

Caribou-Targhee NF

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Final Environmental Impact Statement

Caribou Revised Forest Plan
Appendix C—Wilderness Recommendation

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Wilderness Recommendation

This appendix describes the process used to evaluate inventoried roadless areas, IRAs, on the Caribou National Forest for their potential as wilderness. Each of the thirty-four roadless areas is summarized in an individual report describing the IRA's capability for wilderness, current and future resource uses, and the need for the area to be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Additional information on the history and inventory of the Caribou National Forest roadless areas can be found in Appendix R and the Roadless Area section of the Revision FEIS.

INTRODUCTION

Past roadless inventories, such as the 1985 Forest plan roadless inventory, were used as a starting point to identify roadless and wilderness resources on the CNF. The area boundaries were updated in 1996 based on criteria in the FSH 1909.12 Inventory and Evaluation of Roadless Areas. The analysis and data gathered for Appendix R, the Roadless Area Re-evaluation, was used in this evaluation, also. For more information on individual IRAs' uses and values as un-roaded parcels of land, see Appendix R.

As defined in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 7, each roadless area was evaluated for potential wilderness in terms of three primary criteria:

- **Availability** – Other resource demands and uses of an area. Consideration of current constraints or encumbrances are important.
- **Capability** – The degree to which the area contains the basic characteristics that makes it suitable for wilderness designation without regard to its availability or need a wilderness. Characteristics such as naturalness of the environment, the presence of challenging and primitive experiences and feelings of solitude are evaluated. Another aspect considered is the ability to manage the area as wilderness. Factors such as size, shape, and an area's relationship to external influences are considered when determining recommended boundaries.
- **Need** – The degree to which it contributes to the local and national distribution of wilderness. This analysis considers the demand for additional wilderness recreation opportunities, as well as the need to give certain ecosystems and landforms protection that wilderness designation can afford.

The evaluation discusses each criterion for each IRA. Some IRAs possess more of the described wilderness characteristics than others. FSH 1909.12 Chapter Seven states, "The combination of basic natural characteristics are of infinite variety. No two areas possess these characteristics in the same measure." IRAs also vary in their availability and how well they fulfill the "need" for wilderness designation. Each IRA is unique in how it satisfies the three criteria. The evaluation does not "rank" IRAs numerically with each other. Below is a discussion of how each criterion was addressed for the individual IRAs.

AVAILABILITY

Past, present and future uses are listed, such as special use authorizations, type and level of recreation use, mineral activities and past timber harvest. No value ratings were used to describe an inventoried roadless area's availability.

CAPABILITY

The capability assessment describes to what degree an IRA possesses the six characteristics of wilderness:

- Natural Integrity

- Apparent Naturalness
- Opportunity for Solitude
- Opportunity for Primitive Recreation
- Challenging Experiences
- Special ecological, geological, or cultural features

The IRA’s characteristics are described using the relative rankings of low, moderate, high, and very high. These rankings help illustrate the quality of an IRA’s wilderness character.

An area that has little development or human use might be rated as “very high” for natural integrity and apparent naturalness. As defined in FSH 1909.12.7.11(a), roadless areas may qualify for inventory as potential wilderness even though they include minor facilities or evidence of human activity, such as historic mining, communication sites, fences, and unimproved travel ways. In evaluating these areas for wilderness capability; the presence of minor developments affects an area’s natural integrity and apparent naturalness. An area with some evidence of human activity would rate “high” or “moderate” depending on the degree of development and how visually evident the facility or activity is. An area with many evident facilities and past human activities would be described as “low” for naturalness of the environment.

An IRA might rate “high” for natural appearance, but “low” for solitude or primitive recreation if the area is small in size or has adjacent developments that can be seen and heard from the interior of the IRA. Large areas usually offer a stronger opportunity for solitude than small, narrow or irregularly shaped IRAs.

The presence of challenging experiences within an IRA is commonly related to extreme topography or large acreage. An IRA with a demanding rock climbing area would be rated “high” for challenging experience. An area with flat or typical terrain would rate “low.”

Special features include historical sites or routes, rare geological areas, areas with unique recreation activity or important wildlife habitat. Special features within IRAs are considered for their value as a wilderness resource and for their special management needs.

The manageability of the IRA for wilderness is also considered within the capability assessment. When discussing “manageability,” or the size and shape of the area, the 1996 inventoried roadless boundaries are used. An area with few “cherry stemmed” roads or intrusions would rate “good” for manageability. A small, narrow area with many intrusions would rate “fair” or “poor” for manageability. Often an interior or exterior boundary could be mapped that would improve the ability to manage a given area as wilderness. These opportunities are noted in the discussion.

NEED

Need is considered from two perspectives: social and biological. Social need considers local and national distribution and recreation opportunities provided by the National Wilderness Preservation System. An area that would provide a primitive rock climbing opportunity in a region with no similar opportunities would rate “high” towards fulfilling this social need. An IRA that has a high alpine lake setting where there are numerous alpine lake settings might rate a “moderate” or “low” for need, depending on demand for this recreation setting. An IRA that would add a unique ecosystem to the National Wilderness Preservation System would rate “high” for biological need. An IRA that has typical landforms and vegetation, which are already represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System, may rate “low” for biological need. Ratings for non-motorized recreation needs and wildlife and fish habitat were taken from resource data gathered for Appendix R.

WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS BY ALTERNATIVE

Alternatives 1 and 2 - Core areas of Worm Creek and Mt. Naomi Roadless Areas.

Alternative 3 - No recommendation.

Alternative 4 - Core areas of Mt. Naomi, Caribou City and Stump Roadless Areas.

Alternative 5 - Core areas of Worm Creek, Mt. Naomi and Caribou City Roadless Areas.

Alternative 6 - Entire roadless areas of Worm Creek, Mt. Naomi, Elkhorn Mountain, Bear Creek, Caribou City, Stump Peak, Gannett-Spring Creek and Red Mountain Roadless Areas.

Alternatives 7 and 7R - Core areas of Mt. Naomi and Caribou City Roadless Areas.

AVAILABILITY AND CAPABILITY OF THE CARIBOU NATIONAL FOREST'S 34 ROADLESS AREAS

Areas inventoried for wilderness potential with the highest capability, as defined in FSH 1909.12-7.21, include Caribou City, Mt. Naomi, Stump Peak, Worm Creek, and Mink Creek Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Mt. Naomi Roadless Area has high capability that is enhanced by its adjacency to the Mt. Naomi Wilderness in Utah. All alternatives, with the exception of Alternative 3, recommend this area for wilderness designation and manage the area for non-motorized use in the summer. Mt. Naomi Roadless Area and Mt. Naomi Wilderness Area together offer over 59,000 acres for primitive and semi-primitive non-motorized summer recreation.

Caribou City has high capability and unique or special features of historic mining and a "primitive" hunting experience. Portions of the Caribou City roadless area have historic mining sites and the remains of two mining towns. There is a high public interest in these historic features. Caribou City Roadless Area also offers an area of good elk habitat that is managed as non-motorized. This is one of the few areas in southeast Idaho that offers a "primitive" elk hunting experience. Alternatives 1, 2, and 3 do not recommend any portion of the Caribou City Roadless Area as wilderness. Alternatives 4, 5, 7, and 7R propose the core non-motorized area of Caribou City Roadless Area as recommended wilderness. Alternative 6 proposes to manage the entire Caribou City Roadless Area as recommended wilderness, which would protect the historic area, but could make research and visitor interpretation more difficult. Alternative 7 and 7R propose to manage the historic areas of Caribou City Roadless Area under a special area prescription emphasizing visitor interpretation and research. A special area prescription on the historic portion of the roadless area would protect and interpret historic values while providing for recreation opportunities both motorized and non-motorized.

Worm Creek Roadless Area has high capability and the unique feature of an alpine lake. Bloomington Lake is popular year-round for hiking, sight-seeing, swimming, fishing, and snowmobiling. Bloomington Lake lies in a glacial cirque and offers unique flora and fauna. Alternative 1, 2, 4, and 5 recommend a core portion of the Worm Creek Roadless Area for wilderness, which would maintain these unique resources. Alternative 6 proposes to manage the entire Worm Creek roadless area as recommended wilderness, which could make research, visitor interpretation and management more difficult. Alternatives 7 and 7R manage the Bloomington Lake area with a special emphasis prescription that would manage the area for non-motorized recreation, interpretation, and research, which would also maintain and protect lake resources, while maintaining or enhancing the recreation experience.

Stump Creek has high capability and the unique feature of the historic Lander Trail. Many people visit portions of the historic wagon-road established in 1859 as an alternative route for the California-Oregon Trail migration. Portions of the Lander Trail route are managed as non-motorized in the snow-free season, protecting the remnants of the wagon-road and the extensive rockwork in Terrace Canyon. The rest of Stump Peak roadless area is managed for motorized use. Alternatives 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 7R do not recommend any portions of Stump Creek Roadless Area for wilderness. Alternative 4 recommends a core area of Stump Peak for wilderness designation, but not the Lander Trail corridor. Alternative 7R proposes to manage the Lander Trail Corridor as a combination of motorized and non-motorized recreation under a special emphasis prescription that manages for visitor interpretation and research.

Mink Creek Roadless Area in the Bear River Range has high capability, but it is small in size and would be difficult to manage as a wilderness. It was not recommended for wilderness in any alternatives.

All National Forest System lands found to meet wilderness capability requirements generally are available for wilderness consideration. However, the availability is constrained by a determination of the value of and need for the wilderness resource relative to the value and need of the other resources for the site. To be available for wilderness, the wilderness values of the resource, both tangible and intangible, should exceed the value of other resources that formal wilderness designation would preclude. Lands that generally are best suited for development and intensive management for sustained-yield production or resources other than Wilderness include the following:

- Areas in which the need for increased water production and on site storage is vital.

- Lands that are needed for application of wildlife management measures of considerable magnitude.
- Highly mineralized areas of strategic and economic importance.
- Areas containing natural phenomena of unique or outstanding nature where public access and development is needed.
- Lands meeting clearly documented resource demands such as timber, mineral production or developed recreation such as winter sports sites.
- Lands committed through contractual agreements for use, purposes, or activities not in concert with the requirements of the Wilderness Act.

Individual narratives discuss the existing uses of roadless areas, and the wilderness characteristics table displays existing uses that may not be compatible with retaining wilderness characteristics, or may not be compatible with wilderness recommendation. Roadless areas with known phosphate potential or existing phosphate leases include Dry Ridge, Mead Peak, Sage Creek, Schmid Peak, and Stump Peak. Roadless areas that have a unique or outstanding feature where public access and development is needed include portions of Caribou City, Stump Creek and Worm Creek.

NEED

FSH 1909.12-7.23 directs the Forest Service to “determine the need for an area to be designated as wilderness through an analysis of the degree to which it contributes to the local and national distribution of Wilderness.” Need is addressed on a national basis and is evaluated in terms of the geographical distribution of areas, representation of landforms and ecosystems, and the presence of wildlife expected to be visible in Wilderness. Assessment of need is divided into two categories: biological need (landform representation and biodiversity) and social need (outdoor recreation opportunities).

BIOLOGICAL NEED:

Six designated wilderness areas represent high elevation landscapes and ecosystems of the region. The Mt. Naomi Wilderness in Northern Utah represents an alpine ecosystem with many lakes and streams, vegetation includes aspen and mixed conifer. The Bridger Wilderness has an elevation range of 13,804 feet to 8,000 feet above sea level and represents a variety of glacial landforms and habitat for moose, deer, elk and bighorn sheep. The Teton Wilderness has an elevation range of 7,500 feet to 12,165 feet above sea level and offers habitat for trumpeter swans, grizzly and black bears, and bighorn sheep. The Jeddiah Smith Wilderness also represents a high elevation ecosystem at approximately 10,000 feet above sea level on the “backside” of the Tetons. The Winegar Hole Wilderness Area represents landforms of volcanic origin, elevations range from 6,020 feet to 6,985 feet above sea level. Vegetation types include lodgepole pine, Douglas -fir and subalpine fir. This area is prime habitat for grizzly bear and trumpeter swan. (Wilderness Preservation System, on-line data, USFS). Lower elevation vegetation types could be represented in the wilderness system, with the recommendation of the entire roadless areas of Elkhorn (5,500 to 9,095 feet above sea level), Red Mountain (6,300 feet to 8,727 feet above sea level) and Caribou City (6,000 feet to 9,803 feet above sea level) in Alternative 6. Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 7R recommend areas within an elevation range of 7,000 feet to 9,803 feet above sea level.

SOCIAL NEED:

Approximately 4,006,000 acres have been designated as Wilderness in Idaho. Over 760,000 acres have been designated as Wilderness in Utah, and over 2,922,000 acres have been designated in Wyoming (Wilderness Preservation System, on-line data, USFS). Wilderness opportunities in Idaho and adjacent states are well distributed and accessible to most area communities.

BEAR CREEK ROADLESS AREA #04615

(21,048 ACRES)

Location and Access

Bear Creek is located in Bonneville County, Idaho. The area includes most of the Caribou Range between Fall Creek Road on the north, McCoy Creek Road on the south, and Bear Creek-Jensen Road on the east. 2,800 acres of the IRA are on the Targhee National Forest and managed under the Revised Targhee Forest Plan.

Setting

The topography is moderately steep, characterized by parallel ridges. Elevations range from 6,000 feet above sea level to 9,400 feet above sea level. Vegetation includes large open areas of grass and brush interspersed with aspen stands. Conifer stands include scattered patches of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - No recent timber management activities have occurred in this IRA. Most of the area supports grass and shrub cover.

Recreation - In the summer, most of the area is managed for semi-primitive non-motorized experiences. In the winter, the area is managed as motorized. Recreation use includes horseback riding and deer hunting. The Targhee portion of Bear Creek IRA is managed for motorized recreation, on designated routes.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases. The area has patented claims and past mining activity on the southern boundary.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - Special use authorizations within the area include outfitting and guiding for big game and a communication tower. No State or private lands occur within the IRA.

Roads and Trails - No system roads occur in this IRA; there is one mile of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered “moderate to low;” human activities are very evident, including unimproved roads and mineral prospects.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated as “moderate,” due to the IRA’s size and existing road intrusions.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered “moderate” due to size and road intrusions.

Special Features or Attractions include good elk habitat.

Manageability of the area would be “fair,” due to road intrusions.

NEED

The area received a “moderate” rating for unique landforms, but a “high” rating for non-motorized recreation needs. It has “high” values for fish and wildlife habitat. The nearest designated wilderness is the Jedediah Smith Wilderness. During the Forest Plan Revision process, some public interest was expressed to recommend the area for wilderness, based on erodible soils and wildlife values. Other public comments were against recommending the area for wilderness. Idaho conservation groups have suggested the area for wilderness designation. This area was included in the 1985 Forest Plan Settlement Agreement in which the Forest agreed to prohibit timber harvest in the IRA until the year 2000.

BONNEVILLE PEAK ROADLESS AREA #04154

(32,170 ACRES)

Location and Access

Bonneville Peak Roadless Area is in Bannock and Caribou counties on the Westside Ranger District. The area lies four miles east of Inkom, Idaho. Major road access includes the Pebble Creek Road, Green Canyon Road, Inman Creek Road and Bell Canyon Road. Lands within the area were once Shoshone-Bannock Indian lands and are now subject to Indian Treaty Rights.

Setting

The topography of the IRA is typical for Southeast Idaho. Terrain varies from very steep rocky ledges to moderately sloping valleys and basins. Bonneville Peak is 9,260 feet above sea level. The lowest elevation is 5,500 feet above sea level. Vegetation includes brush and grass-covered slopes with some aspen. Narrow stands of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine are found on high north facing slopes.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - The area does not have recent timber sales; past timber harvest is evident along roads.

Recreation - The area has the Boundary National Recreation Trail, popular with horseback riders and OHV users. Big Springs Campground and Pebble Creek Ski Area are on the west and south boundaries respectively. Portions of the area are very popular with back-country skiers and snowmobilers.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Cattle are authorized to graze most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - This IRA has two special use authorizations: one for outfitting and guiding, one for a slurry pipeline. Approximately 1,480 acres of State or private lands occur within the IRA.

Roads and Trails - The area has no system roads, but there are thirty-seven miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered “high,” with evidence of some human activities such as unimproved roads.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated as “moderate,” because of minimal screening of valley developments.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered “moderate” due to the area’s limited size and road intrusions.

Special Features or Attractions include a popular back-country skiing area.

Manageability of the area is considered “poor,” due to road intrusions. Locating boundaries on natural features and eliminating road corridors could achieve a core area.

NEED

The area is rated as “moderate to high” for unique landforms and winter non-motorized recreation needs. It has “moderate” values for wildlife habitat and research purposes. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During the Forest Plan revision process, limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness. The area was included in a 1985 Forest Plan Settlement Agreement. Other public comments were against recommending the area for wilderness.

CARIBOU CITY ROADLESS AREA #04161

(79,013 ACRES)

Location and Access

Caribou City Roadless Area is in Bonneville County on the Soda Springs Ranger District and the Palisades Ranger District, which is managed under the revised Targhee Forest Plan. The area lies one mile east of the Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge, and .25 miles southwest of the Palisades Reservoir. Approximately 79,000 acres are on the Caribou National Forest. In the 1870s Caribou City was once the center of a brisk gold boom, but is now a ghost town and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Patented and unpatented mining claims are found on Caribou Mountain and McCoy Creek. On the southern portion of the area, McCoy Creek, Caribou City, and Bald Mountain roads provide access to the area. Deep Creek, Jackknife Creek and Cabin Creek roads are on the eastern boundary. The Tincup Highway, State Highway 34, runs along the southern border. The Tincup Road lies on the southwest side. The Morgan Meadows, North Fork of Eagle Creek, and Barnes Creek roads are on the western boundary.

Setting

The topography and geography of the IRA are diverse. Flat benches and basins to steep mountain ridges and side slopes are all represented. Elevations range from 9,803 feet at Caribou Mountain to 6,000 feet above sea level near the Palisades Reservoir. Vegetation includes lodgepole pine, Douglas -fir, sagebrush, mountain brush and aspen.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - No recent timber activity has occurred in the area. Soils are unstable and slumpy.

Recreation - The primary recreation attraction is deer, elk and moose hunting. The core area of the IRA offers the only Primitive recreation experience on the Forest. The northwest portion of the IRA is popular for recreational gold panning.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases. Patented and unpatented mining claims exist in the area.

Range - Livestock are authorized to graze most of the area.

Water - The area contains no municipal water use.

Land Uses - Special use authorizations include a buried fiber optic line and an above ground powerline along the Tincup Highway. Approximately 280 acres of State or private lands occur within the IRA.

Roads and Trails - The area has no system roads, but there are nine miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered “high,” with evidence of some human activities such as unimproved roads and historic and current mining activity.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated as “high,” because of the area’s large size.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered “high” due to large, contiguous acreage.

Special Features or Attractions include good wildlife habitat, primitive non-motorized recreation, and historic mining areas.

Manageability of the area is considered “fair” along roadless boundaries, due to road intrusions. A large core area could be achieved by locating boundaries on natural features, such as watershed or topographic ridges.

NEED

The area is rated “high” for unique landforms and non-motorized recreation needs. It has “high” values for wildlife needs and research purposes. The nearest designated wildernesses are Mt. Naomi and Jedediah Smith Wilderness. During the Forest Plan revision process, high public interest was expressed in recommending the area for wilderness. Other public comments were against recommending the area for wilderness. The area was included in the 1985 Forest Plan Settlement Agreement in which the Forest agreed to prohibit timber harvest in the IRA until the year 2000. A portion of the area was recommended for wilderness in the 1992 Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act Proposed Wilderness and the 1992 Idaho Conservation League Wilderness Proposal.

Location and Access

Clarkston Mountain Roadless Area is in Oneida County, Idaho and Box Elder and Cache counties in Utah on the Westside Ranger District. The area extends from two miles southeast of Malad, Idaho to 1.5 miles north of Plymouth, Utah. Approximately 6,575 acres of the area are in Utah. The area is eighteen miles long and averages about two miles in width. The 1985 Roadless Area Inventory omitted the Utah acres. Road access to the area includes the Two Mile Canyon Road along the north border, the Skyline, Left Fork of Dry Canyon, Steel Canyon, and Black Canyon roads from the east, the Water Canyon Road from the south, and the Gardner Canyon, Burnett Canyon, and Four Mile Canyon roads from the west. The Willow Spring Road (pre-1978) bisects the area.

Setting

The area's topography is steep and rocky with sagebrush, grass, juniper and mountain brush. Small patches of Douglas -fir and aspen occur on some northern slopes. Elevations range from 4,800 feet near Cherry Creek to 8,224 feet at Gunsight Peak.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - No recent timber activity has occurred in this IRA.

Recreation - The entire IRA is managed for a semi -primitive motorized setting in summer. A small campground is adjacent to the east boundary. The area is popular for horse and trail bike riding, snowmobiling, and deer hunting.

Minerals - No current oil or gas leases occur in the IRA.

Range - Livestock are authorized to graze entire area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - The IRA has one groomed snowmobile trail and one special use authorization for outfitting and guiding big game. Approximately 560 acres of State or private lands occur within the IRA.

Roads and Trails - There are no system roads, but there are twenty-one miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered "moderate," with evidence of some human activities, such as unimproved roads.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated as "low," because of minimal natural screening and the area's small size.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered "low" due to area's small size.

Special Features or Attractions include areas of good deer habitat, and a Research Natural Area.

Manageability of the area is considered "poor," due to narrow width of the area and private in holdings.

NEED

The area is rated "low" for unique landforms and non-motorized recreation needs. It has "moderate" values for wildlife needs and research purposes. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During Forest Plan revision efforts, limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

Location and Access

Deep Creek Roadless Area is within Oneida County, Idaho on the Westside Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It lies approximately .5 miles east of Malad, Idaho. Access routes to the area include the Deep Creek and Weston Canyon roads along the north and east, Two Mile Canyon and Trail Hollow roads along the southern border, and the Little Valley Road on the western boundary. Interstate 15 is .5 miles away and runs parallel to the western boundary of the IRA.

Setting

Moderate slopes characterized the area, and brush and grass are the predominant vegetation. The area exhibits less topographic relief than is typical for other nearby roadless areas.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - No recent timber activity has occurred in this IRA.

Recreation - Dispersed recreation includes horseback and motorized trail use, snowmobiling and deer hunting. Visitors are attracted to the area, because of its close proximity to the community of Malad. The Deep Creek Reservoir near the eastern border of the area attracts many anglers and campers.

Minerals - No current oil or gas leases occur in the IRA. The area has a “low” locatable mineral potential.

Range - Livestock are authorized to graze entire area. Range improvements are present.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - Special use authorizations within the IRA include outfitting and guiding big game; two water transmission systems, an area under cultivation, and a pasture. No acres of State or private lands occur within the IRA.

Roads and Trails - The area has no system roads, but there are fourteen miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered “moderate.” The general appearance of the area is natural due to the steep, inaccessible west-facing slopes that dominate the area. Livestock grazing, unimproved roads and OHV use are evident.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated as “low,” because of the area’s small size and minimal natural screening.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to area’s size.

Special Features or Attractions includes areas of good deer habitat.

Manageability of the area is considered “poor,” due to the area’s small size and road intrusions.

NEED

The area is rated “low” for unique landforms and non-motorized recreation needs. It has “moderate” values for wildlife needs and research purposes. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi, approximately thirty air miles east of the area. During the Forest Plan revision process, limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

Location and Access

The Dry Ridge Roadless Area is within Caribou and Bear Lake counties, Idaho on the Soda Springs and Montpelier Ranger Districts of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It lies approximately fourteen miles east of Soda Springs, Idaho. The major access roads to the area are Diamond Creek Road on the northeast, the Georgetown Canyon Road along the southeast, and the Slug Creek Road on the western boundary. Other roads into the area include the Left Fork of the Georgetown Canyon Road on the southwest, and the Dry Canyon Road on the west. The area is rich in phosphate ore and is extensively leased.

Setting

The area's topography includes the high, rather uniform, Dry Ridge at about 8,000 feet, although fifty percent of the area gently slopes down to about 6,500 feet. The vegetative cover includes wet and dry meadows, sagebrush, grass, mountain brush, aspen, and conifer stands on north and east-facing slopes.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - No recent timber activity has occurred in the IRA, but there is evidence of past timber harvest.

Recreation - A small campground is located adjacent to the southwest boundary. Dry Ridge IRA receives moderate use for big - game hunting, OHV use, and dispersed camping. Visitors are attracted to the area by the loop road from Georgetown Canyon into Diamond Creek and the "driving for pleasure" opportunities it affords.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases. Phosphate leases cover much of the Dry Ridge area. Considerable phosphate exploration work is evident within and adjacent to the area. Active mining is underway north of the area in Maybe Canyon and the Mountain Fuel Mine occurs along the west boundary. Patented mining claims border the area on the south.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - The IRA has special use authorizations for outfitting and guiding big game, a railroad spur and a slurry pipeline. No acres of State or private lands occur within the IRA.

Roads and Trails - The area has no system roads, but there are eleven miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered "low to moderate," because some human activities are evident including past timber harvest units, unimproved or closed roads, livestock grazing, and extensive evidence of phosphate mining. The general appearance of the area is natural, due to the steep, inaccessible west-facing slopes that dominate the area.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated as "low," because of the area's size and minimal natural screening from adjacent mining activity.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to area's small size.

Special Features or Attractions - No special features have been identified in this IRA.

Manageability of the area is considered "very poor," due to the area's size and numerous human intrusions.

NEED

The area rated as “low” for unique landforms; it has some acres of non-motorized recreation opportunity. It has a “low” value for research purposes. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi, approximately forty air miles southwest of the area. During the Forest Plan Revision process little public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

ELKHORN MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA #04156

(43,723 ACRES)

Location and Access

The Elkhorn Mountain Roadless Area is within Bannock and Oneida counties, Idaho on the Westside Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The center of the area is about twelve air miles north of Malad, Idaho. The Wright’s Creek National Recreation Trail bisects the southern portion of the IRA. The Elkhorn Mountain Roadless Area is bordered by the Wright's Creek Road to the northwest and Mill Canyon Road to the east. Other roads to the area include Heath Canyon, Limekiln Canyon, and Secret Springs roads on the south; Elkhorn Creek, Bill Morgan Canyon, Indian-Mill Creek, and the Tom Perry Canyon roads on the west; and the South Fork of Hawkins Creek Road on the north.

Setting

The topography of the area is typical for the mountain ranges in this part of Southeast Idaho. The elevation varies from 9,095 feet at Elkhorn Peak to about 5,500 feet near the east and south boundaries. The terrain is generally steep, and the vegetative cover types include sagebrush, grass, mountain brush, and scattered stands of aspen and mountain maple. Narrow stands of Douglas -fir are found on the area’s north slopes.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - No recent timber activity has occurred in the IRA.

Recreation - Activities include hunting, camping, OHV and snowmobile use. Summit Campground is located just east of the IRA. Horseback riding, OHV use, and hiking are popular on the Wright's Creek National Recreational Trail. The area is also used for cross-country skiing.

Minerals - No current oil or gas leases occur within this IRA.

Range - Most of the area is authorized for livestock grazing.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - The IRA has special use authorizations, including outfitting and guiding big game and a power line. Approximately 190 acres of State or private lands occur within the IRA.

Roads and Trails - The area has no system roads, but there are sixty-eight miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered “high;” human intrusion is evident as a result of firewood cutting, grazing use, and unimproved roads. A perlite mine is operating on the northwestern border and is visible from the IRA.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated as “low,” because of the size and minimal screening from valley developments.

Opportunities for primitive recreation are considered “moderate” due to limited size, but rated as “low” for challenging experiences due to size and lack of challenging terrain.

Special Features or Attractions include areas of good deer habitat.

Manageability of the area is considered “poor” along the inventoried boundaries, but a core area could be achieved by locating a boundary on natural features.

NEED

The area is considered “moderate” for unique landforms; it offers some acres of non-motorized recreation opportunity. It has “moderate” values for wildlife needs and research purposes. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi, approximately sixty air miles east of the area. During the Forest Plan Revision process scoping moderate public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness to enhance wildlife habitat and provide for non-motorized experiences. Other public comments were against recommending the area for wilderness. Elkhorn Mountain was a settlement area in a 1985 Forest Plan Settlement Agreement in which the Forest agreed to prohibit timber harvest in the IRA until the year 2000.

GANNETT-SPRING CREEK ROADLESS AREA #04111 (IDAHO PORTION)

(19,709 ACRES)

Location and Access

The Gannett Spring Creek Roadless Area lies within the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming (45,122 acres) and the Caribou-Targhee National Forest (19,709 acres) in Idaho. The Gannett Spring Creek Roadless Area (Idaho portion) is within Caribou County, Idaho on the Montpelier Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. During the 1985 Forest planning effort, the Wyoming Wilderness Act was passed by Congress and signed into law on October 30, 1984. This occurred after the Forest’s Draft EIS and proposed Forest Plan had been released to the public for review. The Wyoming Wilderness Act either designated areas as wilderness or wilderness study areas, or released the remaining areas to multiple uses other than wilderness. The Wyoming portion of this area was released. As a result, it was no longer required to evaluate the entire area as one unit. The Idaho portion of the IRA is approximately ten miles southwest of Afton, Wyoming. The Forest boundary forms the north and east border. Access to the area from the south is by Elk Valley Road and Ephraim Valley Road. The Crow Creek Road forms much of the western boundary.

Setting

Elevations range from approximately 6,000 feet near Crow Creek to 8,000 feet along mountain ridges near the center of the area. Most of the area is comprised of moderate to gently rolling hills, with steep drainages, typical of the topography of this part of Southeast Idaho. Vegetation includes grasses and sagebrush with stands of Douglas-fir on northern slopes.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - No recent timber activity has occurred in the area.

Recreation - Recreation use includes big-game hunting, fishing, OHV use, and camping.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases. Exploration wells have been drilled adjacent to the boundary in Elk Valley and to the south on Red Mountain.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized for most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - No special use authorizations for the IRA. Approximately 655 acres of State or private lands occur within the area.

Roads and Trails - The area has no system roads, but there are twelve miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered “moderate,” because of past vegetation treatments, livestock improvements, and adjacent oil and gas drilling activity.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated as “low,” because of the size and minimal screening from valley developments.

Opportunities for primitive recreation are considered “moderate” due to roads and other uses; opportunity for challenging experiences is “low” due to the rolling terrain.

Special Features or Attractions include the Crow Creek Road, which is a popular recreation access road and is located on the old pioneer travel route. Other early pioneer wagon roads exist in the area. Elk Valley Marsh is a unique high elevation wetland. The 200-acre parcel was found to be eligible for further study under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. See the Wild and Scenic River section of the FEIS.

Manageability of the area is considered “poor” along inventoried boundaries, but a core area could be achieved by locating a boundary on natural features.

NEED

The area is rated “moderate” for unique landforms; some acres of non-motorized recreation opportunity exist. It has “moderate” values for wildlife needs and research purposes. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi, approximately 60 air miles west of the area. During the Forest Plan revision process some public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness to enhance wildlife habitat and provide for non-motorized experiences. Other public comments were against recommending the area for wilderness. Gannett Spring Creek was a settlement area in a 1985 Forest Plan Settlement Agreement.

GIBSON ROADLESS AREA #04181

(IDAHO-8,320 ACRES; UTAH-5,347 ACRES)

Location and Access

The area lies in Franklin County, Idaho, and Cache County, Utah. All of the IRA is on the Cache National Forest. The Idaho portion of the IRA is administered by the Montpelier Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, and the Utah portion of the IRA is administered by the Logan Ranger District of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The area straddles the Utah-Idaho border and is located about eight miles west of Bear Lake. Access on the north is provided by the Egan Basin Road and on the east by the Beaver Creek Road. The west boundary is formed by Logan River Road. The Gibson Basin Road makes a corridor into the northern edge of the area.

Setting

The average elevation of the area is around 8,500 feet above sea level. The topography is quite gentle with a few steep and rocky slopes. Vegetation cover types include mountain brush, maple, aspen, sagebrush, and grass at lower elevations. Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, spruce, and subalpine fir occur along northern slopes.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - Most of the conifer stands in the area have been selectively logged in the past. The Franklin Basin timber sale (1996) was just south of the Danish Pass Road and just east of the Franklin Basin Road.

Recreation - The primary recreation pursuits are snowmobiling, hunting, and camping. A small, low-standard campground exists on the east boundary. The Highline National Recreation Trail is popular with OHV users, equestrians, and day hikers. Portions of the area are popular for back-country skiing.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Most of the area is authorized for livestock grazing.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - No recreation special use authorizations exist in the IRA nor are there any State or private lands within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails - The area has no system roads, but there are eleven miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered “moderate,” because portions of the area have been affected by timber harvest, unimproved roads, recreation use, and grazing. Roads penetrate the area to Horse Lake and Sink Hollow.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated as “moderate,” due to road intrusions.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered “low,” due to terrain.

Special Features or Attractions include Gibson Lakes.

Manageability is considered “fair,” due to existing road intrusions.

NEED

The area is rated “low” for unique landforms and non-motorized recreation needs. It has “moderate” values for wildlife needs and research purposes. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi, which is adjacent to the area. During the Forest Plan revision process, limited public interest was expressed for recommending this area for wilderness.

HELL HOLE ROADLESS AREA #04168

(5,309 ACRES)

Location and Access

Hell Hole Roadless Area is in Bear Lake County, Idaho on the Montpelier Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It lies about four miles east of Montpelier, Idaho. The Sheep Creek Road is south of the area, and the Bear Hollow Road cuts a corridor into the southern boundary.

Setting

The topography of the area is moderately steep and characterized by sagebrush and grass-covered slopes, with pockets of Douglas-fir on north and east aspects. Riparian vegetation covers the low areas along Montpelier Creek and Willow Spring. The average elevation of the area is 6,900 feet.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - No recent timber activity has occurred in the area.

Recreation - Most of the area is managed for semi-primitive motorized experiences year-round. Activities include snowmobiling and deer hunting.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases. Phosphate leases are adjacent to area.

Range - Most of the area is authorized for livestock grazing.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - There are no special use authorizations within the IRA. There is a FS radio repeater within the IRA. There are no State or private land in-holdings.

Roads and Trails - There are no system roads, but there are eleven miles of motorized system trails.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered “moderate,” because human activities are evident, including unimproved roads and livestock grazing.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated as “low,” due to small size of area, and agricultural activities are visible from most of the area.

Opportunities for primitive and challenging experiences are rated as “low,” due to the area’s small size.

Special Features or Attractions include areas of deer winter range.

Manageability of the area is considered “poor,” due to the area’s road intrusions. A core area could be achieved by placing boundaries on natural features, but the core area would be smaller than 5,000 acres.

NEED

The area is rated “low” for unique landforms and “low” for non-motorized recreation needs. It has “low to moderate” values for wildlife habitat. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During the Forest Plan revision process, limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

HUCKLEBERRY BASIN ROADLESS AREA #04165

(21,100 ACRES)

Location and Access

Huckleberry Basin Roadless Area is in Bear Lake and Caribou counties, Idaho on the Soda Springs Ranger District. The area lies six miles east of Soda Springs. Johnson Creek and Patters on Canyon roads provide access from the north. The Slug Creek Road forms the eastern boundary. The Left Fork of the Georgetown Canyon Road and the Red Pine Canyon Road provide access from the south. Big Canyon, Rattlesnake Canyon, Ninemile Creek, Fossil Canyon, Dry Canyon and Sulphur Canyon roads are found along the western boundary.

Setting

Topography of the area ranges from gentle to very steep. Elevation ranges from 8,302 feet at Sulphur Peak to about 6,000 feet near U.S. Highway 30. Vegetation includes sagebrush, grass, mountain brush, aspen, and patches of Douglas -fir and lodgepole pine on north and east facing slopes. Narrow stands of Douglas -fir and lodgepole pine are found on high, north-facing slopes.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment – Recent timber harvest activities are very evident in the area.

Recreation - Dispersed recreation use includes firewood gathering and hunting.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases. Phosphate leases and areas of high potential occur within the area.

Range - Livestock are authorized to graze most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - The area has one special use authorization for outfitting and guiding big game. Approximately 156 acres of State or private lands occur within the IRA.

Roads and Trails - The area has no system roads, but there are twenty-one miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered “low,” with evidence of unimproved roads, timber harvest activities, and mining.

Remoteness and Solitude rate as “low,” because of development.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered “very low” due to roads and timber harvest.

Special Features or Attractions - No special features or attractions have been identified in this IRA.

Manageability of the area is considered “poor,” due to road intrusions and timber harvest activities.

NEED

The area is rated as “low” for unique landforms and non-motorized recreation demands. It has “low to moderate” value for wildlife habitat. The nearest designated wildernesses are Mt. Naomi and Jedediah Smith Wilderness. During the Forest Plan revision process limited public interest was expressed for recommending this area for wilderness.

LIBERTY CREEK ROADLESS AREA #04175

(15,150 ACRES)

Location and Access

Liberty Creek Roadless Area is in Bear Lake and Franklin counties, Idaho on the Cache National Forest administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. The area is twelve miles west of Montpelier, Idaho. Access to the unit is from State Highway 36 on the northwest, the Copenhagen Canyon Road and the Power Line Road. Eastern access is from the Green Basin Road.

Setting

The area’s topography is moderate with vegetation of mountain brush, aspen, lodgepole pine and Douglas -fir. The average elevation is 7,700 feet above sea level.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - Several timber sales have occurred in this area.

Recreation - Snowmobiling, OHV use, hunting and skiing are popular in the area.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases. There is “low” potential for phosphate and locatable minerals.

Range - Livestock are authorized to graze most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - Two special use authorizations exist in the area: a water transmission ditch and a power line along Copenhagen Canyon. No acres of State or private lands occur within this IRA.

Roads and Trails - The area has no system roads, but there are nineteen miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered “low,” with evidence of some human activities, such as unimproved roads and timber harvest.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated as “low,” due to the area’s small size and road intrusions.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered “low” due to the area’s small size and road intrusions.

Special Features or Attractions – No special features or attractions have been identified in this IRA.

Manageability of the area is considered “poor” along roadless boundaries, due to road intrusions.

NEED

The area is rated as “low” for unique landforms and non-motorized recreation needs. It has “low to moderate” values for wildlife needs and research purposes. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During the Forest Plan revision effort, limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

MEAD PEAK ROADLESS AREA #04167

(44,585 ACRES)

Location and Access

Mead Peak Roadless Area is in Caribou and Bear Lake counties, Idaho on the Montpelier Ranger District. The center of this area is about twenty miles southwest of Afton, Wyoming. Road access to the area includes Georgetown Creek and Wells Canyon roads. The South Fork of the Deer Creek Road forms a corridor into the northern boundary. The eastern boundary is formed by the Crow Creek Road, and the southern boundary is the Montpelier Canyon Highway. The Home Canyon Road cuts a deep corridor into the southwestern edge. Bennington Canyon, Pine Canyon, and Little Threemile Canyon roads are found along the western edge of the area.

Setting

The area’s topography varies from gently sloping foothills to high, steep, subalpine mountains. Mead Peak is the highest point on the Forest at 9,953 feet above sea level. Conifer stands include Douglas -fir, lodgepole pine, and alpine fir; aspen occurs on all slopes.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - Recent timber harvest activities have occurred in the area.

Recreation - The area is popular for big game hunting, fishing, and camping.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases. There are phosphate leases within the area.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses -The area has no existing special use authorizations. Approximately 1,267 acres of State or private lands occur within the IRA.

Roads and Trails - There are no system roads, but there are fifty-two miles of motorized system trails.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is rated as “moderate,” because of the evidence of some human activities, such as unimproved roads and timber harvest activities.

Remoteness and Solitude rate as “moderate,” because of road intrusions into the area.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered “moderate” due to area’s size, but there are many road intrusions.

Special Features or Attractions include good wildlife and fish habitat. The IRA contains Mead Peak, the highest point on the Forest, and a Research Natural Area.

Manageability of the area is considered “poor,” due to road intrusions into the area. A core area, with boundaries along natural features, could be achieved.

NEED

The area is rated “low” for unique landforms and “moderate” for non-motorized recreation needs. It has “moderate” values for wildlife needs and research purposes. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During the Forest Plan revision process, limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

MINK CREEK ROADLESS AREA #04176

(16,344 ACRES)

Location and Access

Mink Creek Roadless Area is in Bear Lake and Franklin counties, Idaho on the Cache National Forest administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. It is located approximately twenty miles northeast of Preston, Idaho. Access from the north is on State Highway 36 and Mill Hollow Road. Dry Basin Road and the Horseshoe Basin Road form the eastern boundary. Birch Creek and Paris Canyon roads form the southern boundary.

Setting

Topography in the area is quite steep and rocky. Elevations range from 8,000 feet to 5,500 feet above sea level. Vegetation includes mountain maple, aspen, mahogany, Douglas -fir, sagebrush, and grass.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - Recent timber sale activities have occurred in this area.

Recreation - Dispersed recreation activities include motorized trail use, snowmobiling, and deer hunting.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases. The IRA has “low” locatable mineral potential.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area supports a water diversion under special use authorization.

Land Uses - The area has special use authorizations including a power line and a water diversion.

Roads and Trails - There are no system roads, but there are twenty-five miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is rated as “very high,” even though livestock facilities and unimproved roads are present in the area.

Remoteness and Solitude are considered “moderate” because of the area’s size and minimal natural screening.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated as “moderate”, the area is small in size, but does have some steep, rocky terrain.

Special Features or Attractions – No special features or attractions have been identified for this IRA.

Manageability of the area is considered “poor,” due to the area’s small size and road intrusions. A core area could be achieved by locating the boundaries on natural features.

NEED

The area is rated “low” for unique landforms and non-motorized recreation needs. It has “low to moderate” values for wildlife needs and research purposes. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During Forest Plan revision efforts, limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

Location and Access

The Idaho portion of the Mount Naomi Roadless Area is in Franklin County, Idaho on the Cache National Forest, administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. The area lies about four miles east of Franklin, Idaho. The Mt. Naomi Roadless Area originally included a total acreage of 94,068 acres within the states of Idaho and Utah. In 1984, Utah Wilderness legislation designated 44,350 acres of Mt. Naomi roadless area in Utah for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System. The public was notified that the remaining Idaho portion would be evaluated as part of the 1985 Caribou National Forest Plan. The major access roads to the area include Cub River Road on the north, Hillyard Canyon and Logan River roads on the east, and Sugar and Maple Creek roads on the west.

Setting

The IRA's topography includes rolling hills on the east and steep, rocky slopes near the interior of the area. Elevations vary from 6,000 feet to two peaks that exceed 9,000 feet. About fifty percent of the area gently slopes down to about 6,500 feet. Much of the higher elevations are exposed rock outcrops. Vegetation includes conifer stands on the north and east-facing slopes, with some aspen, mountain brush, and maple. Drainage bottoms also include maple and scattered conifer.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - Recent timber sales have occurred on the eastern boundary.

Recreation - Dispersed recreation includes snowmobiling, OHV use, and semi-primitive non-motorized summer use within the interior of the area.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized over most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - The area has one special use authorization for a water transmission line. About forty acres of State or private lands occur within the IRA.

Roads and Trails - There are no system roads, but there are thirteen miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered "very high," although some evidence of human activities are present.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated as "high," because of the area's large size.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered "high."

Special Features or Attractions include a large area for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation.

Manageability of the area is considered "poor" along the roadless area boundaries. A substantial core area would be achieved if boundaries were adjusted to exclude popular motorized trails and lower elevations.

NEED

The area is rated "high" for unique landforms and non-motorized recreation opportunity. It has "high" values for fish habitat and research purposes. The area is directly adjacent to the Mt. Naomi Wilderness in Utah. During the Forest Planning revision, high

public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness. This area was recommended for wilderness in the 1985 Forest Plan. Several conservation groups and individuals have actively supported wilderness designation for Mt. Naomi. Off-road vehicle users and some local organizations, concerned with watershed management opportunities, have expressed opposition to wilderness designation.

This area was listed for “roadless management” by the State of Idaho in Governor Evans’ letter of August 4th, 1983. It was included in Proposal number 4 of Senator McClure’s Issue Update dealing with wilderness proposals. The area was included in the 1986 Forest Plan settlement of no timber harvest till the year 2000.

NORTH PEBBLE ROADLESS AREA #04155

(5,480 ACRES)

Location and Access

The North Pebble Roadless Area is in Caribou County, Idaho on the Westside Ranger District. It is located nine miles northwest of Bancroft, Idaho. The Pebble Creek Road and the Wood Gulch Road form the eastern boundary of the North Pebble Roadless Area. The Hornet Canyon, King Creek and Gooding Canyon roads also provide access to the area.

Setting

The area’s topography is dominated by gently sloping terrain, making it non-typical of other forest roadless areas. The elevation varies from about 6,000 feet to 7,500 feet. Vegetation cover types include grass, forbs, and mountain brush, with a few scattered stands of aspen and conifer on north slopes.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - There has been recent timber harvest within the area.

Recreation - Activities include hiking, hunting, camping, and snowmobile use. The area receives heavy recreation use of all kinds.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on much of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - The area has one special use authorization for outfitting and guiding big game. A powerline and phosphate slurry line are located along the area’s perimeter.

Roads and Trails - There are no system roads, but there is a half-mile of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is rated as “moderate,” because the evidence of unimproved roads and timber harvest activities.

Remoteness and Solitude are considered “low,” because of the area’s small size and minimal natural screening.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated as “low” due to area’s small size.

Special Features or Attractions – No special features or attractions have been identified for this IRA.

Manageability of the area is considered “good” along inventoried boundaries.

NEED

The area is rated “moderate” for unique landforms and non-motorized recreation opportunity. It has “moderate” values for wildlife needs. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During the Forest Plan Revision effort limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

OXFORD MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA #04157

(40,870 ACRES)

Location and Access

The Oxford Mountain Roadless Area is in Bannock, Franklin and Oneida counties, Idaho on the Westside District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It includes the mountain range south of Downey, Idaho between U.S. Highway 91 and Interstate 15. Access includes the Deep Creek-Weston Canyon Road along the southwest border and the Cherry Creek Road. Other roads leading to the area include Rockslide Canyon, Clifton Basin, Fivemile Creek roads on the east; and First, Second, Third and Dry Creeks and New Canyon roads on the west.

Setting

Elevations in the IRA range from approximately 5,500 feet, rising to 9,282 feet at Oxford Peak. The area’s topography is typical of the region with steep sagebrush and grass slopes with patches of aspen and mountain maple. Narrow stands of Douglas -fir are found on northern slopes.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - No recent timber activity has occurred in the area.

Recreation - Recreation uses include OHV use, camping, and snowmobiling.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - One special use authorization exists for outfitting and guiding. No acres of State or private lands occur within the area.

Roads and Trails - The area has no system roads, but there are fifty-nine miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment rates as “moderate,” because of the presence of unimproved roads and livestock grazing.

Remoteness and Solitude rate “low,” due to the area’s size and minimal natural screening from valley developments.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered “low” due to area’s small size.

Special Features or Attractions – No special features or attractions have been identified for this IRA.

Manageability of the area is considered “poor” along inventoried boundaries, but a core area could be achieved by locating a boundary on natural features.

NEED

The area is rated “moderate” for unique landforms, and it has “high” value for non-motorized recreation opportunity. It has “moderate” values for wildlife needs. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During the Forest Plan revision, limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness. The area was included in the 1985 Forest Plan Settlement

Agreement, in which the Forest Service agreed to prohibit timber management activities until the year 2000.

PARIS PEAK ROADLESS AREA #04177

(8,815 ACRES)

Location and Access

The area lies in Bear Lake County, Idaho on the Cache National Forest administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. It is located six miles west of Bloomington, Idaho. Access on the north is by the Paris Canyon Road. The Bloomington Canyon and Middle Fork roads form the southern and western boundary. Harry's Hollow, Bloomington Canyon North Fork, and the Paris Flat roads also provide access to the area.

Setting

The lower reaches of the area are gently sloping, but Paris Peak rises sharply to 9,587 feet above sea level. The dominant vegetation cover is lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir. Aspen, mountain brush, sagebrush, and grass are found in the area.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - Most of the conifer stands have been selectively logged in the past.

Recreation - The primary recreation pursuits are snowmobiling, OHV use, skiing, hunting, and camping.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area has a special use authorization for a water diversion for the town of Paris.

Land Uses - Special use authorizations for the area include a water diversion, a winter yurt, a powerline, and a communication site on Paris Peak. No State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails - The area has no system roads, but there are three miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is rated "high," but portions of the area have been affected by timber harvest activities.

Remoteness and Solitude are considered "low," due to area's small size and road intrusions.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated "low" due to area's small size and road intrusions.

Special Features or Attractions - No special features or attractions have been identified for this IRA.

Manageability is considered "poor," due to existing road intrusions. A small core area could be achieved if boundaries followed natural features.

NEED

The area is rated "moderate" for unique landforms and "low" for non-motorized recreation needs. It has "moderate" values for wildlife needs and research purposes. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During Forest Plan Revision efforts, limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

Location and Access

Pole Creek Roadless Area is in Bonneville County, Idaho on the Soda Springs Ranger District and the Palisades Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The Targhee portion of the IRA is managed under the Targhee Forest Plan. The area is located about twelve miles north of Wayan, Idaho. Road access to the area is by the Brockman Creek Road, the McCoy Creek Road, and the Brockman Ridge Road.

Setting

The area's topography is comprised of rolling hills with a few moderately steep slopes. The average elevation is 7,000 feet above sea level. Vegetation types include aspen and mountain brush with small stands of Douglas -fir and lodgepole pine on north and east-facing slopes.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - The 1989 Brockman Timber Sale occurs along the eastern boundary.

Recreation - Most of the area is managed for semi-primitive motorized experiences. Activities include snowmobiling and hunting.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - The area has one special use authorization for outfitting and guiding. No acres of State or private lands occur within the area.

Roads and Trails - The area has no system roads, but there are six miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is rated "low," because human activities are evident, including unimproved roads and timber harvest activities.

Remoteness and Solitude rate "low," due to the area's small size.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated "low" due to small size and road intrusions.

Special Features or Attractions - No special features or attractions have been identified in this IRA.

Manageability of the area is considered "poor," due to the area's small size and motorized route.

NEED

The area is rated "low" for unique landforms and "low" for non-motorized recreation needs. It has "low" values for wildlife habitat. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During Forest Plan Revision efforts, limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

Location and Access

Red Mountain Roadless Area is in Bear Lake County, Idaho on the Montpelier Ranger District. The area lies four miles northwest of Geneva, Idaho and one mile west of the Idaho-Wyoming border. Access to the area is by the Elk Valley Road on the north, the Boulevard Road on the east, and the Crow Creek Road on the west.

Setting

The area's topography is comprised of gently sloping hills covered with sagebrush, grass, and mountain brush, rising to barren red rock cliffs near the summit of Red Mountain. Elevation ranges from 8,727 feet at Red Mountain to about 6,300 feet near Geneva. Small patches of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine are found on north and east-facing slopes.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - No recent timber harvest activity has occurred in this area.

Recreation - Dispersed recreation use includes OHV use, snowmobiling, and camping.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - The area has no special use authorizations. No acres of State or private lands occur within the IRA.

Roads and Trails - There are no system roads, but there are fourteen miles of motorized system trails.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is rated "very high," but evidence is present of grazing and unimproved roads.

Remoteness and Solitude are considered "low," because of the area's size and lack of natural screening.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated "low" due to area's small size and lack of screening.

Special Features or Attractions include barren, red rock cliffs near the summit of Red Mountain.

Manageability of the area is considered "fair;" although an improved exploration road bisects the area.

NEED

The area is rated "moderate" for unique landforms and "low" for non-motorized recreation demands. It has "moderate" value for wildlife habitat. The nearest designated wildernesses are Mt. Naomi and Jediah Smith Wilderness. During Forest Plan revision efforts, moderate public interest was expressed for recommending this area for wilderness, based on wildlife and non-motorized recreation values.

Location and Access

Sage Creek Roadless Area is in Caribou County, Idaho and administered by the Montpelier Ranger District and the Soda Springs Ranger District. This area is located ten miles southwest of Afton, Wyoming. The Timber Creek and Smoky Canyon roads access the area from the north. Pole Canyon, Sage Creek and Crow Creek roads approach the area from the east. Wells Canyon Road access the area from the southwest border. The Diamond Creek and Freeman Pass roads parallel the west border.

Setting

Elevations in the IRA range from 8,643 feet to 6,700 feet near Crow Creek. Vegetation on the north slopes includes Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine with aspen, mountain brush, sagebrush, and grass on west and south-facing slopes.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - Several timber sales have occurred in this area.

Recreation - OHV use and hunting are popular in the area.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases. Several phosphate leases and related special use authorizations exist in the area.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - The area has various phosphate activities, a phosphate slurry line and a powerline under special use authorization. No acres of State or private lands occur within the IRA.

Roads and Trails - There are no system roads, but there are twenty-five miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered “low,” with evidence of mining and timber harvest activities.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated “low,” due to the area’s small size, road intrusions, and mining activities.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered “low” due to the area’s small size and road intrusions.

Special Features or Attractions – No special features or attractions have been identified for this IRA.

Manageability of the area is considered “fair” along roadless boundaries. Road intrusions are present and adjacent mining activities are visible from the area.

NEED

The area is rated “low” for unique landforms and non-motorized recreation needs. It has “high” value for fish habitat. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During Forest Plan Revision efforts limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

Location and Access

Schmid Peak Roadless Area is in Caribou County, Idaho on the Soda Springs Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The area is about seventeen miles northeast of Soda Springs, Idaho. Road access from the north includes Mill Canyon, Mills Spring, Diamond Creek and Kendall Canyon roads. The Stewart Canyon Road parallels the south and west boundary. The Maybe Canyon Road provides access from the west.

Setting

The area's topography is moderately steep. Elevations range from 8,500 feet to 6,500 feet above sea level. West and south-facing slopes are covered with sagebrush, grass, mountain brush, and aspen. The north and east slopes support conifer stands.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - Recent timber harvesting activities have occurred in the area.

Recreation - The area is popular for camping, hiking, OHV use, and snowmobile use.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases. There are phosphate leases within the area.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - The area has three existing special use authorizations: one outfitter and guide, one powerline, and the phosphate slurry line. No acres of State or private lands occur within the IRA.

Roads and Trails - There are no system roads, but there are three miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is rated "low to moderate," with evidence of some unimproved roads, timber harvest, and mining activities.

Remoteness and Solitude are considered "low," because of road and mining intrusions.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated "low" with road intrusions and mining activities.

Special Features or Attractions - No special features or attractions have been identified for this IRA.

Manageability of the area is considered "very poor," due to road intrusions and the narrow width of area.

NEED

The area is rated "low" for unique landforms and "low" for non-motorized recreation needs. It has "moderate" values for wildlife needs. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During Forest Plan revision efforts limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

Location and Access

Scout Mountain Roadless Area is in Bannock County, Idaho, and is administered by the Westside Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It is located approximately thirteen miles southeast of Pocatello, Idaho. Access roads include Mink

Creek, South Fork, and East Fork roads. Other lower standard access roads include Indian Creek, Goodenough Creek, Kinney Creek, Lead Draw, Camp Tedoy, and Scout Mountain roads.

Setting

Topography in the area is quite steep with brush and grass covered slopes. Aspen stands are common, and small stringers of Douglas fir are found on north-facing slopes. Elevations range from 4,600 feet to 8,710 feet above sea level at Scout Mountain.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - Recent timber activity has occurred in the area.

Recreation - Dispersed recreational activities include motorized trail use, snowmobiling, and camping.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area supports a water diversion under a special use authorization.

Land Uses - Special use authorizations within the area include an outfitter and guide and an electronic site.

Roads and Trails - The area has no system roads, but there are twenty-six miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered “moderate,” because unimproved roads and timber harvest activities are evident in the area.

Remoteness and Solitude are considered “low,” because of the area’s size and minimal natural screening.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered “moderate.”

Special Features or Attractions – No special features or attractions have been identified in this IRA.

Manageability of the area is considered “poor,” due to the area’s small size and road intrusions. A substantial core area could be achieved by locating the boundaries on natural features.

NEED

The area is rated “moderate” for unique landforms and non-motorized recreation needs. It has “moderate” values for wildlife needs and research purposes. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During Forest Plan revision efforts, limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

SHERMAN PEAK ROADLESS AREA #04172

(7,760 ACRES)

Location and Access

The Sherman Peak Roadless Area is in Bear Lake County, Idaho on the Cache National Forest, administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. The area lies twelve miles south of Soda Springs, Idaho. Eightmile Creek Road provides access to the area from the northwest. The Skinner Canyon Road provides access from the east.

Setting

The area’s topography varies from moderate to quite steep. Most of the area is covered in lodgepole pine, but some aspen, mountain brush, sagebrush, and grass occur in the area. Sherman Peak rises 9,686 feet above sea level; the area’s low point is near Eightmile Creek at 6,500 feet above sea level.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - Timber harvesting activity has occurred in the IRA in the late 1980s.

Recreation - Dispersed recreation includes snowmobiling, OHV use, back-country skiing, and semi-primitive non-motorized summer use in the area's interior.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - The area has one communication site and a back-country yurt for avalanche forecasting under special use authorizations. No acres of State or private lands occur within the IRA.

Roads and Trails - There are no system roads, but there are eight miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered "moderate," because human activities are evident in unimproved roads and past timber harvest activities.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated as "low," because of the area's small size and lack of natural screening.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered "low" due to area's small size and lack of topographic and vegetative screening.

Special Features or Attractions – No special features or attractions have been identified in this IRA.

Manageability of the area is considered "fair" along the roadless area boundaries.

NEED

The area is rated as "low" for unique landforms and non-motorized recreation opportunities. It has "high" values for fish habitat, and "moderate" values for wildlife habitat. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During Forest Plan revision, efforts limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

SODA POINT ROADLESS AREA #04171

(23,130 ACRES)

Location and Access

The Soda Point Roadless Area is in Caribou and Bear Lake counties Idaho on the Cache National Forest, administered by the Montpelier District. It lies seven miles south of Soda Springs, Idaho. The Nelson Canyon Road provides access from the north, and the Eightmile Road provides access from the east. Cheatbeck and Cow Creek roads provide access to the area from the northwest. North Ant Canyon Road is on the southern boundary.

Setting

The area forms the northern tip of the Wasatch Range. The elevation varies from 8,921 feet at Soda Point to 6,600 feet near the Bear River. Southwest slopes are steep and rocky with juniper, sagebrush, and mountain mahogany. North and east slopes are gentle with lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, aspen and mountain brush.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - One recent timber sale has occurred in the area.

Recreation - Activities include hiking, hunting, OHV use, and snowmobiling.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area supports one municipal water use for the town of Grace.

Land Uses - The area has one special use authorization for a communication site.

Roads and Trails - There are no system roads, but there are forty-one miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is rated as “moderate,” because the area contains evidence of unimproved roads and timber harvest activities.

Remoteness and Solitude are considered “moderate,” because of the area’s moderate size and natural screening.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered “low” due to lack of screening.

Special Features or Attractions include a Research Natural Area.

Manageability of the area is considered “poor” along inventoried boundaries. A core area could be achieved if boundaries were placed on natural features.

NEED

The area is rated “moderate” for unique landforms and non-motorized recreation opportunities. It has “moderate” values for fish and wildlife needs. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During the Forest Plan revision process limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

STATION CREEK ROADLESS AREA #04178

(9,680 ACRES)

Location and Access

The Station Creek Roadless Area is in Franklin County, Idaho on the Cache National Forest administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. It is eleven miles northeast of Preston, Idaho. Access roads include Birch Creek Road on the north and east, and Cub River Road on the south. The Worm Creek and South Canyon Roads cherry-stem into the roadless area on the west.

Setting

The area is on the west slope of the Wasatch Range. Slopes are quite steep, but large benches and basins occur at upper elevations. Elevations average about 7,000 feet above sea level. Dominant vegetation includes sagebrush, grass, mountain brush, aspen, maple and some stringers of conifer on the north slopes.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - Recent timber sales have occurred in this area.

Recreation - Recreation uses are high and include OHV use, snowmobiling, and hunting.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - One special use authorization exists for a power line. No acres of State or private lands occur within the area.

Roads and Trails - The area has no system roads, but there are sixteen miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered “high,” but the area has been affected by unimproved roads and livestock grazing.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated “low,” due to the area’s size and minimal natural screening.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered “low” due to area’s small size.

Special Features or Attractions – No special features or attractions have been identified in this IRA.

Manageability of the area is considered “very poor” along inventoried boundaries; the distance between roads rarely exceeds two miles.

NEED

The area is rated as “low” for unique landforms. It has “low” value for non-motorized recreation opportunities. It has “moderate” values for wildlife needs. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During the Forest Plan revision effort limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

STAUFFER CREEK ROADLESS AREA #04173

(6,400 ACRES)

Location and Access

Stauffer Creek Roadless Area is in Bear Lake County, on the Cache National Forest administered by the Montpelier Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The area is 7 miles west of Georgetown, Idaho. Road access includes the Skinner Canyon Road, the South Stauffer Creek Road, the Mill Hollow Road, and the Meadow Creek Road.

Setting

Topography of the IRA is moderately sloping and vegetation cover is predominately lodgepole pine. The average elevation is 7,500 feet above sea level.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - The area has recent timber sales and past timber harvest is evident along the boundaries of the area.

Recreation - The area is popular for hunting, OHV use and snowmobiling.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - There are no special use authorizations within the area. No acres of State or private land occur within the area.

Roads and Trails - The area has no system roads, but there are thirty-seven miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered “low;” the area has been affected by roads and timber harvest.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated “low;” due to the area’s size and minimal natural screening.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered “low” due to area’s small size and road intrusions.

Special Features or Attractions – No special features or attractions have been identified in this IRA.

Manageability of the area is considered “fair” along inventoried boundaries; boundary adjustments would be limited within the small area.

NEED

The area is rated as “low” for unique landforms. Stauffer Creek has “high” value for fish habitat. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During the Forest Plan Revision effort limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

STUMP CREEK ROADLESS AREA #04162

(97,300 ACRES)

Location and Access

The Stump Creek Area is in Caribou County, Idaho and Lincoln County, Wyoming on the Soda Springs Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It is located twenty miles northeast of Soda Springs, Idaho and ten miles northwest of Afton, Wyoming. The Tincup Highway is the northern boundary of the area. Eastern access is on the Stump Creek Road. From the northeast side, Deer Creek, Limekiln Creek, and Water Canyon roads provide access to the area. The Smoky Canyon Road forms the southern boundary. Cabin Creek, Timothy Creek, Bacon Creek, and Brown Creek roads provide access to the area from the west.

Setting

Stump Creek is the largest roadless area on the Forest. Most of the acres are in Idaho. Only about 700 acres are in Wyoming. The area is located in the Caribou and Webster Mountain Ranges. The highest point in the IRA is Drainy Peak at 9,131 feet above sea level. The low point is around 6,000 feet above sea level near Star Valley, Wyoming. The area has moderately sloping hills covered with sagebrush, grass, and mountain brush with aspen and conifer at higher elevations.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - Recent timber sales have occurred in the area.

Recreation - The primary recreation pursuits are snowmobiling, OHV use, hunting, and camping.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water uses.

Land Uses - Special use authorizations include a power line and outfitting and guiding. No State or private land occurs within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails - There are no system roads, but there are one hundred and sixteen miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is rated as “high.” Unimproved roads, livestock grazing, and recreation impacts are evident in some portions of the area.

Remoteness and Solitude are considered “very high,” due to the area’s large size and low development.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated “high,” due to the remoteness of portions of the area.

Special Features or Attractions include the Historic Lander Trail, a large expanse of land for semi-primitive recreation, and a Research Natural Area.

Manageability is considered “fair.” A large core area could be achieved if boundaries followed natural features.

NEED

The area is rated as “moderate” for unique landforms and has “high” value for motorized and non-motorized recreation needs. It has “high” values for fish and wildlife habitat and research purposes. The nearest designated wildernesses are Mt. Naomi and Bridger.

During the Forest Plan Revision process, high public interest was expressed for recommending and against recommending the area for wilderness. This roadless area was identified in Proposal Number 4 of Senator McClure’s Issue Update dealing with wilderness proposals in 1983. It was not recommended for wilderness designation in the Idaho wilderness legislation in 1984. The area was included in the 1985 Forest Plan Settlement Agreement in which the Forest agreed to prohibit timber harvest until the year 2000.

SWAN CREEK ROADLESS AREA #04180

(IDAHO PORTION 7,430 ACRES)

Location and Access

Swan Creek Roadless Area is in Bear Lake and Franklin counties, Idaho on the Cache National Forest administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. The Wasatch-Cache NF portion, about 9,569 acres, is managed under the Wasatch-Cache Forest Plan. The area is located about three miles west of Fish Haven, Idaho. Road access from the north and east is on the Fish Haven and Logan Canyon roads respectively. Access from the west is on the Beaver Creek Road. The Old Logan Road is the western boundary.

Setting

The area’s topography is quite steep, but more rolling and gentle slopes appear at higher elevations. The average elevation is about 8,000 feet above sea level. Vegetation types include sagebrush, grass, mahogany, and maple on lower slopes, with aspen and fir types occurring at higher elevations.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - Recent timber sale activity has occurred in this area.

Recreation - Most of the area is managed for semi-primitive motorized experiences. Activities include snowmobiling and hunting.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - The area has no special use authorizations.

Roads and Trails - The area has no system roads, but there are eight miles of motorized system trails.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered “moderate,” because human activities are evident, including unimproved roads and timber harvest activities.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated “moderate,” due to the area’s size and some natural screening.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered “moderate” due to area’s size.

Special Features or Attractions – No special features or attractions have been identified in this IRA.

Manageability of the area is considered “poor,” due to the area’s small size and road intrusions.

NEED

The area is rated “low” for unique landforms and “low” for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation needs. It has “low” values for wildlife habitat. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During the Forest Plan Revision effort, limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

TELEPHONE DRAW ROADLESS AREA #04169

(4,920 ACRES)

Location and Access

Telephone Draw Roadless Area is in Bear Lake County, Idaho administered by the Montpelier Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. This area is located approximately seven miles east of Montpelier, Idaho. The northern boundary of the area is formed by Snowslide Canyon Road. U.S. Highway 89 forms the southern boundary. The area is accessible from the Montpelier Reservoir and the Crow Creek Road on the west.

Setting

The area’s topography is comprised primarily of steep terrain. Average elevation is 7,000 feet above sea level. Sagebrush, grass, mountain brush, and aspen make up the vegetation cover in the area.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - No timber harvest activities have occurred in this area.

Recreation - OHV use and snowmobiling are popular recreation activities in the area.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized for most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - The area has no special use authorizations.

Roads and Trails - There are no system roads, but there are four miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered “high,” with evidence of some unimproved roads.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated “low” due to the area’s small size.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are also rated “low” due to area’s small size and lack of screening.

Special Features or Attractions – No special features or attractions have been identified in this IRA.

Manageability of the area is considered “poor” due to the area’s small size.

NEED

The area is rated “low” for unique landforms and non-motorized recreation needs. It has “low” value for wildlife habitat. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During Forest Plan Revision efforts, limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

TOPONCE ROADLESS AREA #04153

(18,300 ACRES)

Location and Access

Toponce Roadless Area is in Bannock and Caribou counties, Idaho on the Westside Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The area is located about twelve miles east of Pocatello, Idaho. Road access from the south includes Inman Creek and Toponce Creek roads.

Setting

The area’s topography consists of gently sloping terrain and open valleys of grasses and forbs. Mountain slopes have brush and aspen cover with lodgepole pine and Douglas -fir on the north aspects. Elevations range from 8,000 feet to 5,500 feet above sea level.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - No recent timber activity has occurred in the area.

Recreation - The area is popular for hiking, skiing, and snowmobile use.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - Special use authorizations include one outfitter and guide, several back-country yurts and a phosphate slurry line. No acres of State or private land occur within the IRA.

Roads and Trails - There are no system roads, but there are two miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered “high,” even though the area displays evidence of human development, including several unimproved roads and old mining activities.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated “low” because of area’s small size and lower valley development is visible from most of the area.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered “moderate,” and back-country skiing in the area can be challenging.

Special Features or Attractions include back-country ski experiences.

Manageability of the area is considered “good,” due to the lack of development on surrounding lands.

NEED

The area is rated “low” for unique landforms and “high” for non-motorized recreation needs. It has “high” values for wildlife needs. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During Forest Plan Revision efforts, limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness. The area was included in the 1985 Forest Plan Settlement Agreement in which the Forest agreed to prohibit timber management activities till the year 2000.

WEST MINK ROADLESS AREA #04151

(20,650 ACRES)

Location and Access

West Mink Roadless Area is in Bannock and Power counties, Idaho and administered by the Westside Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It is located approximately six miles south of Pocatello, Idaho. Access roads include the Mink Creek Road (Bannock Highway), which borders the area along the southeast. The area is also bordered on the west by the Fort Hall Indian Reservation and on the southwest by Bureau of Land Management administered lands.

Setting

The area’s topography is steep with grass and brush covered slopes. Some patches of aspen and stringers of Douglas-fir occur on the north slopes. Elevations range from 5,000 feet to 7,000 feet above sea level.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - Recent timber sales have occurred in the area.

Recreation - Dispersed recreational activities include OHV use, hiking, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area supports a non-culinary water line for the City of Pocatello under a special use authorization.

Land Uses - Special use authorizations within the area include a powerline, a waterline, and outfitting and guiding.

Roads and trails - The area has no system roads, but there are twenty-seven miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is rated as “moderate,” because unimproved roads and timber harvest activities are evident in the area.

Remoteness and Solitude are considered “low,” because of the area’s size, road intrusions, and minimal natural screening.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated as “moderate,” and back-country skiing in the area can be challenging.

Special Features or Attractions include areas for non-motorized recreation use, and two Research Natural Areas.

Manageability of the area is considered “poor,” due to the area’s small size and road intrusions. A substantial core area could be achieved by locating the boundaries on natural features.

NEED

The area is rated “low” for unique landforms but “high” for non-motorized recreation needs. It has “moderate” values for wildlife needs and research purposes. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During Forest Plan revision efforts, limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

WILLIAMS CREEK ROADLESS AREA #04174

(9,920 ACRES)

Location and Access

Williams Creek Roadless Area is in Franklin and Bear Lake counties, Idaho on the Cache National Forest administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. The area is about fifteen miles west of Montpelier, Idaho. The south boundary is State Highway 36. The eastern edge is deeply penetrated by Squirrel Hollow Road. The Williams Canyon Road forms the southwest boundary. The Post Hollow Road makes a deep corridor into the western boundary.

Setting

The topography of the area is moderately steep. Major vegetation cover includes maple, sagebrush, grass, and juniper with aspen and conifer on northern slopes. The average elevation is 7,400 feet above sea level.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - Several recent timber sales have occurred in the area.

Recreation - Dispersed recreation includes snowmobiling, OHV use, and camping.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water - The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - The area has two power lines under special use authorization. No acres of State or private land occur within the IRA.

Roads and Trails - The area has no system roads, but there are fourteen miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is considered “moderate,” even though human activities are present, including unimproved roads and timber harvest activities.

Remoteness and Solitude are rated “low,” because of the area’s small size and lack of natural screening.

Opportunity for primitive recreation and challenging experiences is rated “low” due to area’s small size.

Special Features or Attractions – No special features or attractions have been identified in the IRA.

Manageability of the area is considered “very poor” on the roadless area boundaries, due to road intrusions and the area’s narrow width.

NEED

The area is considered “low” for unique landforms and non-motorized recreation opportunity. It has “low” values for fish habitat and for wildlife habitat. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During the Forest Plan Revision process limited public interest was expressed for recommending the area for wilderness.

Location and Access

The Worm Creek Roadless Area is in Franklin and Bear Lake counties, Idaho on the Cache National Forest administered by the Montpelier District. It is eight miles west of St. Charles, Idaho. The Bloomington Canyon and Paris Flat roads provide access to the area on the north, and Dry Creek, Worm Creek, Dry Canyon, and St. Charles Canyon roads provide access from the east.

Setting

The area includes flat to gentle-sloping hills to high elevation basins and steep, rocky mountain peaks. Glacial land types are evident. The elevation varies from 9,000 feet to 6,600 feet above sea level. Much of the higher elevations are exposed rock outcrops. Vegetation consists of large stands of Douglas -fir and lodgepole pine with meadow type vegetation in the high basins. Stands of aspen and maple add dramatic color in the fall.

AVAILABILITY

Vegetation Treatment - There has been recent timber sales in the area.

Recreation - Activities include hiking, hunting, OHV, and snowmobile use.

Minerals - The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Range - Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Water -The area has no municipal water use.

Land Uses - The area has no special use authorizations.

Roads and Trails - There are no system roads, but there are thirty-seven miles of motorized system trail.

CAPABILITY

Naturalness of the environment is rated “very high,” even though some evidence of unimproved roads and timber harvest activities exist.

Remoteness and Solitude are considered “moderate,” because of the moderate size of the area and natural screening.

Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated as “high” due to rocky, steep terrain at higher elevations.

Special Features or Attractions include Bloomington Lake and its non-motorized recreation setting in the summer, and a Research Natural Area.

Manageability of the area is considered “poor” along inventoried boundaries. A core area could be achieved if boundaries were placed on natural features.

NEED

The area is rated as “high” for unique landforms and non-motorized recreation opportunity. It has “moderate” to high values for fish and wildlife needs. The nearest designated wilderness is Mt. Naomi. During the Forest Plan revision process, considerable public interest was expressed for recommending and against recommending the area for wilderness. This area was identified in Proposal Numbers 2, 3, and 4 of Senator McClure’s Issue Update dealing with wilderness proposals in 1983. The Administration recommended 16,000 acres of this area to Congress for wilderness designation as a result of Rare II. This roadless area was not listed in the State of Idaho’s wilderness recommendations. The Idaho Forest Management Act, introduced in March 1984, included a 15,770-acre proposed wilderness in Worm Creek.

During the roadless area re-evaluation some support for wilderness designation was expressed by the Idaho Conservation Coalition. The group proposed 21,000 acres within the area for wilderness designation. A portion of the area was recommended for wilderness in the 1985 Forest Plan, in the 1987 McClure-Andrus Wilderness Proposal, in the 1992 Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act Proposed Wilderness and in the 1992 Idaho Conservation League Wilderness Proposal. The area was included in the 1985 Forest Plan Settlement Agreement in which the Forest agreed to prohibit timber harvest till the year 2000.

• *Table C-1. Summary of Wilderness Characteristics Evaluation of Inventoried Roadless Areas.*

Characteristics	Bear Creek	Bonneville Peak	Caribou City	Clarkston	Deep Creek
Natural Environment	Moderate to Low	High	High	Moderate	Moderate
Solitude	Moderate	Moderate	High	Low	Low
Primitive Recreation	Moderate	Moderate	High	Low	Low
Challenge	Moderate	Moderate	High	Low	Low
Special Features	Elk Habitat	Back-country Ski	Historic Mining, Non-motorized hunt experience	Deer Habitat Research Natural Area	Deer Habitat
Manageability	Fair	Poor (Core area*)	Fair (Core area*)	Poor	Poor
Social Needs	Public Interest**	Public Interest**	Public Interest**	None Identified	None Identified
Biological Needs	Wildlife	Wildlife	Wildlife	Wildlife	Wildlife
Availability Concerns	Communication site	Motorized trail use Pebble Ck Ski Area Slurryline Inholdings	Historic area management Inholdings	Motorized trail use Inholdings Water lines	Motorized trail use Water lines

* Rating is based on IRA boundary; a core area could be achieved by placing boundaries on natural features.

** Public Interest in seeing an area recommended for Wilderness.

•Table C-1. Summary of Wilderness Characteristics Evaluation of Inventoried Roadless Areas (Cont.)

Characteristics	Dry Ridge	Elkhorn Mountain	Gannett-Spring Creek	Gibson	Hell Hole
Natural Environment	Moderate to Low	High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Solitude	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Low
Primitive Recreation	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low
Challenge	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Special Features	None Identified	Deer Habitat	Crow Creek Road Elk Valley Marsh (W&S)	Gibson Lakes	Deer Winter Range
Manageability	Poor	Poor (Core area*)	Poor (Core area*)	Fair	Poor
Social Need	None Identified	Public Interest**	Public Interest**	None Identified	None Identified
Biological Need	None Identified	Wildlife	Wildlife	Wildlife	None Identified
Availability Concerns	Motorized trail use Slurryline Phosphate leases	High motorized trail use Powerline	Motorized trail use	Motorized trail use	Motorized trail use

* Rating is based on IRA boundary; a core area could be achieved by placing boundaries on natural features.

** Public Interest in seeing an area recommended for Wilderness.

•Table C.1. Summary of Wilderness Characteristics Evaluation of Inventoried Roadless Areas (Cont.)

Characteristics	Huckleberry	Liberty Creek	Mead Peak	Mink Creek	Mount Naomi
Natural Environment	Low	Low	Moderate	Very High	Very High
Solitude	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High
Primitive Recreation	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High
Challenge	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High
Special Features	None Identified	None Identified	Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Research Natural Area	None Identified	Large non-motorized area
Manageability	Poor	Poor	Poor (Core area*)	Poor (Core area*)	Poor (Core area*)
Social Need	None Identified	None Identified	None Identified	None Identified	Public interest **
Biological Need	None Identified	None Identified	Wildlife	None Identified	Fish and Wildlife
Availability Concerns	High motorized trail use Firewood	Motorized trail use Waterline Powerline	Motorized trail use Inholdings, Phosphate leases	Motorized trail use Waterline Powerline	Motorized trail use Inholding

* Rating is based on IRA boundary; a core area could be achieved by placing boundaries on natural features.

** Public Interest in seeing an area recommended for Wilderness.

• *Table C.1. Summary of Wilderness Characteristics Evaluation of Inventoried Roadless Areas (Cont.)*

Characteristics	North Pebble	Oxford Peak	Paris Peak	Pole Creek	Red Mountain
Natural Environment	Moderate	Moderate	High	Low	Very High
Solitude	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Primitive Recreation	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Challenge	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Special Features	None	None	None	None	Red Cliffs
Manageability	Good	Poor (Core Area*)	Poor (Core Area*)	Poor	Fair
Social Need	None Identified	None Identified	None Identified	None Identified	Public Interest**
Biological Need	Wildlife	Wildlife	Wildlife	None Identified	Wildlife
Availability Concerns	Slurry line, Powerline	High motorized trail use	Communication Site, Water line, Powerline	Motorized Trail Use	Motorized Trail Use

* Rating is based on IRA boundary; a core area could be achieved by placing boundaries on natural features.

** Public Interest in seeing an area recommended for Wilderness.

•Table C.1. Summary of Wilderness Characteristics Evaluation of Inventoried Roadless Areas (Cont.)

Characteristics	Sage Creek	Schmid Peak	Scout Mountain	Sherman Peak	Soda Point
Natural Environment	Low	Moderate to Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Solitude	Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate
Primitive Recreation	Low	Low	Moderate	Low	Low
Challenge	Low	Low	Moderate	Low	Low
Special Features	None Identified	None Identified	None Identified	None Identified	Research Natural Area
Manageability	Fair	Very Poor	Poor (Core area*)	Fair	Poor (Core area*)
Social Need	None Identified	None Identified	None Identified	None Identified	None Identified
Biological Need	Fish Habitat	Wildlife	Wildlife	Fish and Wildlife	Fish and Wildlife
Availability Concerns	Motorized trail use Phosphate leases Slurryline Communication site	Some motorized trail use Phosphate leases Slurry line	Motorized trail use Communication site Developed and Dispersed recreation management	Motorized trail use A Yurt Communication site	High motorized trail use Communication site

* Rating is based on IRA boundary; a core area could be achieved by placing boundaries on natural features.

** Public Interest in seeing an area recommended for Wilderness.

•Table C.1. Summary of Wilderness Characteristics Evaluation of Inventoried Roadless Areas (Cont.)

Characteristics	Station Creek	Stauffer Creek	Stump Creek	Swan Creek Mountain	Telephone Draw
Natural Environment	High	Low	High	Low	High
Solitude	Low	Low	Very high	Low	Low
Primitive Recreation	Low	Low	High	Low	Low
Challenge	Low	Low	High	Low	Low
Special Features	None Identified	None Identified	Historic Lander Trail, Research Natural Area	None Identified	None Identified
Manageability	Very Poor	Fair	Fair (Core area*)	Poor	Poor
Social Need	None Identified	None Identified	Public Interest**	None Identified	None Identified
Biological Need	Wildlife	Fish	Fish and Wildlife	None Identified	None Identified
Availability Concerns	Motorized trail use Powerline	Motorized trail use	Historic Site Management High motorized trail use Phosphate leases Powerlines	Motorized trail use	Motorized trail use

* Rating is based on IRA boundary; a core area could be achieved by placing boundaries on natural features.

** Public Interest in seeing an area recommended for Wilderness.

• *Table C.1. Summary of Wilderness Characteristics Evaluation of Inventoried Roadless Areas (Cont.)*

Characteristics	Toponce	West Mink	Williams Creek	Worm Creek
Natural Environment	High	Moderate	Moderate	Very High
Solitude	Low	Low	Low	Moderate
Primitive Recreation	Moderate	Moderate	Low	High
Challenge	Moderate	Moderate	Low	High
Special Features	Back-country skiing Semi-Primitive Non-motorized area (summer)	Semi-Primitive Non-motorized area (year-round) Two Research Natural Areas	None Identified	Bloomington Lake, Research Natural Area
Manageability	Good	Poor (Core area*)	Very Poor	Poor (Core area*)
Social Need	None Identified	None Identified	None Identified	Public Interest**
Biological Need	Wildlife	Wildlife	None Identified	Unique Landforms
Availability Concerns	Slurryline Yurt system	Motorized trail use Powerline Waterline Inholdings	Motorized trail use Power lines	Motorized trail use Recreation Management at Bloomington Lake

* Rating is based on IRA boundary; a core area could be achieved by placing boundaries on natural features.

** Public Interest in seeing an area recommended for Wilderness.