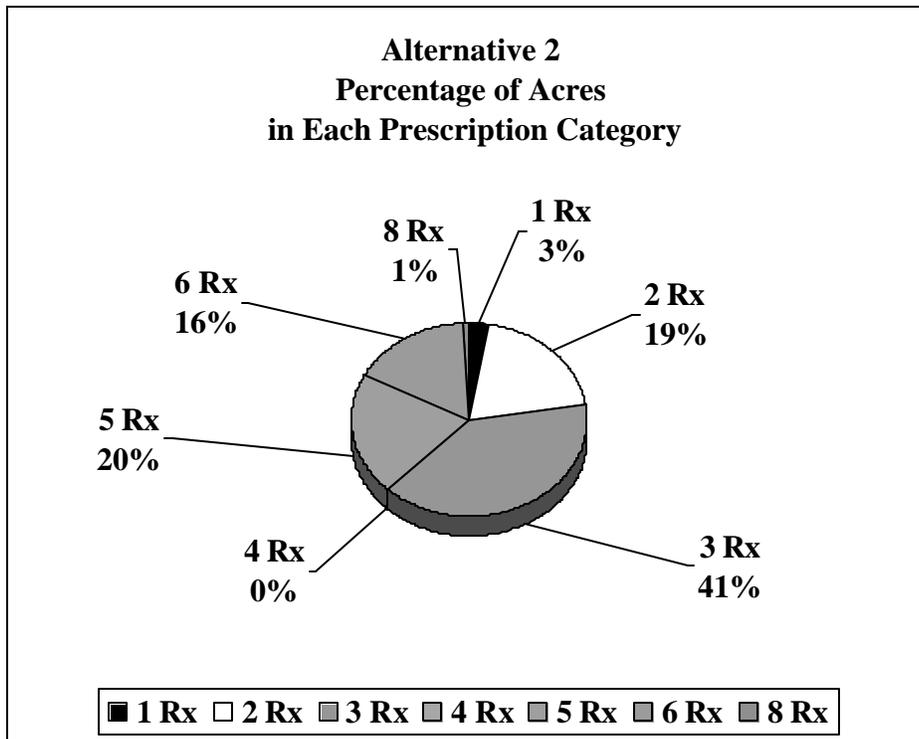
• Table 2. 11. Prescription Acres in Alternative 2.

Prescription Category	Prescription Name	RX No. /Access	Acres in Prescription
Wilderness /Back Country	Mt. Naomi year-round non-motorized	1.3(a)	14,600
	Worm Creek year-round motor	1.3(d)	16,000
Special Management Area	Municipal watersheds	2.1.3	6,500
	Research Natural Areas	2.2	5,700
	Wild and Scenic Eligible River	2.5	2,800
	Winter range (Forage) summer motor; winter non-motor	2.7.1(a)	8,900
	Winter range (Forage) summer motor; winter motor designated routes	2.7.1(b)	65,900
	Winter range (Forage) summer motor x-c; winter motor designated routes	2.7.1(c)	49,500
	Winter range (Forage emphasis) non-motor	2.7.1(d)	3,400
	Aquatic Influence Zone	2.8.3	60,700
Semi-primitive Non-intensive	Summer non-motor; winter motor	3.1(b)	17,600
	Summer motor on trails; winter non-motor	3.2(a)	2,500
	Year-round motor	3.2(b)	250,400
	Cross-country; year-round motor	3.2(c)	143,200
Dispersed/ Developed Recreation	Special Use Permit recreation sites access	4.2	1,100
	Year-round motor	5.1(b)	46,300
Timber	Cross-country; year-round motor	5.1(c)	161,500
	Summer non-motor; winter motor	5.1(f)	4,600
	Year-round motor	6.1(b)	125,900
Rangeland	Cross-country; year-round motor	6.1(c)	41,500
	Summer non-motor; winter motor	6.1(f)	4,200
	Utility corridors, commercial and administrative sites	8.1	100
Concentrated Development Area	Existing leases, undeveloped	8.2.1	3,200
	Active and reclaimed mines	8.2.2	6,100
	Total		1,042,200

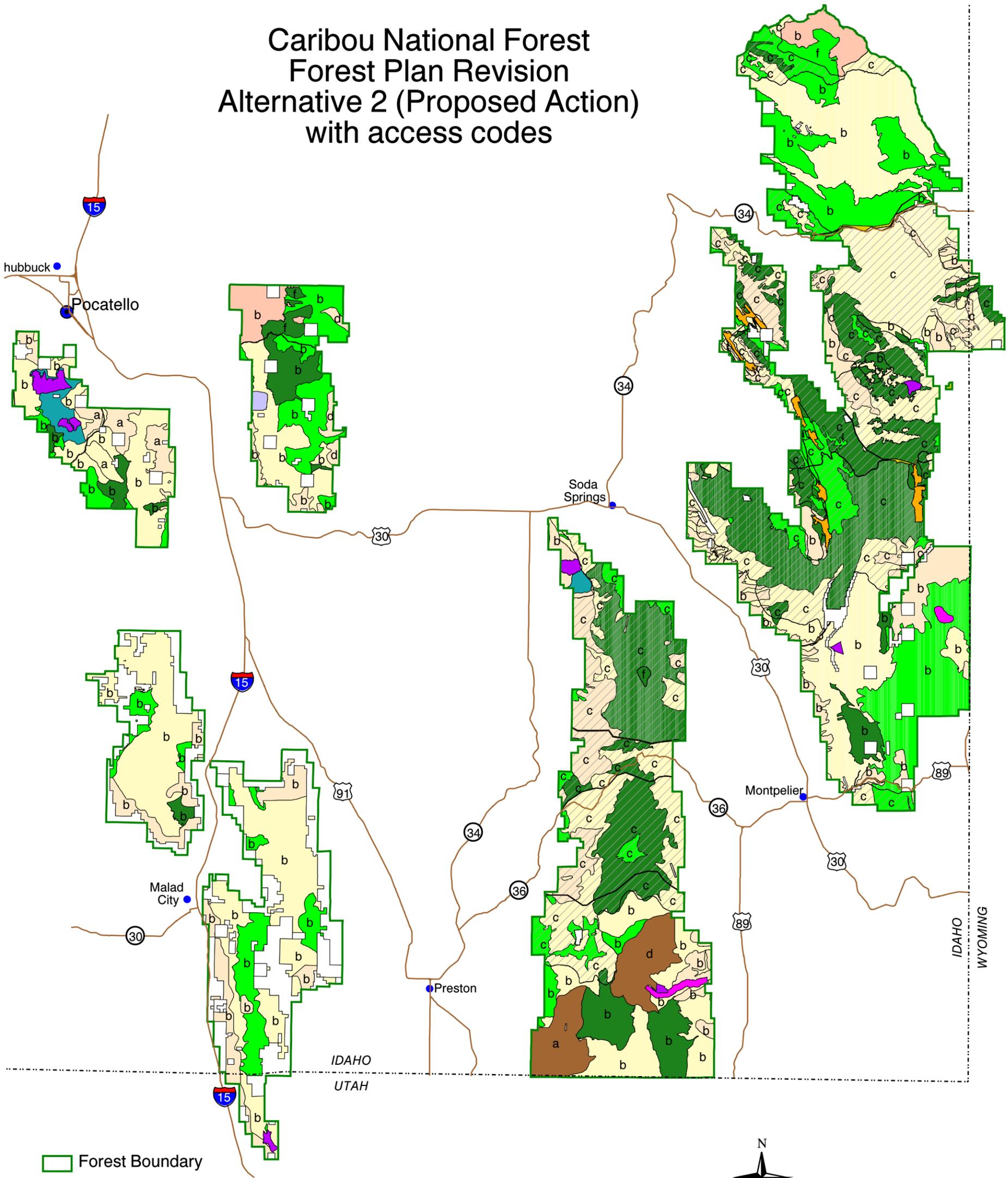
- *Table 2. 12 Probable Treatments in Alternative 2*

Probable Treatments in the First Decade	Alternative 2
Suitable Forested Acres Harvested	14,300
Unsuitable Forested Acres Harvested	2,400
Forested Acres Treated with Fire	17,400
Subtotal of Forested Acres Treated	34,100
Non-Forested Acres Treated with Fire	77,500
Total Acres Treated In Decade	111,600

- *Figure 2. 2 Percentage of Acres in each Prescription Category in Alternative 21.*



Caribou National Forest Forest Plan Revision Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) with access codes



Forest Boundary

Areas Open to Motorized Cross-Country Travel

Alternative 2 Management Prescriptions

- 1.3 (a,d) Recommended Wilderness - limited summer motorized access
- 2.1.3 Municipal Watersheds
- 2.2 Research Natural Areas
- 2.5 W&SR Eligible Recreation River
- 2.7.1 (a,b,c,d) Elk & Deer Winter Range - Critical
- 2.8.3 Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ) [not shown on map]
- 3.1 (b) Non-motorized
- 3.2 (a,b,c) Semi-primitive Motorized
- 4.2 Special Use Recreation Sites
- 5.1 (b,c,f) Timber Management
- 6.1 (b,c,f) Range Management
- 8.1 Concentrated Development - Admin Sites, Utility Corridors
- 8.2.1 Existing Mine Leases [not shown on map]
- 8.2.2 Concentrated Development - Mines
- Other Ownership



5 0 5 10 15 Miles



1:500000

USDA FS, Caribou Forest Plan Revision
Alternative 2
May, 2001

MAP 2.2

ALTERNATIVE 3

THEME

Alternative 3 proposes to manage forest resources to produce more goods and services to meet the needs of people. This Alternative reflects the likely outcomes of managing the Forest for a relatively high level of a variety of uses and water yield while maintaining site productivity and environmental quality to meet state and federal regulations. It emphasizes the issues of economics, based on commodity production, livestock grazing, motorized access, the timber sale program, and mining.

ACCESS AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Summer motorized recreation would be managed by increasing open motorized road and trail densities in some areas of the Forest. Public access would be improved, particularly in high use areas. About 419,550 acres (about forty percent) open to summer motorized cross-country use would be retained in this Alternative.

The Forest would remain open to motorized winter travel, except on small areas across the Forest where seasonal closures would be used in big game winter range areas and to provide non-motorized recreation opportunities.

Developed and dispersed recreation opportunities would increase as demand increases.

ECONOMICS

Economic outcomes would be the result of active management of forest resources to produce an array of goods and services on a non-declining yield basis.

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Disturbances

Disturbances would be permitted to operate naturally where commodity values are not unduly jeopardized. Insect and disease disturbances generally would be suppressed to reduce the risk of these occurrences and stand-replacing wildfires. Prescribed fire, mechanical treatments, and wildland fire would be used to manage vegetation, reduce hazardous fuels, and recycle nutrients in appropriate areas, primarily in rangelands, with limited use in forest vegetation. In addition, priority would be placed on reducing fuels near interface communities. Wildfires would be suppressed in some areas to protect public safety and resource values but would not be allowed to burn in other areas to benefit resource values.

Forested Vegetation

Conifer sites, particularly Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and mixed conifer, would be managed to maintain twenty percent of these acres in a mature/old age structure. Approximately 41,800 acres would be treated over the decade. Treatments would include prescribed fire, wildland fire use, harvest, thinning, or other methods that would achieve resource objectives.

Aspen would be treated to moderately restore the aspen component on the forest to historical levels. Treatments would include prescribed fire, wildland fire use, harvest, thinning, or other methods that would achieve resource objectives.

Desired Future Conditions for conifer and aspen sites are expected to be achieved within 75 years.

- *Table 2. 13. Alternative 3. Existing Acres, Desired Range of Future Conditions (DRFC), Estimated Total Acres Treated (Fire/Harvest per decade) Shown in Percent of Mature and Old Age Classes.*

Existing Acres in Mature and Old (% of Total Forested Acres)	DRFC Mature and Old (% of Acres)	Estimated Total Acres Considered	Estimated Total Acres Treated Per decade	Estimated Acres Treated by Fire ¹ Per decade	Estimated Acres Treated by Harvest Per decade
50-80%	20%	550,000	41,800	19,900	21,900

¹ A component of these acres is likely to be non-lethal.

Non-forested Vegetation

Non-forested vegetation would be managed to provide relatively high forage production for livestock grazing. Approximately 100,000 acres would be treated over the decade. Management activities would include prescribed fire treatments and seedings of forage-producing plants, installation of fences, and water developments for livestock management systems and practices.

Sagebrush and mountain shrub would be managed to allow thirty to fifty percent of the acres to remain in greater than fifteen percent canopy cover. Treatments would include prescribed fire, wildland fire use, herbicide applications, or other methods that would achieve the desired outcome.

Retention and restoration of tall forb sites, where they exist, would be addressed at the site-specific level, based on research findings.

The range of Desired Future Conditions in sagebrush and mountain shrub would be expected to be reached within 50 to 75 years.

- *Table 2. 14. Alternative 3. Non-forested Vegetation Conditions, Goals, and Proposed Treatments.*

Total Acres of Sagebrush and Mountain Shrub	Existing Acres Mature/Old Age Class (% of Acres)	Desired Range of Future Conditions (% of Acres)	Long-Term Goal (% of Acres)	Desired Years to Attain DRFC	Estimated Total Acres Treated Per Decade
404,500	50%	30-50%	40%	50-75 years	100,000

Other non-forested vegetation treatments in big tooth maple, juniper, mountain mahogany, and tall forb communities would be permitted after a site-specific analysis.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Rangelands would be managed to provide forage for livestock and wildlife while protecting productivity and coordinating with other uses. Non-forested vegetation would be managed to provide forage production for livestock and wildlife, and include the installation of fences and water developments for livestock management systems and practices. Forage created as a result of prescribed burning could be allocated to livestock production goals. Livestock grazing would be managed through forest-wide livestock forage utilization levels, shown in the table below (For additional information see Chapter 4 Livestock Grazing):

Livestock grazing would be managed through forest-wide livestock forage utilization levels shown below:

- *Table 2. 15. Alternative 3. Estimated Livestock Utilization Levels by Type of Forage.*

Type of Forage	Livestock Utilization Rates
Upland Browse	25% -35%
Upland Herbaceous	35% -55%
All Riparian Areas – on greenline Herbaceous Browse Stubble Height	Does not apply 30% 3-4 inches ¹
Percent Bank Disturbance	Does not apply
Percent Soil Disturbance	30% ²
Winter Range Browse	25%
Winter Range Herbaceous	35%

- 1 Three-inch stubble height in the Aquatic Influence Zone and four-inch stubble height on the greenline.
- 2 At the watershed and subwatershed scale.

Livestock suitability is the same as Alternatives 1 and 2.

MINING OPERATIONS, RECLAMATION AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE MANAGEMENT

Under Alternative 3, an adaptive approach to mining operations, reclamation and hazardous substance management would require a greater use of native plants, on-site topsoil/subsoil management, and more stable, natural appearing landscapes in reclamation activities. Hazardous

substance management would be adaptively applied using Best Management Practices. Research and monitoring activities would continue to be used to improve Best Management Practices. Hazardous substance releases would be managed to prevent releases in excess of established state and federal standards. Future phosphate leasing would be considered on a case-by-case basis with site-specific NEPA analysis.

RIPARIAN/WETLAND AREAS, WATER QUALITY, AND AQUATIC HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Riparian and aquatic resource management would focus on maintaining or restoring properly functioning condition to streams and wetlands by implementing riparian livestock forage utilization levels and establishing zones of special emphasis for riparian areas and aquatic habitat. (See Table 2.13 under Livestock Grazing for riparian utilization).

TIMBER SALE PROGRAM

Under Alternative 3, forested vegetation resources would be managed to produce a sustained yield of wood products, particularly high quality saw timber and consequently higher water yield, on forested lands suitable for intensive management.

- *Table 2. 16. Proposed Timber Program Emphasis Alternative 3.*

Alternative 3	Measurement
Suitable acres	150,400 acres
Types of vegetation emphasized in treatments	Douglas -fir, lodgepole pine, mixed conifer
Suitable forested acres harvested in the 1st decade	19,000 acres
Unsuitable forested acres harvested in the 1st decade	2,900 acres
Estimated Allowable Sale Quantity per decade	67 mmbf
Fuelwood harvest per decade	30 thousand cords
Miles of road needed for harvest activities per decade	98 miles
Silvicultural methods allowed	All methods
Use of even-age management	High
Regeneration	6,500 acres
Pre-commercial thinning	3,700 acres

RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AND ROADLESS AREA MANAGEMENT

The portions of the Mt. Naomi and Worm Creek Roadless areas, recommended for Wilderness in the 1985 Land and Resource Management Plan, would not be recommended in this Alternative, and no other areas would be recommended.

Summer motorized travel on designated routes would be permitted in the portions of the Mt. Naomi and Worm Creek Roadless Areas not recommended for Wilderness in this Alternative. Motorized winter travel would be allowed in both of these areas under this Alternative.

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR) would not apply in this Alternative. Alternative 3 was originally developed before issuance of the RACR and was publicly reviewed at the November 2000 public open houses. This Alternative received substantial local support in comments provided by the participating public; therefore, it was decided to retain Alternative 3 for

detailed analysis to display more effectively the environmental and multiple use trade-offs compared to Alternatives that incorporate the RACR. Timber harvest on suited lands and road building would be allowed inside inventoried roadless areas.

Roadless areas managed for summer non-motorized recreation would decrease over current levels. Roadless areas managed for summer motorized recreation would increase over current levels.

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Wildlife habitat management would focus on developing effective habitat by managing vegetation condition. Protection of unique habitats and recovery of Threatened and Endangered Species would occur thru the appropriate recovery process. A minimum of twenty percent of the forested acres forest-wide would be maintained in late seral/old growth conditions in each 5th code HUC². Ten percent of the forested acres in the HUC would be managed as old growth or for old growth recruitment where sufficient old growth currently does not exist.

Big game winter range would be emphasized in selected areas. Stronghold habitat for fish and wildlife addressed in specific recovery plans would be managed to meet legal requirements and improve conditions. Low emphasis would be placed on retaining and improving wildlife corridors.

² A level of Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) mapping hierarchy developed by the U.S. Geologic Service and used for the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICEBMP) to map geographic boundaries of watersheds at various scales .

Alternative 3

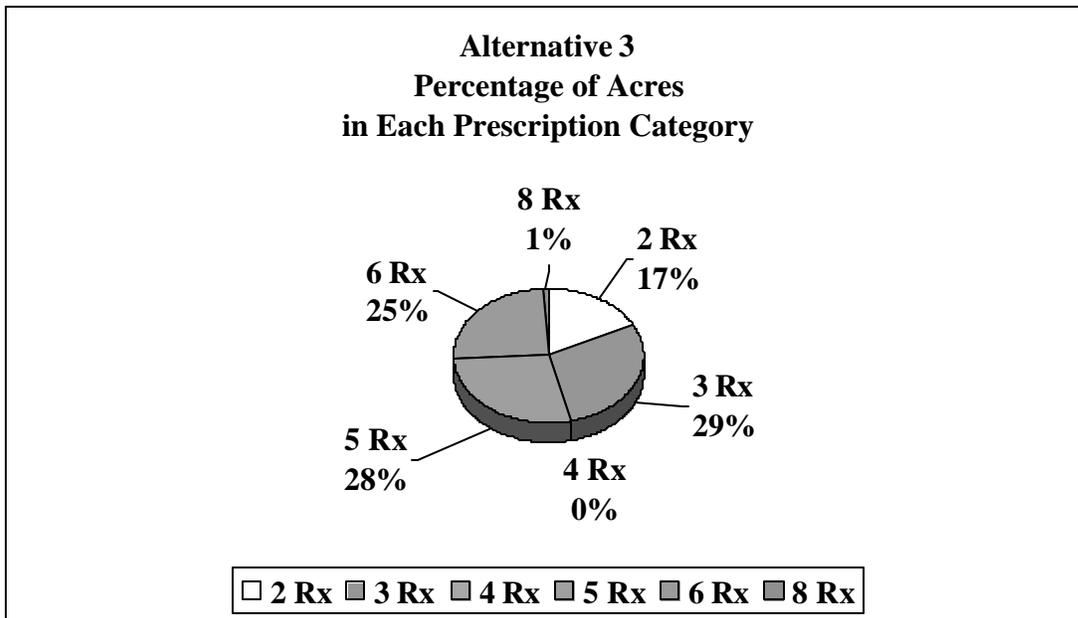
• Table 2. 17. Prescription Acres in Alternative 3.

Prescription Category	Prescription Name	RX No. /Access	Acres in Prescription
Special Management Area	Municipal watersheds	2.1.3	6,500
	Research Natural Areas	2.2	5,700
	Wild and Scenic Eligible River	2.5	2,800
	Winter range, winter non-motor	2.7.2(a)	8,700
	Winter range, summer motor; winter designated routes	2.7.2(b)	57,400
	Winter range, summer cross-country; Winter motor designated routes	2.7.2(c)	33,500
	Winter range, year-round non-motor	2.7.2(d)	3,400
	Aquatic Influence Zone	2.8.3	62,000
Semi-primitive non-intensive	Summer motor trails; winter non-motor	3.2(a)	2,500
	Year-round motor	3.2(b)	204,100
	Cross-country; year-round motor	3.2(c)	95,900
Developed Dispersed Recreation	Special Use Permit recreation sites access	4.2	1,100
Timber	Year-round motor	5.1(b)	100,300
	Cross-country; year-round motor	5.1(c)	188,300
	Summer non-motor; winter motor	5.1(f)	4,600
Rangeland	Year-round motor	6.1(b)	165,500
	Cross-country; year-round motor	6.1(c)	78,500
	Summer non-motor; winter motor	6.1(f)	12,000
Concentrated Development Area	Utility corridors, commercial and administration sites	8.1	100
	Existing leases, undeveloped	8.2.1	3,200
	Active and reclaimed mines	8.2.2	6,100
Total			1,042,200

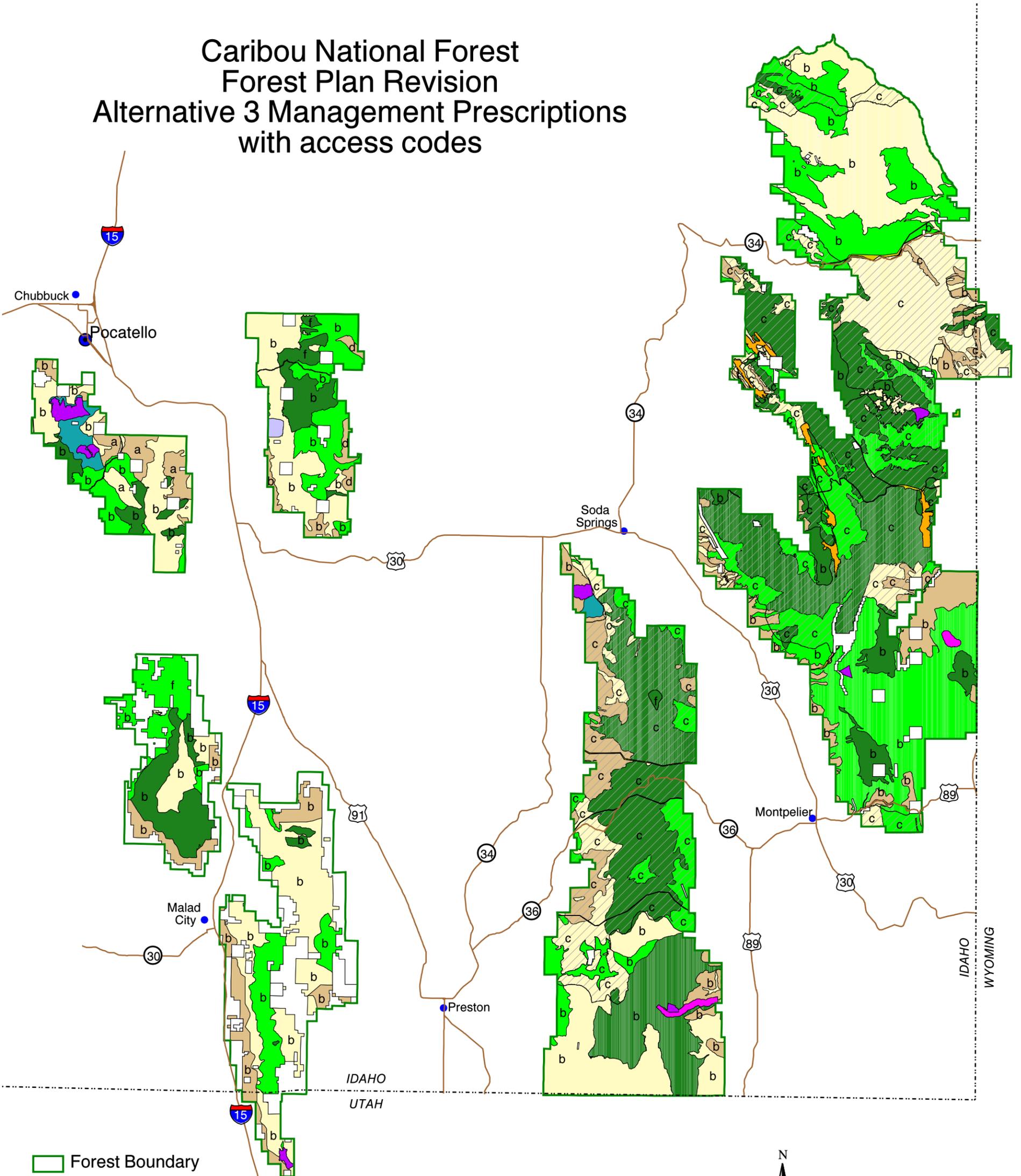
- *Table 2. 18 Probable Treatments in Alternative 3.*

Probable Treatments in the First Decade	Alternative 3
Suitable Forested Acres Harvested	19,000
Unsuitable Forested Acres Harvested	2,900
Forested Acres Treated with Fire	19,900
Subtotal of Forested Acres Treated	41,800
Non-Forested Acres Treated with Fire	100,000
Total Acres Treated In Decade	141,800

- *Figure 2. 3 Percentage of Acres in each Prescription Category in Alternative 3.*



Caribou National Forest Forest Plan Revision Alternative 3 Management Prescriptions with access codes



- Forest Boundary
- Areas Open to Motorized Cross-Country Travel
- Alternative 3 Management Prescriptions**
- 2.1.3 Municipal Watersheds
- 2.2 Research Natural Areas
- 2.5 W&SR Eligible Recreation River
- 2.7.2 (a,b,c,d) Elk & Deer Winter Range
- 2.8.3 Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ) [not shown on map]
- 3.1 Non-motorized
- 3.2 (a,b,c) Semi-primitive Motorized
- 4.2 Special Use Recreation Sites
- 5.1 (b,c,f) Timber Management
- 6.1 (b,c,f) Range Management
- 8.1 Concentrated Development - Admin Sites, Utility Corridors
- 8.2.1 Existing Mine Leases [not shown on map]
- 8.2.2 Concentrated Development - Mines
- Other Ownership



1:500000

USDA FS, Caribou Forest Plan Revision
Alternative 3
May, 2001

MAP 2.3

ALTERNATIVE 4

THEME

Alternative 4 proposes to manage forest vegetation using a mix of restoration strategies, including timber harvest, thinning, and fire, to achieve ecological objectives. It focuses on an accelerated program of vegetation management to restore or maintain ecosystem processes that function properly in the long term. Restoration efforts would be emphasized on landscapes where vegetation is at higher risk to catastrophic disturbance, or where watershed condition or function is impaired. Although this Alternative is similar to Alternative 2, it proposes a more aggressive approach to vegetation management, road rehabilitation and obliteration, and prescribed burning. It emphasizes issues of ecosystem management, minerals management, riparian/wetland areas, aquatic habitat, water quality, non-motorized access, and wildlife.

ACCESS AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Some summer motorized recreation areas would be managed using lower open motorized road and trail densities from current levels. Areas currently open to summer motorized cross-country travel would be changed to open on designated routes only.

The Forest would remain open to motorized winter travel, except in that portion (~14,600 acres) of the Mt. Naomi Roadless Area recommended for Wilderness in the 1985 Forest Plan. Motorized winter travel would be restricted to designated routes in wildlife emphasis areas and prohibited in areas recommended for Wilderness in the Caribou City and Stump Peak Roadless Areas.

Developed and dispersed recreation opportunities would be maintained at current levels. Mitigation measures would be used on sites currently located in riparian areas.

ECONOMICS

Economic outcomes would be the result of managing for resources with an array of restoration strategies. Various forest goods, services, and products would be a byproduct of these strategies.

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Disturbances

Disturbances would be allowed to operate naturally in order to maintain or restore ecological processes and function. Insect and disease disturbances would be allowed to play their natural roles where appropriate and desirable, although epidemic disturbances generally would be treated for control. Prescribed fire, mechanical treatment, and wildland fire would be used to manage vegetation, reduce hazardous fuels, and recycle nutrients with priority on reducing fuels near interface communities. Wildfires would be suppressed in some areas to protect public safety and resource values but would be allowed to burn in other areas to benefit resource values.

Forested Vegetation

Conifer sites, particularly mixed conifer, aspen/conifer and aspen, would be managed to maintain thirty to forty percent of these acres in a mature/old age structure. Approximately 57,000 acres would be treated over the decade. Treatments would include prescribed fire, wildland fire use, harvest, thinning, or other methods that would achieve resource objectives.

Aspen would be aggressively treated to restore the aspen component on the forest to historical levels. Treatments would include prescribed fire, wildland fire use, harvest, thinning, or other methods that would achieve resource objectives.

Desired Future Conditions for conifer and aspen sites are expected to be achieved within 100 years.

- *Table 2. 19. Alternative 4. Existing Acres, Desired Range of Future Conditions (DRFC), Estimated Total Acres Treated (Fire/Harvest per decade) Shown in Percent of Mature and Old Age Classes.*

Existing Acres in Mature and Old (% of Total Forested Acres)	DRFC Mature and Old (% of Acres)	Estimated Total Acres Considered	Estimated Total Acres Treated Per decade	Estimated Acres Treated by Fire ¹ Per decade	Estimated Acres Treated by Harvest Per decade
50-80%	30-40%	550,000	57,000	49,900	7,100

¹ A component of these acres is likely to be non-lethal fire.

Non-Forested Vegetation

Sagebrush and mountain shrub would be managed to allow thirty to fifty percent of the acres to remain in greater than fifteen percent canopy cover. Approximately 77,500 acres would be treated over the decade. Treatments would include prescribed fire, wildland fire use, herbicide applications, or other methods that would achieve the desired outcome. Herbicide treatments and seedings would be permitted at the site-specific level based on ecological need.

Tall forb sites, where they exist, would be managed to maintain or restore sites, based on research findings. Areas that once were tall forb sites, but have lost the capability to maintain tall forb communities as a result of topsoil loss or site potential, would be managed for watershed stability.

The range of Desired Future Conditions in sagebrush and mountain shrub would be expected within 50-75 years and within 100 years on tall forb sites.

- *Table 2. 20. Alternative 4. Non-forested Vegetation Conditions, Goals, and Proposed Treatments.*

Total Acres of Sagebrush and Mountain Shrub	Existing Acres Mature/Old Age Class (% of Acres)	Desired Range of Future Conditions (% of Acres)	Long-Term Goal (% of Acres)	Desired Years to Attain DRFC	Estimated Total Acres Treated Per Decade
404,500	50%	30-50%	40%	50-75 years	75,500

Other non-forested vegetation treatments in big tooth maple, juniper, mountain mahogany, and tall forb communities would be permitted after a site-specific analysis.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Livestock grazing would be managed to restore and protect aquatic systems, soils, plants, and animals through forest-wide livestock forage utilization levels as shown below. (For additional information, see Chapter 4 Livestock Grazing)

- *Table 2. 21. Alternative 4. Estimated Livestock Utilization Levels by Type of Forage.*

Type of Forage	Livestock Utilization Rates ¹
Upland Browse	25% -35%
Upland Herbaceous	35% -55%
Riparian Properly Functioning Condition – on greenline and/or the entire AIZ /2	
Herbaceous	20% -55% based on site-specific analysis
Browse	50% based on site-specific analysis
Stubble Height	2-6 inches based on site-specific analysis
Riparian (At risk) – on greenline and/or the entire AIZ /2	
Herbaceous	20% -45% based on site-specific analysis
Browse	50% based on site-specific analysis
Stubble Height	3-8 inches based on site-specific analysis
Riparian (Non-Functioning) – on greenline and/or the entire AIZ²	
Herbaceous	20-40% based on site-specific analysis
Browse	40% -50% based on site-specific analysis
Stubble Height	4-8 inches based on site-specific analysis
Percent Bank Disturbance (annual)	10% -25% based on site-specific analysis
Percent Soil Disturbance	5% -15 % based on site-specific analysis
Winter Range Browse	10% -25%
Winter Range Herbaceous	35% -45%

1 The use of any specific parameter, such as percent utilization, stubble height, or bank disturbance, depends on a site-specific analysis. Until such analysis is completed, except for both winter range utilization criteria. The procedure for this analysis is outlined in the Caribou Grazing Implementation Guide, the livestock utilization rate, soil disturbance, and bank disturbance criteria described in Alternative 2 will be used.

2 Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ).

Livestock suitability is the same as Alternatives 1 through 3, plus additional areas are considered not suitable for livestock grazing. (For additional information, see Chapter 4 Livestock Grazing).

MINING OPERATIONS, RECLAMATION, AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE MANAGEMENT

Under Alternative 4, an adaptive approach to mining operations, reclamation, and hazardous substance management would require a greater use of native plants, on-site topsoil/subsoil management, and more stable, natural appearing landscapes in reclamation activities. Hazardous substance management would be adaptively applied using research and monitoring activities to develop and implement Best Management Practices. Releases of hazardous substances would be managed to prevent releases in excess of established state and federal standards. Because of the Roadless Conservation Initiative, unleased phosphate deposits in inventoried roadless areas would not be recommended for leasing.

RIPARIAN/WETLAND AREAS, WATER QUALITY, AND AQUATIC HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Riparian areas and watersheds would be aggressively managed through detailed guidance to maintain water quality and aquatic ecosystems and to restore degraded conditions where they exist. The primary focus of management activities would be on achieving riparian properly functioning condition, watershed protection, and restoration.

Streams in properly functioning condition would be managed to maintain or improve that condition. Streams that are functioning, but “at risk” of further degradation, would have more stringent standards and guidelines applied. Streams considered not functioning would have the most prohibitive standards and guidelines applied. Additional standards and guidelines would be applied on streams identified by the State of Idaho as water quality limited or containing Threatened or Endangered Species. (See Livestock Grazing Table 2.18 for riparian utilization.)

TIMBER SALE PROGRAM

In this Alternative, an ecological approach to vegetation management would be used to meet ecological objectives, particularly on mixed conifer, aspen/conifer, and aspen sites. The production of timber and wood fiber would be a by-product of vegetation treatments designed to move closer to the historical range of variation.

- *Table 2. 22. Proposed Timber Program Emphasis in Alternative 4.*

Alternative 4	Measurement
Suitable acres	52,900 acres
Types of vegetation emphasized in treatments	Mixed conifer, aspen/conifer, aspen
Suitable forested acres harvested per decade	6,600 acres
Unsuitable forested acres harvested per decade	500 acres
Estimated Allowable Sale Quantity per decade	19 mmbf
Fuelwood harvest per decade	10 thousand cords
Miles of road needed for harvest activities per decade	17 miles
Silvicultural methods allowed	All methods
Use of even-age management	Low
Regeneration	2,300 acres
Pre-commercial thinning	1,300 acres

RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AND ROADLESS AREA MANAGEMENT

In this Alternative, all of the Mt. Naomi Roadless Area and portions of Caribou City and Stump Peak would be recommended for Wilderness, a total of 71,300 acres. The 1985 recommended portion of the Worm Creek Roadless Area (~16,000 acres) would not be recommended and would be dropped.

The Mt. Naomi and Caribou City portions recommended for Wilderness would be managed as non-motorized in the summer. The Stump Peak portion recommended for Wilderness would allow summer motorized use on designated routes. The Mt. Naomi portion recommended for Wilderness would be managed for non-motorized winter travel. Caribou City and Stump Peak portions recommended for Wilderness would be open to motorized winter travel.

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR) would be applied in this Alternative. Road construction and reconstruction would not be allowed. Timber harvest inside inventoried roadless areas would only occur if RACR criteria for such management activity could be met.

Roadless areas managed for summer non-motorized recreation would increase over current levels.

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Wildlife habitat management would restore habitat quality for species-at-risk, including Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, Sensitive Species, and other identified species-at-risk. Habitat for hunted species, such as big game and upland birds, would be managed to maintain or restore habitat quality. Management actions could include vegetation treatments in habitats-at-risk, establishment of upland and riparian livestock forage utilization levels, and establishment of road/motorized trail densities. Big game winter range would be emphasized through livestock forage utilization and access management, where it is identified.

A minimum of twenty percent of the forested acres in each 5th code HUC³ would be maintained in late seral/old growth conditions. Fifteen percent of the forested acres in each HUC would be managed as old growth or for old growth recruitment where sufficient old growth currently does not exist. These acres would be maintained in larger blocks where feasible. Sagebrush stands would be managed in blocks of greater than 250 acres, where possible.

A high emphasis would be placed on maintaining or improving stronghold habitats for wildlife and fish addressed in specific recovery plans. Moderate emphasis would be placed on retaining and improving wildlife corridors.

³ A level of Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) mapping hierarchy developed by the U.S. Geologic Service and used for the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICEBMP) to map geographic boundaries of watersheds at various scales.

Alternative 4

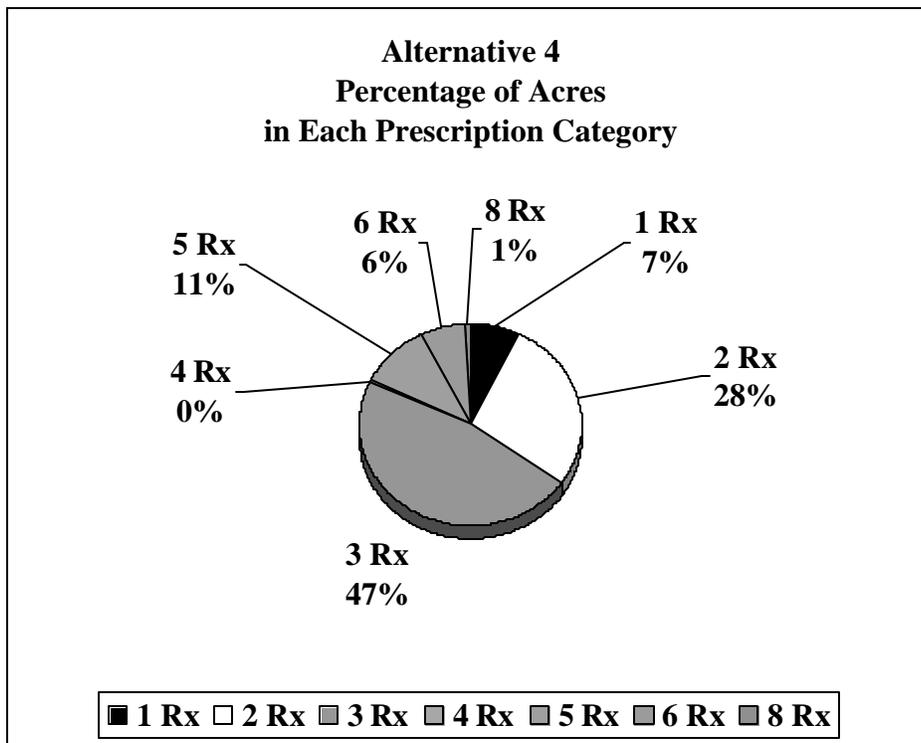
• Table 2. 23. Prescription Acres in Alternative 4.

Prescription Category	Prescription Name	RX No. /Access	Acres in Prescription
Wilderness Back Country	Mt. Naomi year-round non-motor	1.3(a)	14,200
	Caribou City summer non-motor; winter motor	1.3(b)	33,100
	Stump Peak; year-round motor	1.3(d)	24,000
Special Management Area	Visual Quality Maintenance	2.1.2	4,200
	Municipal watersheds	2.1.3	6,500
	Research Natural Areas	2.2	5,700
	Wild and Scenic Eligible River	2.5	2,800
	Winter range (forage); summer motor; winter non-motor	2.7.1(a)	12,300
	Winter range (forage), year-round motor on designated routes	2.7.1(b)	49,000
	Winter range (forage), summer motor, winter non-motor on designated routes	2.7.1(e)	27,300
	Winter range, summer motor; winter non	2.7.2(a)	3,800
	Winter range, year-round motor on designated routes	2.7.2(b)	122,800
	Aquatic Influence Zone	2.8.3	56,000
Semi-primitive non-intensive	Summer non-motor; winter motor	3.1(b)	28,500
	Year-round motor	3.2(b)	2,400
	Lower OMRD for deer/elk	3.2(d)	30,900
	Summer motor trails; winter non-motor	3.3(a)	1,600
	Year-round motor	3.3(b)	291,700
	Lower OMRD for deer/elk	3.3(d)	130,200
	Summer non-motor; winter motor	3.3(f)	7,900
Developed Dispersed Rec	Special Use Permit recreation sites access	4.2	1,100
Timber	Year-round motor	5.1(b)	31,600
	Lower OMRD for deer/elk	5.1(d)	5,500
Timber restoration	Year-round motor	5.3(b)	59,800
	Lower OMRD for deer/elk	5.3(d)	15,300
Rangeland restoration	Year-round motor	6.3(b)	59,300
	Lower OMRD for deer/elk	6.3(d)	5,600
Concentrated Development Area	Utility corridors, commercial and administrative sites	8.1	100
	Existing leases, undeveloped	8.2.1	2,900
	Active and reclaimed mines	8.2.2	6,100
Total			1,042,200

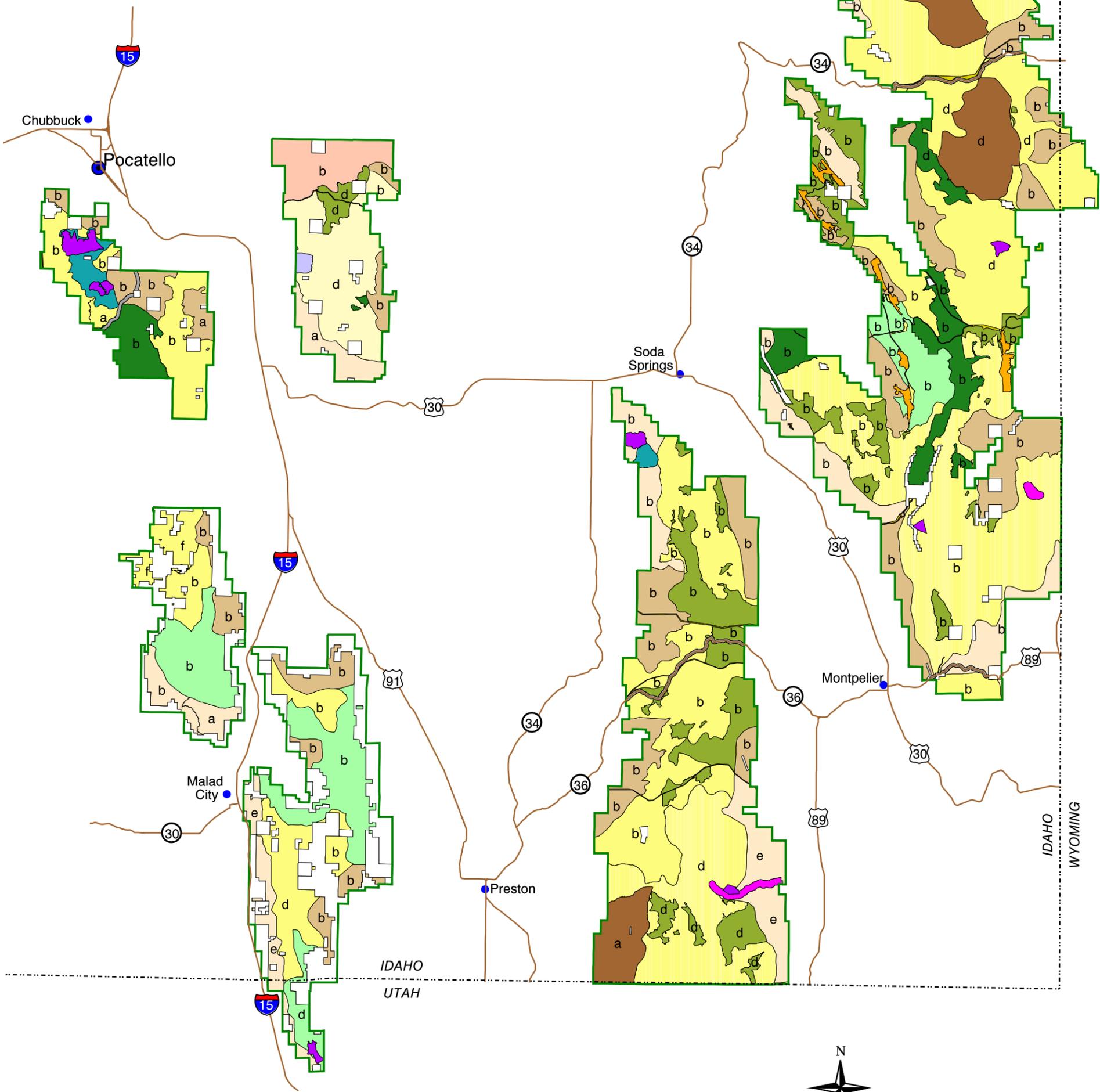
- *Table 2. 24 Probable Treatments in Alternative 4.*

Probable Treatments in the First Decade	Alternative 4
Suitable Forested Acres Harvested	6,600
Unsuitable Forested Acres Harvested	500
Forested Acres Treated with Fire	49,900
Subtotal of Forested Acres Treated	57,000
Non-Forested Acres Treated with Fire	77,500
Total Acres Treated In Decade	133,600

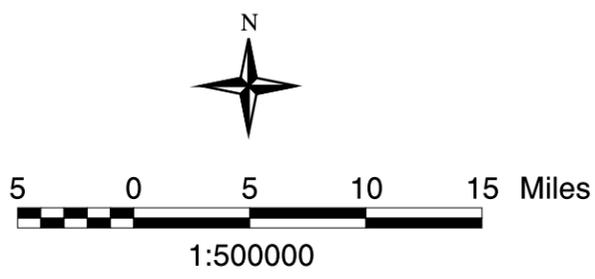
- *Figure 2. 4 Percentage of Acres in each Prescription Category in Alternative 4.*



Caribou National Forest Forest Plan Revision Alternative 4 Management Prescriptions with access codes



- Forest Boundary
- Alternative 4 Management Prescriptions
- 1.3 (a,b,d) Recommended Wilderness - limited summer motorized access
- 2.1.2 Visual Quality Maintenance
- 2.1.3 Municipal Watersheds
- 2.2 Research Natural Areas
- 2.5 W&SR Eligible Recreation River
- 2.7.1 (a,b,e) Elk & Deer Winter Range - Critical
- 2.7.2 (a,b) Elk & Deer Winter Range
- 2.8.3 Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ) [not shown on map]
- 3.1 (b) Non-motorized
- 3.2 (b,d) Semi-primitive Motorized
- 3.3 (a,b,d,f) Semi-primitive Motorized - Restoration
- 4.2 Special Use Recreation Sites
- 5.1 (b,d) Timber Management
- 5.3 (b,d) Timber Management - Restoration
- 6.3 (b,d) Range Management - Restoration
- 8.1 Concentrated Development - Admin Sites, Utility Corridors
- 8.2.1 Existing Mine Leases [not shown on map]
- 8.2.2 Concentrated Development - Mines
- Other Ownership



USDA FS, Caribou Forest Plan Revision
Alternative 4
May, 2001

MAP 2.4

ALTERNATIVE 5

THEME

Alternative 5 proposes to manage forest resources to increase recreation opportunities, scenic beauty, and healthy landscapes. It reflects the likely outcomes of managing ecosystems consistent with recreation objectives. This Alternative emphasizes the issues of economics, based on amenity values, riparian/wetland areas, aquatic habitat, water quality, motorized and non-motorized access, and wildlife.

ACCESS AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Year-round access opportunities would be managed to provide an array of both motorized and non-motorized experiences. Summer motorized travel would be restricted to designated routes. Non-motorized opportunities would increase, because some areas would be closed to motorized use. In some prescriptions, where appropriate, an increase in open motorized road and trail densities could occur. Approximately 35,400 acres (three percent of the Forest) would be managed for summer cross-country motorized use.

The portion of Mt. Naomi recommended for Wilderness would be managed for non-motorized winter travel. Additionally, the backside of the Pebble Creek Ski Area near Pocatello would be managed for non-motorized winter travel. In some cases, winter motorized travel would be restricted to designated routes in areas where this activity would conflict with wildlife needs. Environmental education and interpretation would be emphasized.

Developed and dispersed recreation opportunities would increase with demand but would be compatible with protection of riparian areas and big game habitat.

ECONOMICS

Economic outcomes would be the result of managing forest resources to provide a high level and wide array of recreational experiences. Amenity values, such as recreation, huntable and viewable wildlife, environmental education, resource interpretation, and visual quality, would be emphasized.

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Disturbances

Disturbances would be permitted to operate naturally, where recreation values would not be unduly jeopardized. Insect and disease disturbances would be allowed to play their natural role where appropriate and desirable. Prescribed fire and wildland fire would be used to manage vegetation, reduce hazardous fuels, and recycle nutrients with priority on reducing fuels near interface communities. Wildfires would be suppressed in some areas to protect public safety and resource values but would be allowed to burn in other areas to benefit resource values.

Forested Vegetation

Conifer sites, particularly mixed conifer, aspen/conifer, and aspen, would be managed to maintain thirty to fifty percent of these acres in a mature/old age structure. Approximately 25,700 acres would be treated over the decade. Treatments would include prescribed fire, wildland fire use, harvest, thinning or other methods that would achieve resource objectives.

Aspen would be treated to restore the aspen component on the forest to historical levels. Treatments would include prescribed fire, wildland fire use, harvest, thinning or other methods that would achieve resource objectives.

Desired Future Conditions for conifer and aspen sites are expected to be achieved within 100 years.

- *Table 2. 25. Alternative 5. Existing Acres, Desired Range of Future Conditions (DRFC), Estimated Total Acres Treated (Fire/Harvest per decade) Shown in Percent of Mature and Old Age Classes.*

Existing Acres in Mature and Old (% of Total Forested Acres)	DRFC Mature and Old (% of Acres)	Estimated Total Acres Considered	Estimated Total Acres Treated Per decade	Estimated Acres Treated by Fire ¹ Per decade	Estimated Acres Treated by Harvest Per decade
50-80%	30-50%	550,000	25,700	19,200	6,500

¹ A component of these acres is likely to be non-lethal fire.

Non-Forested Vegetation

Sagebrush and mountain shrub would be managed to allow thirty to fifty percent of the acres to remain in greater than fifteen percent canopy cover. Approximately 70,800 acres would be treated over the decade. Treatments would include prescribed fire, wildland fire use, herbicide applications, or other methods that would achieve the desired outcome. Herbicide treatments and seedings would be permitted at the site-specific level based on ecological need.

Tall forb sites, where they exist, would be managed to maintain or restore sites, based on research findings. Areas that once were tall forb sites, but have lost the capability to maintain tall forb communities as a result of topsoil loss or site potential, would be managed for watershed stability.

The range of Desired Future Conditions in sagebrush and mountain shrub would be expected within 50-75 years and within 100 years on tall forb sites.

- *Table 2. 26. Alternative 5. Non-forested Vegetation Conditions, Goals, and Proposed Treatments.*

Total Acres of Sagebrush and Mountain	Existing Acres Mature/Old Age Class	Desired Range of Future Conditions	Long-Term Goal (% of Acres)	Desired Years to Attain DRFC	Estimated Total Acres Treated
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Shrub	(% of Acres)	(% of Acres)			Per Decade
404,500	50%	50%	40%	100 years	70,800

Other non-forested vegetation treatments in big tooth maple, juniper, mountain mahogany, and tall forb communities would be permitted after a site-specific analysis.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Livestock grazing would be managed to meet recreation goals. When conflicts arise between recreation and livestock grazing, livestock grazing would be mitigated to meet recreation needs. Grazing would be phased out on an opportunity basis in the Scout Mountain area because of conflicts with recreation. Where grazing is the primary cause for less than satisfactory conditions, grazing would not be allowed on non-functional streams or stream segments and/or streams that are listed as water quality limited under 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Livestock grazing would be managed through forest-wide livestock forage utilization levels as shown below. (For additional information, see Chapter 4 Livestock Grazing):

- *Table 2. 27. Alternative 5. Estimated Livestock Utilization Levels by Type of Forage.*

Type of Forage	Livestock Utilization Rates
Upland Browse	25% -35%
Upland Herbaceous	35% -55%
Riparian Properly Functioning Condition – on greenline Herbaceous Browse Stubble Height	30% -50% Site-specific Greater than 6 inches
Riparian (At risk) – on greenline Herbaceous Browse Stubble Height	30% -50% Site-specific Greater than 6 inches
Riparian (Non-Functioning) – on greenline Herbaceous Browse Stubble Height	Reduced grazing/no grazing allowed ² Reduced grazing/ no grazing allowed ² Reduced grazing/ no grazing allowed ²
Percent Bank Disturbance	15% ¹
Percent Soil Disturbance	Does not apply
Winter Range Browse	10% -20%
Winter Range Herbaceous	35% -45%

1 Less than 15% if the stream is functioning at risk.

2 Where livestock grazing is determined to be the primary cause for the less than satisfactory conditions.

Livestock suitability is the same as Alternatives 1 through 4. Additional areas such as dispersed recreation sites are considered not suitable for livestock grazing. (For additional information, see Chapter 4 Livestock Grazing).

MINING OPERATIONS, RECLAMATION, AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE MANAGEMENT

Under Alternative 5, an adaptive approach to mining operations, reclamation, and hazardous substance management would require a greater use of native plants, on-site topsoil/subsoil management, and more stable, natural appearing landscapes in reclamation activities. Hazardous substance management would be adaptively applied using research and monitoring activities to

develop and implement Best Management Practices. Releases of hazardous substances would be managed to prevent releases in excess of established state and federal standards. Because of the Roadless Conservation Initiative, unleased phosphate deposits in inventoried roadless areas would not be recommended for leasing.

RIPARIAN/WETLAND AREAS, WATER QUALITY AND AQUATIC HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Riparian and aquatic resources would be managed to maintain or improve the functioning conditions of streams and riparian areas. Reduced livestock use levels would be implemented on streams that are functioning at risk, and grazing could be prohibited on non-functioning streams. Watershed protection would be a primary focus of management activities, while allowing other uses that contribute to the improvement of water quality limited streams, Sensitive Species, watershed integrity, riparian areas, stream channels and aquatic habitat conditions. (See Table 2.23 under Livestock Grazing for riparian utilization.)

TIMBER SALE PROGRAM

Silvicultural methods and vegetation management, particularly on mixed conifer, aspen/conifer, and aspen sites, would focus on forest appearance, visual quality, public safety, forest health, and wildlife habitat. Forested vegetation management activities would be allowed on a limited basis on some forested lands unsuited for timber production to achieve ecological, visual quality and wildlife habitat objectives.

- *Table 2. 28. Proposed Timber Program Emphasis in Alternative 5.*

Alternative 5	Measurement
Suitable acres	48,400 acres
Types of vegetation emphasized in treatments	Mixed conifer, aspen/conifer, aspen
Suitable forested acres harvested in the 1st decade	6,100 acres
Unsuitable forested acres harvested in the 1st decade	400 acres
Estimated Allowable Sale Quantity per decade	20 mmbf
Fuelwood harvest per decade	10 thousand cords
Miles of road needed for harvest activities per decade	16 miles
Silvicultural methods allowed	All methods
Use of even-age management	Low
Regeneration	2,100 acres
Pre-commercial thinning	1,200 acres

RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AND ROADLESS AREA MANAGEMENT

Under Alternative 5, a total of approximately 93,100 acres would be recommended for Wilderness. Those portions of the Mt. Naomi and Worm Creek Roadless Areas (~30,000 acres) recommended in 1985 would be retained and managed to protect and maintain Wilderness characteristics. In addition, a portion of the Caribou City Roadless Area (as defined in Alternative 4) also would be recommended for Wilderness.

Of these acres, portions of Mt. Naomi and Caribou City recommended for Wilderness would be managed for summer non-motorized use. Approximately 16,000 acres recommended for Wilderness in the Worm Creek Roadless Area would be managed for summer motorized

recreation on designated routes. The Mt. Naomi portion recommended for Wilderness would continue to be managed for non-motorized winter travel. Those portions of Worm Creek and Caribou City recommended for Wilderness would be open to motorized winter travel.

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR) would be applied in this Alternative. Road construction and reconstruction would not be allowed. Timber harvest inside inventoried roadless areas would only occur if RACR criteria for such management activity could be met.

Roadless areas managed for summer non-motorized recreation would increase over current levels. Roadless areas managed for summer and winter motorized recreation would decrease over current levels.

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Wildlife habitats would be managed to maintain or improve habitat to support high populations of huntable and watchable wildlife. They would also be managed to ensure viable and continuing populations on the Forest. Wildlife habitat management would focus on developing effective habitat through vegetation treatments in habitats-at-risk, establishment of upland and riparian livestock utilization levels, and establishment of road/motorized trail densities. Protection of unique habitats and recovery of Threatened and Endangered Species would occur thru the appropriate recovery process. Big game winter range would be emphasized in selected areas through livestock forage utilization and access management, where it is identified.

A minimum of twenty percent of the forested acres in each 5th code HUC⁴ would be maintained in late seral/old growth conditions. Fifteen percent of the forested acres in each HUC would be managed as old growth or for old growth recruitment where sufficient old growth currently does not exist.

A moderate emphasis would be placed on maintaining or improving stronghold habitats for wildlife and fish addressed in specific recovery plans. Moderate emphasis would be placed on retaining and improving wildlife corridors.

⁴ A level of Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) mapping hierarchy developed by the U.S. Geologic Service and used for the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICEBMP) to map geographic boundaries of watersheds at various scales .

Alternative 5

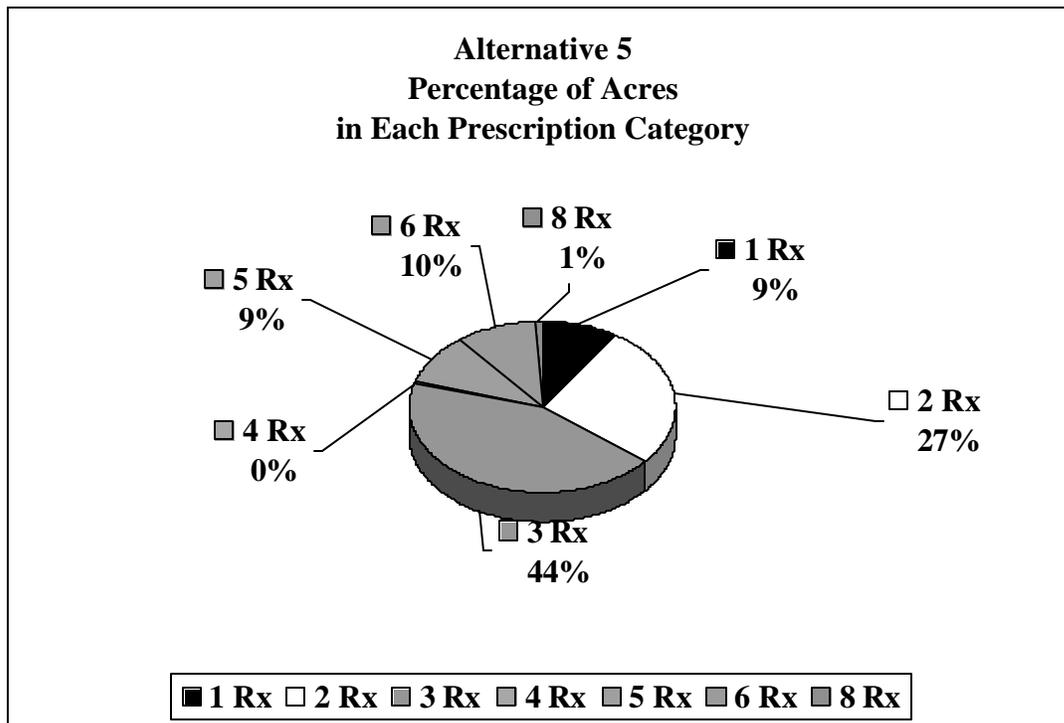
- *Table 2. 29. Prescription Acres in Alternative 5.*

Prescription Category	Prescription Name	RX No. /Access	Acres in Prescription
Wilderness Back Country	Mt. Naomi year-round non-motor	1.3(a)	14,200
	Caribou City; summer non-motor, winter motor	1.3(b)	64,500
	Worm Creek; year-round motor	1.3(d)	15,600
Special Management Area	Visual Quality Maintenance	2.1.2	4,200
	Municipal watersheds	2.1.3	6,500
	Research Natural Areas	2.2	5,700
	Wild and Scenic Eligible River	2.5	2,800
	Winter range (forage), motor designated routes	2.7.1(b)	85,500
	Winter range, motor designated routes	2.7.2(b)	123,100
	Aquatic Influence Zone	2.8.3	54,200
Semi-primitive non-intensive	Year-round non-motor	3.1(a)	52,300
	Summer motor trails; winter non-motor	3.2(a)	1,200
	Year-round motor	3.2(b)	112,700
	Scout Mountain, motor	3.2.1	10,600
	Year-round motor	3.3(b)	185,000
	Cross-country; year-round motor	3.3(c)	13,800
	Summer non-motor; winter motor	3.3(f)	1,900
	Summer seasonal closures; winter motor.	3.3(e)	73,900
Developed/Dispersed Recreation	Special Use Permit recreation sites access	4.2	1,100
	Dispersed camping access	4.3	2,000
Timber Restoration	Year-round motor	5.3(b)	47,600
	Cross-country; year-round motor	5.3(c)	11,700
	Summer seasonal closures; winter motor.	5.3(e)	19,800
	Summer big game habitat; lower OMRD for deer/elk	5.4(d)	19,300
Rangeland Restoration	Year-round motor	6.3(b)	95,800
	Cross-country; year-round motor	6.3(c)	2,400
	Summer non-motor; winter motor	6.3(f)	5,800
Concentrated Development Area	Utility corridors, commercial and administrative sites	8.1	100
	Existing undeveloped leases	8.2.1	2,800
	Active and reclaimed mines	8.2.2	6,100
Total			1,042,200

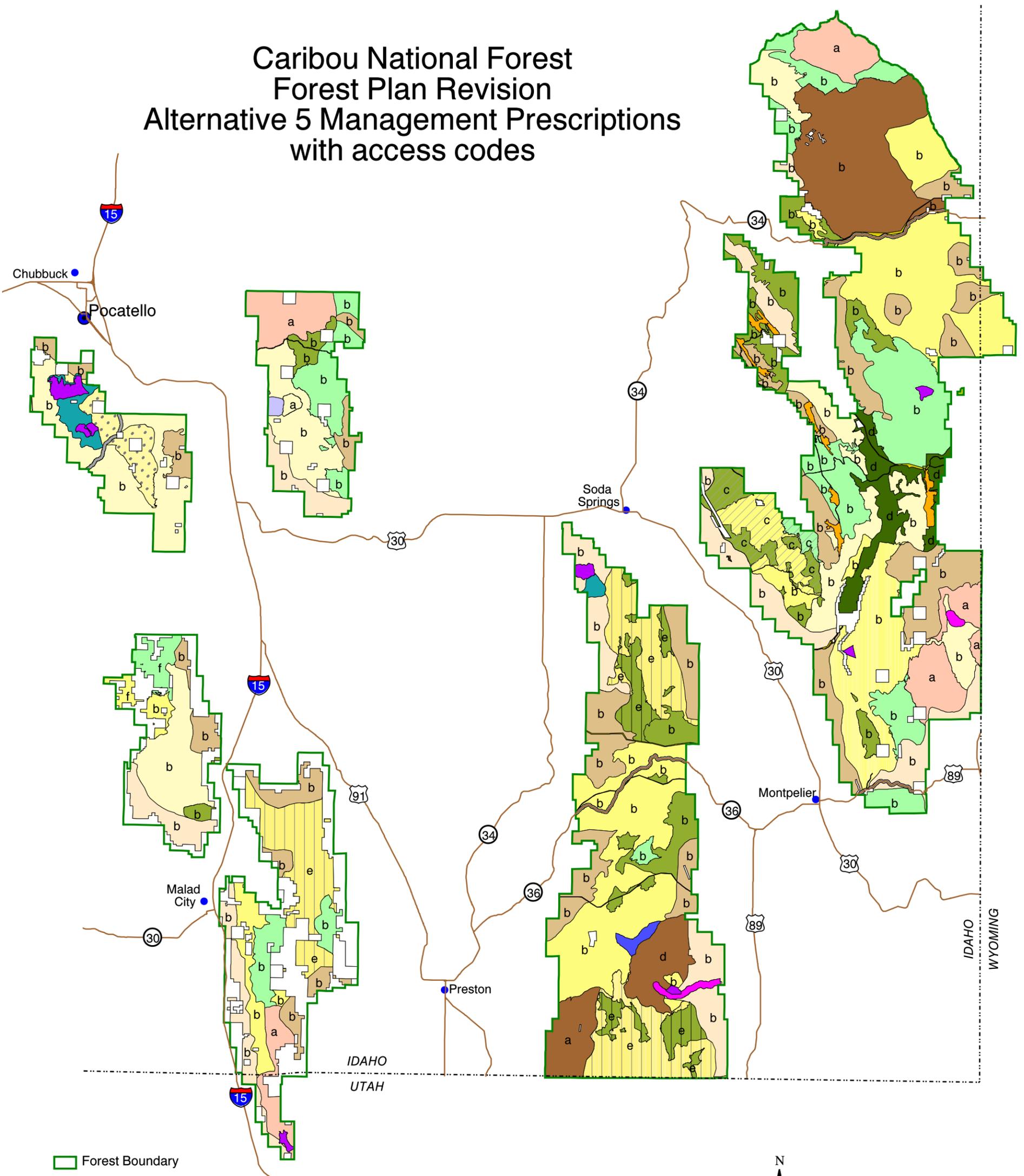
- *Table 2. 30 Probable Treatments in Alternative 5.*

Probable Treatments in the First Decade	Alternative 5
Suitable Forested Acres Harvested	6,100
Unsuitable Forested Acres Harvested	400
Forested Acres Treated with Fire	19,200
Subtotal of Forested Acres Treated	25,700
Non-Forested Acres Treated with Fire	70,800
Total Acres Treated In Decade	96,500

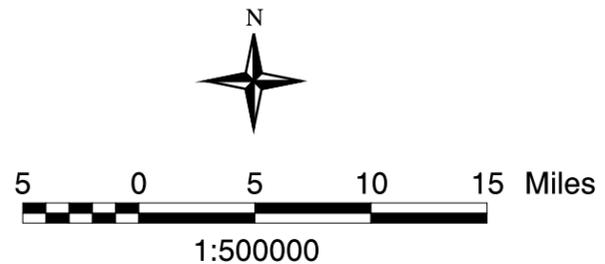
- *Figure 2. 5 Percentage of Acres in each Prescription Category in Alternative 5.*



Caribou National Forest Forest Plan Revision Alternative 5 Management Prescriptions with access codes



- Forest Boundary
- Areas Open to Motorized Cross-Country Travel
- Alternative 5 Management Prescriptions
- 1.3 (a,b,d) Recommended Wilderness - limited summer motorized access
- 2.1.2 Visual Quality Maintenance
- 2.1.3 Municipal Watersheds
- 2.2 Research Natural Areas
- 2.5 W&SR Eligible Recreation River
- 2.7.1 (b) Elk and Deer Winter Range - Critical
- 2.7.2 (b) Elk and Deer Winter Range
- 2.8.3 Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ) [not shown on map]
- 3.1 (a) Nonmotorized
- 3.2 (a,b) Semi-primitive Motorized
- 3.2.1 Semi-primitive Motorized - no grazing
- 3.3 (b,c,f) Semi-primitive Motorized - Restoration
- 3.3 (e) Semi-primitive Motorized - Restoration, seasonal closure
- 4.2 Special use Recreation Sites
- 4.3 Dispersed Camping Management
- 5.3 (b,c) Forest Management -Restoration
- 5.3 (e) Forest Management - Restoration, seasonal closure
- 5.4 Summer Big Game Habitat
- 6.3 (b,c,f) Range Management - Restoration
- 8.1 Concentrated Development - Admin Sites, Utility Corridors
- 8.2.1 Existing Mine Leases [not shown on map]
- 8.2.2 Concentrated Development - Mines
- Other Ownership



USDA FS, Caribou Forest Plan Revision
Alternative 5
May, 2001

MAP 2.5

ALTERNATIVE 6

THEME

Alternative 6 was developed from a proposed Alternative submitted by the Greater Yellowstone Coalition and other environmental organizations. This Alternative would emphasize wilderness areas and preservation of inventoried roadless areas. A significant portion of the Forest's roadless areas would be recommended for Wilderness designation. Timber harvest and grazing would be managed and permitted in suitable areas when it is demonstrated that those activities would not damage other ecological functions.

ACCESS AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Recreation use, including both summer and winter motorized and non-motorized use outside of recommended Wilderness Areas, would be managed to provide a very high level of protection for aquatic systems, soils, plants, and wildlife. Summer cross-country motorized travel would be eliminated and all motorized use would be restricted to designated routes. While a variety of recreation uses would be provided, this alternative emphasizes non-motorized use. Generally, no new motorized roads or trails would be permitted unless an equal length is closed within the same prescription area. No single-track trail would be widened to allow two-track motorized vehicles. Trails and roads open to motorized use would be closed immediately if damage to water quality, wildlife, soils, or vegetation occurs.

Cross-country motorized winter travel would be eliminated in recommended Wilderness Areas and on the back-side of the Pebble Creek Ski Area in this Alternative. Additionally, in some areas motorized winter use would be seasonally restricted to designated routes in big game winter range.

Developed recreation would be maintained at current levels. Dispersed recreation would emphasize non-motorized opportunities in this Alternative.

ECONOMICS

Economic benefits to individuals or corporations would be an indirect effect of Forest management. Economics would not drive forest management decisions for resource uses. This Alternative would manage forest resources to protect areas with high Wilderness values and the Forest's roadless areas not recommended for Wilderness.

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Disturbances

Natural processes, such as fire and disease, would be allowed to occur throughout the Forest, except where human lives are threatened. Identified "ecological hot spots" would be protected to insure that the values and resources which led to their identification are maintained and enhanced. Vegetation outside recommended Wilderness and roadless areas would be managed where it can be clearly demonstrated that ecological values are restored or maintained. Vegetation management would not be used in attempts to mimic natural processes. Wildland fire use and

prescribed fire would be reintroduced into the ecosystem forest-wide where appropriate, needed, and effective.

VEGETATION STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION

Forested Vegetation

Conifer sites inside recommended Wilderness Areas would be managed through natural succession and disturbance processes. Sites outside of recommended Wilderness Areas, particularly mixed conifer, aspen/conifer and aspen, would be managed to maintain fifty percent of these acres in a mature/old age structure. Approximately 25,700 acres would be treated over the decade. Treatments would include prescribed fire, wildland fire use, harvest, thinning, or other methods that would achieve resource objectives.

Aspen would be treated to restore the aspen component on the forest to historical levels. Treatments would include prescribed fire, wildland fire use, harvest, thinning, or other methods that would achieve resource objectives.

Desired Future Conditions for conifer and aspen sites are expected to be achieved within 100 years.

- *Table 2. 31. Alternative 6. Existing Acres, Desired Range of Future Conditions (DRFC), Estimated Total Acres Treated (Fire/Harvest per decade) Shown in Percent of Mature and Old Age Classes.*

Existing Acres in Mature and Old (% of Total Forested Acres)	DRFC Mature and Old (% of Acres)	Estimated Total Acres Considered	Estimated Total Acres Treated Per decade	Estimated Acres Treated by Fire ¹ Per decade	Estimated Acres Treated by Harvest Per decade
50-80%	Natural – inside recommended Wilderness; 50% -outside recommended Wilderness	550,000	25,700	20,800	4,900

¹ A component of these acres is likely to be non-lethal fire.

Non-Forested Vegetation

Sagebrush and mountain shrub inside recommended Wilderness Areas would not be treated. Acres outside of recommended Wilderness would be managed to retain or maintain more than fifty percent of the acres in greater than fifteen percent canopy cover. Approximately 60,000 acres would be treated over the decade. Treatments would include prescribed fire, wildland fire use, herbicide applications, or other methods that would achieve the desired outcome. Herbicide treatments and seedings would be permitted at the site-specific level based on ecological need.

Tall forb sites, where they exist, would be managed to maintain or restore sites, based on research findings. Areas that once were tall forb sites, but have lost the capability to maintain tall forb communities as a result of topsoil loss or site potential, would be managed for watershed stability.

The range of Desired Future Conditions in sagebrush and mountain shrub would be expected within 100 years and within 100 years on tall forb sites.

- *Table 2. 32. Alternative 6. Non-forested Vegetation Conditions, Goals, and Proposed Treatments.*

Total Acres of Sagebrush and Mountain Shrub	Existing Acres Mature/Old Age Class (% of Acres)	Desired Range of Future Conditions (% of Acres)	Long-Term Goal (% of Acres)	Desired Years to Attain DRFC	Estimated Total Acres Treated Per Decade
404,500	50%	>50%	>50%	100 years	60,000

Other non-forested vegetation treatments in big tooth maple, juniper, mountain mahogany, and tall forb communities would be permitted after a site-specific analysis.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Rangelands would be managed to restore and protect aquatic systems, soils, plants, and wildlife. When conflicts arise between recreation and protection of the above referenced resources, livestock grazing would be modified to meet other resource needs and values. No treatments would be allowed to increase forage production, such as seedings or other vegetative manipulations for domestic livestock. Water developments, such as pipelines, troughs, and upland spring developments, are allowed unless it could be demonstrated that increased upland usage by domestic livestock would not lead to increased impacts on upland soils, vegetation, or important wildlife habitat. Livestock utilization levels would be established as follows. (For additional information, see Chapter 4 Livestock Grazing.)

- *Table 2. 33. Alternative 6. Estimated Livestock Utilization Levels by Type of Forage.*

Type of Forage	Livestock Utilization Rates ¹
Upland Browse	25% -35%
Upland Herbaceous	35% -55%
Riparian Properly Functioning Condition – entire riparian area Herbaceous Browse Stubble Height	20%-65% based on site-specific analysis 40%-50% based on site-specific analysis 6-inch minimum
Riparian (At risk) – entire riparian area Herbaceous Browse Stubble Height	20%-45% based on site-specific analysis 40%-50% based on site-specific analysis 6-inch minimum
Riparian (Non-Functioning) – entire riparian area Herbaceous Browse Stubble Height	20-40% based on site-specific analysis 40% -50% based on site-specific analysis 6-inch minimum
Percent Bank Disturbance	10% -25% based on site-specific analysis

Type of Forage	Livestock Utilization Rates ¹
Percent Soil Disturbance	5% -20% based on site-specific analysis
Winter Range Browse	10% -20%
Winter Range Herbaceous	35% -45%

1 The use of any specific parameter, such as percent utilization, stubble height, or bank disturbance, depends on a site-specific analysis. Until such analysis is completed, except for winter range utilization criteria, the livestock utilization rate, soil disturbance, and bank disturbance criteria described in Alternative 2 will be used.

Livestock suitability is the same as Alternative 5 with additional areas such as Yellowstone and Bonneville cutthroat trout strongholds, considered not suitable for livestock grazing. (For additional information, see Chapter 4 Livestock Grazing).

MINING OPERATIONS, RECLAMATION, AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE MANAGEMENT

Minerals management would be very prescriptive with detailed standards in the Plan. This is a conservative approach, incorporating current best management practices and other measures designed to eliminate any chance release of hazardous substances. Management direction changes would require an amendment to the Plan. The detailed direction in the Forest Plan would include such standards as backfilling all pits, placing center waste shales and other waste rocks containing potentially hazardous materials above groundwater level, and capping backfilled pits with overburden material to help prevent selenium uptake in plants. Unleased phosphate deposits in inventoried roadless areas would not be recommended for leasing.

RIPARIAN/WETLAND AREAS, WATER QUALITY, AND AQUATIC HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Riparian areas and watersheds would be aggressively managed to maintain/improve water quality and aquatic ecosystems and to restore areas in degraded condition. Stringent riparian livestock forage utilization levels for shrubs and herbaceous vegetation would be established, as would special emphasis zones for riparian vegetation and aquatic habitats. Stubble height at the end of the grazing period would not be less than six inches within the entire riparian zone. (See Livestock Table 2.28 for riparian utilization.)

TIMBER SALE PROGRAM

Outside of areas recommended for Wilderness and inventoried roadless areas, timber harvest, particularly in mixed conifer, aspen/conifer, and aspen, would be a by-product of vegetation treatments when it is shown that they have been designed to prevent excessive damage to other forest resources, such as wildlife habitat, old growth forests, water quality, and recreation. No timber harvest would be allowed on unsuited lands.

- *Table 2. 34. Proposed Timber Program Emphasis in Alternative 6.*

Alternative 6	Measurement
Suitable acres	38,700 acres
Types of vegetation emphasized in treatments	Mixed conifer, aspen/conifer, aspen
Suitable forested acres harvested in the 1 st decade	4,900 acres
Unsuitable forested acres harvested in the 1 st decade	0 acres
Estimated Allowable Sale Quantity per decade	17 mmbf
Fuelwood harvest per decade	8 thousand cords

Miles of road needed for harvest activities per decade	7 miles
Silvicultural methods allowed	All methods
Use of even-age management	Low
Regeneration	1,700 acres
Pre-commercial thinning	1,000 acres

RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AND ROADLESS AREA MANAGEMENT

Portions of Caribou City, Stump Peak, Bear Creek, Elkhorn Mountain, Red Mountain, Gannett Spring Creek, Mt. Naomi, and Worm Creek Roadless Areas would be recommended for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Approximately 344,350 acres would be recommended for Wilderness from these areas. Areas recommended for Wilderness would be managed for non-motorized summer travel. Summer motorized use would not be allowed. Winter motorized travel in recommended areas would be restricted to designated routes, except in the Mt. Naomi area, which would be managed for non-motorized recreation.

Roadless areas not recommended for Wilderness would be managed in accordance with the recently approved Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Road construction and reconstruction would not be allowed.

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Wildlife habitat management would maintain habitat quality over the short term for species-at-risk, including Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Sensitive Species and other identified species-at-risk. Habitat for hunted species, such as big game and upland birds, would be managed to maintain or restore habitat quality. Big game winter range would be emphasized through livestock forage utilization and access management, where it is identified.

A minimum of twenty-five percent of the forested acres in each 5th code HUC would be maintained in late seral/old growth conditions (of which twenty percent would be managed as old growth or old growth recruitment where sufficient old growth currently does not exist). These acres would be maintained in larger blocks where feasible. Sagebrush stands would be managed in blocks of greater than 250 acres, where possible.

A high emphasis would be placed on maintaining or improving stronghold habitats for wildlife and fish addressed in specific recovery plans. High emphasis would be placed on retaining and improving wildlife corridors that connect to the Targhee to the north, the Bridger-Teton to the east and Wasatch-Cache to the south.

Alternative 6

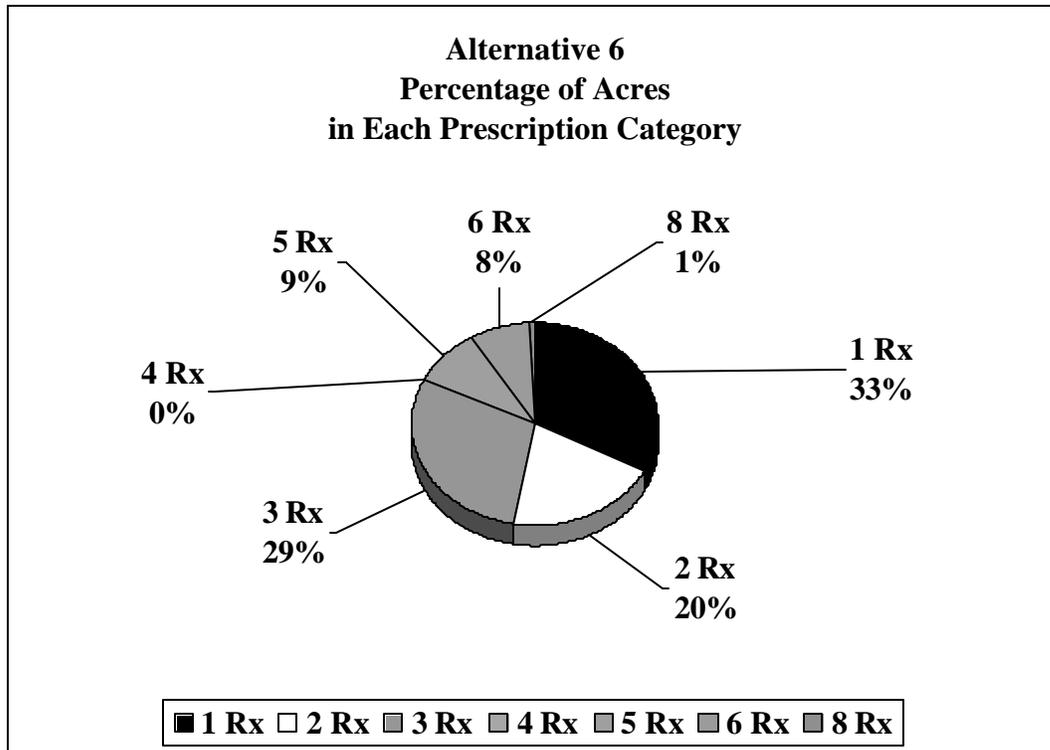
- Table 2. 35. Prescription Acres in Alternative 6.

Prescription Category	Prescription Name	RX No. /Access	Acres in Prescription
Wilderness Back Country	Mt. Naomi—year-round non-motor	1.3(a)	27,900
	Summer non-motor; winter motor designated routes	1.3(e)	314,000
Special Management Area	Visual Quality Maintenance	2.1.2	4,200
	Municipal watersheds	2.1.3	6,500
	Research Natural Areas	2.2	5,700
	Wild and Scenic Eligible River	2.5	2,800
	Winter range (forage), year-round motor designated routes	2.7.1(b)	75,700
	Winter range, summer motor; winter non-motor	2.7.2(a)	5,000
	Winter range, year-round motor designated routes	2.7.2(b)	71,400
	Aquatic Influence Zone	2.8.3	37,700
Semi-primitive non-intensive	Year-round non-motor	3.1(a)	33,600
	Summer motor trails; winter non-motor	3.2(a)	6,800
	Year-round motor	3.2(b)	40,700
	Lower OMRD for deer/elk	3.2(d)	79,800
	Year-round motor	3.3(b)	47,500
	Lower OMRD for deer/elk	3.3(d)	97,600
Developed/Dispersed Recreation	Special Use Permit recreation sites access	4.2	1,100
Timber	Restoration year-round motor	5.3(b)	18,800
	Restoration, Lower OMRD for deer/elk	5.3(d)	36,900
	Summer big game habitat, Lower OMRD for deer/elk	5.4(d)	38,700
Rangeland Restoration	Year-round motor	6.3(b)	800
	Lower OMRD for deer/elk	6.3(d)	78,100
	Summer non-motor; winter motor	6.3(f)	1,900
Concentrated Development Area	Utility corridors, commercial and Administrative sites	8.1	100
	Existing leases, undeveloped	8.2.1	2,800
	Active and reclaimed mines	8.2.2	6,100
<i>Total</i>			1,042,200

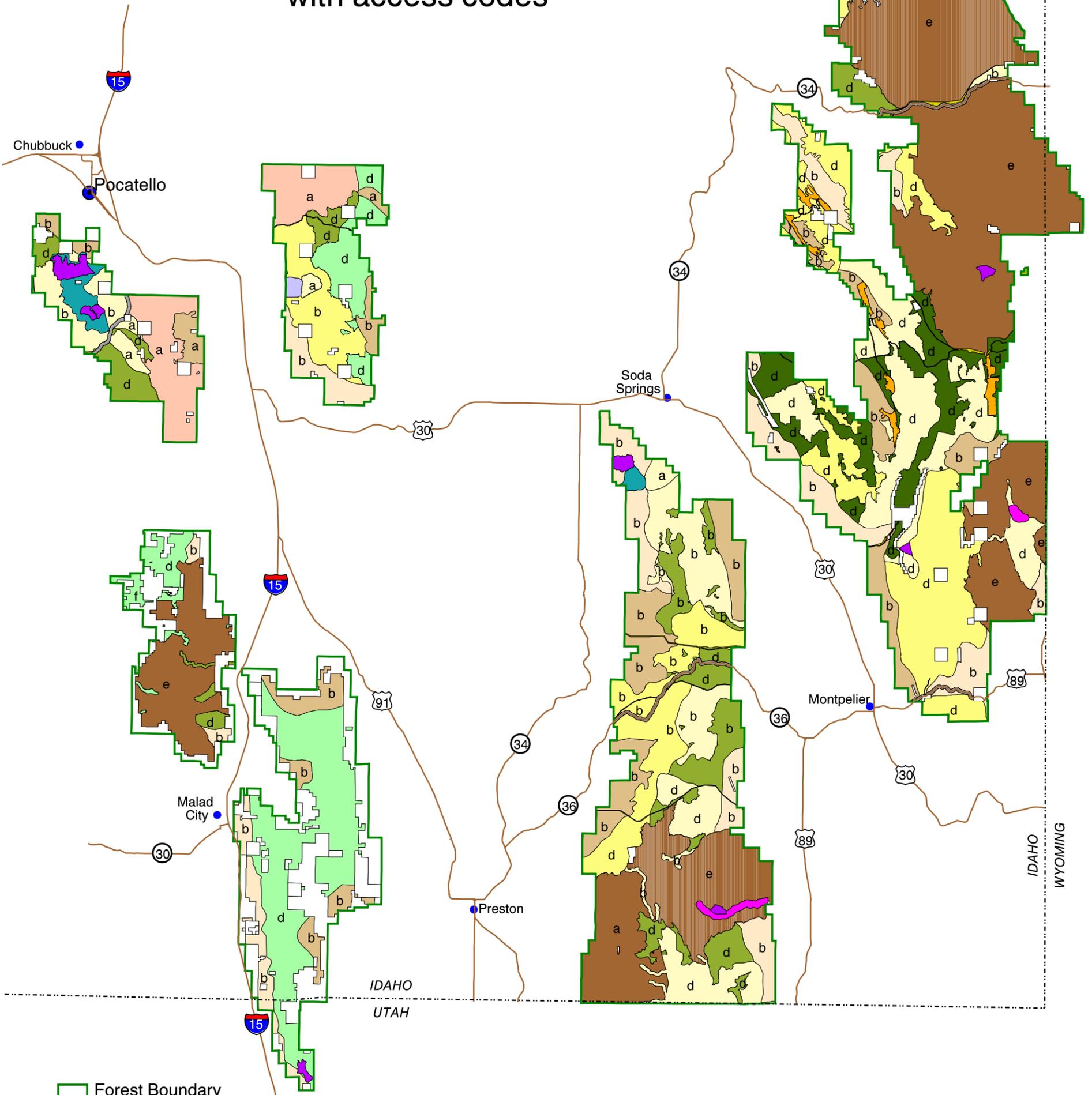
- *Table 2. 36 Probable Treatments in Alternative 6.*

Probable Treatments in the First Decade	Alternative 6
Suitable Forested Acres Harvested	4,900
Unsuitable Forested Acres Harvested	0
Forested Acres Treated with Fire	20,800
Subtotal of Forested Acres Treated	25,700
Non-Forested Acres Treated with Fire	60,000
Total Acres Treated In Decade	85,700

- *Figure 2. 6 Percentage of Acres in each Prescription Category in Alternative 6.*



Caribou National Forest Forest Plan Revision Alternative 6 Management Prescriptions with access codes



- Forest Boundary
- Alternative 6 Management Prescriptions**
- 1.3 (a,e) Recommended Wilderness - limited summer motorized access
- 2.1.2 Visual Quality Maintenance
- 2.1.3 Municipal Watersheds
- 2.2 Research Natural Areas
- 2.5 W&SR Eligible Recreation River
- 2.7.1 (b) Elk and Deer Winter Range - Critical
- 2.7.2 (a,b) Elk and Deer Winter Range
- 2.8.3 Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ) [not shown on map]
- 3.1 (a) Nonmotorized
- 3.2 (a,b,d) Semi-primitive Motorized
- 3.3 (b,d) Semi-primitive Motorized - Restoration
- 4.2 Special Use Recreation Sites
- 5.3 (b,d) Forest Management -Restoration
- 5.4 (d) Summer Big Game Habitat
- 6.3 (b,d,f) Range Management - Restoration
- 8.1 Concentrated Development - Admin Sites, Utility Corridors
- 8.2.1 Existing Mine Leases [not shown on map]
- 8.2.3 Concentrated Development - Mines
- Other Ownership



5 0 5 10 15 Miles

1:500000

USDA FS, Caribou Forest Plan Revision
Alternative 6
May, 2001

MAP 2.6

ALTERNATIVE 7—Preferred Alternative in the Draft EIS

THEME

Alternative 7 proposes to manage forested and non-forested resources to move towards their historic range of variation (HRV). This Alternative would manage resources using a mix of restoration strategies, including timber harvest, thinning, fire, and grazing management. It proposes vegetation management, road rehabilitation, prescribed fire, and wildfire. It emphasizes the issues of ecosystem management, riparian/wetland areas, minerals management, aquatic habitat, water quality, wildlife, and motorized/non-motorized access. **Alternative 7 was the agency's Preferred Alternative in the Draft EIS. It is not the agency's selected alternative.**

ACCESS AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT

A variety of recreation opportunities would be available in this Alternative. Approximately 35,350 acres (three percent) would be open to cross-country summer motorized use. In some management prescription areas a decrease in open road and motorized trail density would occur.

Winter motorized travel would be restricted to designated routes in big game winter range. Winter motorized use would not be allowed on the backside of the Pebble Creek Ski Area. Portions of Mt. Naomi and Caribou City would be open to motorized winter travel.

Developed and dispersed recreation opportunities would be provided while maintaining and protecting watershed, soils, riparian areas, and big game winter ranges.

ECONOMICS

Economic outcomes would be the result of managing forest resources to restore natural processes and functions over the long-term.

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Disturbances

Disturbances would be allowed to operate naturally in order to maintain or restore ecological processes and functions. Insect and disease disturbances would be allowed to play their natural role where appropriate and desirable, although epidemic disturbances generally would be controlled. Prescribed fire, mechanical treatment, and wildland fire for resource benefit would be used to manage vegetation, reduce hazardous fuels, and recycle nutrients with priority on reducing fuels near interface communities. Wildfires would be suppressed in some areas to protect public safety and resource values but would be allowed to burn in other areas to benefit resource values.

VEGETATION STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION

Forested Vegetation

Conifer sites, particularly mixed conifer, aspen/conifer, and aspen, would be managed to maintain thirty to forty percent of these acres in a mature/old age structure. Approximately 34,100 acres

would be treated over the decade. Treatment methods would include prescribed fire, wildland fire use, harvest, thinning, or other methods that would achieve resource objectives.

Aspen would be treated to moderately restore the aspen component on the forest to historical levels. Treatments would include prescribed fire, wildland fire use, harvest, thinning, or other methods that would achieve resource objectives.

Desired Future Conditions for conifer and aspen sites are expected to be achieved within 100 years.

- *Table 2. 37. Alternative 7. Existing Acres, Desired Range of Future Conditions (DRFC), Estimated Total Acres Treated (Fire/Harvest per decade) shown in Percent of Mature and Old Age Classes.*

Existing Acres in Mature and Old (% of Total Forested Acres)	DRFC Mature and Old (% of Acres)	Estimated Total Acres Considered	Estimated Total Acres Treated Per decade	Estimated Acres Treated ¹ by Fire Per decade	Estimated Acres Treated by Harvest Per decade
50-80%	30-40%	550,000	34,100	26,800	7,300

¹ A component of these acres is likely to be non-lethal fire.

Non-Forested Vegetation

Sagebrush and mountain shrub would be managed to allow thirty to fifty percent of the acres to remain in greater than fifteen percent canopy cover. Approximately 79,750 acres would be treated over the decade. Treatments would include prescribed fire, wildland fire use, herbicide applications, or other methods that would achieve the desired outcome. Herbicide treatments and seedings would be permitted at the site-specific level based on ecological need.

Tall forb sites, where they exist, would be managed to maintain or restore sites, based on research findings. Areas that once were tall forb sites, but have lost the capability to maintain tall forb communities as a result of topsoil loss or site potential, would be managed for watershed stability.

The range of Desired Future Conditions in sagebrush and mountain shrub would be expected within 50-75 years and within 100 years on tall forb sites.

- *Table 2. 38. Alternative 7. Non-forested Vegetation Conditions, Goals, and Proposed Treatments.*

Total Acres of Sagebrush and Mountain Shrub	Existing Acres Mature/Old Age Class (% of Acres)	Desired Range of Future Conditions (% of Acres)	Long-Term Goal (% of Acres)	Desired Years to Attain DRFC	Estimated Total Acres Treated Per Decade
404,500	50%	30-50%	40%	50-75 years	79,750

Other non-forested vegetation treatments in big tooth maple, juniper, mountain mahogany, and tall forb communities would be permitted after a site-specific analysis.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Livestock grazing would be managed to maintain or restore watersheds, aquatic systems, soils, plants and animals. Livestock grazing would be managed through forest-wide livestock forage utilization levels as shown below. (For additional information, see Chapter 4 Livestock Grazing):

- *Table 2. 39. Alternative 7. Estimated Livestock Utilization Levels by Type of Forage.*

Type of Forage	Livestock Utilization Rates ¹
Upland Browse	25% -35%
Upland Herbaceous	35% -55%
Riparian Properly Functioning Condition – on greenline and/or the entire AIZ /2 Herbaceous Browse Stubble Height	20% -65% based on site-specific analysis 50% based on site-specific analysis 2-6 inches based on site-specific analysis
Riparian (At risk) – on greenline and/or the entire AIZ /2 Herbaceous Browse Stubble Height	20% -45% based on site-specific analysis 50% based on site-specific analysis 3-8 inches based on site-specific analysis
Riparian (Non-Functioning) – on greenline and/or the entire AIZ² Herbaceous Browse Stubble Height	20-40% based on site-specific analysis 40%-50% based on site-specific analysis 4-8 inches based on site-specific analysis
Percent Bank Disturbance (ANNUAL)	10%-25% based on site-specific analysis
Percent Soil Disturbance	5% -15% based on site-specific analysis
Winter Range Browse	10% -20%
Winter Range Herbaceous	35% -45%

¹ The use of any specific parameter, such as percent utilization, stubble height, or bank disturbance, depends on a site-specific analysis, except for both winter range utilization criteria. The procedure for this analysis is outlined in the Caribou Grazing Implementation Guide.

² Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ).

The areas considered unsuitable in Alternatives 1-3 would also be unsuitable in this alternative. In addition, tarweed sites, parts of the dispersed recreation areas, Elk Valley Marsh, St. Charles and other areas would be considered unsuitable for grazing.

MINING OPERATIONS, RECLAMATION, AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE MANAGEMENT

Under Alternative 7, an adaptive approach to mining operations, reclamation, and hazardous substance management would require a greater use of native plants, on-site topsoil/subsoil management, and more stable, natural appearing landscapes in reclamation activities. Hazardous substance management would be adaptively applied using research and monitoring activities to develop and implement Best Management Practices. Releases of hazardous substances would be managed to prevent releases in excess of established state and federal standards. Because of the Roadless Conservation Rule, unleased phosphate deposits in inventoried roadless areas would not be recommended for leasing.

RIPARIAN/WETLAND AREAS, WATER QUALITY, AND AQUATIC HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Riparian areas and watersheds would be aggressively managed through detailed guidance to maintain water quality and aquatic ecosystems and to restore degraded conditions where they exist. The primary focus of management activities would be on achieving riparian properly functioning condition, watershed protection, and restoration.

Streams that are in properly functioning condition would be managed to maintain or improve that condition. Streams that are functioning but “at risk” of further degradation would have more stringent standards and guidelines applied. Streams considered not functioning would have the most prohibitive standards and guidelines applied. Additional standards and guidelines would be applied to streams identified by the State of Idaho as water quality limited or contain Threatened and Endangered Species. (See Livestock Grazing Table 2.33 for riparian utilization.)

TIMBER SALE PROGRAM

Vegetation management and silvicultural methods would focus on saw timber and wood fiber, particularly on mixed conifer, aspen/conifer, and aspen sites, as a by-product of vegetation treatments designed to move closer to the historical range of variation. Forested vegetation management activities would be allowed on a limited basis on some forested lands unsuited for timber production to achieve ecological objectives.

- *Table 2. 40. Proposed Timber Program Emphasis in Alternative 7.*

Alternative 7	Measurement
Suitable acres	54,000 acres
Types of vegetation emphasized in treatments	Mixed conifer, aspen/conifer, aspen
Suitable forested acres harvested in the 1st decade	6,800 acres
Unsuitable forested acres harvested in the 1st decade	500 acres
Estimated Allowable Sale Quantity per decade	22 mmbf
Fuelwood harvest per decade	11 thousand cords
Miles of road needed for harvest activities per decade	18 miles
Silvicultural methods allowed	All methods
Use of even-age management	Moderate
Regeneration	2,300 acres
Pre-commercial thinning	1,300 acres

RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AND ROADLESS AREA MANAGEMENT

Under Alternative 7, approximately 47,200 acres would be recommended for Wilderness in the Mt. Naomi and Caribou City Roadless Areas. Summer motorized travel would be allowed in areas recommended for Wilderness on existing, designated routes. Winter motorized travel would be allowed. The portion of the Worm Creek Roadless Area (~16,000 acres) recommended for Wilderness in 1985 would not be recommended in this Alternative. The Worm Creek Roadless Area would be managed as a semi-primitive motorized area (Management Prescription 3.2).

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR) would be applied in this Alternative. Road construction and reconstruction would not be allowed. Timber harvest inside inventoried roadless areas would only occur if RACR criteria for such management activity could be met.

Summer and winter motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities in roadless areas would remain the same, except in areas of critical winter range and a portion adjacent to Pebble Creek Ski Area that will provide non-motorized recreation opportunities in the winter.

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Wildlife habitat management would restore habitat quality for species-at-risk, including Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Sensitive Species and other identified species-at-risk. Habitat for hunted species, such as big game and upland birds, would be managed to maintain or restore habitat quality. Management actions could include vegetation treatments in habitats-at-risk, establishment of upland and riparian livestock forage utilization levels, and establishment of road/motorized trail densities. Big game winter range would be emphasized in selected areas through livestock forage utilization and access management, where it is identified.

A minimum of twenty percent of the forested acres in each 5th code HUC⁵ would be maintained in late seral/old growth conditions. Fifteen percent of the forested acres in each HUC would be managed as old growth or for old growth recruitment where sufficient old growth currently does not exist. These acres would be maintained in larger blocks where feasible. Sagebrush stands would be managed in blocks of greater than 250 acres, where possible.

A high emphasis would be placed on maintaining or improving stronghold habitats for wildlife and fish addressed in specific recovery plans. Moderate emphasis would be placed on retaining and improving wildlife corridors.

⁵ A level of Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) mapping hierarchy developed by the U.S. Geologic Service and used for the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICEBMP) to map geographic boundaries of watersheds at various scales.

Alternative 7

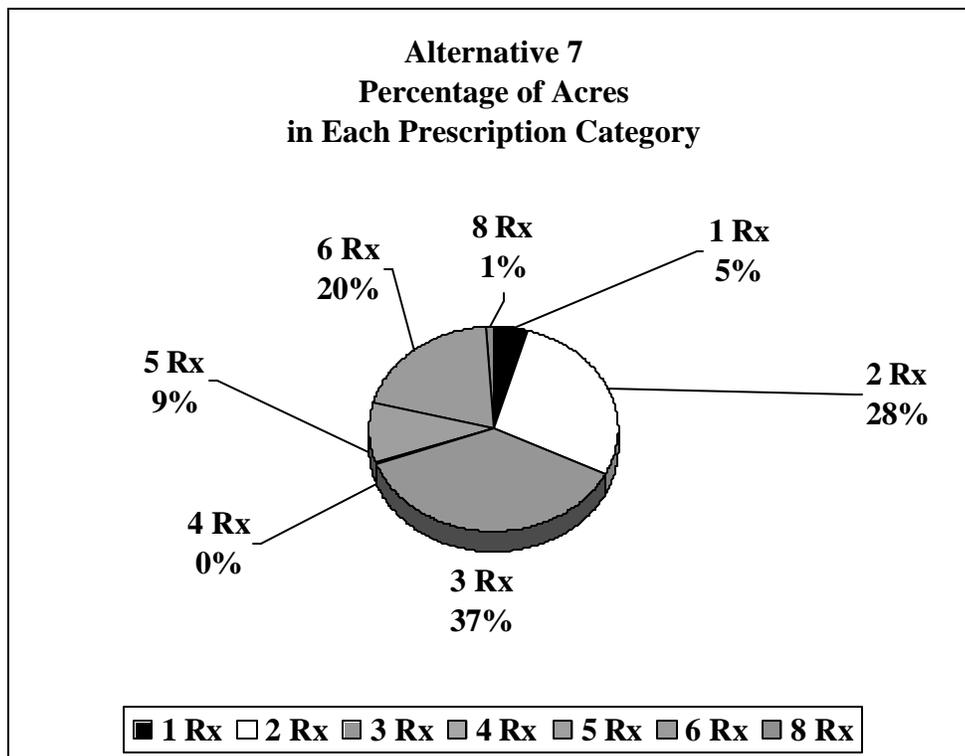
• Table 2. 41. Prescription Acres in Alternative 7.

Prescription Category	Prescription Name	RX No./Access	Acres in Prescription
Wilderness /Backcountry	Summer non-motor; winter motor	1.3(b)	47,200
Special Management Area	Special Management Area	2.1.1	200
	Visual Quality Maintenance	2.1.2	4,200
	Municipal watersheds	2.1.3	6,500
	Research Natural Areas	2.2	5,700
	Wild and Scenic Eligible River	2.5	2,800
	Winter range (forage), summer motor; winter non-motor	2.7.1(a)	9,700
	Winter range (forage), year-round motor on designated routes	2.7.1(b)	52,900
	Winter range, summer motor, winter non-motor designated routes	2.7.1(e)	27,400
	Winter range, summer motor; winter non-motor	2.7.2(a)	3,800
	Winter range, year-round motor, designated routes	2.7.2(b)	119,100
	Aquatic Influence Zone	2.8.3	57,800
Semi-primitive non-intensive	Summer non-motor, winter motor	3.1(b)	24,400
	Summer motor trails; winter non-motor	3.2(a)	3,600
	Year-round motor	3.2(b)	162,200
	Cross-country; year-round motor	3.2(c)	13,900
	Year-round motor; lower OMRD for deer/elk	3.2(d)	146,600
	Year-round motor	3.3(b)	35,600
Developed/Dispersed Recreation	Special Use Permit recreation sites access	4.2	1,100
	Dispersed camping access	4.3	3,100
Timber	Year-round motor	5.1(b)	58,700
	Cross-country; year-round motor	5.1(c)	6,500
	Year-round motorized; lower OMRD for deer/elk	5.1(d)	19,200
	Restoration, year-round motor	5.3(b)	9,600
	Summer big game; lower OMRD for deer/elk	5.4(a)	4,600
Rangeland Restoration	Summer motor trails, winter non-motor	6.1(a)	100
	Year-round motor	6.1(b)	23,000
	Lower OMRD for deer/elk	6.1(d)	13,200
Rangeland Restoration	Year-round motor	6.3(b)	134,400
	Cross-country; year-round motor	6.3(c)	2,500
	Summer seasonal closures, winter motor	6.3(e)	25,700
	Summer non-motor; winter motor	6.3(f)	7,900
Concentrated Development Area	Utility corridors, commercial and admin sites	8.1	100
	Existing leases, undeveloped	8.2.1	2,800
	Active and reclaimed mines	8.2.2	6,100
Total			1,042,200

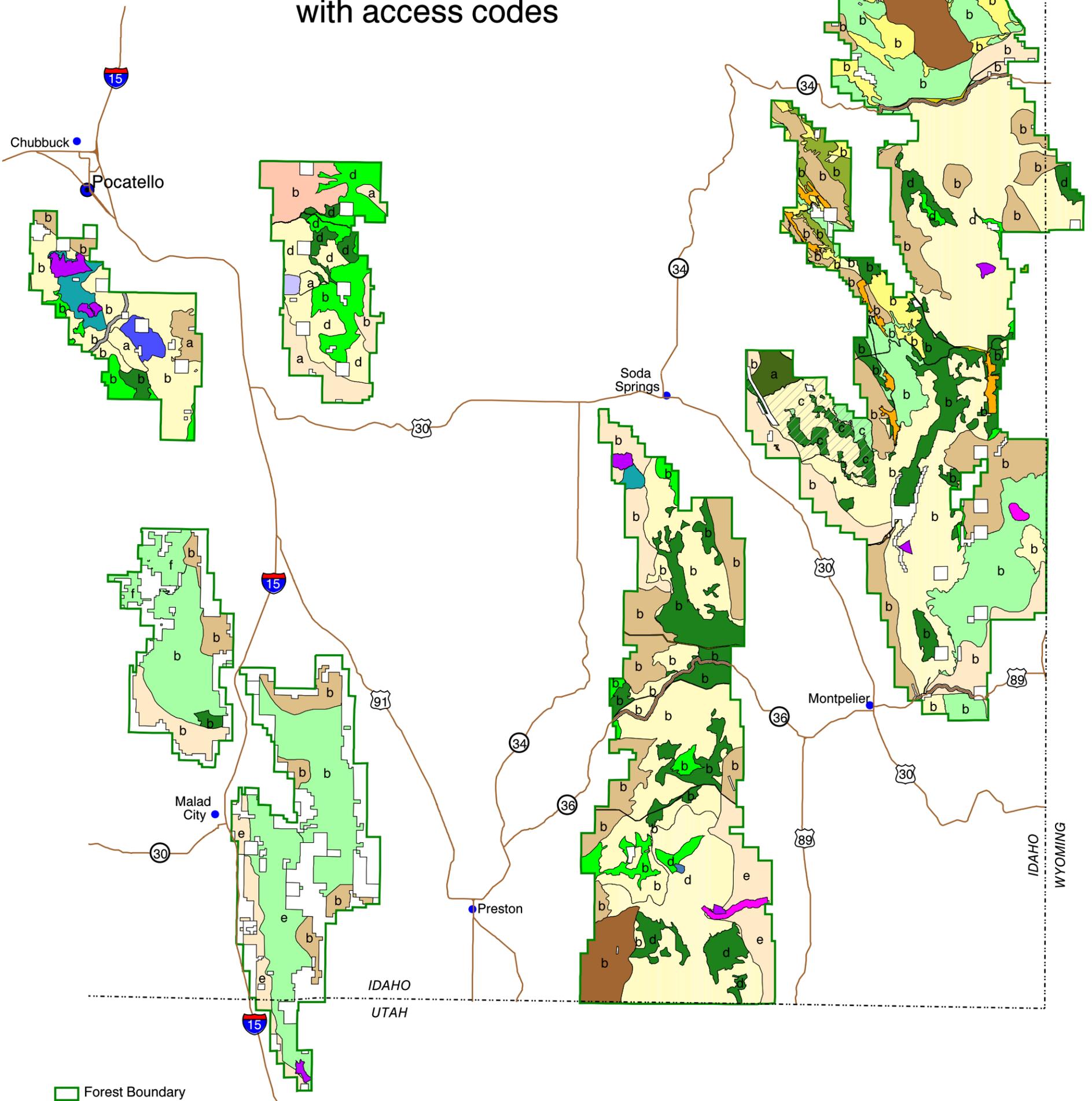
- *Table 2. 42 Probable Treatments in Alternative 7.*

Probable Treatments in the First Decade	Alternative 7
Suitable Forested Acres Harvested	6,800
Unsuitable Forested Acres Harvested	500
Forested Acres Treated with Fire	26,800
Subtotal of Forested Acres Treated	34,100
Non-Forested Acres Treated with Fire	79,750
Total Acres Treated In Decade	113,850

- *Figure 2. 7 Percentage of Acres in each Prescription Category in Alternative 7.*



Caribou National Forest Forest Plan Revision Alternative 7 Management Prescriptions with access codes



- Forest Boundary
- Areas Open to Motorized Cross-Country Use
- Alternative 7 Management Prescriptions**
- 1.3 (b) Recommended Wilderness - limited summer motorized access
- 2.1.1 Special Management Area
- 2.1.2 Visual Quality Maintenance
- 2.1.3 Municipal Watersheds
- 2.2 Research Natural Areas
- 2.5 W&SR Eligible Recreation River
- 2.7.1 (a,b,e) Elk and Deer Winter Range - Critical
- 2.7.2 (a,b) Elk and Deer Winter Range
- 2.8.3 Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ) [not shown on map]
- 3.1 (b) Nonmotorized
- 3.2 (a,b,c,d) Semi-primitive Motorized
- 3.3 (b) Semi-primitive Motorized - Restoration
- 4.2 Special Use Recreation Sites
- 4.3 Dispersed Camping Management
- 5.1 (b,c,d) Timber Management
- 5.3 (b) Forest Management - Restoration
- 5.4 (a) Summer Big Game Habitat
- 6.1 (a,b,d) Range Management
- 6.3 (b,c,e,f) Range Management - Restoration
- 8.1 Concentrated Development - Admin Sites, Utility Corridors
- 8.2.1 Existing Mine Leases [not shown on map]
- 8.2.2 Concentrated Development - Mines
- Other Ownership



5 0 5 10 15 Miles

1:500000

USDA FS, Caribou Forest Plan Revision
Alternative 7
May, 2001

MAP 2.7

ALTERNATIVE 7R—Selected Alternative

THEME

In response to public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Forest Plan, Alternative 7R was developed. The alternative incorporates elements of other alternatives described in the Draft in order to address public comments. This Alternative would allow a variety of vegetation management practices, focusing on restoration of key communities such as aspen. Timber harvest would be allowed in inventoried roadless areas where appropriate.

In order to implement the Plan, the Forest will likely propose vegetation management, road rehabilitation, prescribed fire, wildland fire use, and a myriad of other activities in the next decade. The amount of activity occurring is based on current staffing levels and planning requirements, not what is needed to meet the desired future conditions. In this alternative, the desired outcome is not a number of acres treated; it is an ecological condition on the ground. Thus, probable treatment acres detailed below do not represent a ceiling or a target. The acres represent the likely accomplishments given our current social and economic environment.

This alternative emphasizes the issues of ecosystem management, riparian/wetland areas, minerals management, water quality, wildlife, and motorized/non-motorized access. It features an emphasis on adaptive management and monitoring to resolve uncertainties regarding the management of Forest resources. This adaptive strategy offers an avenue to describe and evaluate the consequences of changing conditions and knowledge. Monitoring and additional analysis are used to shape future management actions within the framework of the Forest Plan.

Alternative 7R is the agency's Selected Alternative.

ACCESS AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT

A variety of recreation opportunities would be available in this Alternative. Approximately 29,400 acres (three percent) would be open to cross-country summer motorized use. Target densities of open motorized routes (OMRD) are established across the Forest. In some prescriptions, a decrease in current open road and motorized trail density would be necessary in order to meet the target road densities. A total of 24,800 acres (3 percent of the Forest) would be closed to motorized access year-round.

Winter motorized travel would be restricted to designated routes in big game winter range. Winter motorized use would not be allowed on the backside of the Pebble Creek Ski Area or in three other areas across the Forest. Mt. Naomi and Caribou City Recommended Wilderness Areas would be open to motorized winter travel. All other areas on the Forest would be open to cross-country motorized use in winter.

Developed and dispersed recreation opportunities would be provided while maintaining and protecting watershed, soils, riparian areas, and big game winter ranges. Some of the dispersed recreation areas would be considered unsuitable for livestock grazing.

Two areas would be managed to preserve and interpret their historic attributes. Caribou City mining area and the Lander Trail Corridor would have special prescriptions applied to them.

ECONOMICS

Economic outcomes would be the result of managing forest resources to restore natural processes and functions while providing goods and services. These would be a mixture of traditional commodity uses and non-commodity uses such as recreation, wildlife viewing, fishing, etc.

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Disturbances

Disturbances would be allowed to operate naturally in order to maintain or restore ecological processes and functions. Insect and disease disturbances would be allowed to play their natural role where appropriate and desirable, although epidemic disturbances generally would be controlled. Prescribed fire, mechanical treatment including commercial timber harvest, and wildland fire would be used to manage vegetation, reduce hazardous fuels, and recycle nutrients with priority on reducing fuels near interface communities. Wildfires would be suppressed in some areas to protect public safety and resource values but would be allowed to burn in other areas to benefit resource values.

VEGETATION STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION

In order to compare alternatives, the IDT developed a level of treatments that the Forest would likely propose during the life of the Plan. In Alternative 7R, the probable treatment acres were based on current staffing levels and planning requirements, not what is needed to meet the desired future conditions. Events such as wildfire would not be considered part of the treatment acres, they would be additive. In this alternative, the desired outcome is not a number of acres treated; it is an ecological condition on the ground. Thus, probable treatment acres detailed below do not represent a ceiling or a target. They are the amount we think we could accomplish in our current social and economic environment. The only ceiling is that of the Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ).

Forested Vegetation

The emphasis for this alternative is on restoration and regeneration of aspen communities. Conifer sites, particularly aspen/conifer, would be managed to move forest vegetation towards thirty to forty percent of acres in a mature/old age structure. On sites occupied by conifers where aspen is an early seral species; conifers would be harvested to aid in the establishment of vigorous young aspen stands. Sites occupied by a majority of mature aspen would be felled or burned to encourage development of younger aspen stands through root sprouting. Overall, approximately 31,100 acres would be treated to achieve these and other desired future conditions (DFCs). Based on historic data, approximately 15,000 acres of forested vegetation are expected to be burned by escaped wildfire. It is expected to take over 100 years to achieve the DFCs under this broad scenario.

- *Table 2. 43. Alternative 7R. Existing Acres, Desired Range of Future Conditions (DRFC), Estimated Total Acres Treated shown in Percent of Mature and Old Age Classes.*

Existing Acres in Mature and Old (% of Total Forested Acres)	DRFC Mature and Old (% of Acres)	Estimated Total Acres Considered	Estimated Probable Acres Treated First decade	Estimated Acres Treated by Fire or Mechanical Means First decade	Estimated Acres Treated by Harvest First decade
50-80%	30-40%	550,000	31,100	20,000	11,100

¹ A component of these acres is likely to be non-lethal fire.

Non-Forested Vegetation

Sagebrush and mountain shrub would be managed to allow at least thirty to fifty percent of the acres to remain in greater than fifteen percent canopy cover density. Based on current budgets and management emphasis, we anticipate that approximately 40,000 acres would be treated over the first decade. Treatments would include prescribed fire, wildland fire use, herbicide applications, mechanical treatments or other methods that would achieve the desired outcome. These treatment acres are based on current staffing levels and planning requirements, not what is needed to meet the desired range of future conditions. In this alternative, the desired outcome is not a number of acres treated; it is to achieve an ecological condition on the ground. For the analysis, it is estimated that an additional 3,000 acres of sagebrush and/or mountain brush would burn in escaped wildfire in the next decade. This level is based on the 31-year fire history on the Forest (Martin 2002; Caribou-Targhee NF Fire Occurrence Database). Wildfire acres burned would not count toward the 40,000 acres treatment per decade but would be additive based on ecological need and to achieve the desired range of future conditions.

Tall forb sites, where they exist, would be managed to maintain or restore sites, based on research findings. Areas that once were tall forb sites, but have lost the capability to maintain tall forb communities as a result of topsoil loss or site potential, would be managed for watershed stability. Emphasis would be given to researching effective restoration methods.

The range of Desired Future Conditions in sagebrush and mountain shrub would not be expected to be reached due to the low level of treatments. As explained above, the treatment acres were reduced in this alternative to be more realistic given current social and economic factors. If the Forest were to receive more funding for vegetation management, additional treatments would likely be proposed. Unless treatments were increased, they would not keep up with succession in sagebrush and mountain shrub communities. In tall forb sites, the range of DFC would be reached within 100 years.

- *Table 2. 44 Alternative 7R. Non-forested Vegetation Conditions, Goals, and Probable Treatments.*

Total Acres of Sagebrush and Mountain Shrub	Existing Acres Mature/Old Age Class (% of Acres)	Desired Range of Future Conditions (% of Acres)	Long-Term Goal (% of Acres)	Desired Years to Attain DRFC	Estimated Total Acres Treated Per Decade
404,500	50%	30-50%	40%	100 years	40,000

Other non-forested vegetation treatments in big tooth maple, juniper, mountain mahogany, and tall forb communities may also occur in order to move conditions closer to the historic range of variability (HRV), after a site-specific analysis.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Livestock grazing would be managed to maintain or restore watersheds, aquatic systems, soils, plants and animals through application of forest-wide standards shown in Table 2.38, below. In order to do this, the standards below would be incorporated into livestock grazing permits within one year of the signing of the Record of the Decision. During subsequent Allotment Management Planning, grazing standards in Aquatic Influence Zones would be determined on a site-specific level using the most recent version of the Caribou Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide. Currently, those standards would fall between the ranges shown in Table 2.39, below. For additional information, see Chapter 4 Livestock Grazing.

- *Table 2. 45 Alternative 7R. Default Livestock Utilization Levels by Type of Forage.*

Parameter to Measure	Uplands		Riparian Areas		
	General	Winter Range	Functioning	Functioning-At-Risk	Non-functioning
% Herbaceous Utilization	35-55%	25-35%	45%	35%	30%
% Browse Utilization	25-35%	10-20%	45%	40%	30%
Stubble Height on Hydric Greenline	N/A	N/A	4 inches	6 inches	6 inches
% Bank Disturbance	N/A	N/A	≤20%	≤20%	≤20%
% Ground Cover	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Livestock suitability in Alternative 7R would be the same as for Alternative 7.

- *Table 2. 46 Range of Livestock Grazing Standards for Alternative 7R using most recent version of Caribou Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide.*

Type of Forage	Livestock Utilization Rates ¹
Upland Browse	25% -35%
Upland Herbaceous	35% -55%
Riparian Properly Functioning Condition – on greenline and/or the entire AIZ /2 Herbaceous Browse Stubble Height	20% -55% based on site-specific analysis 50% based on site-specific analysis 2-6 inches based on site-specific analysis
Riparian (At risk) – on greenline and/or the entire AIZ /2 Herbaceous Browse Stubble Height	20% -45% based on site-specific analysis 50% based on site-specific analysis 3-8 inches based on site-specific analysis
Riparian (Non-Functioning) – on greenline and/or the entire AIZ² Herbaceous Browse Stubble Height	20-40% based on site-specific analysis 40% -50% based on site-specific analysis 4-8 inches based on site-specific analysis
Percent Bank Disturbance (annual)	10% -25% based on site-specific analysis
Percent Soil Disturbance	5% -15% based on site-specific analysis

1 The use of any specific parameter, such as percent utilization, stubble height, or bank disturbance, depends on a site-specific analysis, except for both winter range utilization criteria. The procedure for this analysis is outlined in the Caribou Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide.

2 Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ).

MINING OPERATIONS, RECLAMATION, AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE MANAGEMENT

Under Alternative 7R, an adaptive approach to mining operations, reclamation, and hazardous substance management would require a greater use of native plants, on-site topsoil/subsoil management, and more stable, natural appearing landscapes in reclamation activities. Hazardous substance management would be adaptively applied using research and monitoring activities to develop and implement Best Management Practices. Releases of hazardous substances would be managed to prevent releases in excess of established state and federal standards. In this alternative, a buffer zone was added around the borders of Known Phosphate Lease Areas (KPLAs) and the entire area included in Prescription 8.2.1, Inactive Phosphate Leases. Within the buffered area, road density standards of the underlying prescription do not apply to allow for exploration roads.

RIPARIAN/WETLAND AREAS, WATER QUALITY, AND AQUATIC HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Riparian areas and watersheds would be aggressively managed through detailed guidance to maintain water quality and aquatic ecosystems and to restore degraded conditions where they exist. The primary focus of management activities would be on achieving riparian properly functioning condition, watershed protection, and restoration. Restoration of fisheries would be emphasized in McCoy Creek and other locations.

Streams that are in properly functioning condition would be managed to maintain or improve that condition. Streams that are functioning but “at risk” of further degradation would have more stringent standards and guidelines applied. Streams considered not functioning would have the most prohibitive standards and guidelines applied. Additional standards and guidelines would be applied to streams identified by the State of Idaho as water quality limited or containing Threatened and Endangered Species. (See Livestock Grazing Table 2.38 for riparian utilization.)

The Grace Municipal Watershed was dropped from Prescription 2.1.3 since it is not a congressionally designated watershed. This alternative does include direction for cooperation with the State and municipalities to establish and manage for Source Water Protection Areas (SWPAs).

TIMBER SALE PROGRAM

Vegetation management and silvicultural methods would focus on sawtimber and wood fiber, particularly on aspen/conifer, and aspen sites, as a by-product of vegetation treatments designed to meet desired future conditions. Forested vegetation management would be allowed on some forested lands classified as “unsuitable” but capable of sustaining timber production, to achieve ecological objectives.

- *Table 2. 47 Probable Timber Program Emphasis in Alternative 7R.*

Alternative 7R	Measurement
Suitable acres	82,900 acres
Types of vegetation emphasized in treatments	Aspen/conifer, aspen
Suitable forested acres harvested in the 1st decade	6,100 acres
Unsuitable forested acres harvested in the 1st decade	5,000 acres
Estimated Allowable Sale Quantity per decade	29 mmbf
Fuelwood harvest per decade	17 thousand cords
Miles of road needed for harvest activities per decade	35 miles
Silvicultural methods allowed	All methods
Use of even-age management	High
Regeneration	2,800 acres (conifer only)
Pre-commercial thinning	3,600 acres

RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AND ROADLESS AREA MANAGEMENT

Under Alternative 7R, approximately 42,500 acres would be recommended for Wilderness in the Mt. Naomi and Caribou City Roadless Areas. The boundaries of these areas were changed to omit existing, open motorized routes; this correction resulted in a reduction of acres recommended from Alternative 7. Summer motorized travel would not be allowed in areas recommended for Wilderness but winter motorized travel would be allowed. The portion of the Worm Creek Roadless Area (~16,000 acres) recommended for Wilderness in 1985 would not be recommended in this Alternative. The Worm Creek Roadless Area would be managed as a semi-primitive motorized area (Management Prescription 3.2).

In response to legal issues and public comment, the Forest re-evaluated each individual Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA). A detailed description of this process and the results is included

as Appendix R. Instead of applying a blanket approach to IRA management, Alternative 7R reflects more specific management strategies. For instance, timber harvest and road building are allowed in approximately 12 percent of the inventoried roadless acres on the Forest.

Also in response to public comment, three areas within IRA's would be closed year-round to motorized travel to retain their primitive and semi-primitive non-motorized characteristics. A portion of land adjacent to Pebble Creek Ski Area will also provide non-motorized recreation opportunities in the winter. Several other areas will be managed for semi-primitive non-motorized experiences in the summer only. Some critical big game winter range will limit winter motorized access in IRA's as well.

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Wildlife habitat management would restore habitat quality for species-at-risk, including Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Sensitive Species. Habitat for hunted species, such as big game and upland birds, would be managed to maintain or restore habitat quality. Management actions could include vegetation treatments in habitats-at-risk, establishment of upland and riparian livestock forage utilization levels, and establishment of road/motorized trail densities. Big game winter range would be emphasized in selected areas through livestock forage utilization and access management, where it is identified.

A minimum of twenty percent of the forested acres in each 5th code HUC⁶ would be maintained in late seral/old growth conditions. Fifteen percent of the forested acres in each HUC would be managed as old growth or for old growth recruitment where sufficient old growth currently does not exist. These acres would be maintained in larger blocks where feasible. Sagebrush stands would be managed in blocks of greater than 250 acres, where possible. Sagebrush treatments would be prioritized in the greater than 25 percent canopy cover class.

A high emphasis would be placed on maintaining or improving stronghold habitats for wildlife and fish addressed in specific recovery plans. Moderate emphasis would be placed on retaining and improving wildlife corridors. Several areas will be managed for security by not allowing motorized access in winter, summer, or year-round.

⁶ A level of Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) mapping hierarchy developed by the U.S. Geologic Service and used for the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICEBMP) to map geographic boundaries of watersheds at various scales .

Alternative 7R

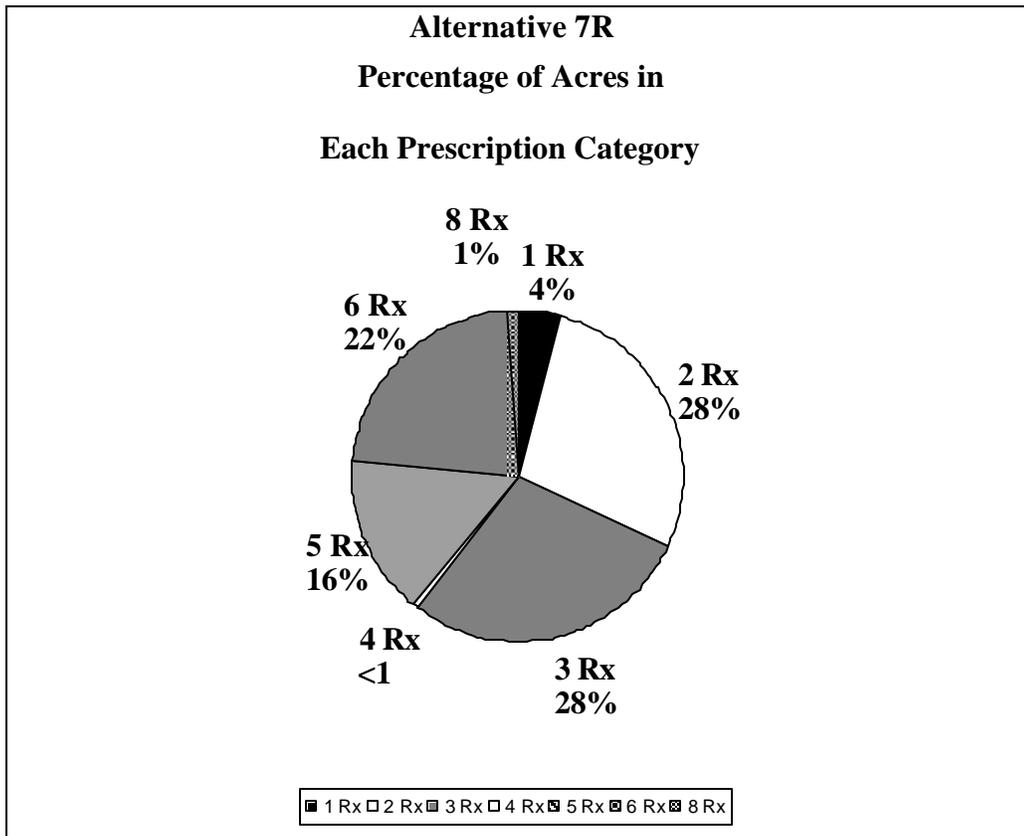
- *Table 2. 48 Prescription Acres in Alternative 7R.*

Prescription Category	Prescription Name	RX No./Access	Acres in Prescription
Wilderness /Backcountry	Summer non-motor; winter motor	1.3(b)	42,500
Special Management Areas	Bloomington Lake SEA	2.1.1(e)	200
	Visual Quality Maintenance	2.1.2(b)	10,100
	Pocatello municipal watershed	2.1.3(b)	5,100
	Caribou Mountain SEA	2.1.4(b)	20,400
	Lander Trail Corridor SEA	2.1.5(b)	2,900
	Gravel Creek SEA	2.1.6(b)	157
	Research Natural Areas	2.2	5,700
	Wild and Scenic Eligible River	2.5	2,800
	Winter range (critical)	2.7.1(d)	73,900
	Winter range	2.7.2(d)	109,800
Semi-primitive non-intensive (Category 3)	Aquatic Influence Zone	2.8.3	58,200
	Wildlife security: year-round non-motorized,	3.1(a)	24,850
	Summer non-motor; winter x-c motor	3.1(e)	16,350
	Year-round motor (designated summer)	3.2(b)	173,100
	Summer non-motor; winter x-c motor	3.2(e)	3,900
	Summer motor on designated routes; winter non-motor	3.2(f)	4,800
Developed/Dispersed Recreation	Restoration: year-round motor (designated summer)	3.3(b)	73,800
	Special Use Permit recreation sites access	4.2(d)	1,100
Forested Vegetation Management	Dispersed camping access	4.3(b)	3,900
	Year-round motor (designated summer)	5.2(b)	133,500
	Cross-country; year-round motor	5.2(c)	29,400
Rangeland Vegetation Management	Summer motor on designated routes; winter non-motor	5.2(f)	1,000
	Summer motor on designated routes; winter non-motor	6.2(b)	219,200
Concentrated Development Area	Summer non-motor; winter x-c motor	6.2(e)	15,200
	Utility corridors, commercial and admin sites	8.1	100
	Existing leases, undeveloped	8.2.1	2,400
Total	Active and reclaimed mines	8.2.2	8,000
			1,042,357

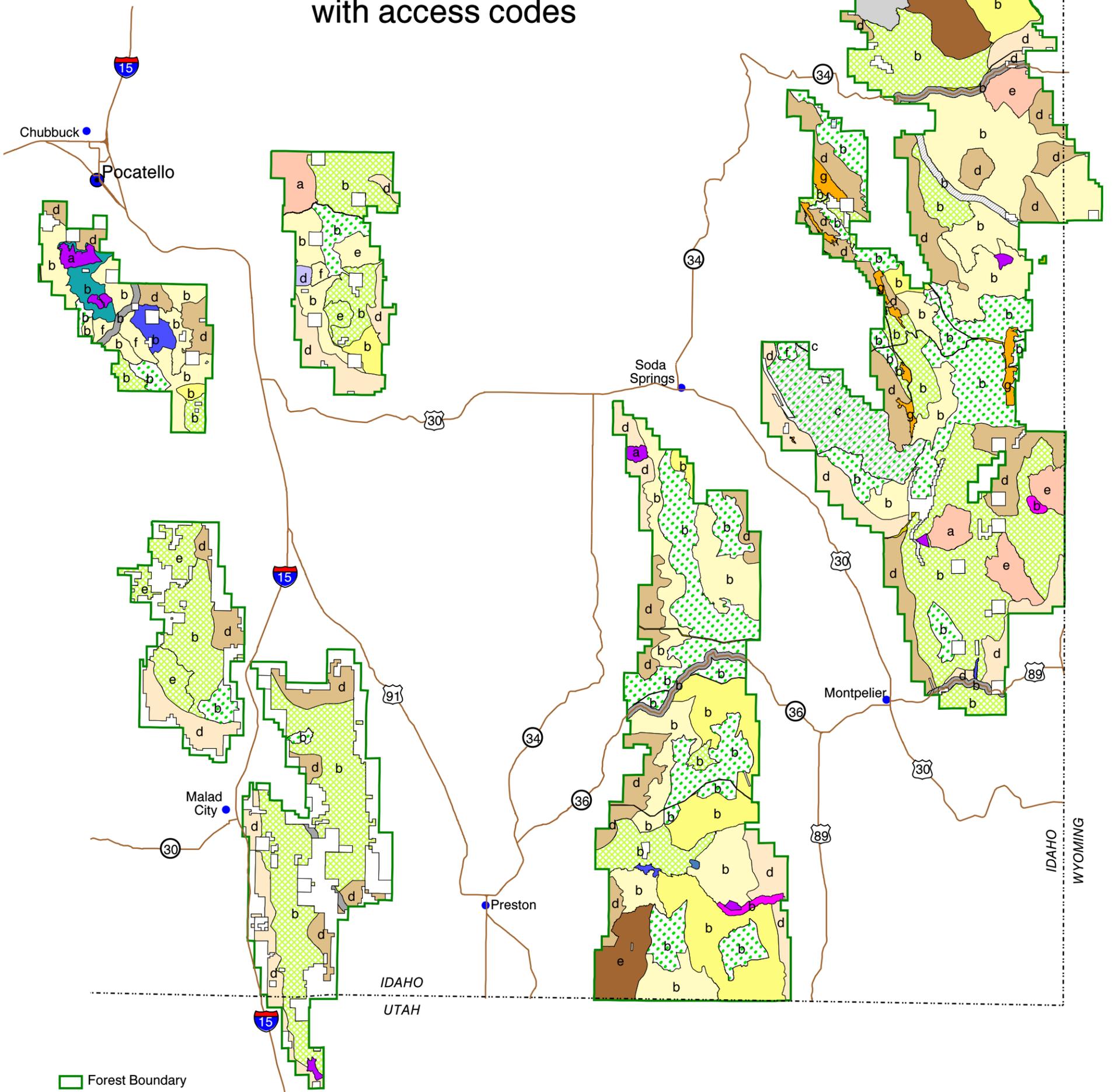
Table 2. 49 Probable Treatments in Alternative 7R.

Probable Treatments in the First Decade	Alternative 7R
Suitable Forested Acres Harvested	6,100
Unsuitable Forested Acres Harvested	5,000
Forested Acres Treated with Fire	20,000
Subtotal of Forested Acres Treated	31,100
Non-Forested Acres Treated with Fire	40,000
Total Acres Treated In Decade	71,100
Forested Acres Expected to Burn with Escaped Fire	15,000
Non-forested Acres Expected to Burn with Escaped Fire	3,000

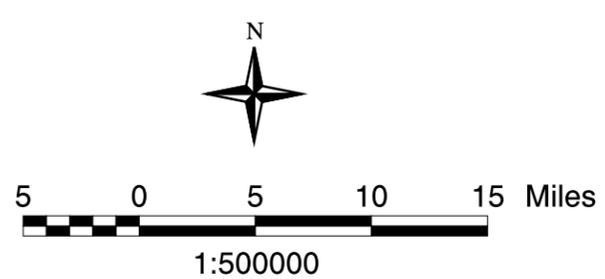
- Figure 2. 8 Percentage of Acres in each Prescription Category in Alternative 7R.



Caribou National Forest Forest Plan Revision Alternative 7R Management Prescriptions with access codes



- Forest Boundary
- Areas Open to Motorized Cross-Country Travel
- Alternative 7R Management Prescriptions
- 1.3 (e) Recommended Wilderness
- 2.1.1 (e) Bloomington Lake Special Emphasis Area
- 2.1.2 (b) Visual Quality Maintenance
- 2.1.3 (b) Municipal Watershed
- 2.1.4 (b) Caribou Mountain Special Emphasis Area
- 2.1.5 (b) Lander Trail Special Emphasis Area
- 2.1.6 (b) Gravel Creek Special Emphasis Area
- 2.2 (a) Research Natural Areas
- 2.5 (b) Wild and Scenic - Eligible Recreation River
- 2.7.1 (d) Elk and Deer Winter Range - Critical
- 2.7.2 (d) Elk and Deer Winter Range
- 2.8.3 (b) Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ) [not shown on map]
- 3.1 (a,e) Nonmotorized Recreation and Wildlife Security
- 3.2 (b,e,f) Semi-primitive Recreation
- 3.3 (b) Semi-primitive - Restoration
- 4.1 (b) Developed Recreation Sites [not shown on map]
- 4.2 (b,d) Special Use Recreation Sites
- 4.3 (b) Dispersed Camping Management
- 5.2 (b,c,f) Forest Vegetation Management
- 6.2 (b,e) Rangeland Vegetation Management
- 8.1 (b) Concentrated Development Areas
- 8.2.1 (d) Inactive Phosphate Leases [not shown on map]
- 8.2.2 (g) Phosphate Mine Areas
- Other Ownership



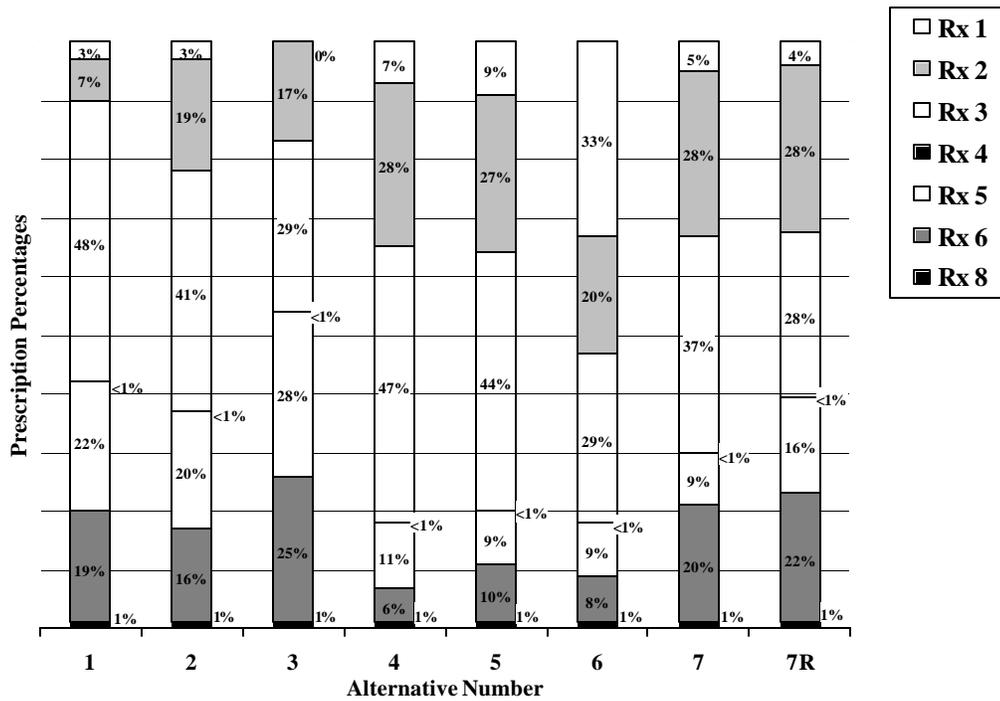
USDA FS, Caribou Forest Plan Revision
Alternative 7R
February, 2003

MAP 2.8

- Table 2. 50 Summary of Percentage of Acres in Each Prescription Category By Alternative

Prescription Category	Alternative							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7R
Rx 1	3%	3%	0%	7%	9%	33%	5%	4%
Rx 2	7%	19%	17%	28%	27%	20%	28%	28%
Rx 3	48%	41%	29%	47%	44%	29%	37%	28%
Rx 4	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Rx 5	22%	20%	28%	11%	9%	9%	9%	16%
Rx 6	19%	16%	25%	6%	10%	8%	20%	22%
Rx 8	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

- Figure 2. 9 Percent of Acres in Each Prescription Category by alternative.



- *Table 2. 51 Summary of Estimated Probable Decadal Treatments by Alternative (Shown in acres treated in the first decade)*

Treatment	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt. 3	Alt. 4	Alt. 5	Alt. 6	Alt. 7	Alt 7R⁷
Suitable Forested Acres Harvested	15,700	14,300	19,000	6,600	6,100	4,900	6,800	6,100
Unsuitable Forested Acres Harvested	1,100	2,400	2,900	500	400	0	500	5,000
Forested Acres Treated with Lethal Fire or Mechanically Felled¹	None	17,400	19,900	49,900	19,200	20,800	26,800	20,000
Subtotal of Forested Acres Treated	16,800	34,100	41,800	57,000	25,700	25,700	34,100	31,100
Non-Forested Acres Treated with Lethal Fire¹	130,000	77,500	100,000	77,500	70,800	60,000	79,700	40,000 ²
Total Acres Treated In Decade	146,800	111,600	141,800	133,600	96,500	85,700	113,850	71,100³

1 A component of these acres is likely to be non-lethal.

2 In Alternative 7R, other methods would be allowed and expected.

3 In Alternative 7R, an additional 19,000 acres are predicted to burn in wildland fires within the next decade.

⁷ In Alternative 7R, acres expected to burn from escaped wildfire are not classified as “treatments”. They are predicted to total 15,000 acres of forested lands and 3,000 acres of non-forested vegetation.

• Table 2. 52 Comparison of Alternatives – Management Direction Components

Issue 1: Recreation, Access and Scenery Management

Alternative Management Direction	Alt 1 No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 7R Selected Alternative
Access								
Open motorized road and trail density: In all alternatives, route densities would vary based on individual Rx direction. Shown here as the overall change from current levels.	No net gain	No net gain	Increase	Decrease	No net gain	Decrease	Slight Decrease	Slight Decrease
Summer cross-country motorized use: Shown as total acres open and (percent of Forest)	420,215 acres (40%)	420,215 acres (40%)	420,215 acres (40%)	0 acres	25,500 acres (3%)	0 acres	35,336 acres (3%)	22,900 acres (3%)
Winter travel: All alternatives have wildlife emphasis areas (generally winter range) requiring travel on designated routes. Differences are shown as 1) names of areas managed as non-motorized (nm) and 2) change in the amount of Forest where winter travel is limited to designated routes.	Mt. Naomi (nm) No change	Mt. Naomi (nm) No change	None nm No change	Mt. Naomi (nm) Increase	Mt. Naomi, Back Pebble Cr Ski Area (nm) Increase	Mt. Naomi, Back Pebble Cr Ski Area, Upper Bailey Creek (nm) High Increase	Back Pebble Cr Ski Area, some critical winter range (nm) Moderate Increase	Back Pebble Cr Ski Area, Toponce, Schmid Peak, Upper Bear Cr (nm) Moderate Increase
Recreation								
Recreation Opportunities: Shown as change over current levels of 1) Developed and 2) Dispersed opportunities.	No change for both types	No change for both mitigation for riparian	Increase for both, facilitated by private sector	No change for both mitigation for riparian	Increase for both, facilitated by private sector	No change Decrease in motorized ROS	Increase for both, facilitated by private sector	Increase for both, facilitated by private sector

Issue 3: Ecosystem Management

Alternative Management Direction	Alt 1 No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 7R Selected Alternative
Ecosystem Disturbances								
Insect and Diseases	Endemic and Epidemic-- Suppressed	Endemic— Natural Role Epidemic-- Suppressed	Endemic and Epidemic-- Suppressed	Endemic— Natural Role Epidemic-- Suppressed	Endemic— Natural Role Epidemic-- Suppressed	Endemic— Natural Role Epidemic— Protect Life/Property	Endemic— Natural Role Epidemic-- Suppressed	Endemic— Natural Role Epidemic-- Suppressed
Fire Management: All alternatives allow wildfire suppression and treatment of fuels by Rx fire in the wildland urban interface (WUI)	Allows Rx fire; No Wildland Fire Use (WFU)	Allows Rx fire, WFU	Allows Rx fire in rangeland, limited in timber; Allows WFU	Allows Rx fire inside rW, outside by mgt. Rx; Allows WFU	Allows Rx fire, WFU	Allows Rx fire, WFU	Allows Rx fire inside rW, outside by mgt. Rx; Allows WFU	Allows Rx fire inside rW, outside by mgt. Rx; Allows WFU
Forest Vegetation Diversity								
Conifer Goals: DRFC expressed as 1) the percent of acres in mature and old age classes and 2) the desired rate to reach that DRFC. All alternatives allow a variety of treatment methods.	N/a	30-40% in mature/old 100 years to attain	20% in mature/old 50-100 years to attain	30-40% in mature/old 100 years to attain	30-50% in mature/old 100 years to attain	Inside rW — no goal Outside rW— 50% in mature/old 100 years to attain	30-40% in mature/old 100 years to attain	30-40% in mature/old 100+ years to attain
Aspen Goals: DRFC expressed as 1) the increase in acres of aspen and 2) the desired rate to reach that DRFC. All alternatives allow a variety of treatment methods, except as noted.	Low N/a	Medium 100 years to attain	High 50-100 years to attain	Medium 100 years to attain	Med. to Low 100 years to attain	Med. to Low 100 years to attain Only wildfire allowed in rW	Medium 100 years to attain	Medium 100+ years to attain

Alternative Management Direction	Alt 1 No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 7R Selected Alternative
Non-forested Vegetation Diversity								
<p>Sagebrush Goals: DRFC expressed as 1) the percent of acres in the >15% canopy cover class and 2) the desired rate to reach that DRFC. All alternatives allow a variety of treatment methods, except as noted.</p>	<p>N/a</p> <p>Wildland Fire Use (WFU) is not allowed</p>	<p>30-50% in >15% cc</p> <p>75 years to attain</p>	<p>30-50% in >15% cc</p> <p>50-75 years to attain</p>	<p>30-50% in >15% cc</p> <p>50-75 years to attain</p>	<p>30-50% in >15% cc</p> <p>100 years to attain</p>	<p>Inside rW — no treat</p> <p>Outside rW-- 50% >15% cc</p> <p>100 years to attain</p> <p>Only wildfire allowed in rW</p>	<p>30-50% in >15% cc</p> <p>50-75 years to attain</p>	<p>30-50% in >15% cc</p> <p>75 years to attain</p>
<p>Tall Forb Goals: All alternatives would retain and restore sites where they exist and manage others for watershed stability, except as noted. Treatment methods would be as directed by research. DFC expressed as the time to restore.</p>	<p>Management would be site specific, no direction.</p> <p>No DFC</p>	<p>100 years to attain DFC</p>	<p>Management would be site specific, no direction.</p> <p>No DFC</p>	<p>100 years to attain DFC</p>	<p>100 years to attain DFC</p>	<p>100 years to attain DFC</p>	<p>100 years to attain DFC</p>	<p>100 years to attain DFC</p>

Issue 4: Livestock grazing

Alternative Management Direction	Alt 1 No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 7R Selected Alternative
Livestock Grazing Standards								
Upland Utilization Standards: Shown as percent of 1) browse use (b) and 2) herbaceous use (h)	35-45% b 50-60% h	35-45% b 45% h	25-35% b 35-55% h	25-35% b 35-55% h	25-35% b 35-55% h	25-35% b 35-55% h	25-35% b 35-55% h	25-35% b 35-55% h
Upland Winter Range Utilization Standards: Shown as percent of 1) browse use (b) and 2) herbaceous use (h)	10% b 30% h	10% b 30% h	25% b 35% h	10-20% b 35-45% h	10-20% b 35-45% h	10-20% b 35-45% h	10-20% b 35-45% h	10-20% b 35-45% h
Riparian Soil standards: Shown as percent of 1) bank disturbed and 2) overall soil disturbance	N/a N/a	N/a N/a	N/a 30% s	10-25% b 5-20% s	15% b N/a	10-25% b 5-20% s	10-25% b 5-20% s	10-25% b 5-15% s
Riparian Utilization Standards: The range reflects difference depending on condition of stream. Standards shown as 1) percent of browse use (b); 2) percent of herbaceous use (h); and 3) minimum stubble height remaining along the hydric greenline.	No Plan standards	N/a b 45% h 4-6 inches	30% b N/a h 3-4 inches	40-50% b 20-65% h 2-8 inches	No grazing to N/a b No grazing to 50% h No grazing or 6 inches	40-50% b N/a h 6 inches	40-50% b 20-65% h 2-8 inches	40-50% b 20-55% h 2-8 inches

Issue 5: Minerals Operation, Reclamation and Hazardous Substances Management

All alternatives, except for Alternative 6, use an adaptive approach to management. This approach would allow mine operation requirements to change based on new information and research. Current best management practices and other measures to minimize the risk of releasing hazardous substances would be used. Management could change based on new research and monitoring information. The prescriptive approach, used in Alternative 6, would take a conservative approach, incorporating current best management practices and other measures designed to eliminate any chance release of hazardous substances. Management direction changes would require an amendment to the Plan.

Issue 6: Riparian/Wetland Areas and Aquatic Habitat

The most substantial difference between alternatives is the livestock utilization levels described in Issue 4, above.

Issue 7: Timber Sale Program

Alternative Management Direction	Alt 1 No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 7R Selected Alternative
Timber Program								
Timberland Suitability: Shown as acres suitable	125,300	114,900	150,400	52,900	48,400	38,700	54,000	82,900
Silvicultural practices: All alternatives allow harvest on unsuitable lands and use of all harvest methods, except as noted. Differences shown as 1) expected use of even-aged management and 2) regeneration emphasis.	High use Plantation or natural	Moderate use Plantation or natural	High use Plantation or natural	Low use Emphasis on natural	Low use Plantation or natural	Low use Emphasis on natural	Moderate use Emphasis on natural	High use Emphasis on natural
Timber Sale Program: Shown as estimated timber offered as part of 1) Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) and 2) cords of firewood per decade.	60 MMBF 25 m cords	56 MMBF 22 m cords	67 MMBF 30 m cords	19 MMBF 10 m cords	20 MMBF 10 m cords	17 MMBF 8 m cords	22 MMBF 11 m cords	27 MMBF 17 m cords

Issue 8: Roadless Area Management and Recommended Wilderness

Alternative Management Direction	Alt 1 No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 7R Selected Alternative
Recommended Wilderness								
Total Acres Recommended	30,600	30,600	0	71,300	93,100	344,400	47,200	42,500
Areas Recommended: Names of IRA's or areas recommended for Wilderness designation.	Parts of: Mt. Naomi, Worm Creek	Parts of: Mt. Naomi, Worm Creek	N/a	All of: Mt. Naomi Parts of: Caribou City, Stump Peak	All of: Mt. Naomi Parts of: Caribou City, Worm Creek	All of: Mt. Naomi, Worm Creek, Stump Peak, Caribou City, Elkhorn Mtn, Gannett Spr, Red Mtn	Parts of: Mt. Naomi, Caribou City	Parts of: Mt. Naomi, Caribou City, excludes all motorized routes
Summer Access: Shown as recommended Wilderness managed for 1) non-motorized (nm) and 2) motorized on designated routes .	Mt. Naomi (nm) Worm Creek	Mt. Naomi (nm) Worm Creek	N/a N/a	Mt. Naomi Caribou City (nm) Stump Peak	Mt. Naomi Caribou City (nm) Worm Creek	All nm None	Mt. Naomi Caribou City (nm) None	Mt. Naomi Caribou City (nm) None
Winter Access: Shown as recommended Wilderness managed for 1) non-motorized (nm) and 2) motorized, as shown.	Mt. Naomi (nm) Worm Creek	Mt. Naomi (nm) Worm Creek	N/a N/a	Mt. Naomi (nm) Caribou City Stump Peak	Mt. Naomi (nm) Caribou City Worm Creek	Mt. Naomi (nm) All others on des. routes	None nm Mt. Naomi Caribou City	None nm Mt. Naomi Caribou City
Roadless Area Management								
Development Allowed: Shown as 1) road construction and 2) timber harvest allowed based on Rx or Roadless Area Conservation Initiative (RACI) direction.	Y Y	Y Y	Y Y	Y (RACI) Y (RACI)	Y (RACI) Y (RACI)	N Y (RACI)	Y (RACI) Y (RACI)	Y Y

Alternative Management Direction	Alt 1 No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 7R Selected Alternative
Summer Access: Shown as the change in acres managed as 1) non-motorized and 2) motorized, as noted, over current levels.	No change No change	No change No change	Decrease nm Increase m	No change No change, but on des. Routes`	Increase nm Decrease m	Increase nm Decrease, but on des. Routes	No change nm No change, but on des. Routes	Increase nm No change, but on des. routes

Issue 9: Wildlife Habitat Management

Alternative Management Direction	Alt 1 No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7	Alt 7R Selected Alternative
Wildlife Habitat Management								
Old forests: Shown as minimum percent of each 5 th code HUC managed as 1) old growth and 2) mature/old age class vegetation.	10% N/a	15% 20%	10% 20%	15% 20%	15% 20%	20% 25%	15% 20%	15% 20%
Corridors: Shown as relative emphasis on protection of corridors and biological strongholds for terrestrial species.	None	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate
Big game Winter Range: Shown as relative amount of acres in a winter range Rx.	None	Moderate	Low	Moderate	High	High	Moderate	Moderate
T, E, S Wildlife, Fish, and Plants: Shown as emphasis on identification and protection of strongholds and compliance w/ recovery plans.	Legal compliance	Moderate to High	Legal compliance	High	Moderate	High	High	High

Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study

A wide range of management scenarios or options that could be employed on the Caribou NF has been considered. Many of these management options were presented by the public during scoping or during public involvement efforts associated with the development of Alternatives and the “Build Your Own Alternative Exercise” of 1999.

These options or Alternatives were considered by the interdisciplinary team during content analysis following each round of public involvement but were eliminated from detailed analysis for the reasons described below.

OPTION: MAKE THE FOREST A FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PLANT SANCTUARY PRESERVE OR WILDERNESS.

While each of the Alternatives manage some areas of land in a sanctuary or preserve-like fashion, such as recommended Wilderness or research natural areas, to manage the entire Forest as a sanctuary or preserve fails to address many of the Proposed Programmatic Actions in the Purpose and Need identified in Chapter 1 of this document. The Forest Service mission is a multiple use mission, well established in the agency’s legal and regulatory framework, and Forest Plans provide guidance for those multiple uses and values. The Purpose and Need presents many revision topics to address those multiple uses and values. This Alternative fails because it does not meet the Purpose and Need nor does it address a number of Needs for Change topics, such as vegetation, recreation, or minerals.

OPTIONS: OPEN THE FOREST TO ALL USES, EVERYWHERE, AT ALL TIMES. NO TRAVEL

RESTRICTIONS, INCLUDING NO RESTRICTIONS ON MOTORIZED USE.

ELIMINATE OFF-ROAD AND SNOWMOBILE USE. ALLOW ONLY FOOT AND HORSE TRAFFIC.

Some Alternatives eliminate all off-road use and snowmobile use in some areas. Some areas of the Forest are open to all uses all of the time or without travel restriction in some Alternatives. However, to manage the entire Forest in either of the options above fails to meet the Purpose and Need as identified in Chapter 1 of this document (see Proposed Programmatic Actions – Recreation). Furthermore, the Forest Service mission is a multiple use mission, and Forest Plans provide guidance to those multiple uses and values, including both motorized and non-motorized recreation use. As stated above, the Alternatives provide a variety of combinations of motorized and non-motorized use consistent with the multiple use mission. To manage the forest for a single use fails to meet both the Purpose and Need and the multiple use mission of the Forest Service.

OPTION: ACQUIRE ALL IN-HOLDINGS

This Alternative fails to meet the Purpose and Need for revision identified in Chapter 1 of this document (see Proposed Programmatic Actions). Land acquisition was not identified as a need for change nor has it been identified as a Purpose and Need for revision. Furthermore, by policy, the Forest Service has no authority to acquire lands from other owners unless the specific parcel is offered to the Forest Service by the owner of that parcel.

OPTIONS: NO LIVESTOCK GRAZING FOREST-WIDE

NO TIMBER HARVEST FOREST-WIDE

Some Alternatives eliminate grazing and timber harvest in some or even many areas. However, to manage the entire Forest in either of the options above fails to meet the Purpose and Need identified in Chapter 1 of this document (see Proposed Programmatic Actions – Vegetation and Livestock Grazing). Furthermore, the Forest Service mission is a multiple use mission, and Forest Plans provide guidance to those multiple uses and values including livestock grazing and timber harvest. As stated above, the Alternatives provide a variety of combinations of areas in which grazing or timber harvest is or is not allowed, consistent with the multiple use mission. All Alternatives analyzed in detail provide standards to permit grazing and timber harvest with appropriate environmental protection. To manage the entire Forest for either of these single uses fails to meet both the Purpose and Need and the multiple use mission of the Forest Service.

OPTIONS: HARVEST ONLY OLD OR DISEASED TREES FOREST-WIDE

While all Alternatives provide for the harvest of dead and diseased trees, to harvest only old or diseased trees Forest-wide fails to meet the Purpose and Need for action described in Chapter 1 of this document. Specifically, the Proposed Programmatic Actions under Vegetation in the Purpose and Need call for developing direction for the management of vegetation for ecological and multiple use purposes. The narrow focus of harvesting only dead and diseased trees Forest-wide fails to meet the much broader Purpose and Need for treatment of vegetation to achieve desired ecological conditions.

Comparison of Alternatives

This section identifies the environmentally and agency preferred Alternatives, as required by NEPA. It also includes the Summary of Effects by alternative.

Environmentally Preferred Alternative

Regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) require agencies to specify the alternative(s) considered to be environmentally preferable (40 CFR 1505.2(b)). Forest Service policy further defines this as the alternative that best meets the goals of section 101 of NEPA. This calls on Federal, State, and local governments and the public to create and maintain conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony. In determining the environmentally preferred alternative, the Forest refers to the goals of Section 101:

1. Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
2. Assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
3. Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;
4. Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain wherever possible an environment which supports diversity and variety of individual choice;
5. Achieve a balance between population and resource use, which will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and
6. Enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

Alternatives 6 and 7R—*Selected Alternative* are the Environmentally Preferred Alternatives. Over the long term, Alternative 7R would cause “the least damage to the biological and physical environment” (CEQ 40 Most Asked Questions, #6A). Over the short term, Alternative 6 would cause the least damage due to the substantial reduction in timber harvest and livestock grazing levels.

- Alternative 7R is the best balance between maintaining ecosystem processes while considering the needs of mature timber and sagebrush obligates. The emphasis of this alternative is to restore aspen where it is seral to conifers. The forested and non-

forested vegetation treatments that will likely be proposed will help move the Forest more towards the historical range of variability, benefiting more wildlife species.

- While Alternative 6 would reduce timber harvest, motorized recreation, and livestock grazing, the lack of vegetation management would not be environmentally preferable over the long term. Both forested and non-forested vegetation would move further away from historical range of variability and become denser, resulting in a loss of diversity.
- Riparian conditions and fisheries habitat would improve the most with Alternative 6, especially over the short-term. Without long-term management of the upper watersheds, it is uncertain how long that would last.
- Alternative 7R provides more for the human element than does Alternative 6. The latter focuses on non-motorized recreation and passive use of the environment.

WHICH ALTERNATIVE MAXIMIZES THE PRESENT NET VALUE?

The NFMA requires the Forest to identify which alternative maximizes the Present Net Value (PNV) and how the selected alternative compares to this (36 CFR 219.12.j.2). According to the economic analysis in the Caribou Forest Plan Revision FEIS, Alternative 3 maximizes both financial and economic PNV. Alternative 3 has the highest PNV due to the higher level of timber harvest predicted. The economic PNV (public benefits minus costs) varies by only 4 percent between alternatives. The net value ranges from a low of \$9,552 million for Alternative 6 to a high of \$9,941 million for alternative 3. Alternative 7R has an economic PNV of \$9,684 million. (FEIS, Chapter 4, Social and Economic Factors)

Agency Preferred Alternative

Alternative 7R is the Agency's Selected Alternative. In response to public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Forest Plan, Alternative 7R was developed to manage forested and non-forested resources to attain the "desired future condition." It features an emphasis on adaptive management and monitoring to resolve uncertainties regarding the management of Forest resources. This adaptive strategy offers an avenue to describe and evaluate the consequences of changing conditions and knowledge. Monitoring and additional analysis are used to shape future management actions within the framework of the Forest Plan.

This Alternative would allow a variety of vegetation management practices, focusing on restoration of key communities such as aspen. Timber harvest would be allowed in inventory roadless areas where appropriate. The alternative incorporates elements of other alternatives described in the Draft in order to address public comments. In order to implement the Plan, the Forest will likely propose vegetation management, road rehabilitation, prescribed fire, wildland fire use, and a myriad of other activities in the next decade. The amount of activity occurring is based on current staffing levels and planning requirements, not what is needed to meet the desired

future conditions. In this alternative, the desired outcome is not a number of acres treated; it is an ecological condition on the ground. This alternative emphasizes the issues of ecosystem management, riparian/wetland areas, minerals management, water quality, wildlife, and motorized/non-motorized access. A more diverse mix of recreation opportunity is fostered by this Alternative. Cross-country motorized access is significantly reduced (from forty percent to three percent of the Forest) without significant change to overall motorized access. Non-motorized recreation opportunity is increased. Wilderness recommendation of 42,500 acres would increase the current Plan's 30,600-acre recommendation.

Summary of Effects

- *Table 2.53 Summary of Environmental Effects Using Issue Indicators*

Issue 1: Recreation, Access and Scenery Management

Key Indicators for Significant Issues	Alt 1 No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7 DEIS Preferred	Alt 7R Selected
A 1 % of acres in Recreation Opportunity Class (ROS):								
Primitive	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Semi-primitive non-motorized	8%	8%	2%	8%	13%	36%	8%	8%
Semi-primitive motorized	53%	53%	59%	53%	48%	25%	53%	53%
Roaded natural	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%
Rural	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%
A 2 Acres open to cross-country motorized use during the snow-free season	420,215	420,215	419,539	0	25500	0	22900	29400
A 3 Motorized and non-motorized opportunities (expressed as acres of ROS categories)								
Acres open to over-the-snow motorized travel	1,013,300	1,001,000	1,015,800	971,200	962,700	957,100	981,200	1,011,385
Acres of snow-free non-motorized travel	103,500	103,500	31,800	95,500	150,500	389,200	91,500	233,000
Acres of over-the-snow non-motorized travel	28,900	41,200	26,400	71,000	79,500	85,100	61,000	30,700
Miles of snow-free motorized roads and trails	2,033	2,033	2,033	1,876	1,876	1,298	1,904	1,993

Issue 2: Social and Economic Environment

Key Indicators for Significant Issues	Alt 1 No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7 Preferred	Alt 7R Selected
EC 1 Changes in jobs (% annual change)	5%	5%	6%	2%	3%	-2%	3%	5%
EC 2 Changes in Income (%)	2%	2%	3%	0%	0.4%	-3%	1%	2%
EC3 PNV (Present Net Value) (Economic Efficiency)	\$9,894	\$9,894	\$9,941	\$9,613	\$9,613	\$9,552	\$9,624	\$9,684

Issue 3: Ecosystem Management

Key Indicators for Significant Issues	Alt 1 No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7 Preferred	Alt 7R Selected
Disturbances								
EM 1 Insect hazard rating—low, low/mod, mod, mod/high, high	High risk	High risk	High risk					
EM 2 Wildfire hazard rating—low, low/mod, mod, mod/high, high for forested (F) and non-forested vegetation (NF)	(F) Mod-High (NF) Low	(F) Mod-High (NF) Low-Mod	(F) Mod-High (NF) Low	(F) Mod-High (NF) Low-Mod	(F) Mod-High (NF) Mod	(F) Mod-High (NF) Mod	(F)Mod- High (NF) Low-Mod	(F)Mod (NF) Mod-High
EM 3 Fire Condition Class (% of vegetation in condition class 3)	48%	61%	55%	63%	62%	67%	62%	71%
Forested Vegetation								
EM 4 Percent of conifer and aspen acres in mature and old condition class in Year 100, compared to DRFC	Conifer = 68% Aspen = 85%	Conifer = 64% Aspen = 82%	Conifer = 64% Aspen = 82%	Conifer = 59% Aspen = 53%	Conifer = 75% Aspen = 71%	Conifer = 76% Aspen = 84%	Conifer = 63% Aspen = 76%	Conifer = 67% Aspen = 55%
EM 5 Percent of conifer and aspen acres in mature and old condition class in Year 10, compared to DRFC	Conifer = 80% Aspen = 68%	Conifer = 80% Aspen = 73%	Conifer = 80% Aspen = 73%	Conifer = 78% Aspen = 72%	Conifer = 82% Aspen = 73%	Conifer = 83% Aspen = 74%	Conifer = 81% Aspen = 76%	Conifer = 80% Aspen = 64%
EM 6 Number of decades to reach DRFC	Not applicable	100 years	50-100 years	100 years	100 years	Inside rW = natural Outside rW= 100 years	100 years	100+ years
Non-Forested Vegetation								
EM 7 Percent of acres in >15 % canopy cover of sagebrush in Year 10 and long-term, compared to HRV	Y10 = 35% LT = 36%	Y10 = 48% LT = 62%	Y10 = 43% LT = 51%	Y10 = 48% LT = 62%	Y10 = 50% LT = 65%	Y10 = 53% LT = 70%	Y10 = 48% LT = 61%	Y10 = 58% LT = 89%
EM 8 Number of decades to reach HRV	~0.7 decades	6.0 decades	1.4 decades	6.0 decades	>10.0 decades	Not applicable	4.5 decades	>10.0 decades

Issue 4: Livestock grazing

Key Indicators for Significant Issues	Alt 1 No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7 Preferred	Alt 7R Selected
LG 1 Estimated number of suitable acres for cattle and sheep	C = 460,303 S = 701,942	C = 460,303 S = 701,942	C = 460,303 S = 701,942	C = 407,942 S = 630,160	C = 401,051 S = 621,256	C = 255,269 S = 403,149	C = 452,621 S = 694,066	C = 452,251 S = 693,115
LG 2 Potential forage production on suitable range acres expressed in Animal Months	C = 213,632 S = 1,640,639	C = 174,790 S = 1,342,340	C = 174,790 S = 1,342,340	C = 152,965 S = 1,219,429	C = 150,463 S = 1,190,347	C = 97,369 S = 734,832	C = 171,533 S = 1,339,256	C = 171,671 S = 1,340,916
LG 3 Change in actual use based on current management	C= -7% S= -7%	C= -7% S= -5%	C= -6% S= -6%	C= -24 to -31% S= -7%	C= -30 to -38% S= -7%	C= -65 to -66% S= -59%	C= -19 to -26% S= -5%	C= -17 to -24% S= -4%
LG 4 Upland vegetation response to livestock grazing expressed as trend (↓, →, ↑)	→, ↑ slowest rate of improvement	→, ↑	→, ↑	→, ↑	→, ↑	→, ↑ fastest rate of improvement	→, ↑	→, ↑

Issue 5: Minerals Operation, Reclamation and Hazardous Substances Management

Key Indicators for Significant Issues	Alt 1 No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7 Preferred	Alt 7R Selected
Management direction is prescriptive or adaptive	Adaptive	Adaptive	Adaptive	Adaptive	Adaptive	Prescriptive	Adaptive	Adaptive

Issue 6: Riparian/Wetland Areas and Aquatic Biota

Key Indicators for Significant Issues	Alt 1 No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7 Preferred	Alt 7R Selected
R 1 Relative potential to protect and improve watershed integrity as defined in IWWI and measured by percent of watersheds disturbed	Lower potential	Lower potential	Lowest potential	Moderate potential	Higher potential	Highest potential	Moderate potential	Moderate potential
R 2 Riparian condition measured as relative protection by alternative	Lower potential	Lower potential	Lowest potential	Moderate potential	Higher potential	Highest potential	Moderate potential	Moderate potential
R 3 Water quality measured as relative protection by alternative	Lower potential	Lower potential	Lowest potential	Moderate potential	Higher potential	Highest potential	Moderate potential	Moderate potential
R 4 Fish population viability, based on probability of persistence over the long-term.	Low persistence of species	Low persistence of species	Low persistence of species	High persistence of species	High persistence of species	High persistence of species	Moderate persistence of species	Moderate persistence of species

Issue 7: Timber Sale Program

Key Indicators for Significant Issues	Alt 1 No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7 Preferred	Alt 7R Selected
T 1 Allowable Sale Quantity 1st decade	60 mmbf	56 mmbf	67 mmbf	20 mmbf	20 mmbf	17 mmbf	22 mmbf	27 mmbf
T 2 Total Sale Program Quantity (ASQ+other wood products in 1st decade)	83 mmbf	78 mmbf	92 mmbf	26 mmbf	26 mmbf	23 mmbf	28 mmbf	51 mmbf
T 3 Acres harvested (Decade total)	16,800	16,700	21,900	7,100	6,500	4,950	6,800	6,100
T 4 Suitable Acres	125,300	114,900	150,400	52,900	48,400	38,700	54,000	84,000
T 5 Acres of suitable timber in Roadless Areas	62,900	58,900	84,100	0	0	0	0	30,700
T 6 Estimated total miles of road construction (C) reconstruction (RC)	C = 56 RC = 25	C = 55 RC = 18	C = 73 RC = 25	C = 8 RC = 9	C = 7 RC = 9	C = 3 RC = 4	C = 9 RC = 9	C = 22 RC = 13

Issue 8: Roadless Area Management and Recommended Wilderness

Key Indicators for Significant Issues	Alt 1 No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt. 7 Preferred	Alt 7R Selected
RA 1 Percent of acres in management prescription categories 1, 2, and 3	58%	63%	46%	82%	80%	82%	70%	70%
RA 2 Projected acres harvested in Inventoried Roadless Areas	11,700	11,700	15,300	500	400	50	500	1,525
WD 1 Acres recommended to Congress for the Wilderness Preservation System	30,600	30,600	0	71,600	95,100	341,900	47,200	42,500
WD 2 and WD 3 Non-motorized and motorized opportunity within recommended wilderness SNM – Summer non-motorized SM = Summer motorized WNM = Winter non-motorized WM = Winter motorized	SNM = 14,600 SM =16,000 WNM = 14,600 WM = 16,000	SNM = 14,600 SM = 16,000 WNM = 14,600 WM = 16,000	N/A N/A N/A N/A	SNM = 14,600 SM = 57,000 WNM = 14,600 WM = 57,000	SNM = 79,100 SM = 16,000 WNM = 14,600 WM = 80,500	SNM = 341,900 SM = 0 WNM = 14,600 WM = 327,300	SNM = 47,200 SM = 0 WNM = 0 WM = 47,200	SNM = 42,500 SM = 0 WNM = 0 WM = 42,500

Issue 9: Wildlife Habitat Management

Key Indicators for Significant Issues	Alt 1 No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7 Preferred	Alt 7R Selected
WL 1 Viability analysis based on wildlife habitat outcomes where “low risk” means a high likelihood of persistence and where “moderate risk” means moderate likelihood of persistence ♦ Risk to forested vegetation associated species ♦ Risk to rangeland vegetation associated species ♦ Risk to riparian vegetation associated species	Moderate risk	Moderate risk	Moderate risk	Low risk	Low risk	Low risk	Low risk	Low risk
	Low risk	Moderate risk	Low risk	Low risk	Low risk	Moderate risk	Low risk	Low risk
	Moderate risk	Moderate risk	Moderate risk	Low risk	Low risk	Low risk	Low risk	Low risk
WL 2 Determine how habitats contribute toward state game population management goals and objectives (Meets, Does not meet) ♦ Summer Habitat Effectiveness ♦ Hunting Season Vulnerability ♦ Acres managed for Winter Range	Does not meet	Does not meet	Does not meet	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets
	Does not meet	Does not meet	Does not meet	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets
	Does not meet	Does not meet Meets	Does not meet	Meets	Meets	Does not meet	Meets	Meets
Other Resources								
T, E, and S Plant Viability Risk	Moderate	Low-Moderate	Moderate (-)	Low	Low	Low (+)	Low	Low

