

Caribou-Targhee NF

Caribou-Targhee NF
1405 Hollipark Dr.
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
(208) 557-5760

Final Environmental Impact Statement

Appendix R-- Roadless Area Re-Evaluations

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Roadless Area Re-Evaluations

Introduction

This Appendix contains a re-evaluation of the thirty-four IRAs on the Caribou NF. First the purpose and goals of the appendix will be explained, followed by a discussion on the re-evaluation process, and then a conclusion with the re-evaluation data and the selected management directions/prescriptions for each IRA¹. The IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation Tables are the primary source of data that was assembled and processed by an interdisciplinary team of specialists. The tables contain an assessment of IRA resources based on Analysis Characteristics discussed/defined below, as well as specialist prescription recommendations, and can be found in the Re-Evaluated IRA's section listed by roadless area.

Not all potential uses of IRAs have been evaluated in this process. Only those activities which were restricted in Alternative 7 as a result of the Roadless Area Conservation Initiative (RACI) were assessed. Some uses, such as grazing and water yield would not have changed in response to the RACI; therefore they are not specifically addressed in this Appendix.

PURPOSE AND GOAL OF APPENDIX R

The existing IRAs were mapped in 1985 as a part of the Forest Service's Roadless Area Review and Evaluation process. For more information about the original RARE II inventory process, as well as the original roadless area evaluations, see Appendix C of the 1985 Forest Plan EIS. This 1985 Appendix has been updated and appears as Appendix C in the 2002 Revised Forest Plan.

In 1996, the Caribou National Forest (CNF) completed an IRA re-inventory to capture and map the changes in the undeveloped character of the Caribou's thirty-four IRAs from 1985 to 1996. The inventory identified: the original IRA boundaries; acres within the IRA that were altered and no longer met roadless criteria described in the Forest Service Handbook 1909.12; acres that had pre-existing constructed roads that were not identified in 1985; as well as adjacent acres that were not identified as roadless, but met roadless criteria.

In 1999 the Forest IRAs were reviewed again when President Clinton passed the Roadless Area Conservation Initiative (RACI) and the Forest Service initiated the Roadless Area Conservation EIS² on a national scale. The RACI established management requirements for IRAs to insure preservation for future generations.

Management direction for Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) was analyzed on a national scale through the Roadless Areas Conservation EIS, initiated by the Forest Service in the fall of 1999. In fall of 2000, the Forest Service issued the Roadless Area Conservation Rule which prohibited timber harvest and road building in inventoried roadless areas (36 CFR 294). Harvest for stewardship reasons could be done, however. Several groups and states sued the Forest Service, alleging that there had not been adequate public involvement. The Idaho District Court agreed and in May of 2001, the RACR was enjoined. Several environmental groups appealed this decision to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, on behalf of the government. In December of 2002, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals rescinded the injunction imposed by the lower Court. The Plaintiffs have requested that the entire 9th Circuit panel of judges review the ruling. This request is pending.

Meanwhile, the Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, determined that while it was necessary to protect Roadless Area values, it

¹ Inventoried Roadless Area, typically undeveloped tracts of National Forest System land, originally mapped as part of RARE II. See Glossary for additional criteria.

² Environmental Impact Statement- See Glossary.

would be more appropriately done at a local level. The Forest Service issued Interim Directives and an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking describing how to evaluate roadless areas for potential management. The Forest Service has reviewed public comments on the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making. A new Final Roadless Rule should be issued soon.

The RACR was in effect at the time the Draft EIS was issued, in May of 2001. The preferred alternative in the DEIS, Alternative 7, incorporated the RACR. Following the court injunction, forest managers determined that a re-evaluation of roadless areas was necessary. This review and process is described in detail in Appendix R of the FEIS. In this evaluation of roadless areas, the Forest followed the process outlined in the ANPR; Secretary Veneman's considerations for roadless area management (described below); and direction in the 1982 planning regulations. The recommendations from this re-evaluation have been used to develop Alternative 7R, the Selected Alternative in the Record of Decision. Secretary Veneman's five principles for evaluating Inventoried Roadless Areas are:

1. **Informed Decision-making** - Forest Service will examine more reliable information and accurate mapping, including drawing on local expertise and experience through the local forest planning process.
2. **Working Together** - Forest Service will work with states, tribes, local communities and the public through a process that is fair, open and responsive to local input and information.
3. **Protecting Forests** - Forest Service will protect roadless areas from the negative effects of severe wildfire, insect, and disease activity.
4. **Protecting Communities, Homes, and Property** - Forest Service will work to protect communities, homes, and property from the risk of severe wildfire and other risks that might exist on adjacent federal lands.
5. **Protecting Access to Property** - Forest Service will ensure that states, tribes, and private citizens who own property within roadless areas have access to their property as required by existing law.

THE INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA (IRA) RE-EVALUATION PROCESS

With the purpose of ensuring that the Final EIS would reflect current federal policy, a team of interdisciplinary specialists were asked to re-evaluate the Forest's thirty-four IRA's using Secretary Veneman's five principles as a context for developing future management options for the Forest's roadless areas. Through the Forest planning process, IRAs may be managed for potential wilderness³, back-country recreation, or other resource emphases, such as commodity use. The goal of this process was to determine appropriate prescriptions for effective management of the IRAs using an ecosystem management perspective, which takes into account federal, state, and local laws/regulations, scientific data, and public concerns. A listing of applicable laws, policies and regulations can be found in Appendix A of the Caribou National Forest Revised Forest Plan. The major steps of this process, and how they were addressed, follow:

1. Public comments on the Draft EIS, particularly those pertaining to the future management of the Caribou National Forest's thirty-four roadless areas, were used to identify the roadless areas that are important to the public and to discern how the public would like them to be managed. A sampling of *General Roadless Area* public comments is displayed below. *IRA Specific* public comments are summarized under each separate IRA re-evaluation.
2. A team of Forest specialists used a set of criteria (or characteristics) to identify important physical and biological features of each inventoried roadless area. Current laws, regulations, policies, and direction were also guiding factors in their research. Management prescription recommendations are based on the IDT findings. Laws, regulations, policies, and direction that guided specialists' efforts are listed below. The re-evaluation criteria led specialists to Resource Findings and subsequent Prescription Recommendations that are listed on the separate Characteristics Table found under each specific roadless area write-up.
3. All of the resource findings were synthesized and used to evaluate management prescriptions on an IRA-by-IRA basis by the IDT and District Rangers. During this review, the IDT compared the specialists' prescription recommendations to the original Alternative 7 in the DEIS, considered public comments pertinent to the IRA being discussed, and made suggested recommen-

³ Roadless areas qualify for wilderness recommendation if, in addition to meeting the statutory definition for wilderness, they contain 5,000 acres or more (or if they are less than 5,000 acres, they must be a self-contained ecosystem such as an island), or they are contiguous to other existing wilderness, primitive or roadless areas in Federal ownership and they do not contain improved roads maintained for travel by standard passenger-type vehicles (Forest Service Handbook 1909.12).

ditions for prescriptions changes to Alternative 7R. The rationale for each prescription recommendation is found under each separate IRA write-up.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL ROADLESS AREA PUBLIC COMMENTS

During the public comment period on the Forest Plan Draft EIS, many people provided general comments on future management options for roadless areas. These comments provided the IDT with a general overview of how the public wants the Forest's Roadless Areas managed in the future. Comments ranged from full protection to full development of all thirty-four roadless areas. Many commentors believe roadless areas should be conserved for future generations while others believe these public lands should be open and available for public use today. The array of comments the Forest received reflects the importance and value the public holds for these special places. While conflict is inherent in public land management, the responsibility of the Forest Service is to evaluate these conflicts, to balance uses within the land's capability, and to determine how these areas will be used now and in the future. To illustrate the difficulty of this task, the following sampling of comments shows the variety of values people hold regarding the Forest's roadless areas. Additional general comments can be found in the Analysis of Public Comments in the Public Involvement Section in the FEIS.

1. IRAs show us the "America" that our ancestors saw. We should conserve our heritage by maintaining roadless and wilderness areas.
2. Public lands are supposed to be managed for multiple-use, and locking off large sections for politics, for the rich, or for environmental groups is not in the best interest of American citizens.
3. Since when do industries (i.e. mining, lumber, and livestock) take precedence over conservation of natural resources (i.e. water, habitat, and wildlife)?
4. When did wild animals become more important than people and the families that they are trying to support?
5. Protect and restore damaged habitat (i.e. soils, vegetation, and watersheds) by prohibiting logging, mining and road building and leaving the Forest to natural processes.
6. All Forest resources are renewable and/or sustainable when reasonably managed and used. Forest health is not improved with management for wilderness/roadless preservation.
7. IRAs should be fully protected because undeveloped land is generally healthier than developed areas and if IRAs are subjected to increased use, they will no longer provide their existing influences on ecosystem health and sustainability.

RE-EVALUATION CRITERIA/CHARACTERISTICS

Resource specialists assigned to re-evaluate the thirty-four IRAs used the following criteria, originally identified in the 1999 Roadless Area Conservation FEIS, to analyze roadless area resources. In an effort to tailor these criteria to the Forest, some additional criteria have been added and the definitions of others have been updated. Each specialist evaluated their assigned IRA resource using the established evaluation criteria. When considering each criterion, the specialists documented their Resource Findings and in most cases assigned an Assessment Rating to those findings. Prescription recommendations were made for the management of each IRA, from the perspective of their resource area.

Tables displaying the resource findings, assessment ratings and management prescription recommendations are included in the section of this appendix that discusses each individual inventoried roadless area. Roadless Area discussions are organized alphabetically. The data within each table is *specific* to that IRA. However, each specialist also incorporated *general* data pertaining to most or all of the thirty-four IRAs. This general information, as well as an explanation of how each specialist addressed the columns of the table (Resource Findings, Assessment Rating, and Prescription Recommendations), is discussed by Re-Evaluation Criteria below. The following specialist narratives explain:

1. The information sources used by each resource specialist in order to complete his/her re-evaluation report (i.e. GIS⁴ map layers, studies, reports, etc.).
2. Any general resource findings, terminology, circumstances, or other information that applies to most or all of the 34 IRAs.

⁴ Geographic Information Systems, computer database/programs used for making maps (See Glossary for definition).

3. A discussion of the assessment ratings, which illustrate the intensity level of each Re-Evaluation Characteristic, and how each specialist defined his/her own assessment rating standards, based on the research criteria for the specific characteristics that he/she was re-evaluating.
4. The management prescription recommendation(s) that each specialist made based on the findings of his/her re-evaluation report. (Management direction, outlined in prescriptions, explains what uses are allowed on specific land areas and to what extent those uses are permitted. The specialists selected existing management prescriptions from the 2001 Caribou National Forest, Draft Revised Forest Plan.)

Cultural Resources, Traditional Cultural Properties, and Sacred Sites

Due to the site-specific nature of heritage data, this Re-Evaluation Characteristic does not appear as a category on the IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation Tables. Locations of Sacred Sites and other heritage resources are confidential as required by Executive Order 13007, and this information is also exempt from the Freedom of Information Act. To protect these irreplaceable resources, specific information is not disclosed in this Appendix.

Cultural Resources: Identified as those resources either directly or indirectly related to the material life ways of a cultural group(s) (36 CFR 296.3). Cultural resources may refer to sites, areas, buildings, structures, districts, and objects, which possess scientific, historic, and/or social values.

Traditional Cultural Properties: Generally defined as properties eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places because of their association with cultural practices or the beliefs of a living community that are: (a.) rooted in that community's history; and/or (b.) important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.

Sacred Sites: Any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe (or an Indian individual determined to be an appropriate, authoritative representative of an Indian religion) as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the tribe, or the authoritative representative, has informed the agency of the existence of such a site.

For the purposes of this analysis Caribou Forest Heritage Resources Project and Site records were used to determine areas that have undergone Heritage Resources analysis and where archaeological and historic resources locations are presently known within the Caribou National Forest. (There are over 400 cultural resource surveys that have been conducted and are on record at the Caribou-Targhee National Forest Supervisor's Office.) Other resources included *Basis-Plateau Aboriginal Socio-political Groups*, by Julian Steward and Murphy and Murphy's: *Northern Shoshone Culture Areas*. These resources were included in order to provide ethnographic research to supplement the project driven archaeological survey conducted in most of the analysis areas. Most of the archaeology previously completed in these areas is the result of projects being planned or implemented in the area; this "piecemeal" approach to archaeological investigations creates a situation where broad areas of the Forest are not investigated. Project driven research is usually confined to a delineated area and areas where traditional cultural properties and sacred sites *may* be encountered are defined and avoided as a mitigation measure. Ethnographic information is important knowledge for consideration of Traditional Cultural Properties and sacred sites.

Caribou Targhee Site and Project Atlas

Although it would be advisable to interview knowledgeable Tribal Members and Spiritual Leaders for each of the proposed areas, due to the reluctance of Knowledgeable Tribal Members and Spiritual leaders to share this information, this has not been accomplished.

Resource Findings and Assessment Ratings

Locations of Cultural Properties and Sacred Sites, although variable, are many times located on high points and ridges. Based on ethnographic research and general archaeological data, prehistoric, historic, and contemporary Native Americans utilize high points and ridges for a variety of spiritual and cultural activities.

All drainage and creeks have very high potential for significant heritage resources. Based on the preliminary baseline data, a general site distribution, or predictive model can be inferred. The areas near drainages and creeks that run into these drainages can be predicted, based on the presence or absence of water.

Where appropriate, the Forest Service shall maintain the confidentiality of known and/or discovered sacred sites in accordance with Executive Order 13007, May 24, 1996.

The IRAs are rated on the basis of previously surveyed areas, previously recorded archaeological and/or historic materials, ethnographic information, and the potential of locating additional significant cultural resource sites. Archaeological sites can

and have been found in most environments on the forest. However, the majority of them area located within a mile of water and on slopes of less than ten degrees. It would be unlikely to find sources in areas that have had ground disturbing activities in them previously (that did not turn up any sources), and/or that are far from water sources, and/or on slopes greater than ten degrees. IRAs with high source potential will be discussed in IRA Specific Data Narratives below. However, IRAs with moderate or low potential will not be addressed unless there is a unique element within them.

Resource Specific Prescription Recommendations

All ground disturbing activities will be surveyed and evaluated by a professional archaeologist in order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as mandated to all Federal Agencies. Government-to-Government consultation with interested Native American Tribes and consultation with other interested and/or knowledgeable parties.

Access and ceremonial use of any existing or newly discovered Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners will be granted in accordance with Executive Order 13007, May 24, 1996. Surveying, consultation, and/or mitigation measures will be instituted in order to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites. The designation of a site as sacred must be determined in consultation with local Native American Groups.

Known properties that are eligible or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as future properties as they are discovered, will be protected/mitigated from activities which may have an adverse affect on the historic/archaeological integrity of the property. Mitigation measures will be created in consultation with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and Native American groups for further research and interpretation as necessary. Cultural resource site locations are not disclosed in this document. In order to protect and preserve cultural resources, detailed description and locations are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act as stated in the Forest Service Policy (FSH 6209.13, section 11.12) in accordance with the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 170hh) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470w-3). Such information is disclosed in full to the SHPO in order to facilitate decisions on sites which should be included on the NRHP, or which sites should be designated as significant.

Soil Resources

Soil resources are the foundation upon which other resource values and outputs depend. Healthy watersheds provide clean water for domestic, agricultural, and industrial uses. They also help maintain viable fish and wildlife populations and are the basis for many forms of outdoor recreation.

Soil characteristics and limitations are often used to determine land use capabilities in forestland management. Examples of soil characteristics are soil permeability, soil depth and available water holding capacity. Examples of soil limitations are erosion potential, mass stability and compaction potential. Soil characteristics determine soil limitations. The Soil Survey of the Caribou National Forest (USDA 1990), the Preliminary Landslide Study Eastern Caribou Forest (USDA 1969), and Caribou National Forest GIS map layers were used to re-evaluate the thirty-four IRAs from a soil stability and erosion hazard perspective.

Information about soil characteristics and limitations contained in the Soil Survey was used to determine land types with high mass movement potential and erosion potential. This information is found in Tables 1 through 6 in the Caribou National Forest Soil Survey. Areas with landslide potential were also documented in the Preliminary Landslide Study Eastern Caribou Forest in 1969. Information from this study was used to verify the findings in the Soil Survey for the eastern portion of the Forest. GIS maps were used to determine the special area within each IRA that has high mass instability and high erosion potential. This information is the best available data for this area and for this analysis.

Resource Findings and Assessment Ratings

The detrimental effects of soil erosion can often be mitigated when any management prescription is implemented on the ground (intensive such as road construction and timber harvest or less intensive such as dispersed recreation use). The soil erosion potential of each IRA is presented in the tables as a reference point for decision making, but it was not used to determine the IRA Assessment Rating, nor as a criteria for the Prescription Recommendation, because management effects on it can be mitigated. IRAs with high erosion potential generally produce more sediment to streams and have lower water quality than those with low erosion potential. Erosion potentials for land types are used by land management personnel to evaluate various land management options for a given area. For example, if an area has high erosion potential one option is to create larger buffer strips in timber harvest areas to reduce erosion or to restrict activities to areas with gentle slopes and retain ground cover.

Areas with mass movement potential limit ground disturbing activities. Management disturbances can trigger mass movements in these unstable areas that may reduce long-term soil productivity and create high levels of erosion and sediment. Intensive management such as timber harvest and road construction can contribute to accelerate mass movement in two ways. They are: 1) road construction in which road cuts are made that remove support and/or intercept subsurface flows, and 2) removal of trees that stabilize the slope with their root mass and by influencing moisture conditions through evapotranspiration, canopy interception, and effects on snow distribution. Soils that are rated “unstable” indicate that the landform is actively moving and probabilities of increased or additional movement even without man-caused disturbances are high.

The soil erosion ratings for each soil in the land types listed in the soil survey were combined to establish the overall soil erosion potential for each land type which is listed for each IRA in the tables. Erosion ratings were established for each land type in the following manner and listed on the GIS soil erosion map:

- “**hhh**” means all three soils in the land type have high erosion hazard or more than 75 percent of the area.
- “**hhm**” means two of the three soils in the land type have high erosion hazard and one has moderate hazard. Between 50 and 75 percent of the area has high erosion hazard.
- “**hmm**” means only one of the three soils in the land type have high erosion hazard with the remaining two soils in the land type have moderate erosion hazard. These areas have less than 50 percent in high erosion hazard.

Soil erosion potential is listed in the tables, but as detrimental effects in relation to erosion can be fully mitigated (in most circumstances) erosion potential was not used as a determining factor of the soil Assessment Rating.

The ratings categories are high, moderate, and low and they are based on the percent of unstable land types in each IRA. These areas are mapped in the GIS soil stability layer for reference.

A rating of “high” is used to describe IRAs that have more than 49 percent of their acreage covered with unstable land types. These areas with this rating would be difficult to intensively manage (i.e. implementing road construction or other ground disturbing activities) without creating site productivity resource concerns related to loss of soil productivity from landslides caused by these activities.

“Moderate” is the rating used to identify IRAs that have between 10 and 48 percent of their acreage covered with unstable land types. These IRAs could sustain intensive management activities in some locations, while avoiding the sensitive, unstable landforms that are present in other areas.

A “low” rating is applied to IRAs that have less than 10 percent of their acreage covered with unstable land types. These IRAs could sustain intensive management activities on the majority of their area, while their few unstable landforms are avoided.

Resource Specific Prescription Recommendations

Recommendations for prescriptions were primarily based on the soil stability assessment ratings. From a soils perspective, IRAs with a “high” rating are recommended for management under the goals, standards, and guidelines of prescription categories 1, 2, 3 or 6 unless otherwise noted in the Re-Evaluation Tables where unstable land types could be avoided. In this case a 5 prescription was recommended. By managing “high” areas under these prescriptions, man-caused disturbances will be less likely to effect long-term soil productivity by causing mass movements. Forest-wide soil Standard 2 in the Revised Forest Plan requires ground verification of unstable land types prior to soil disturbing activities.

IRAs with a “moderate” rating are recommended for management under the goals, standards, and guidelines of prescription categories 1, 2, 3, 5, or 6. This recommendation is given because management activities can avoid unstable areas. Forest-wide soil Standard 2 in the Revised Forest Plan requires ground verification of unstable land types prior to soil disturbing activities.

The soils of “low” rated IRAs are primarily stable and can be managed under any prescription category (1, 2, 3, 5, or 6) as site specific mitigation of any unstable landform is required before implementation of any ground disturbing activity. Forest-wide soil Standard 2 in the Revised Forest Plan requires ground verification of unstable land types prior to soil disturbing activities.

Air Quality

The Caribou National Forest operates under the Montana/Idaho Smoke Management plan and burning is not permitted when smoke dispersal conditions are unsatisfactory as determined by the Monitoring Unit in Missoula, Montana. Favorable

meteorological conditions and air quality must exist before burning is allowed and when state and federal air quality standards will not be exceeded (See Air Quality discussion in FEIS, Chapter 3 for more information).

Wind direction considerations were determined from the Pocatello windrose (M.Manguba, 1999). Additional information about air quality and visibility are presented in the FEIS in the air quality section of Chapter 3. Pocatello/Chubbuck, Idaho is the only sensitive receptor within a non-attainment area. A non-attainment area is an area that does not meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Any populated area can be considered a sensitive receptor.

Resource Findings and Assessment Ratings

Forest management has the potential to affect air quality especially if prescribed burning and/or wildfire are used to manage vegetation. In order to make informed management decisions that could affect the air quality of communities adjacent to the NF, a twenty-mile radius was drawn around the primary, sensitive receptors of Pocatello/Chubbuck and Soda Springs, Idaho, because they have the largest populations when compared to other sensitive receptors adjacent to the Forest and the potential to affect the most people. Other adjacent communities were considered in the assessment and are listed in the Re-Evaluation tables. Resource managers should be aware of the effects prescribed burning and wildfires may have on air quality. Prescription areas that permit prescribed fire or wildfire for resource benefit adjacent to populated areas could affect human health. These twenty-mile radius areas are identified to provide the resource manager an idea of which IRAs may affect populated areas when considering activities that use fire. Prevailing wind direction also influences the amount and type of burning that can be conducted. Areas down wind of Pocatello should have little effect on air quality when fire is applied through authorization of the Montana/Idaho Smoke Management Plan. Areas upwind would have greater impacts. Special consideration and controls should be applied to areas that may affect non-attainment areas.

An assessment rating of ‘restrictive’ describes any IRA that is within the twenty-mile radius of Pocatello/Chubbuck, Idaho as a result of the cities’ non-attainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards status. A restrictive rating indicates the forest manager should coordinate treatments using prescribed fire and wildfire for resource benefit with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in Pocatello, Idaho. Other areas that may affect sensitive receptors could also require coordination with DEA, but because these areas are not considered “non-attainment” areas, treatments are less likely to affect National Ambient Air Quality Standards in these areas; therefore, a non-restrictive recommendation was given to all other areas. A restrictive rating indicates land managers should be aware that smoke or particulate matter from wildfire or prescribed fire treatments in nearby roadless areas could affect populated areas in Pocatello/Chubbuck. A non-restrictive rating means the roadless area is outside the twenty-mile radius and wildfire and prescribed fire treatments would affect a smaller population base.

All treatments that may affect Class I areas must meet the Clean Air Act that prohibits any deterioration of air quality in these areas. Compliance can be accomplished by following the Montana/Idaho Smoke Management Plan, by completing a comprehensive smoke analysis in the project’s environmental assessment or EIS, and by staying within the burning prescription.

Resource Specific, Prescription Recommendation

IRAs that fall within the twenty-mile, sensitive receptor radius (Pocatello/Chubbuck, Idaho) were recommended for special consideration before using prescribed fire and wildfire for resource benefit in order to address air quality concerns. All prescriptions allow prescribed fire or wildfire for resource benefit when it meets resource goals and objectives.

Watershed Condition, Water Quality, Municipal Watersheds

To determine the current condition of watersheds within the thirty-four Forest IRAs, the information gathered and used for the Inland West Water Initiative (IWWI) and listed Water Quality Limited Streams data (as defined by section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act) have been applied to this re-evaluation.

The IWWI⁵ is designed to characterize the watersheds and aquatic systems within Forest boundaries at the broad-scale, or reconnaissance level. It helps forests to focus on the watersheds and aquatic systems that are the most critical to the long-term integrity of western water resources. IWWI gives a sense of the overall condition for further study/work and provides an initial characterization for further watershed analyses. Each sub-watershed within the Caribou National Forest has been assessed using this method.

⁵ The IWWI process is further discussed in the USDA Forest Service, 1998, Inland West Watershed Reconnaissance document.

The IWWI is subdivided into three components: Watershed Geomorphic Integrity, Watershed Water Quality Integrity, and Watershed Vulnerability. (Specific definitions for each of these subject areas are located in the Inland West Watershed Reconnaissance document, 1998.) Each of the above components is further sub-divided into three Rating Categories. For Example:

Water Quality Integrity Rating 1

“Good” condition. No stream segment is damaged by physical, chemical or biological impacts such that any resource value appears to be seriously degraded.

Water Quality Integrity Rating 2

“Moderate” condition. The watershed/aquatic system has a minor part (e.g. less than 20 percent) of its stream segments damaged.

Water Quality Integrity Rating 3

“Deteriorated” or “poor” condition. The watershed/aquatic system has a major portion (e.g. more than 20 percent) of its stream segment miles damaged.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires states to identify water bodies that have reduced water quality that impairs the designated beneficial uses assigned by the state to that water body. To this end, the State of Idaho, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has inventoried and evaluated streams within the state to determine how they meet water quality criteria. Exact protocols used to assess water bodies and determine listing eligibilities are found in DEQ publications, such as “Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Project Work plans” for the State of Idaho. The 303(d) streams that have been listed within the thirty-four Caribou National Forest IRAs are from the Idaho 2000 list package identified by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). If a 303(d) stream occurs within an IRA boundary, it is identified in the IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation Table for that specific IRA.

The Forest Service is authorized to identify and protect public water sources located within or adjacent to the Forest boundary (See Municipal Water Supplies in the Laws, Regulations, Policies, and Direction section above). There is only a single congressionally designated municipal watershed within the Caribou National Forest. This is the Pocatello Municipal Watershed, located near Pocatello, Idaho. It is located within the West Mink IRA. There are other watersheds that supply domestic use water to the public. These include the Grace Watershed, Paris Creek Watershed, Mink Creek Watershed, and others. However, these watersheds have not been congressionally designated and are not considered formal “Municipal Watersheds.”

The drinking water sources that are not congressionally designated are currently being identified by individual states through the Safe Drinking Water Act as “Source Water Protection Areas.” As specific protection plans and strategies are completed, the Forest will take measures to meet the identified obligations. To date, no specific plans have been developed, so no specific actions are recommended as part of this Re-Evaluation. A specific prescription recommendation for the Pocatello Municipal Watershed is identified on the IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation Table in the specific IRA in which this municipal watershed is located. (Other public water supplies have been entered into a GIS data base layer, and the watersheds are listed in a permanent file, “2540 – Forest Municipal Watersheds,” located in the Forest Supervisor’s Office.)

Resource Findings and Assessment Ratings

The overall existing watershed condition of each IRA was determined by using the combined IWWI ratings from all of the categories present in that particular IRA and the presence or absence of water quality limited 303(d) water bodies.

The IWWI ratings used for determining current watershed condition within each of the IRAs are a combination of the individual ratings for Watershed Vulnerability, Integrity, and Water Quality (assigned in the 1998 report). Each of the individual rating scores (1, 2 or 3) were summed. A total score of 3 to 4 was rated as “good;” a total score of 5 to 7 was rated as “moderate;” and a total score of 8 or 9 was rated as “poor.” For map display purposes, these three ratings have been color-coded into: Green, “good” overall condition; Yellow, “moderate” overall condition; and Red, “deteriorated” or “poor” overall condition. In GIS, the watersheds were overlaid on the IRAs and a percentage was determined of “red,” “yellow,” and “green” watersheds within each IRA.

Thirteen state-designated 303(d) streams are found within the thirty-four IRA boundaries. Specific streams occurring within an IRA are identified in the IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation Table for each specific IRA.

The overall combination was used of watershed condition and the presence or absence of 303(d) streams. For example, if an IRA contained mostly “red” watersheds, and a 303 (d) stream, the IRA is probably in a somewhat degraded condition and a “restoration” prescription was recommended. Conversely, if an IRA contained mostly “green” watersheds and no 303(d) streams are present, then it would be a candidate for a “preservation” type prescription. The Assessment Ratings (high, moderate, low) are a subjective combination of all the factors present within the IRA.

Resource Specific Prescription Recommendations

The IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation Table in each specific IRA write-up includes resource-specific recommendations for prescriptions within each of the IRAs. The overall percentage of each watershed category - red, yellow, or green - determined the overall recommendations for each IRA. For example: If an IRA consisted of 75 percent or more “green” watersheds, then it was recommended that the IRA be “preserved” using a prescription that would maintain the integrity of the watershed, such as prescription 3.1 – Non-motorized. If the IRA consisted of 75 percent or more of “red” watersheds, then a “restoration” prescription, such as 6.3 - Rangeland Restoration, was recommended (See Revised Forest Plan for complete prescription descriptions). If the IRA contained mostly “yellow” watersheds, then either a recommendation based on the capability of the land (e.g. timber production, livestock grazing) or no specific recommendation was advocated.

If an IRA contains a 303(d) stream, the watershed supplying water to that stream was recommended to be either preserved, to preclude further degradation, or restored to improve overall watershed conditions and associated water quality. A “preservation” prescription might include 3.1 – Non-motorized. A “restoration” prescription might include 6.3 – Rangeland Restoration.

States are required to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for limiting parameters on each 303(d) listed water body. For example, if sediment is determined to be degrading water quality in a certain stream, then specific criteria for limiting or reducing sediment is determined by the state for that water body. Water quality limiting parameters (i.e. temperature, sediment, nutrients, etc.) are found in the Idaho’s 2000 list package referenced in the Information Resources narrative above.

The Forest is required to abide by state water quality standards and criteria. Therefore, specific state-designated criteria must be applied to any watershed containing a 303(d) stream. TMDLs have been established by the State of Idaho and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Blackfoot River and Portneuf River watersheds within the Forest. TMDLs for the Blackfoot and Portneuf Rivers can be found in the State of Idaho, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water body Assessments as well as Total Maximum Daily Load Specifications for the Blackfoot and Portneuf River basins, dated December 2001 and March 1999 respectively. TMDLs for the Bear River watershed are still being developed at the time of this writing.

Although TMDLs have been established for the Portneuf and Blackfoot River watersheds, specific implementation plans to address the TMDLs, and how the Forest is to attain desired conditions, have not been designed yet. Therefore no specific requirements have been identified to date for the listed 303(d) water bodies. Once these implementation plans have been written and approved, any prescriptions assigned to 303(d) water bodies may be modified or superseded by specific state-designated requirements and criteria. However, recommending “preservation/restoration” prescriptions for these watersheds should broadly address the necessary requirements and assist in reducing major changes that may be needed to address future State’s requirements.

A “preservation,” 2.1.3 prescription, is advocated for the Pocatello, congressionally designated, municipal watershed in order to maintain conditions that are capable of supplying clean water to the municipalities (See Revised Forest Plan for prescription descriptions). A preservation prescription is recommended because it is geared toward the goal of providing clean water, which requires watersheds to be relatively undisturbed (i.e. from road building, timber harvesting, recreation, etc.) and stream channels to maintain overall stable conditions. However, management actions and other activities are allowed within the watersheds as long as they are compatible with the long-term goals of the watershed.

Ecosystem Disturbance

An ecosystem disturbance is a human-caused or natural disturbance in a self-maintained system of living and non-living interacting parts that are organized into biophysical and human dimension components. These disturbances include, but are not limited to, insects, disease, wildfire, floods, wind, and resource extraction.

The Forest used data sources and assumptions in its analysis to determine the potential for ecosystem disturbance in forested vegetation of the Forest’s thirty-four IRA’s. GIS (Geographic Information System) map layers displaying ownership, roadless areas, current vegetation (derived from Landsat imagery classified in 2001), old growth (as classified in the original CNF Plan, approved in 1986) and past disturbance on the CNF were combined to form a single data layer. This layer served as the

primary data source for the analysis, providing acreage and map information on current vegetation condition (species cover type and structure) and past disturbance in each IRA.

To assess potential for ecosystem disturbance, three ecosystem management issue indicators from the CNF Plan revision process were analyzed: aspen decline, insect hazard and wildfire hazard. To determine decline ratings for aspen and hazard ratings for insects and fire the acreage information from the GIS layer was compiled into tables and analyzed. Assumptions by the Forest Fire Ecologist and Silviculturist were made concerning the decline of aspen present in each IRA, risk of insect infestation (insect hazard) in conifer vegetation and the risk of stand-replacing wildfire (fire hazard).

Resource Findings and Assessment Ratings

The primary data source for this analysis was a combined GIS layer, which produced acreage and map information on current vegetation condition and past disturbance in each IRA. The current vegetation condition information included mapped locations and acreage totals for the species cover types used in the forested vegetation classification: Conifers - Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir, mixed conifer, and Hardwoods - quaking aspen, aspen/maple and aspen/conifer. If non-forested or woodland vegetation cover types were dominant in an IRA, it was also mentioned in the current vegetation conditions section, only to more accurately describe the IRA. The past disturbance information included mapped locations and acreages of past stand-replacing fires and timber harvest. Structurally, about 70-80 percent of the stands comprising the conifer cover types and 40 percent of the stands comprising the aspen cover types are in mature and old age classes, including "old growth." Forested vegetation within an IRA was assumed to be mature unless affected by past disturbance displayed in the disturbance GIS layer. Acres recently disturbed by stand-replacing wildfire or timber harvest where a new stand was regenerated were classed as young or immature.

Based on the data and assumptions described, an aspen decline, fire hazard and insect hazard rating were assigned to each IRA based on vegetation composition, including the amount and type of old growth within each roadless area, the acreage and percentage of high, moderate and low risk values assigned within each roadless area, and the overall proportion of vegetation at risk within the roadless area. Risk values were assigned on a subjective basis following review of the data and consideration of the assumptions.

Aspen Decline Rating:

The aspen decline rating was based on very limited data primarily because the Forest's vegetation classification does not provide any structure or age class information for this species. The Forest Inventory for the Caribou National Forest, conducted in 1992, shows approximately 40 percent of the Forest's aspen stands as mature and old. Caribou National Forest (CNF) Plan Revision Process Paper P (2001) estimates a 33 percent decline in aspen on the CNF compared to historic conditions. Aspen decline in the Intermountain West is well documented in Campbell and Bartos' publications, "Aspen Ecosystems: Objectives for Sustaining Biodiversity." In: Sustaining Aspen in Western Landscapes: Symposium proceedings (2000), "Water depletion and other ecosystem values forfeited when conifer forests displace aspen communities (1998)," and "Decline of quaking aspen in the Interior West. Examples from Utah (1998)."

A decline rating of "high," "moderate" or "low" was assigned to each IRA based on the aspen decline potential. Due to a generally acknowledged decline of aspen on the Forest, all of the Aspen and Aspen/Conifer vegetation cover type not affected by disturbance were assumed to be mature and assigned a "high" decline rating. This is an admittedly weak conclusion, but given data limitations mentioned and time constraints, this was the rating presented for the IRA analysis. Forest wide, 88 percent of the IRA's received a moderate to high aspen decline rating. Those IRA's assigned a low aspen decline rating either had small aspen acreages or large acreages of recent disturbance by fire or harvest.

Insect Hazard:

According to USFS Forest Pest Management Annual Reports, bark beetles (Douglas fir, Mountain Pine and Spruce) kill more conifer trees on the Caribou National Forest than any other insect. As discussed in "Stand Hazard Rating for Central Idaho Forests" (Steele, *et al*, 1996), these beetles initially attack trees that exhibit several biological factors, among them advanced age and stress due to overcrowding.

A hazard rating of "high," "moderate" and "low" was assigned to each IRA based on the conifer vegetation's potential for attack by bark beetles. Due to the presence of older conifer forested vegetation, undisturbed by stand-replacing wildfire or harvest, and its increasing susceptibility to bark beetles which cause mortality in conifers, approximately 62 percent of the IRA's received a moderate to high insect hazard rating. These higher ratings were concentrated on the eastside of the Forest. Those IRA's assigned low insect hazard ratings either had small acreages of mature conifer or large acreages of recent disturbance by fire or harvest.

Fire Hazard:

The Forest Inventory for the Caribou National Forest, conducted in 1992, portrays approximately 70-80 percent of the coniferous forest stands and 40 percent of the aspen stands as mature and old. "Mature" refers to ages and sizes of dominant trees that are at least at culmination of average annual increment of tree stand volume growth. "Old" refers to dominant tree ages and sizes significantly beyond those of mature trees. Barrett's "Fire Regimes on the Caribou National Forest" (1994) discusses how the "long term fuel buildup in these stands will continue to promote a shift toward stand replacement fire regimes" and as "having missed three or four fire "thinning" treatments." This phenomena is also described in the Upper Columbia River Basin DEIS (1997).

A hazard rating of "high," "moderate" or "low" was assigned to each IRA based on the forested vegetation's potential for stand-replacing wildfire. As with Insect Hazard, those IRA's with primarily older conifer and/or aspen vegetation acreages, undisturbed by stand-replacing wildfire or harvest, were rated high for fire hazard. About 85 percent of the IRA's were assigned a moderate to high fire hazard rating mainly concentrated on the eastside of the Forest. Those IRA's assigned low fire hazard ratings either had small acreages of mature forested vegetation or large acreages of recent disturbance by fire or harvest.

Resource Specific Prescription Recommendations

The Resource Findings and Assessment Ratings generally indicate a lack of natural and human caused disturbance in forested vegetation sites throughout the Caribou National Forest's IRA's for at least 80 years (Barrett, 1994). This lack of disturbance has allowed natural succession to progress on these lands, resulting in the loss of early seral species, such as aspen, and has resulted in their replacement by conifers, usually Douglas fir and subalpine fir. Conifer species on these sites continue to age, increase in size and density and contribute to fire fuel loading. These trees eventually become susceptible to insects and, in some cases, fuel uncharacteristically high-intensity wildfires. Recommended forested vegetation prescriptions for management of the IRA's generally falls into two categories: 1) Prescription 5.2, which manages for timber harvest to promote forested vegetation growth/yield and scheduled wood fiber production while maintaining or restoring forested ecosystem processes and functions to a properly functioning condition; and 2) Prescription 3.3, which manages for ecological restoration to improve resource conditions that are not functioning properly. These prescriptions are recommended to restore early seral conditions in forested vegetation, thereby moving towards properly functioning condition; reduce the impacts of insect infestations on timber values and fuel loading, and reduce the impacts of uncharacteristically high-intensity wildfires.

Invasive Plant Species

Roadless areas may conserve native biodiversity by providing areas where invasive species are often rare or absent. Invasive plants are species that are growing in an ecosystem where they do not typically occur, either presently (when compared to native vegetation on comparable sites) or historically. The Forest GIS database was used to determine the acres of weed infestations in each IRA. The GIS data was derived from 1998 District field survey maps and has been updated periodically as information has become available. Only poisonous and noxious weeds are listed in the database.

Resource Findings and Assessment Ratings

Three assessment ratings were used to identify the intensity of invasive plant species in each IRA: Low, Medium, and High. Each rating is twofold and represents both: the potential for invasion or spread of noxious weeds by motorized vehicles along motorized routes and/or into areas *open* to cross country travel; and the potential for weeds to spread from motorized routes into areas *closed* to cross country travel.

IRAs that are rated as "Low" contain infestations that are localized, not abundant and/or they are widespread across the landscape. For this rating, invasive plant species occupy between 0 and .5 percent (less than 160 acres) of the entire roadless area.

Roadless areas that warranted a "Medium" rating have infestations that may or may not be localized, are somewhat abundant, and/or widespread throughout the IRA. Invasive plants occupy between .6 percent and 1.9 percent (50-650 acres) of the IRA.

A "High" rating describes areas where infestations are not localized, abundant, and/or widespread across the IRA. Invasive plant species occupy more than 2 percent (more than 325 acres) of the roadless area.

Resource Specific Prescription Recommendations

No specific management direction is recommended as long as the prescriptions applied allow for treatment of invasive species. The Forest uses an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy forest-wide. IPM directs managers to use a variety of treatment methods that will be effective and appropriate given desired conditions and goals for the area.

Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, Candidate, and Sensitive Animal Species Habitat

Wildlife habitat has been divided into several categories that include separate and sometimes distinct methods of assessment of the Forest's Roadless Areas. To help the reader, the following definitions are provided:

Threatened: Animal, designated by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, likely to become endangered throughout all, or a specific portion, of its range within the foreseeable future.

Endangered: Animal, designated by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that has been given federal protection status because it is in danger of extinction throughout all, or a significant portion, of its natural range.

Proposed: An animal species for which a listing rule has been published in the Federal Register but formal listing still awaits action.

Candidate: Animal, proposed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for consideration as an endangered or threatened species listing. Category 1 species are groups for which the FWS has sufficient information to support listing proposals. Category 2 species are those for which available information indicates a possible problem, but that need further study to determine the need for listing.

Sensitive: Species identified by a Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern, as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers, or density, or by significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution.

Resource Findings and Assessment Ratings

Each Roadless Area was assessed with particular attention to species that are specific to the Forest, including Lynx, Wolf, and Wolverine in the TES category. In addition each Roadless Area was assessed for Forest-associated species and Grass/Shrub-associated species.

TES Occurrences

Threatened and endangered species are discussed individually, where appropriate. These species are lynx and wolves. Bald eagles and whooping cranes are associated with specific wetland and riverine habitats and are not associated with roadless areas. They were not included in this analysis. Sensitive species were reviewed. Wolverines were included with wolves, as both species have been shown to be sensitive to human disturbance or access provided by roads. Several of the species; boreal owl, flammulated owl, great gray owl, northern goshawk, three-toed woodpecker, and are all associated with forested habitats and are evaluated as a group. Sharp-tailed grouse are associated with sagebrush habitats but are habitat generalists. Sage grouse, which are a Management Indicator Species, are habitat specialists, and are more appropriate for analysis. The other sensitive species (spotted bat, western big-eared bat, trumpeter swan, harlequin duck, spotted frog and peregrine falcon) use specific habitats or habitat components and are not affected by roadless characteristics. These species were not analyzed further.

Records of sightings of threatened, endangered and sensitive species are on file at the Supervisors Office, and were used in the assessment of each roadless area along with other literature as described below under each TES species. These sighting locations were entered into the GIS database.

Lynx

Sources used to qualitatively assess linkage habitat include GIS maps of vegetation, size of roadless areas, GIS and Forest maps showing adjacency to other roadless areas or areas of suitable habitat (mapped Lynx Analysis Units on adjacent Forests) mapped topographic features and potential barriers to movement as shown on state maps (highways, towns, etc). In addition, the following literature reference was used in the assessment for lynx:

Ruediger, B., J. Claar, S. Gniadek, b. Holt, L. Lewis, S. Mighton, B. Naney, G. Patton, T. Rinaldi, J. Trick, A. Vandehey, F. Wahl, N. Warren, D. Wenger, and A. Williamson. 2000. Canada Lynx Conservation Assessment and

Strategy. USDA Forest Service, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management, and USDI National Park Service. Forest Service Publication #R1-00-53, Missoula, MT. 142 pp.

Lynx linkage/connectivity areas were analyzed for the east side of the Forest on the Soda Springs and Montpelier Ranger Districts. Westside Ranger District is not considered linkage habitat and lynx will not be addressed in these areas. Lynx habitat was remapped on September 18, 2001, and the USFWS agreed to the use of this map in a letter dated February 5, 2002. (See Biological Assessment for more rationale.) The Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy (Ruediger, *et al*, 2000) outlines factors that may affect lynx movements, including highways, land ownership patterns, fragmentation and degradation of refugia, and ability to move across shrub-steppe habitats (riparian and major ridges).

N/A – Westside Ranger District

Low potential– small area, mixed ownership, proximity to highways, lack of forested cover

Moderate potential– larger area, more suitable cover

High potential– large area, more forested cover, major ridges/riparian for movements, adjacent to other area of habitat

Wolves/wolverine

Wolf risk factors have been identified as increased accessibility to humans and decreases in prey species (Witmer, *et al*, 1998). This is discussed in more detail in the EIS. Big game numbers are not expected to vary based on roadless and prey availability that were not analyzed. Security areas were used as a measure; security areas are areas over 250 acres over ½ mile from an open motorized route. Because wolverines are generally associated with areas free from human disturbance (Ruggerio, *et al*, 1994), they were analyzed with wolves. Winter security is of special concern as females begin denning in March; excavating dens under snow. This has the potential to put them in direct conflict with winter recreation, especially snowmobiling, as it is widespread across most of the Forest (allowed over 97 percent of the Forest). Research has found that wolverines are very sensitive to human disturbance during this time, and females will move den sites when disturbed.

Sources used were GIS maps of security areas and associated data tables. The map of security areas was made by buffering open motorized roads and trails by ½ mile, and the resulting areas had to be at least 250 acres to be mapped as security areas. These maps and associated data tables were used to calculate acres and size of security blocks. In addition, the following literature references were used in the assessment for Wolves/Wolverine:

Ruggerio, L.F., K.B. Aubry, S.W. Buskirk, L.J. Lyon and W.J. Zielinski, technical editors. 1994. The Scientific Basis for Conserving Forest Carnivores: American Marten, Fisher, Lynx and Wolverine in the western United States. USDA Forest Service, General Technical Report, RM-245. Ft. Collins, CO. Rocky Mountain Range and Experiment Station. 184 pp.

Witmer, G.W., S.K. Martin and R.D. Saylor. 1998. Forest Carnivore Conservation in the Interior Columbia River Basin: Issues and Environmental Correlates. USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, General Technical Report PNW-GTR-420. Portland, OR 15 pp.

Roadless areas were rated as low, moderate or high. These categories were split out based on the spread of existing security area acres using what appeared to be natural breaks.

Low potential– area with small amounts of security (0-20 percent)

Moderate potential– area with a moderate amount of security (21-30 percent)

High potential– area with a large amount of security (more than 31 percent)

Forest-associated species

The importance of roadless areas to these species was based on the amount of forested vegetation found in the roadless area. Sources used were GIS maps and associated data tables. This information was used to determine the amount of potential habitat that is present in each roadless area.

Roadless areas were rated as low, moderate or high. These categories were based on the spread of conifer cover, using what appeared to be natural breaks.

Low potential– small part of the area provides forested cover (0-20 percent)

Moderate potential– a moderate part of the area provides forested cover (21-40 percent)

High potential– a large amount of the area provides forested habitats (more than 41 percent)

Grass/shrub-associated species

Columbian sharp-tailed grouse (sensitive species) and sage grouse (MIS) are associated with grass/shrub types. Because sharp-tailed grouse are habitat generalists, and sage grouse are habitat specialists (Apa, 1998), sage grouse were used to assess habitats. Lek locations were used as references for occupied habitats. Active leks are traditional display areas in or adjacent to shrub-dominated habitat that has been attended by two or more males in two or more of the previous five years.

Sources used for this analysis includes GIS maps of known lek locations (Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 2000), and GIS-generated maps with two-, five- and ten-mile buffers around known leks. This buffer map also showed the amount and distribution of sagebrush habitats within the buffer. In addition, the following literature references were used in the assessment:

Apa, A. D. 1998. "Habitat Use and Movements of Sympatric Sage and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse in Southeast Idaho." PhD Dissertation, University of Idaho. 199 pp.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game. 2000. Excel spreadsheet with lek names, location and male sage grouse lek attendance. On file at S.O.

Roadless areas were rated based on the proximity to sage grouse leks and availability of large areas of sagebrush habitats:

N/A – area is over ten miles away from know leks

Low potential– small amount of shrub habitats, leks within ten miles

Moderate potential– moderate amount of shrub habitats, leks within ten miles

High potential– extensive stands of sagebrush, leks within five miles

Biological Conservation Assessment

A Wildlife Biological Stronghold is defined as an area identified as important (and/or critical) to a species or group of species for seasonal or year-round habitat. Noss, *et al*, (2001) completed an analysis of biological conservation in the Utah-Wyoming Rocky Mountain Ecoregion. The study considered two primary goals 1) to protect 100 percent of occurrences of G1/G2 species, and 10 percent of occurrences of other species, and 2) to protect habitat capable of supporting 50-70 percent of the population of focal species (note: G1= globally critically imperiled, G2=globally imperiled and focal species that they selected were grizzly bear, wolf, wolverine, lynx and elk). Areas were put in megasites, which were ranked based on vulnerability and irreplaceability. Quadrant 1 sites are highly vulnerable and irreplaceable. Quadrant 2 sites are highly irreplaceable but have low vulnerability. Quadrant 3 sites are low for irreplaceability but rated high for vulnerability and Quadrant 4 sites ranked low on both scales. Quadrant 1 sites are the highest priority for conservation.

Another measure used to assess biological strongholds was habitat structure and composition in each roadless area. Vegetation in proper functioning condition (PFC) should provide the best habitat for most species over the long-term. In 1999, a Forest-wide PFC analysis was done (USFS 1999). This analysis identified spruce-fir, aspen, pinyon-juniper, tall forbs and riparian habitats as being at high departure from PFC. Habitats at moderate departure include Douglas-fir, maple, mountain mahogany, mountain brush, and sagebrush. Limber pine and lodgepole pine were at low departure.

Sources used include GIS vegetation data tables. These tables were used to calculate acres of vegetation types at high departure (spruce-fir, aspen, pinyon-juniper, tall forbs and riparian). In addition, the following literature references were used in the assessment:

Noss, R., G. Wuerthner, K. Vance-Borland and C. Carroll. 2001. A Biological Conservation Assessment for the Utah-Wyoming Rocky Mountain Ecoregion: Report to the Nature Conservancy. Prepared by Conservation Science. Corvallis, OR.

USFS. 1999. Caribou National Forest Proper Functioning Condition Assessment.

Roadless areas were rated based on Noss, *et al* (2001) Quadrant classifications. Noss' mega sites do not directly correlate with roadless area boundaries; the decision was based on juxtaposition of the majority of the roadless area in relation to the mega site. Roadless areas were rated as:

Low potential– areas that were not ranked, or those placed in Quadrant 4

Moderate potential– areas that ranked in Quadrant 2 or 3

High potential– areas that ranked in Quadrant 1

Roadless areas were also rated as being at low, moderate or high departure from PFC. These categories were determined by ascertaining the percentage of the IRA in vegetation types that are at high departure from PFC. Vegetation areas were determined by following what appeared to be natural breaks.

Low potential– a large part of the area is at high departure (40 percent)

Moderate potential– a moderate part of the area is at high departure (21-39 percent)

High potential– a small part of the area is at high departure (0-20 percent)

Resource Specific Prescription Recommendations

Prescription recommendations included maintenance of existing big game winter range prescriptions; addition of 3.1 non-motorized prescriptions to maintain some existing security areas for species like wolverine, wolves and big game; and application of prescriptions that allow vegetation restoration treatments. These treatments may include prescribed burning, thinning and commercial harvest but would be determined at the site-specific project level.

Fisheries Biological Strongholds

Fisheries biological strongholds are interpreted, on the Caribou National Forest, to be areas dominated by Yellowstone and Bonneville cutthroat trout, the native trout species. The Forest defines cutthroat trout stronghold streams as those streams with greater than 50 percent of the salmonid community consisting of native cutthroat trout. (These cutthroat trout subspecies are listed by the Regional Forester as "Sensitive" species.)

The Forest Fisheries Biologist used the Caribou-Targhee Forest Fish Distribution maps to determine Yellowstone and Bonneville cutthroat trout stronghold streams. These maps were last updated in December 2001 and include data from the 1999-2001 Forest Fish Distribution surveys.

Resource Findings and Assessment Ratings

The value of fisheries biological strongholds was described for each roadless area in the Forest's Planning Unit. Fisheries biological strongholds are interpreted to be areas dominated by Yellowstone and Bonneville cutthroat trout, the native trout species on the Forest. These cutthroat trout subspecies are listed by the Regional Forester as Sensitive species. The areas with "high" assessment ratings are areas that have the highest priority for protection and conservation from a fisheries perspective. They have the most value in relation to native fish conservation and would likely rate highest in restoration priorities (the best first), from a fisheries perspective.

Those roadless areas with streams in which the majority of the salmonid community consisted of native cutthroat trout were assessed with a high rating. Those areas with no native salmonid present were assessed with a low rating. Those areas with streams in which the majority of the salmonid community consisted of non-native salmonids, but where some native salmonids were present, were assessed with a medium rating. Non-native salmonids in the roadless areas included brook, brown, and rainbow trout.

Resource Specific Prescription Recommendations

All riparian areas are protected by Revised Forest Plan riparian management prescription area (Aquatic Influence Zone) 2.8.3. The Forest Plan Revision has incorporated INFISH standards and guidelines into management prescription area 2.8.3. A 3.1 (Non-motorized) prescription was recommended in Yellowstone cutthroat trout stronghold streams and their associated riparian areas (aquatic influence zones) within Roadless Areas that rated as "High." This was to restrict motorized vehicles to existing roads and trails, and minimize their impacts upon stronghold streams. This concern over the impacts of motorized vehicles to riparian and aquatic habitat may also be addressed through the elimination of cross-country motorized vehicle use in the Forest Plan Revision.

Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, and Plant Communities

The primary source of information for Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities and Reference Plant Communities is from element occurrence (EO) records documented by the Idaho Conservation Data Center and reports on wetland conservation strategies (Jankovsky-Jones 1997 & 2001). Using GIS, a table was generated by overlaying the IRA boundaries and Idaho CDC point data coverage of element occurrences of rare plant and plant communities. The database of element occurrence records is dynamic – new ones are added and known EOs updated as new information is obtained. This presents a limitation to the use of the data in that it only includes those areas that have been surveyed and where tracked “species of special concern” and plant communities have been recorded in the database. Also, as a continuously updated database it should be referred to for this type of information along with using the information presented here, since this analysis only identifies what is known as of 2001.

This data is relevant to this re-evaluation in that it represents the best available information of rare plants and plant communities that contribute to the diversity of plant and animal communities; an identified characteristic of IRAs (See Roadless Section in Chapter 3 of the FEIS for more information).

Terms used in the assessment of rare plants and in individual IRA tables:

Rare Plants: Rare plants for this Re-Evaluation are those species that are tracked as “species of special concern” by the Idaho Conservation Data Center and documented to occur within the roadless area. The species may or may not be currently tracked as “sensitive” by Region 4.

Rare Plant Communities: Rare plant communities are recognized plant communities (See definition for plant communities) that have been given a G1-G3 by the Natural Heritage Network or tracked as S1-S2 by the Idaho Conservation Data Center for Idaho (Rust 2001).⁶

Plant Communities: Assemblage of species that co-occur in defined areas at certain times and that have the potential to interact with one another (as cited in Grossman et al 1998). Plant Communities included in this category of the Re-Evaluation are documented Plant Community Element Occurrences by the Idaho Conservation Data Center.

Sensitive species: Species identified by a Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern, as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers, or density, or by significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species’ existing distribution.

Research Natural Areas (RNA): Research natural areas are part of a national network of ecological areas designated in perpetuity for research and education and/or to maintain biological diversity on National Forest System lands. Research natural areas are for nonmanipulative research, observation, and study. They also may assist in implementing provisions of special acts, such as the Endangered Species Act and the monitoring provisions of the National Forest Management Act (FSM 4063).

Terms not in table, but relevant to characteristic, i.e. references used:

Idaho Conservation Data Center (CDC): The CDC is the central repository in Idaho for information related to the state’s rare plant and animal populations. The CDC is part of the Natural Heritage Network.

Natural Heritage Network: A network of Natural Heritage Programs and Conservation Data Centers in all 50 states, several Canadian provinces, and several Latin American and Caribbean countries. The role of these programs is to gather, manage, and distribute detailed information about the biological diversity found within their jurisdictions.

Species of Special Concern: A term used by Natural Heritage Programs and Conservation Data Centers. It includes taxa that are at-risk or potentially at-risk due to rarity, restricted distribution, habitat loss, and/or other factors. The term includes, but is not limited to: species that are listed as “sensitive” or “watch” by the Forest Service; “Special Status” and “watch” by the Bureau of Land Management; or “threatened”, “Endangered” or “Candidate” species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

⁶ The Natural Heritage Network employs a standardized ranking system to denote global and state status (Global [G1-5] and State [S1-5]). Taxa and plant communities are assigned numeric ranks ranging from 1 (critically imperiled) to 5 (demonstrably secure), reflecting the relative degree to which they are “at-risk”.

Heritage Program Ranks (Global [G1-5] and State [S1-5]): The Natural Heritage Network employs a standardized ranking system to denote global and state status (Global [G1-5] and State [S1-5]). Taxa and plant communities are assigned numeric ranks ranging from 1 (critically imperiled) to 5 (demonstrably secure), reflecting the relative degree to which they are “at-risk.” A number of factors are considered in assigning ranks – the number, size and distribution of known “occurrences” or population trends (if known), habitat quality, narrowness of range of habitat, trends in populations and habitat, threats to the element, and other factors are also considered.

Element Occurrence (EO): A term used by the Natural Heritage Network in reference to the place where a taxon (species, subspecies, or variety of plant or animal) or Ecological (plant) community is documented to occur.

Plant Community Element Occurrence: A stand, or group of stands, of a plant association or community type all located within close proximity, and that meets minimum criteria regarding ecological integrity and conservation status (Rust 2000).

United States National Vegetation Classification (USNVC) system: A system for ecological classification that blends the features of many existing classification systems most useful to conservation. It essentially represents a structured compilation of an enormous amount of fine-scale state and local information on vegetation, and an integration of this information with a modified version of UNESCO’s worldwide framework for coarse-scale vegetation classification.

Primary references used for rare plant and rare plant communities’ assessments include:

Idaho Conservation Data Center, Department of Fish and Game. 2001. Idaho Conservation Data Center Element Occurrence Data. Arc/Info GIS format. Boise, ID.

Jankovsky-Jones, Mabel. 1997. Conservation Strategy for Southeastern Idaho Wetlands. Idaho Conservation Data Center, Department of Fish and Game. Boise, ID. 39 pp. plus appendices

Jankovsky-Jones, Mabel. 2001. Wetland Conservation Strategy for the Upper Snake River, Portneuf Drainage, and adjacent valleys. Boise, ID. 34 pp. plus appendices

Literature references used in the assessment included:

Rust, Steve K. 2001. Email to author with attachments. On file at Caribou-Targhee Headquarters Office. Idaho Falls, ID.

Rust, Steve K. 2000. Representativeness Assessment of Research Natural Areas on National Forest System Lands in Idaho. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-45. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 129 p.

Grossman, D.H. et al. 1998. International Classification of Ecological Communities: Terrestrial Vegetation of the United States. Volume 1. The National Vegetation Classification System: development, status, and applications. The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, Virginia, USA.

Resource Findings and Assessment Ratings

The information within the tables under “reference findings” for rare plants, rare plant communities and plant communities (reference areas) is a summary of documented Idaho CDC element occurrences within the IRA by general location.

Summary for plant communities in re-evaluation: Plant Communities included here are not major plant communities, i.e. Douglas-fir, aspen, mixed conifer, etc., but plant communities (also referred to as ecological communities or plant associations, with slightly different meanings) that are documented Plant Community Element Occurrences by the Idaho Conservation Data Center. In many cases they are found within Research Natural Areas.

No assessment ratings were made for the entire IRA based on these characteristics. This decision was based primarily on three factors: 1) The element occurrences tend to occupy relatively small areas within the IRAs; and 2) the limitations of available information in providing good indicators to use in rating one IRA as “low”, “medium” or “high”; and 3) information used was based on documented element occurrences versus an extensive analysis of where rare plants and plant communities and quality plant communities are suspected to occur by IRA.

Resource Specific Prescription Recommendations

Specific recommendations were made where sufficient information was available. For example, Prescription 2.2 for maintaining RNAs or 2.1.1 for Bloomington Lake (See specific data narrative for Worm Creek). In some cases, areas found to have rare plant communities or reference plant communities are too small for a prescription, but site-specific management is recommended, i.e. maintaining an enclosure.

Reference Landscapes

Reference Landscapes are places identified in the plan area where the conditions and trends of ecosystem composition, structure, and processes are deemed useful for setting objectives for desired conditions and for judging the effectiveness of plan decisions.

Re-evaluation data within the IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation Tables were used to evaluate the criteria, which create value or an area when considering it as a Reference Landscape (described in the Resource Findings and Assessment Rating narrative below). GIS map layers were used to determine the approximate acreages of the potential Reference Landscapes, which was also a rating criterion. For Cutthroat strongholds, the fish biologist provided information of which areas within IRAs with cutthroat strongholds as identified in the table, held the most potential for large-scale restoration that would be beneficial to the resource (Capurso, 2002).

This analysis is limited to evaluating the potential of IRAs as reference landscapes. Selection of reference landscape should be collaborative among scientists, managers, and the public. If an area on the forest was chosen it would potentially be formally recognized in the next revision of the Forest plan. In addition, the following literature references were used in the assessment process:

Capurso, Jim. 2002. Email to author. On file at Caribou-Targhee Headquarters Office. Idaho Falls, ID

USDA Forest Service. 2000a. Forest Service Roadless Conservation Final Environmental Impact Statement. Vol. 1. Washington Office. Washington D.C.

USDA Forest Service. 2000b. Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Final Environmental Impact Statement. Landscape Analysis and Biodiversity Specialist Report. Washington Office. Washington D.C.

Resource Findings and Assessment Ratings

The resources findings are based on a combination of factors: acreage, opportunity to study large-ranging animals (i.e. wolverines, lynx) in a roadless setting, opportunity for large-scale vegetation restoration projects, and unique reference values, such as fires, large wetland complexes (i.e. Elk Valley Marsh) or restoration of tall forbs plant communities.

The FEIS for the Roadless rule lists a potential characteristic of IRAs, which are their value as landscapes that can provide comparison areas for evaluation and monitoring. Issues, such as viability of wide-ranging animals, watershed cumulative effects, and restoration of fire dependent ecosystems, require research and monitoring at large scales to address this interest. Recognition of an IRA as a "reference landscape" enables monitoring of long-term environmental change, and improved understanding of the affect of past events and activities and evaluates the effects of past management policies (USDA 2000a, pgs 3-191-192 & USDA 2000b pg 40-42). Unlike designated Research Natural Areas that are established to preserve a wide spectrum of pristine areas that typify important plant communities (FSM 4063), IRAs can provide large expanses where a range of management treatments may be applied and tested.

The ratings, "High, Moderate, and Low," derived from the factors mentioned above; indicate the potential value of a particular area as a reference landscape. As described below, these ratings are based on data provided by specialists as a result of their re-evaluations of the CNF roadless areas. Ratings are relative to each IRA. For example, an IRA with a low rating may be rated as "high" if it was compared to a roaded area not within an IRA.

The Assessment Rating criteria were determined from specialist data as follows:

- The size (acreage) of a Reference Landscape – All of the IRAs are potentially large enough to serve as reference landscapes, however relative to each other the bigger the IRA the greater the potential that the area provides opportunities for large - scale restoration, comparison or study and, most often, have the fewest roads. In this context, "size" provides a simple indicator of potential reference landscape value in the context of scale.
- An opportunity for studying large-ranging animals is an important aspect when determining the value of an area as a reference landscape, because IRAs may provide areas where a researcher could compare the differences between an area with human-

caused disturbances (i.e. roads, trails, etc.) and one without. As an indicator to rate this value, identified security areas were used (See wildlife section).

- .. An opportunity for studying the effects of a large-scale restoration project is valuable when determining the value of an area as a Reference Landscape because our knowledge about the effects of management activities over long periods of time and on large landscapes is very limited. (Information from the Ecosystem Disturbances, Water, Invasive Plant Species, and Fisheries Biological Strongholds sections of the tables.)

In relation to Reference Landscapes, IRAs containing “unique” characteristics were rated using a “high,” “moderate” or “low” rating based on the following:

High – IRAs that are relatively large (greater than 20,000 acres), with security areas for wildlife, and an identified opportunity for large-scale restoration were rated high overall. If an IRA was found to have a specific indicator of reference landscape value, but not others, the IRA was rated “high” for the specific value and “low” or “moderate” otherwise.

Moderate – IRAs with a moderate rating are generally those between the size of 10,000 and 20,000 acres that may or may not have some identified indicator of reference landscape potential value.

Low – IRAs that are relatively small (less than 10,000 acres), with no identified security areas, or large-scale restoration opportunities, or unique reference values were rated low.

Resource Specific Prescription Recommendations

Maintaining the potential value as a Reference Landscape is related to the resource used as an indicator. A general recommendation of “...maintaining the reference value...” is stated in the tables because the value as a reference landscape is not a stand-alone value, but dependent on the other resource findings. For example, if a large wildlife security area is identified, the prescription(s) recommended is the same as that under “wildlife” for the security area.

No prescription would preclude the use of inventoried roadless areas for future research and monitoring, but some may reduce the commitment to a natural setting if subjected to commodity production and development, or if the prescription would not allow for a wide-range of experimental treatments (i.e. mechanical thinning) for large-scale restoration projects.

Semi-Primitive Recreation, Summer and Semi-Primitive, Winter

Semi-primitive is a class on the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum. (See EIS Glossary for further definitions of ROS classes.)

Semi-Primitive Recreation, Summer (snow free): Evaluation of this class is used to assess the potential of an area for outdoor Semi-Primitive (motorized and non) recreation during the snow free season. These areas provide recreation opportunities, including, but not limited to, hiking, camping, picnicking, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, and off-road vehicle use.

Semi-Primitive Recreation, Winter (snow season): Evaluation of this class is used to assess the potential of an area for outdoor Semi-Primitive (motorized and non) recreation during the snow season. These areas provide recreation opportunities, including, but not limited to, cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing, and snowmobiling.

The Caribou National Forest was inventoried into ROS classes as part of the 1985 planning process. In 2001 the Forest ROS inventory was updated to reflect current conditions and management, and digitized into GIS.

The Caribou’s ROS inventory and the current travel plan were used to evaluate the existing settings for semi-primitive recreation opportunities, both snow and snow-free, offered by roadless areas. In addition the following literature references were used in the assessment of this characteristic:

ROS User Guide

1994 Caribou Forest Travel Plan

1998 Idaho Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan
Projections of Outdoor Recreation Participation to 2050, USDA Forest Service

1994 CNF Travel Plan Assessment

Resource Findings and Assessment Ratings

To match the diversity of recreation interests with appropriate opportunities, the Caribou National Forest offers a variety of recreation settings. These settings are differentiated by the amount of development and other attributes, and then incorporated into a planning tool called the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS). The ROS describes eight recreation opportunity classes that are defined by the type of activities, differences in the settings, and what levels of management a visitor may experience within each class. The ROS classes represent a range of experiences from a primitive setting with low visitor use and very little site modification to an urban setting where visitors may see an unlimited number of people with highly developed facilities and a high level of site management. The ROS classes are used to allocate different types of recreation opportunities on the land. These allocations help visitors identify the setting that best provides for their desired activities and experiences. (See Appendix B for more complete descriptions of ROS classes.)

Roadless areas are valued for the primitive and semi-primitive recreation opportunities they provide. Forest Service research indicates that there may be an imbalance between the growing demand for semi-primitive recreation opportunities, and the extensive, undeveloped land settings they require (Projections of Outdoor Rec., Pg. 439). These undeveloped settings are available within the ROS classes of Primitive, Semi-primitive Non-motorized (SPNM) and Semi-primitive Motorized (SPM). Due to proximity to major roads or development, some roadless areas also have Roaded Natural and Roaded Modified classes within them. These classes are widely available on the CNF and other public lands and are not discussed here.

Primitive, SPNM and SPM settings are moderate to large in size. The ROS User Guide states, "The size of an area is used as an indicator of the opportunity to experience self-sufficiency as related to the sense of vastness of a relatively undeveloped area" (pg.20). The quality of semi-primitive recreation improves if an area is greater than 2,500 acres, or large enough to offer the feeling of remoteness. Smaller acreages can provide a semi-primitive experience, if the area has heavy vegetation or steep topography to provide screening, or is contiguous to a Primitive area, (ROS User Guide, pg. 16-20).

In 1985, CNF lands were inventoried and classified into the ROS classes for the snow-free season. This inventory was updated and put into a GIS map layer in 2001. The 2001 CNF ROS inventory map can be found in the Recreation section of this document.

Forest settings change dramatically from summer to winter, and area that is Roaded Natural in summer, may have a semi-primitive setting during the winter. ROS classes are not the same for snow and snow-free seasons. For this analysis the snow season ROS was determined using the two classes of SPNM and SPM. For more information on the snow season ROS determination see Appendix B. The 2001 snow season ROS inventory map can be found in the Recreation section of this document.

Areas within IRAs classified as Primitive, SPNM and SPM were rated as having "Very High", "High," "Moderate" or "Low" values for a primitive or semi-primitive experience. The ratings reflect the size of primitive and semi-primitive areas, current use patterns, public comments and the presence of popular motorized and non-motorized trails and winter routes. Acres were determined using GIS data. Use patterns were based on district staff field observations and 1984-1994 RIM use records. The evaluation also considers forest-wide allocation of SPNM and SPM by acre and percentage. Public comments reflect an interest in the amount and percentages of SPNM and SPM offered by the forest as a whole, not just what occurs within IRAs.

Snow-Free Recreation

During the snow-free seasons, there are 9,478 acres of Primitive, 188,872 acres of SPNM, and 477,318 acres of SPM on the CNF. The remaining 35 percent or 366,417 acres are managed as Roaded Modified or Roaded Natural.

Most of the forest is open to hiking, backpacking, biking and horseback riding, but users may encounter motorized vehicles. A statewide assessment indicates that non-motorized opportunities need to be retained or increased, as demand may meet or exceed supply of this experience. (Idaho SCORTP, pg.34). About nineteen percent or approximately 198,350 acres of the CNF offer a Primitive or SPNM experience.

The Forest has only one area classified as Primitive; the core of Caribou Mountain IRA. This area was given a "Very High" value, due to its high acreage and scarcity on the Forest. Large SPNM areas, over 2,500 acres that were either very popular for semi-primitive non-motorized uses and/or close to a community were given a "High" value. If an area was

small, less than 2,500, and had little or no screening from vegetation or topography and low use, it was rated as having a “low” value for SPNM recreation. All other SPNM areas were rated as “moderate.”

According to a statewide assessment demand for SPM opportunities may exceed supply, (Idaho SCORTP, pg. 34). The CNF provides 477,318 acres, or 46 percent of the forest for SPM opportunities. Public comment indicates that many people are not as concerned with the amount of acres the CNF provides for SPM experiences, but wanted more motorized trails; more trails designed for ATVs; more trails for motorcycles only and better trail information. The 1994 Caribou Forest Travel Plan Assessment found that the forest’s motorized trail system is not meeting user demand, not due of amount of acres allocated to motorized recreation, but due to poor trail condition and lack of trail access, trailhead facilities, and trail information.

Large SPM areas over 2,500 acres that were either very popular for semi-primitive motorized uses and/or close to a community were given a “high.” If an area was smaller, less than 2,500 acres, had low use motorized trails or very steep topography, it was rated as having a “low” value for semi-primitive motorized recreation. All other SPM areas were rated as “moderate.”

Snow Season Recreation

Most of the forest is open to cross-country skiing, snow shoeing and snowboarding, but users may encounter snowmobiles. Approximately 32,100 acres or 3 percent of the CNF offers a semi-primitive non-motorized opportunity in the winter. Some of the areas currently closed to snowmobile use in the winter, and classed as SPNM, are closed for their value as big game winter range.

Activity days of cross-country skiing are estimated to increase by 18 percent by 2050, for the Rocky Mountain region the increase in activity days is 242 percent, (Projections of Outdoor Recreation, pg. 327). Public comment also notes the increase in the sport and the need for the CNF to meet the demand now and in the future.

SPNM areas that were popular for skiing and/or close to a community were given a “High” value. If an area receives little ski use, and/or has very steep topography, it was rated as having a “Low” value for SPNM winter recreation. All other areas were given a “Moderate” value for SPNM winter recreation.

Approximately 967,900 acres or 97 percent of the CNF offers a semi-primitive motorized opportunity in the winter. Most of the forest is open to snowmobiles. Big game winter range areas and some cross-country ski routes are closed to snowmobile use in the winter.

According to state records, snowmobile registrations are at 36,000 annually (Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation data). Public comment and the statewide assessment did not identify a lack of snowmobile opportunity, but the assessment surveys indicated snowmobilers want more groomed routes, signs, and trail information (Idaho SCOPTP, pg. 86).

SPM areas that were popular for snowmobiling and/or close to a community were given a “High.” If an area had little snowmobile use, or had very steep topography, it was rated as having a “Low” value for SPM winter recreation. All other areas were given a “Moderate” value for SPM winter recreation.

Resource Specific Prescription Recreation

Considering national and statewide projections for recreation use, and public comment; area prescriptions should retain and/or increase some SPNM areas for summer and winter, to meet current and future demand.

Generally speaking, SPM acres, both summer and winter, are meeting current demand. Recommendations identify portions of Bonneville Peak IRA and Toponce IRA be managed as SPNM during the winter. The west slope of Bonneville Peak is popular for back-country skiing, and a back-country ski hut system is located on the eastern edge of the Toponce IRA. Portions of Bear Creek and Mead Peak IRAs will be managed as SPNM for wildlife concerns and to provide additional SPNM opportunity. The Mt. Naomi area is currently managed as SPNM, but most of the area is too inaccessible in winter for non-motorized recreation. Non-motorized use in Mt. Naomi during the winter is very low. This area should be managed as SPM.

Public comment identified the need for more cross-country ski trails managed as SPNM. Specific areas and routes that would create a quality ski experience will be considered when the CNF’s Travel Plan is revised. (See Appendix B for more information on site-specific travel planning.)

Landscape Character and Scenic Integrity

The scenery visible to people visiting or living adjacent to the CNF constitutes the Forest's scenic resource. Scenery is the general appearance of a place or landscape, or the features of a landscape. The character of a landscape varies by location and is dependent on natural influences such as: geology, vegetation, hydrologic features, landforms, and is also affected by human developments and impacts. The following reference materials were used in the assessment of this characteristic:

1985 Visual Quality Objectives Maps

1985 Forest Plan, Appendix C

Landscape Aesthetics, A Handbook for Scenery Management, Agriculture Handbook Number 701

Resource Findings and Assessment Ratings

Scenery Management on National Forest system lands uses the Scenery Management System (SMS) to evaluate and retain the scenic landscapes of the forest. The SMS process considers a given landscape character, and the amount of human alterations that are visible in the landscape. Some cultural elements add interest to a landscape, such as a rustic cabin or split rail fence. Other human activities, such as logging and roads, can distract from the natural appearance of a landscape. Another factor considered in scenery management is public concern for the scenery of an area. People see all of the national forest lands from somewhere at some time, therefore, all national forest landscapes have value as scenery. Many people view these areas for long periods of time, such as landscapes directly adjacent to highways or residential areas. Many people enjoy and benefit from maintaining the natural appearance of these landscapes.

The scenic desired future condition or scenic integrity objective (SIO) of a landscape is determined by the landscape's character, degree of natural appearance and public concern for its appearance.

SIOs range from "Very High" to "Low." Areas that have pristine scenery with little evidence of human activity and/or are ecologically unique are given a "Very High" SIO. A highly attractive landscape seen from a major travelway would be given a "High" SIO. A natural appearing landscape seen from a popular campground would be given a SIO of "Moderate." More remote areas that have electronic sites, harvest units, or high contrast roads and trails would have a SIO of "Low." "Low" SIO still requires visual changes to be (Landscape Aesthetics).

The scenery of the Caribou National Forest's IRAs was evaluated using the CNF 1985 Visual Resource Inventory Maps and Appendix C of the 1985 Plan. (See Appendix B for more information on the process used to assess scenic integrity and SIOs for roadless areas.)

The assessment ratings used existing scenic condition, and the Visual Quality Objectives (VQO) set forth in the 1985 Forest Plan to assign SIOs to landscapes within the roadless areas.

Elk Valley Marsh is a unique high elevation wetland and was given a SIO of "Very High." Portions of many Caribou roadless areas are highly visible from Interstate 15, US Highway 89 and various state highways and valley communities. These areas were given a "High" or "Moderate" SIO depending on the degree of natural appearance and proximity to viewers. Less visible areas with more visual evidence of human activities were given a SIO of "Low."

Resource Specific Prescription Recommendations

Prescriptions for the CNF should retain or enhance the existing scenic resources of IRAs. Recommendations include moderate to high SIOs for semi-primitive recreation areas that are seen as foreground by many people who have a high expectation of natural appearing surroundings. These areas include: Bear Creek, Bonneville Peak, Caribou City, Mead Peak, Scout Mountain, Stump Creek, Toponce, West Mink, and Worm Creek. These SIOs are compatible with SPNM and SPM ROS settings.

Oil/Gas and Phosphate Leases, Locatable Minerals, and Mineral Materials

These commodities provide uses of Forest resources that meet some economic as well as societal needs. Geologic potentials for oil/gas and phosphate⁷ are assessed in order to evaluate prospective lease options. Locatable mineral potential (generally precious metals, such

⁷ Where USFS lands are involved, the FS provides the BLM with formal recommendations for phosphate lease issuance and development proposals, but final authority for leasing and mining related activities belongs exclusively to the BLM.

as gold, silver, and copper, that are administered under 1872 Mining laws) and mineral material sources (i.e. gravel) are also determined for the above purposes.

Oil and Gas: The oil/gas potential for each of the IRAs was taken from the “Environmental Assessment for Oil and Gas Leasing on Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management’s Pocatello and Medicine Lodge Resource Areas, and Cooperating Caribou National Forest.” This report was completed in 1985 and included an oil/gas potential report that was developed to evaluate the geologic conditions that would help indicate the likelihood for the accumulation of oil/gas deposits.

Phosphate: The potential for the occurrence of phosphate deposits generally follows that used in the current (1985) Forest Plan, Appendix L. The location and number of existing Federal Phosphate leases was taken from BLM leasing records. The BLM is the Federal Agency given the authority to lease federally owned minerals, including those on National Forest System Lands. The U.S. Geological Survey conducted mineral exploration and surveys to determine the presence of potential phosphate deposits. Those lands with a high potential that were considered to have competitive leasing interest were formally designated by the USGS (1969, 1978-1980) as “Known Phosphate Leasing Areas (KPLAs).”

Locatable Minerals: The potential for the occurrence of locatable minerals (precious metals, base metals, and some industrial minerals) used in this appendix, generally follows that used in the existing Forest Plan, Appendix L. Some modifications to the ratings used in the existing Forest Plan were made after consulting current BLM mining claim records.

No other solid leasable minerals (coal, sodium, potassium, solid hydrocarbons, etc.) are known to occur in quantities large enough for mining on the Forest; they will not be discussed further.

Resource Findings and Assessment Ratings

Oil and Gas: The “overthrust belt” is a very large geologic structure known to contain oil/gas reserves in the adjacent portions of northeastern Utah and southwestern Wyoming. The overthrust belt also extends into southeast Idaho and underlies a major portion of the Forest. Because the overthrust belt includes geologic structures and characteristics generally considered favorable for the accumulation of oil/gas resources, portions of the Forest have been given a “high” potential for the occurrence of oil/gas reserves.

However, the 1985 oil/gas potential report; the most recent assessment for the Forest, is out of date, and probably contains some ratings that are higher than what they would be if a new, updated oil/gas potential report were to be completed. For example, the 1990 “Oil and Gas Potential Report for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah and Wyoming” states that lands in the Bear River Range, south of the Idaho-Utah state line, have a “low” potential, while adjacent lands of the Bear River Range north of the state line, as displayed in the 1985 report, have a moderate or high potential. The same is true on the northern part of the Forest. A 1992 “Oil and Gas Potential Report for the Targhee National Forest” shows lands immediately north of the Forest boundary with a moderate potential, while the 1985 report shows the adjacent lands south of the Forest boundary with a “high” potential. These apparent discrepancies are pointed out here to show the need for an updated oil/gas potential report for the Caribou NF.

Current regulations require the preparation of appropriate NEPA documents that would amend the revised Forest Plan prior to any oil/gas leasing on the Forest. A new oil/gas potential report would be a part of any NEPA document that may be prepared to consider future oil/gas leasing on the Forest. At present, no oil/gas leases exist on the Forest.

The potential for the occurrence of oil/gas resources within the various IRAs, indicated in this Appendix, was taken from the 1985 oil/gas potential report referred to above. The ratings given in that report were based on geologic factors and conditions, like the probable presence of source rocks, reservoir rocks, proper maturation of the hydrocarbons, and the presence of geologic structures or traps that could allow the accumulation of oil/gas resources. Also considered in the report is information obtained from seismic exploration and exploratory wells drilled.

Phosphate: Phosphate deposits on Federal lands are managed under the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act, as amended. Under this act, and the existing Federal Regulations at 43 CFR 3500, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the designated Federal agency having the authority to issue or modify Federal Phosphate leases and/or approve exploration and development activities on those leases, including approval of mining and reclamation plans. When the BLM issues a Federal Phosphate lease, it conveys to the lessee the exclusive right to explore for and develop (mine) the phosphate resources contained in the lease, subject to existing laws and regulations.

Where National Forest System lands are involved, the Forest Service provides the BLM with formal recommendations for lease issuance and development proposals, but the final authority for the issuance of leases and the approval of on-lease mining related activities belongs exclusively to the BLM. An analysis of the anticipated impacts related to leasing or mining activities, as well as the development of mitigation measures, conditions of approval, etc. are determined through the NEPA process. Reclamation plans, water management plans and bonds are required. The appropriate Federal and State agencies prior to any surface disturbance must approve all activities. Areas disturbed by mining related activities are required to be reclaimed.

The development of a lease usually requires the disturbance of adjacent, unleased lands as well, for such things as haul roads, power lines, water wells, sediment control structures, office/shop facilities, and communication sites. Because of these needs, the actual surface disturbance associated with a phosphate mine encompasses more than the leased lands, usually hundreds of acres more. Conversely, not every acre included in a lease will be disturbed through mining activity because of where and how the phosphate deposit is situated in the lease. All of these off-lease disturbances are authorized and administered by the Forest Service through the issuance of Special Use Permits. Disposal of phosphate mine overburden waste products are no longer permitted on Forest Service Special Use Permits.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) did considerable field reviews and exploration work to determine the presence of phosphate deposits in southeast Idaho. Based on these studies, the USGS made formal designations of "Known Phosphate Lease Areas" (KPLAs) for those areas they deemed to have a competitive interest for leasing. These KPLAs often indicate areas that may be affected by future exploration, leasing, and mining activities.

The Smoky Canyon Mine is currently operating in or adjacent to an IRA. The mined-out Mt. Fuel Mine also lies partially within an IRA. Other areas that have received phosphate exploration or are proposed for exploration also exist in IRAs. Because existing phosphate leases and KPLAs are present in IRAs, future mining related disturbances should be expected on some of these IRA areas.

Potential ratings for phosphate were developed based on the known presence of phosphate bearing rocks in outcrop or near the surface. Areas that contain leases or KPLA have a "high" potential, because they indicate phosphate-bearing rocks at or very near the surface. Areas within one mile of a lease or KPLA were given a "moderate" potential; areas within one to two miles of a KPLA or lease were assigned a "low" potential; while areas more than two miles from a lease or KPLA were given a "no known potential" rating. Many areas may be underlain by phosphate bearing rocks, but if the deposits are too deeply buried and unaltered, they are not economically feasible to mine or to process using current methods and technologies.

Locatable Minerals: Mining related activity for other than the recovery of phosphate on the Forest is currently very limited. Perlite was mined from a deposit within the Forest boundary up until the early 1990s on the north end of the Elk Horn Mountains, north of Malad, Idaho. Large deposits of unmined perlite remain in the area. Gold mining, along with minor silver and copper mining, occurred in the Caribou Mountain area from lode and/or placer deposits. Although mining activity was extensive in the Caribou Mountain area in the late 1800s; the only activity that remains today is "recreational" panning, sluicing, and suction dredging of limited magnitude. Relatively few of the once numerous mining claims exist in this area today. Scattered prospecting has occurred throughout the Forest in the past, but little occurs today, with very few active mining claims remaining outside of the perlite deposit area, a block of limestone claims and the Caribou Mountain area.

The ratings for locatable minerals generally followed that in the existing (1985) Forest Plan, modified by existing conditions. Those ratings are based on the following: Areas in the near vicinity of patented claims that have produced, or are producing, significant values or areas that are in the same geologic environment are rated "high," as are areas having a dense clustering of unpatented mining claims. Areas having a number of scattered, unpatented mining claims are rated "moderate." All other areas are rated "low" because insufficient exploration has been done to justify a "no" potential.

Resource Specific Prescription Recommendations

Oil/Gas: No specific prescriptions were applied based on oil/gas resources, because additional NEPA to analyze any future leasing would need to be prepared; that NEPA would amend the Revised Forest Plan, and applicable prescriptions would be made at that time.

Phosphate: A management prescription of 8.2.2 is applied to all lands currently included in an approved mining and reclamation plan or approved exploration plan, or lands that lie within an area currently being analyzed through NEPA for proposed activity. A prescription of 8.2.1 is assigned to all inactive, unmined phosphate leases or unleased KPLA areas.

As described above, it should be noted that mining related disturbances generally extend onto adjacent unleased lands, covered by Forest Service Special Use Permits.

Locatable Minerals: Areas included in approved Plans of Operation for locatable minerals and for developed gravel sources are given a prescription of 8.2.2. No prescription is applied to lands with inactive, existing mining claims because operations are not approved. The 1872 mining laws, as amended, cover the development of locatable minerals. These laws allow the development of locatable mineral deposits, subject to existing laws and regulations. If proposals for locatable operations are received, NEPA will be completed and the Revised Forest Plan amended, if necessary.

Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, and Other Features

Special Use Permits are considered a special authorization, which is revocable and terminable, that provides permission, without conveying an interest in land, to occupy and use National Forest System lands or facilities for specific purposes.

A **Utility Corridor** is a linear strip of land, under special use authorization, defined for the present or future location of utility facilities (i.e. power lines, pipe lines, etc.) within its boundaries.

Other Features may include areas in IRAs that may offer unique characteristics and/or values that are not disclosed under any other Re-Evaluation Characteristic category. Examples may include, but are not limited to, places for local events, areas valued for collection of non-timber forest products, or where past laws, policies, or directions have significantly influenced the management of an area (i.e. a 1985 Land and Resource Management Plan settlement area).⁸

Information concerning the number and location of Special Use Permits and utility corridors was obtained from Ranger District personnel.

The acreage of non-Federal lands totally surrounded by lands in IRAs was determined by consulting the “Roadless Area Re-Inventory, Land and Resource Management Plan, Caribou National Forest and Curlew National Grassland, June, 1996” and from BLM records for Mineral Patent Surveys.

IDT members and/or District personnel disclosed data points in the “Other” category.

Resource Findings and Assessment Ratings

Special Use Permits (SUPs) exist in, or adjacent to, many of the IRAs. These SUPs include a variety of permitted uses, including, but not limited to, the following: outfitter and guide permits, electronics (communications) sites, water development sites, power transmission lines, summer homes, yurts, livestock management structures, organizational camps, buried pipelines, water diversion structures, and various mining related facilities/structures. Most of the SUPs that involve surface disturbance are too small to be displayed on the maps included in the Revised Forest Plan.

A few tracts of non-Federal (state or private) lands are located completely inside IRAs. Only those areas that were totally surrounded by IRAs were included in the tables as “in-holdings.” Non-Federal lands that were on the edge of an IRA or that had “cherry-stemmed” access routes to them were not included in this appendix. Access to the non-Federal lands totally surrounded by IRA lands could be an issue.

The “Other” category includes items that did not fit under any other Re-Evaluation Characteristic category, but needed to be disclosed in this document.

There are no Assessment Ratings for these categories as their purpose is just to disclose IRA relevant points that have little or no bearing on the overall management decisions for each roadless area.

Resource(s) Specific Prescription Recommendations

Utility corridors (power transmission lines, buried pipelines, etc.) are given an 8.1 prescription. Other SUPs generally do not have a specific prescription applied to them, but the rights granted by the SUP need to be guaranteed for as long as the SUP is in force. Generally, these areas are too small to be displayed on the maps in the Revised Forest Plan.

⁸ 1985 Land and Resource Management Plan settlement areas were precluded from all timber harvest activities for a specified period. (This time period has expired.)

INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA RE-EVALUATIONS

This section of the Appendix R presents a detailed discussion of each individual roadless area. A brief description of the roadless area location is presented to orient the reader on the ground. Specific information about resources, special features, and wildlife habitat is also included. A summarized review of specific public comments on individual roadless areas pertaining to future management options is presented. A table showing the application of management prescriptions within the roadless areas provides the reader with a comparison between management prescriptions in Alternative 7, the preferred alternative in the Draft EIS and Alternative 7R, the Selected Alternative in the Record of Decision, along with the decision rationale for the final management prescription application.

In order to organize the specialists' re-evaluation findings using the characteristics described in the previous section, each separate roadless area evaluation includes a table that displays each of the characteristics on the left-hand side of the table; the resource specialist findings for that particular roadless area, and a recommendation for the application of a management prescription(s) based on these findings.

Description:

Bear Creek Roadless Area is located in Bonneville County in Southeast 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 Creek Road on the east. It is adjacent to the Targhee Bear Creek IRA, which is managed as 6.1b (livestock grazing).

Approximately 61 percent of the Bear Creek IRA contains unstable soils and 44 percent of the area has a high potential for soil erosion. It lies outside of the twenty-mile radius around Soda Springs, a sensitive receptor, but is within 200 kilometers of a Class I area (Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks). Approximately 96 percent of watersheds in this IRA are rated "red." No 303(d) streams are present in the IRA.

Current vegetation composition consists of aspen/conifer, some stands of Douglas-fir on northern exposures and sage/grass on southern exposures and along the south end of the IRA. No commercial harvest has occurred, but some roads and small fires are evident. Herbicide applications were applied to sagebrush in the Caribou Basin in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Conifers are encroaching into late-seral aspen stands. Insects are not evident, likely due to the mixed species composition in the area. Fire hazard is high due to conifer encroachment into late-seral aspen and fuel buildup in older, multi-canopy stands of mixed conifer and Douglas-fir. Invasive species are found on approximately 0.2 percent (36 acres) of the IRA. Species include Canada thistle (26 acres) and Musk thistle (10 acres).

Great gray owls are the known TES occurrence in this IRA. While the area has little forested cover (16 percent), it ranks high for lynx linkage habitat. This is due to the large area of secure habitat (68 percent), and it's proximity to the Targhee, to the north, and the Bridger-Teton to the east. Both of these areas have mapped Lynx Analysis Units, and are thought to provide suitable habitat for lynx. Because the area has no motorized roads or trails, the area provides security for those species affected by human disturbance or access (wolves and wolverine). About 68 percent of the area is in security.

This IRA is about 70 percent grass/shrub. The remaining portion (13 percent) is in aspen/conifer cover. The small acreage of forested vegetation provides little habitat for forest-associated species. While the area is dominated by grass/shrub habitats, it is over ten miles from known lek locations and provides little habitat for sage grouse.

Part of this IRA lies in Noss' South Caribou-Grays Lake mega site. The Noss study placed the site in Quadrant 1 and the irreplaceability score is high at 75.8. The study placed an emphasis on aspen, willow riparian and meadows in this site. Elk habitat is some of the best and this area has the highest density of elk in southeast Idaho (Noss, *et al*, 2001). It is rated high for this analysis. Because a low percentage of the vegetation is at high departure from PFC (17 percent), this area ranks high for providing habitat suitable for most species.

Wildlife recommendations for this area include maintaining the security area as a year-round non-motorized area (3.1a). This management prescription would maintain the existing condition and provide a secure area for species such as wolverine and wolves, and provide linkage habitat for lynx. This area is important because of its location between the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and Preuss Range to the south.

McCoy Creek and its tributaries are Yellowstone cutthroat trout stronghold streams and rate high for protection and restoration.

No documented occurrences of rare plants and rare plant communities exist and no plant community reference areas are known. The large wildlife security area (14,250 acres) could serve as a reference landscape. In addition large-scale restoration opportunities for watershed and aquatic habitat could also provide reference landscapes. No unique reference value for the IRA has been identified.

The area contains 13,824 acres of summer semi-primitive non-motorized opportunity and approximately 6,035 acres of summer semi-primitive motorized recreation opportunity. The remaining 1,189 acres is managed as roaded modified. The entire IRA is open to cross-country winter snowmobiling.

Moderate to low scenic integrity exists in the IRA. Approximately 5,241 acres are managed with the visual quality objective of partial retention (moderate), and 15, 807 acres are managed for modification (low).

The IRA lies within the “overthrust” belt. No leases currently exist for oil and gas or phosphate. Locatable minerals include patented mining claims with previous mining activity evident along the southern-most edge of the IRA. A potential rock source for road surfacing material lies just inside the IRA boundary.

One outfitter and guide operates within the IRA. The area also contains one communication tower. No utility corridors are present within the IRA.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
2. Allow summer and winter, motorized cross-country travel.
3. Should be managed as wilderness or with similar protections due to highly erodible red soils and outstanding wildlife reserves.
4. Designate as wilderness or maintain roadless qualities, and prohibit ORVs, and limit aggressive grazing by sheep.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Bear Creek	04615	21,048	2.1.4	0	2.1.4	649	New Rx applied to Caribou City and Lander Trail historic areas
			2.8.3	2,388	2.8.3	2,388	Lynx/wolverine habitat area, habitat connectivity, low recreation use, unstable soils, watershed restoration
			3.1	12,611	3.1	13,241	Manageability of existing uses, terrain limiting for snowmobiles
			3.2	0	3.2	2,454	Shifted acres to 2.1.4, 3.1 and 3.2 prescriptions because of watershed condition, unstable soils, YCT fisheries
			3.3	3,112	3.3	0	Shifted acres to 2.1.4, 3.1 and 3.2 prescriptions because of watershed condition, unstable soils, YCT fisheries
			5.3	210	5.3	0	Rangeland vegetation management, consolidation of Rx's
			6.2	0	6.2	2,316	Shifted acres to new 6.2, 3.1, and 3.2 prescriptions, consolidation of Rx's
			6.3	2,727	6.3	0	
Total IRA Acres				21,048		21,048	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.1. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Bear Creek #04615

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	61 % Unstable 44 % Erosion hazard	High	Rx 3.1
Air	Sensitive Receptor: Soda Springs, ID	Non-restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	96% Red 4% Green No 303(d) streams	High restoration potential	Rx 3.1 for restoration/preservation within the watershed.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	High Low High	Rx 3.3 to restore aspen stands.
Invasive Plant Species	0.2 % of the IRA (36 acres)	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access for management.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	High High High Low N/A	Rx 3.1.a to maintain the non-motorized character of the area.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	High Low	Rx 3.1.a to maintain the non-motorized character of the area.
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	McCoy Creek and its tributaries are Yellowstone cutthroat trout stronghold streams.	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas and Rx 3.1 in watersheds with Yellowstone cutthroat trout stronghold(s).
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: None Wildlife security area (≈14,250 acres). Large-scale restoration opportunities for watershed and cutthroat trout habitat.	High overall	Any Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPNM: 13,824 acres SPM: 6,035 acres Roaded Modified: 1,189 acres	High value SPNM Moderate value SPM	Maintain SPNM and SPM setting.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 21,041 acres	Moderate SPM value at lower elevation areas	Maintain SPM setting.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Partial Retention (moderate): 5,241 ac. Modification (low): 15,807 ac.	Moderate to low scenic integrity	An Rx that raises scenic integrity objectives in the SPNM setting.
Oil & Gas	IRA lies within the overthrust belt. No existing leases	High Potential	No Rx recommendation.
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No Rx recommendation.
Locatable Minerals	Mining claims, some with previous mining activity, occur along the southern-most edge of IRA.	High potential along McCoy Creek, low elsewhere	No Rx Recommendation.
Mineral Materials	Potential rock source for road Surfacing material exists.		Any Rx that does not prohibit development of mineral material rock.
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Communications tower Big Elk Outfitter and Guide		Any Rx that does not impede permit compliance.

Description:

This IRA is within Bannock and Caribou counties on the Westside Ranger District of the Caribou National Forest 4.5 miles east of the city of Inkom, Idaho.

Approximately 18 percent of the area is considered unstable. No erosion hazard exists in the area. This IRA is inside the twenty-mile radius around both sensitive receptors - Pocatello and Soda Springs, Idaho. It is outside the 200-kilometer radius of a Class I area. Approximately 98 percent of the IRA is in moderate, or "yellow," watershed condition. The remaining 2 percent is considered "green." No 303(d) streams are present.

The IRA's vegetation is composed of mountain brush, sagebrush, quaking aspen, Douglas-fir and mixed conifer. In the early to mid 1990's one unit of the North Pebble Timber Sale was harvested. Bob Smith fires occurred in 2000. Aspen decline is rated high due to late seral aspen stands and conifer encroachment. Insect Hazard is considered moderate due to mixed species composition and mature Douglas-fir stands. These are not "old growth" Douglas-fir stands. Some mixed conifer is also present. The Fire Hazard is also rated as moderate, because of the species mix with large amounts of aspen and smaller areas of aspen/conifer or mixed conifer stands. Approximately 0.7 percent (216 acres) of the IRA contains invasive species. Species include 95 acres of Canada thistle, 77 acres of Dyers Woad, and 44 acres of Musk thistle. The area is rated as "medium" for invasive species.

Idaho Fish and Game personnel have expressed concerns for mule deer in this IRA (See EIS and Wildlife Process Paper for rationale). Known TES occurrences for this IRA include Townsends Big-eared bat and wolverine. The IRA is located on the Westside District and is not considered to provide linkage habitat for lynx. Two fairly large security areas exist around Bonneville Peak and Haystack Mountain. Because of the large amount of security (35 percent), this area has high potential for habitat for wolverines and wolves. Wolverines in the mountain range have been recorded.

This IRA contains a mix of aspen (30 percent) and conifer (23 percent), with smaller amounts of grass/shrub (15 percent). Based on the amount of forested cover, it ranks as moderate potential for habitat for forest-associated species. Because of the small amount of grass/shrub, small patch size, and distance to known sage grouse leks (less than 5 miles), this area rates low for providing habitat for sage grouse.

Noss, *et al* (1999) placed this area in the Portneuf site. This site ranked in Quadrant 1, but the irreplaceability was placed at 51, which is moderate. They mention significant herds of mule deer, and growing herds of elk. For this analysis, it ranked high. Because of the amount of habitat at high departure from PFC (32 percent), the area ranks as moderate potential.

Wildlife recommendations for this IRA include: 1) maintaining the winter range in Rx 2.7.1 as mapped in Alternative 7, and 2) maintaining the two large security areas as 3.1(b), non-motorized in the summer, to provide secure summer habitat for species, such mule deer and wolverine, and maintaining the north-south major ridge system as a travel corridor for wildlife.

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest Fish Distribution Survey was used on streams in this IRA in 2001. Inman, Robbers Roost, Pebble, and North Fork Pebble Creeks were identified as Yellowstone cutthroat trout stronghold streams. The salmonid community in Pebble Creek also consisted of hatchery non-native trout, but they were outnumbered by the native Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Aquatic and habitat restoration are rated "High."

No documented occurrences or rare plants have been completed. Inman Creek contains a rare plant community. The Big Springs headwaters area of Pebble Creek and USFS lands near the BLM Robbers Roost RNA/ACEC contain reference areas for rare plant communities. The large wildlife areas identified by the Wildlife Biologist could serve as a reference landscape. No unique reference value for this IRA has been identified.

The IRA supports 13,172 acres of summer semi-primitive non-motorized recreation and 15,272 acres of summer semi-primitive motorized recreation. Winter semi-primitive motorized recreation occurs on 32,110 acres. Approximately 90 acres are within the Pebble Creek Ski Area and are managed as winter semi-primitive non-motorized.

A Visual Quality Objective of "Retention" (high) occurs on 12,083 acres on the western edge of this IRA, because it is highly visible from U.S. Interstate 15. Approximately 19,703 acres maintain partial retention (moderate) objectives, and 381 acres are managed for modification (low).

No leasable oil, gas, or phosphate, and no locatable or mineral materials exist within the IRA. A phosphate slurry pipeline runs along the northern boundary but is outside the IRA. One outfitter and guide is permitted in the area. The area also contains small acreages of state and private land.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
2. Allow summer, motorized travel on designated routes and winter motorized cross-country.
3. New motorized trail construction should be permitted.
4. Area should be non-motorized during the winter to provide cross-country skiers with semi-primitive recreation opportunities.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Bonneville Peak	04154	32,167	2.7.1	9,226	2.7.1	9,232	Big game winter range, minor adjustment to boundary for alignment with topo/cultural feature
			2.8.3	1,667	2.8.3	1,667	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	15,250	3.2	10,841	Manageability of existing uses and access, stable soils, moderate watershed conditions, YCT fisheries
			3.3	0	3.3	2,590	Watershed restoration, aspen regeneration for late seral aspen and conifer encroachment
			4.2	772	4.2	772	No change, developed recreation area under Special Use Permit
			5.2	0	5.2	695	Maintenance of stand integrity, past harvest area, past fire disturbance, management access
			6.1	5,251	6.1	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx for rangeland vegetation management
			6.2	0	6.2	6,370	Rangeland vegetation management, consolidation of Rxs
Total IRA Acres				32,166		32,167	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R. 2. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Bonneville Peak # 04154

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	18% Unstable 0% Erosion hazard	Moderate	Rx 2.7.1, 3.1, and/or 3.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Pocatello, ID and Soda Springs, ID	Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	98% Yellow 2% Green No 303(d) streams	Moderate overall condition	No recommendations.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	High Moderate Moderate	Rx 5.1 - In North Pebble Timber Sale area and Reed Canyon and Rx 3.3 to allow for restoration of aspen and treatment of mixed conifer.
Invasive Plant Species	0.7% of the IRA (216 acres)	Medium	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	N/A High High Moderate Low	Rx 3.1.a in the two large security areas, Bonneville Peak and Haystack Mountain, (≈4,000 acres) in order to maintain the suitability of the north-south ridge system as a travel corridor and provide security for large carnivores, big game, and other species affected by human disturbance.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	High Moderate	Rx 2.7.1 to maintain winter range outlined in Alternative 7.
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Yellowstone cutthroat trout stronghold streams are present	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas and Rx 3.1 in watersheds with YCT stronghold(s).
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas: USFS land near BLM Robber's Roost RNA, Big Springs	None Inman Creek	Site-specific management and mitigation are recommended. Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: None Wildlife security area (≈8,400 acres).	High Overall	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPNM: 13,172 acres SPM: 15,272 acres Roaded Modified: 3,723 acres	High value for SPNM High value for SPM	Maintain SPNM and SPM settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPNM: 90 acres Pebble Creek Ski Area SPM: 32,110 acres	High value for SPNM and SPM	Manage the backside of Bonneville Peak for a SPNM setting. Maintain remaining SPM acres.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 12,083 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 19,703 ac. Modification (low): 381 ac.	High scenic integrity on western edge for I-15 corridor.	Maintain existing scenic integrity as scenic integrity objectives.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	Moderate potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Outfitter and Guide, Pebble Creek Ski Area (adjacent), Phosphate slurry pipeline, 680 acres on in-holdings		Rx that does not impede permit compliance.

Description:

The Caribou City IRA is within Bonneville County, Idaho, on the Soda Springs Ranger District and the Palisades Ranger District. The area is situated approximately one mile east of the Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge and .25 miles southwest of the Palisades Reservoir.

Approximately 75 percent of this IRA is considered unstable with 31 percent of the area having a high erosion hazard. Afton, Wyoming and Soda Springs, Idaho are considered sensitive receptors for air quality. The southwest corner of the IRA is inside the twenty-mile radius of Soda Springs, Idaho. The entire IRA is not within 200 kilometers of a Class I area. About 70 percent of the watersheds in the IRA are rated “red” with 29 percent “yellow and 1 percent “green.” No 303(d) streams are found in the IRA.

The IRA’s vegetation is composed of aspen/conifer, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, mixed conifer, pure aspen and sagebrush. This IRA has the highest number of forested vegetation acres with a “high” fire hazard rating (27,352), and the second highest number of acres with a “high” insect hazard rating (10,681) as well as “high” aspen decline rating (20,098). Mature conifer is found in large, nearly continuous, blocks of several hundred acres in the vicinity of historic Caribou City. Aspen succeeding to conifer is found in large blocks on the south end of the IRA, north of State Highway 34. In 1988, this IRA experienced the largest, high intensity, stand-replacing wildfire to occur on the Forest in the past 80 years, in primarily mature conifer vegetation. Invasive species exist on 0.1 percent (80 acres) of the area. Species include Canada thistle (56 acres) and Musk thistle (24 acres).

Known occurrences of lynx (1955, 1978-9), and wolves (1983) have been recorded in the IRA. The area lies adjacent to the Palisades country to the north and the Bridger-Teton to the east making it important for movements of species from the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. This IRA is also part of an area Idaho Department of Fish and Game has been managing for trophy elk hunting. This area rated high for lynx linkage habitat, based on: 1) the presence of major drainages (Tincup and Trail Creeks) and Bald Mountain/Tincup Mountain ridges, which could provide movement corridors; 2) proximity to GYE and importance for movements to the south; 3) the area has 34 percent conifer cover; 4) large amount of security (66 percent) and 5) has historic records of use by lynx. Because of the large amount of security (66 percent), this area also ranks high for wolverine and wolves. The security area lies in the Old Baldy/Caribou Mountain/Tincup Mountain area.

This IRA has forested cover over 34 percent of the area, ranking it moderate for forest-associated species. The area has 36 percent grass/shrub; it is over ten miles from the nearest known sage grouse lek and is rated low for sage grouse. The IRA is located in Noss’ South Caribou-Grays Lake site. They placed it in Quadrant 1 and the irreplaceability score is high at 75.8. Noss, *et al* (2001) emphasize aspen, willow riparian and meadows as important in the area. They also recognize the area as providing excellent elk habitat with the highest density of elk in southeast Idaho. Because this site lies in Quadrant 1, it ranks high for this category. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (28 percent), this area ranks as moderate potential.

The IRA is within the McCoy Creek, Jackknife Creek, Tincup Creek, and Grays Lake Drainages. McCoy Creek, Jackknife Creek, Tincup Creek, and their fish-bearing tributaries are considered Yellowstone cutthroat trout stronghold streams. Brown trout also occur in the lower reaches of these streams. Eagle Creek, within the Grays Lake Drainage has not yet been surveyed, but it is also suspected to be occupied by Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Assessment rating is “High.”

Documented rare plants occur near Caribou Mountain, although no rare plant communities have been documented. The area has not been identified as containing plant community reference areas. The large wildlife security area identified by the Wildlife Biologist could serve as a reference landscape. Large-scale restoration efforts for watershed or aquatic habitat could also serve as reference landscapes. The 1988 Trail Creek Fire site (9,600 acres) could serve as a reference landscape for wildfire recovery. Overall, the area ranks “high” for reference landscapes.

This IRA provides an array of recreational opportunities. Approximately 47,695 acres are managed for summer semi-primitive non-motorized use and 3,379 acres are managed for summer semi-primitive motorized use. About 9,000 acres are managed as “primitive,” the only area on the forest with this recreation opportunity. The remaining 19,046 acres are managed as roaded modified. In the winter about 80,000 acres are open to cross-country snowmobile use. The area also supports an annual snowmobile race under a special use authorization.

Scenic integrity rates high (retention) on 632 acres adjacent to the Tincup Scenic Byway. About 63,150 acres are managed for partial retention (moderate), 14,946 acres for modification (low), and only 388 acres for maximum modification (very low).

The IRA lies within the overthrust belt and contains two abandoned exploratory oil and gas well sites. No oil and gas or phosphate leases currently exist within the IRA. The area supports several existing mining claims. Underground and placer operations have produced precious and non-precious metals. Exploration and “recreational panning” still occur in the area.

The area has also produced paleontological resources.

An above ground power line and a buried optic cable run along the Tincup Scenic Byway. The area also contains about 280 acres of private land.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Allow summer, motorized travel on designated routes and winter motorized cross-country.
2. Designate it as wilderness, to protect critical “core” habitat areas and encourage the preservation and maintenance of the conservation corridor.
3. New motorized trail construction should be permitted.
4. Should remain closed to summer ORVs and the old jeep road up Black Mountain should be more securely closed as ORVs are getting around closure.
5. Protect mountain and surrounding area from prevalent soil erosion.
6. Allow snowmobiling in wilderness recommendation areas.
7. Designate as wilderness or maintain roadless standards as this area is important to elk herds (especially in the winter).

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Caribou City	04161	79,102	1.3	28,239	1.3	25,750	Adjustment of boundary for manageability to topographic/cultural features
			2.1.2	552	2.1.2	1,220	Increased Rx area for visual quality corridor maintenance around historic areas
			2.1.4	0	2.1.4	12,406	New Historic District Rx applied on Caribou City area
			2.7.1	4,716	2.7.1	4,569	Shifted acres to 2.7.2, Big Game winter range, lower road density standards in 2.7.2
			2.7.2	1,267	2.7.2	1,089	Increased acres from 2.7.1, Big game winter range, lower road density standards in this Rx
			2.8.3	7,920	2.8.3	7,920	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	0	3.2	23	Adjustment of Rx boundary for manageability to topographic/cultural features and adjacent prescription area.
			3.3	14,086	3.3	8,836	Unstable soils, watershed restoration, Aspen regeneration, high fire hazard rating, rangeland vegetation restoration
			6.2	0	6.2	17,060	Rangeland vegetation management and restoration needs
			6.3	21,797	6.3	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx and lost other acres to new historic district area
			8.1u	526	8.1u	230	Adjusted boundaries of Rx area, utility corridor along Tincup Scenic Byway
Total IRA Acres				79,103		79,103	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.3. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Caribou City # 04161

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	76% Unstable 31% Erosion Hazard	High	Rx 1.3, Rx 3.1 and/or Rx 3.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Afton, WY and Soda Springs, ID.	Non-restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	70% Red 29% Yellow 1% Green No 303(d) streams	Moderate restoration potential	Rx 3.1 or Rx 3.3 for restoration or preservation.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	High Moderate High	Rx 3.3 to restore aspen stands. Defer to other specialists for remainder of IRA.
Invasive Plant Species	0.1% of the IRA (80 acres)	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	High High High Moderate Low	Rx 1.3 or Rx 3.1a in the large security blocks (50,000 acres). No increase in motorized use to maintain elk habitat and riparian and ridge movement corridors for large carnivores and other species.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	High Moderate	Rx 2.7.1 to maintain winter range outlined in Alternative 7.
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Yellowstone cutthroat trout stronghold streams are present	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas and Rx 3.1 in YCT stronghold watersheds.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	Caribou Mntn. None None	Rx 1.3 or 3.1b on Caribou Mntn. Then, any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: 1988 Trail Creek wildfire site. Wildlife security area (≈50,000 acres)	High Overall	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	Primitive: 8,982 acres SPNM: 47,695 acres SPM: 3,379 acres Roaded Modified: 19,046 acres	High value for Primitive, SPNM and SPM	Maintain existing recreation opportunity settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 80,024 acres	High values for SPM	Consider offering a non-motorized experience into historic area during site-specific travel planning.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 632 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 63,136 ac. Modification (low): 14,946 ac. Max. Modification (Very low) 388 ac.	High to moderate adjacent to Tincup Scenic By way	Maintain or enhance scenic integrity and rehabilitate acres in Maximum Modification.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	Existing mine claims	High potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Annual snowmobile race, above ground utility line and buried optic cable along Tincup Scenic Byway, 279 acres of private land, paleontological resource protection		Rx that does not impede permittees

Description:

This IRA is within Oneida County, Idaho, Box Elder County, Utah and Cache County, Utah on the Westside Ranger District. The area extends from approximately two miles southeast of Malad, Idaho to 1.5 miles north of Plymouth, Utah.

No portion of this IRA contains unstable soils and 67 percent of the area has a “low” rating for erosion hazard. Sensitive air quality receptors include Malad and Preston, Idaho. The IRA is outside the twenty-mile radius for Pocatello and Soda Springs, Idaho. It is not within 200 kilometers of a Class I area. About 88 percent of the watersheds in this IRA rate a “red” condition, 8 percent rated out as “yellow” and 4 percent rated as “green.” No 303(d) streams are found in this IRA.

The IRA’s forested vegetation is composed of juniper, small areas of Douglas-fir, aspen/maple, and aspen. Past disturbances include the Fry Canyon Timber Sale in the early 1990’s. Aspen decline is rated as “moderate,” because older aspen stands are not regenerating adequately to maintain healthy pockets of aspen. The Insect Hazard is low because of the lack of conifer species in the IRA. Fire Hazard rating is low due to limited forested vegetation and related mixed conifer ladder fuels. The IRA rates “medium” for invasive species with 1.4 percent of the area infested. Leafy spurge currently occupies about 313 acres.

Idaho Fish and Game has expressed concerns regarding mule deer (See EIS and Wildlife Process Paper for rationale) in this IRA. Known TES occurrences include goshawks. This IRA is located on the Westside Ranger District and is not considered linkage habitat for lynx. Several security areas can be found in this IRA; about 33 percent of the area is more than .5-miles from a motorized road or trail. Because of the large amount of security, this area has high potential for habitat for wolverines and wolves. Recorded sightings have been documented of wolverines in the mountain range. The area has a long, linear shape adjacent to and intermingled with private lands that could possibly reduce the effectiveness of the security areas.

This IRA is a mix of aspen (20 percent), grass/shrub (38 percent), juniper (36 percent) and only four percent conifer. Based on the amount of forested cover, it ranks as low potential for habitat for forest-associated species. Because of the larger amount of grass/shrub and proximity to known sage grouse leks, this area rates high for providing habitat for sage grouse.

Noss, *et al*, (1999) placed this area in the Bear River site. They noted a loss of wetlands at lower elevations (private lands) and higher-elevations of gentle, open-sagebrush with pockets of conifer and aspen. This site ranked in Quadrant 4 and has an irreplaceability score of 30 and ranks low for this analysis. Because of the amount of habitat at high departure from PFC (55 percent), the area ranks as low potential for this criterion (37 percent of the area is juniper and 20 percent is aspen and aspen/maple).

No fish-bearing streams have been documented in the IRA.

No occurrences of rare plants and rare plant communities have been documented. Gunsight Peak Research Natural Area and the Trail Hollow enclosure are considered plant community reference areas. Large-scale watershed restoration management could provide a reference landscape, but no unique reference value has been identified for this IRA.

The area is managed entirely for summer and winter semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences. High scenic integrity needs to be retained on 2,936 acres that run adjacent to U.S. Interstate 15. Approximately 2,936 acres are managed for partial retention (moderate) and the remaining 10,703 acres are managed for Modification (low).

No oil and gas or phosphate leases exist in this IRA. No active mines or exploration is occurring for locatable minerals. One outfitter and guide holds a Special Use Permit for the area. No utility corridors occur in the IRA. The IRA is adjacent to Dry Canyon Campground. Approximately 388 acres of private land in -holdings exist in the area.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
2. Allow summer, motorized travel on designated routes and winter motorized cross-country.
3. Non-motorized during the summer months.

4. New motorized trail construction should be permitted.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions: and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Clarkston	04159	22,616	2.2	532	2.2	532	No change, Research Natural Area, landscape reference site
			2.7.1	7,425	2.7.1	7,593	Increased Rx area to topographic/cultural feature, big game winter range
			2.7.2	20	2.7.2	20	No change, identified big game winter range
			2.8.3	1,307	2.8.3	1,307	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			6.2	0	6.2	13,164	Rangeland vegetation management and minor aspen restoration
			6.3	13,332	6.3	0	Shifted acres to new Rx 6.2 and lost acres to 2.7.1 larger Rx area
Total IRA Acres				22,616		22,616	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.4. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Clarkston Mountain # 04159

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	0% Unstable 67% Erosion Hazard	Low	Rx 2.2, Rx 2.7.1, and/or Rx 6.2 for rangeland/watershed improvements
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Malad and Preston, ID.	Non-restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	88% Red 8% Yellow 4% Green No 303(d) streams	High restoration potential	Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for restoration or preservation of watershed and rangeland vegetation/habitat.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	Moderate Low Low	Rx 6.3 to restore rangeland vegetation to PFC and improve watershed condition.
Invasive Plant Species	1.4% of the IRA (313 acres)	Medium	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	N/A High High Low High	Draft EIS proposed hunting season road density reduction from 1.1 to 1.0 mi/mi ² in Alternative 7. This should be maintained for mule deer in hunting season.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	High Moderate	Rx 2.7.1 to maintain winter range outlined in Alternative 7. This Rx will also maintain sage grouse habitat. Any Rx that allows vegetation treatments for restoration. IRA has low potential for PFC habitat due to the large amount of aspen/maple and juniper (12,500 acres).
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Yellowstone cutthroat trout stronghold streams are present	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas. Rx 3.1 in YCT stronghold watersheds.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None RNA/Trail Hollow	Rx 2.2 on Gunsight Peak RNA. Site-specific management/mitigation in Trail Hollow enclosure.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: Gunsight Peak RNA	Moderate within RNA	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPM: 22,615 acres	Moderate value SPM	Maintain existing recreation opportunity settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 22,615 acres	Moderate value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation opportunity settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 2,936 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 8,976 ac. Modification (low): 10,703 ac.	High scenic integrity on western edge adjacent to U.S. Interstate 15.	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	Moderate potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	Existing mine claims	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		No recommendation
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Outfitter and Guide, 388 acres of private land		Rx that does not impede permittee

Description:

The Deep Creek IRA lies within Oneida County, Idaho on the Westside Ranger District. It is approximately five miles east of Malad City, Idaho.

The area is relatively stable with no unstable areas known to occur within the IRA. About 78 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. All of the watersheds within the IRA are considered “red.” Approximately 1.1 miles of Deep Creek has been listed as a water quality limited stream on the State of Idaho’s 303(d) list.

The IRA’s vegetation composition is primarily sagebrush/grass with some small areas of aspen/maple. Aspen decline, on those acres with aspen present, is rated high because of the lack of adequate regeneration on these sites. The Insect and Fire Hazard ratings are low due to the lack of coniferous forests. No known invasive species infestations occur in this IRA.

Idaho Fish and Game has expressed concerns regarding mule deer (See EIS and Wildlife Process Paper for rationale) in this IRA. The IRA is located on the Westside Ranger District and does not provide linkage habitat for lynx. The area offers little in the way of wildlife security areas, only about four percent of the entire IRA. Because of the lack of security, this area has low potential for habitat for wolverines and wolves.

This IRA is dominated by grass/shrub (88 percent) and no conifer. Based on the absence of forested cover, it ranks low for potential habitat for forest-associated species. Because of the larger amount of grass/shrub and proximity to known sage grouse leks, this area rates high for providing habitat for sage grouse. Noss, *et al.*, (1999) placed this area in the Bear River site. They noted a loss of wetlands at lower elevations (private lands) and higher-elevations of gentle, open-sagebrush with pockets of conifer and aspen. This site ranked in Quadrant 4 and has an irreplaceability score of 30 and ranks low for this analysis. Because of the low amount of habitat at high departure from PFC (12 percent), the area ranks as high potential for habitat.

No fish-bearing streams have been documented in this IRA.

No documented rare plants, rare plant communities or plant community reference areas have been identified in the IRA. No unique reference value for this IRA has been identified. Large-scale watershed restoration opportunities could provide a reference landscape.

The entire IRA is managed for summer and winter motorized recreation use. Overall, scenic integrity is low. Partial rent ion (moderate) is maintained on 737 acres and Modification (low) is maintained on the remainder of the IRA (6,352 acres).

No oil and gas or phosphate leasing exists in the IRA. No locatable minerals are being mined or explored.

One outfitter and guide is permitted in the area along with two water transmission lines. No utility corridors are found in this IRA.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Allow summer, motorized travel on designated routes and winter motorized cross-country.
2. New motorized trail construction should be permitted.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Deep Creek	04158	7,089	2.1.2	0	2.1.2	165	Applied Visual Quality maintenance Rx to travel corridor
			2.7.1	1,958	2.7.1	1,958	No change, Big game winter range
			2.8.3	263	2.8.3	263	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			6.2	0	6.2	4,703	Rangeland vegetation management
			6.3	4,868	6.3	0	Shifted acres to 2.1.2 Rx and new 6.2 Rx
Total IRA Acres				7,089		7,089	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.5. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Deep Creek # 04158

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	0% Unstable 78% Erosion Hazard	Low	Rx 2.2, Rx 2.7.1, and/or Rx 6.2 for rangeland/watershed improvements
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Malad and Preston, ID.	Non-restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	100% Red 1.1 miles of 303(d) stream on Deep Creek	High restoration potential	Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for restoration or preservation of watershed and rangeland vegetation/habitat.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	High Low Low	Rx 6.3 to restore rangeland vegetation to PFC and improve watershed condition.
Invasive Plant Species	No known infestations	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	N/A Low Low Low High	Draft EIS proposed hunting season road density reduction from 1.1 to 1.0 mi/mi ² in Alternative 7. This should be maintained for mule deer in hunting season.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Low Low	Rx 2.7.1 to maintain winter range outlined in Alternative 7. Any Rx that allows vegetation treatments for restoration and improvement in sage grouse habitats.
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	None present	Low	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: None Large-scale watershed restoration	Low overall	Any Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPM: 7,089 acres	High value SPM	Maintain existing recreation opportunity settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 7,089 acres	High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation opportunity settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Partial Retention (moderate): 737 ac. Modification (low): 6,352 ac.	Overall low scenic integrity	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	Moderate potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		No recommendation
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Outfitter and Guide, two water transmission lines, cultivated field		Rx that does not impede permit compliance

Description:

The Dry Ridge Roadless Area is within Caribou and Bear Lake Counties, Idaho on the Soda Springs and Montpelier Ranger Districts. It lies approximately fourteen miles east of Soda Springs, Idaho.

About eight percent of the IRA is considered unstable with 22 percent of the area having an erosion hazard. The IRA is close to Afton, Wyoming and Soda Springs, Idaho and is inside the twenty-mile radius around the sensitive receptor of Soda Springs, Idaho. It is also within 200 kilometers of a Class I area.

About 88 percent of the area's watersheds are rated "yellow" and the remaining 12 percent is rated "green." No 303(d) streams are found in this IRA.

The IRA's vegetation is composed on aspen in the northeastern section. Douglas-fir and mixed conifer are found throughout the remaining area. Timber sales and mining activities are occurring adjacent to the area. Aspen decline is rated as moderate, because of conifer encroachment and the lack of adequate aspen regeneration. Insect and Fire Hazard ratings are moderate due to the presence of older Douglas-fir, mixed conifer and lodgepole pine. The aspen/conifer stands on the south end of the IRA contribute to a lower overall insect hazard rating for this area. Fuel buildup in the older Douglas-fir, mixed conifer and aspen/conifer areas result in a Fire Hazard rating of moderate. Invasive species, primarily Dyers woad, have infested about 8 percent (1,871 acres) of the area.

Known occurrences have been recorded for lynx (1960's), goshawks and great gray owls in the IRA. A large aspen block exists on the edge of Dry Valley that has been identified as important for big game calving and fawning. This area rated moderate for lynx linkage habitat, based on: 1) the presence of a major north-south ridge (Schmid/Dry to Summit Pass to Hawk Peak), which could provide a movement corridor; 2) the area has 33 percent conifer cover; 3) about 25 percent of the IRA offers wildlife security areas, and 4) known occurrences in the area. Because of the moderate amount of security (25 percent), this area also ranks moderate for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA has conifer cover over 33 percent of the area, ranking it moderate for forest-associated species, with about 22 percent of the area in aspen. About 30 percent of the area is covered in grass/shrub but is five to ten miles or more from the nearest known sage grouse leks. It is rated low for sage grouse. This IRA was not ranked by Noss, *et al*, (2001) and is ranked low for this analysis. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (32 percent), this area ranks as moderate potential.

Slug and Stewart Creeks are the major streams in the area. Slug Creek is inhabited by non-native brook trout. Stewart Creek is inhabited by Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

No rare plants, rare plant communities or plant community references areas have been documented in the IRA. Wildlife Security areas identified by the Wildlife Biologist could provide a reference landscape adjacent to a highly developed landscape where mining and past timber activities have occurred. No Unique Reference Value has been identified for the area.

About 1,650 acres are managed for summer semi-primitive non-motorized recreation experiences, while 16,710 acres are managed for summer semi-primitive motorized recreation. The area also contains about 5,000 acres of Roded Modified due to mining and timber sale activities nearby. In the winter, approximately 4,500 acres within a wildlife closure are managed for winter semi-primitive non-motorized experiences. The remainder of the area is open to cross-country snowmobiling.

The area has moderate scenic integrity. Retention (High) objectives are used to manage approximately 1,515 acres. Partial retention (moderate) objectives are used to manage 11,549 acres, and Modification (low) is used on 10,242 acres.

This IRA lies within the overthrust belt. No oil and gas leases exist at the present time. The IRA contains a mined out phosphate mine, approximately 2,620 acres of existing phosphate leases, and about 800 acres on unleased KPLA designated land. No active locatable mining or exploration is occurring in the area. One gravel pit source is immediately adjacent to the IRA near the Summit View Campground.

One outfitter and guide is permitted to operate within the IRA. In addition, special use permits include a railroad spur. A phosphate slurry pipeline runs adjacent to the IRA. A power line is evident near the western edge of the IRA.

Summarized Specific IRA Public Comments:

1. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
2. Allow summer and winter motorized cross-country, except in areas where travel is limited to designated trails or closed under the current Travel Plan.
3. Non-motorized during the summer months.

Selected IRA Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Dry Ridge	04164	23,307	2.7.1	1,925	2.7.1	1,925	No change, big game winter range
			2.7.2	2,434	2.7.2	2,686	Increased Rx area to topographic/cultural feature, big game winter range
			2.8.3	781	2.8.3	781	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	12,356	3.2	8,923	Manageability of existing uses, lost acres to 5.2 and 2.7.2
			5.1	2	5.1	0	Combined into Rx 5.2
			5.2	0	5.2	3,525	Aspen regeneration due to conifer encroachment and consolidation with adjacent Rx
			6.2	0	6.2	5,368	Rangeland vegetation management and restoration
			6.3	5,710	6.3	0	Shifted acres to new Rx 6.2 and lost acres to 2.7.2 larger Rx area
			8.1u	37	8.1u	42	Minor boundary adjustment, utility corridor
			8.2.2	62	8.2.2	57	Minor boundary adjustment, inactive lease, managed under 3.2 Rx until lease activated
Total IRA Acres				23,307		23,307	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.6. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Dry Ridge # 04164

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	8% Unstable 22% Erosion Hazard	Low	Rx 3.2, Rx 5.1, and/or Rx 8.2.2. to manage for existing/adjacent uses.
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Afton, Wyoming, Soda Springs, Idaho.	Non-restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	88% Yellow 12% Green No 303(d) streams present	Moderate overall condition	No recommendation.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	Moderate Moderate Moderate	Rx 5.1 adjacent to Stewart and on Hess Park timber sale areas. Rx 6.2 and Rx 3.2 as outlined in Alternative 7.
Invasive Plant Species	8% of area (1,871 acres)	High	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	Moderate Moderate Moderate Moderate Low	Rx 3.1a in the security area along Dry Ridge aspen block, preventing any increase in development along security area.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Low Moderate	Rx 2.7.1 to maintain winter range outlined in Alternative 7. Any Rx that allows for treatment of aspen/conifer stands (2,444 acres).
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Slug and Stewart Creeks are the major streams. Stewart Creek is inhabited by YCT.	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas. Rx 3.1 in watersheds with YCT strongholds.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: Wildlife security area. No others identified.	High for security area, low elsewhere	Any Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPNM: 1,653 SPM: 16,719 acres Roaded Modified: 4,935 acres	Low value SPNM Moderate value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation opportunity settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPNM: 4,520 acres (wildlife closure) SPM: 18,786 acres	Moderate value for SPM Low value for SPNM	Maintain existing recreation opportunity settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (high): 1,515 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 11,549 ac. Modification (low): 10,242 ac.	Moderate scenic integrity	Maintain or improve existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	2,620 acres under active lease and 800 acres in unleased KPLA area	High potential on leased and KPLA area. Low elsewhere.	Rx 8.2.2 on active leases and 8.2.1 on inactive KPLA areas. Any Rx that does not restrict development of phosphate resources.
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	Active gravel pit adjacent to IRA		Rx that does not impede access
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Outfitter and Guide, railroad spur, slurry pipeline adjacent to IRA		Rx that does not impede permittee

Description:

The Elkhorn Mountain Roadless Area lies within Bannock and Oneida counties in Idaho on the Westside Ranger District. The center of the area is approximately twelve miles north of Malad City, Idaho.

About 5 percent of this IRA is considered unstable with 34 percent of the area with an erosion hazard. Sensitive air quality receptors include Pocatello and McCammon, Idaho. The IRA is inside the twenty-mile radius for Pocatello on the northern end. The remainder of the area is outside the radius. The IRA is not within 200 kilometers of a Class I area.

Watersheds in this IRA have high potential for restoration. More than 79 percent of the area is rated “red” with the remaining 21 percent rated “yellow.” Approximately 2.7 miles of 303(d) streams are found in the area. These water quality limited streams include portions of Hawkins Creek and Wrights Creek.

The IRA’s vegetation is composed of Douglas-fir, aspen and sagebrush. Past disturbances include the Old Canyon Timber Sale, Station Canyon Timber Sale and a wildfire in Hawkins Canyon in the summer of 2000. This IRA contains large contiguous stands of mature Douglas fir (about 200 acres), occasionally broken by quaking aspen stands, with over 50 percent of the conifer acres ranking “high” for insect hazard. Currently, a Douglas-fir bark beetle infestation is occurring in the stands. Aspen decline is rated moderate due to the late seral status of aspen in the area. The fire hazard rating is considered high, because of the concentrated pattern of old Douglas-fir and the associated fuel buildup. This IRA has the fifth highest number of acres with a “high” fire hazard rating. Invasive species occupy 0.3% of the area. Species include leafy spurge (86 acres), Canada thistle (34 acres) and Musk thistle (22 acres).

Known TES occurrences include lynx (1960’s) and Townsends big-eared bat. This IRA is located on the Westside Ranger District and is not considered linkage habitat for lynx. A moderate amount of security areas occurs in this IRA (24 percent) and rates moderate potential for habitat for wolverines and wolves.

This IRA is about half grass/shrub (49 percent) and 24 percent conifer. Based on the amount of forested cover, it ranks as moderate potential for habitat for forest-associated species. Because of the larger amount of grass/shrub and proximity to known sage grouse leks (leks within five miles to the west), this area rates high for providing habitat for sage grouse. Noss, *et al*, (2001) did not rank this site, and for this analysis it is rated as low. Because of the low amount of habitat at high departure from PFC (17 percent), the area ranks as high potential for habitat.

The streams in the north part of this area drain north into the Snake River Basin and are within the range of Yellowstone cutthroat trout. The streams in the southern part of this area drain south into the Malad drainage and are within the range of Bonneville cutthroat trout. The major drainages in this area include Mill, Indian Mill, and Elk Horn Creeks. Mill Creek is unusual in that it splits and flows into both basins. During the 2001 Forest Fish Distribution Survey, the salmonid community in Mill Creek was dominated by non-native rainbow trout, although some native cutthroat trout existed. Indian Mill Creek was dry and only rainbow trout were collected in Elk Horn Creek. These two streams are in the Malad River drainage.

No documented occurrences of rare plants, rare plant communities or plant community reference areas have been recorded. Large-scale restoration opportunities for Douglas-fir and aspen could provide a reference landscape. The Hawkins wildfire area could also provide a reference area for fire recovery in sagebrush/grass habitat.

Approximately 9,759 acres are managed for summer semi-primitive non-motorized recreation. The majority of the area, about 27,767 acres, is managed for summer semi-primitive motorized experiences. The area also contains 1,324 acres of roaded modified experiences and 3,030 acres of roaded natural experiences. The area is managed primarily for winter semi-primitive motorized recreation on 43,450 acres. A small wildlife closure of 273 acres is managed as winter semi-primitive non-motorized.

Scenic integrity is high for the area (8,196 acres) as seen from U.S. Interstate 15 and is managed for retention. The remainder of the area is managed for partial retention (23,032 acres) and modified (low) on 10,749 acres.

No oil and gas or phosphate leases occur. Numerous unpatented locatable mining claims and inactive mines are located adjacent to the IRA, particularly on the northern portion where perlite is present.

One outfitter and guide is permitted to operate in the area. The area also contains the Mill Creek power line.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
2. Allow summer, motorized travel on designated routes and winter motorized cross-country in areas that are currently open under the existing Travel Plan.
3. Non-motorized during the summer months.
4. New motorized trail construction should be permitted.

Selected IRA Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative	
Elkhorn Mountain	04156	41,977	2.7.1	7,561	2.7.1	7,561	No change, big game winter range	
			2.7.2	5,107	2.7.2	5,107	No change, big game winter range	
			2.8.3	2,057	2.8.3	2,057	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area	
								Stable soils, High insect & disease risk, aspen regeneration due to conifer encroachment, high fire hazard rating
			5.2	0	5.2	1,786		
			6.2	0	6.2	25,370	Rangeland vegetation and restoration	
			6.3	27,156	6.3	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx, loss some to 5.2 for aspen regeneration, fuel treatments	
			8.2.2	1	8.2.2	1	No change, some potential for perlite	
			Private	94	Private	94	No change	
Total IRA Acres				41,976		41,976		

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.7. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Elkhorn Mountain # 04156

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	5% Unstable 34% Erosion Hazard	Low	Rx 2.7.1, Rx 3.2, Rx 5.1 and/or Rx 6.2.
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Pocatello and McCammon, Idaho.	Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	79% Yellow 21% Green 2.7 miles of 303(d) streams	High restoration potential	Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for restoration of entire watershed
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	Moderate High High	Rx 5.2 in Douglas-fir stands adjacent to Old Canyon and Secret timber sales. Remaining area in Rx 6.2
Invasive Plant Species	0.3% of area (142 acres)	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	N/A Moderate Moderate Moderate High	Apply Rx 3.1a on large security block (2,000 acres) around Elkhorn Peak. Maintain sagebrush habitats for sage grouse.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Low Low	Rx 2.7.1 and Rx 2.7.2 to maintain winter range outlined in Alternative 7.
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	No cutthroat trout strongholds present	Low	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: Hawkins wildfire area for burn recovery	Moderate for wildfire area, low elsewhere	Any Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPNM: 9,759 acres SPM: 27,767 acres Roaded Modified: 1,324 acres Roaded Natural: 3,030 acres	Moderate value for SPNM and High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation opportunity setting or create a larger core area for SPNM.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPNM: 273 acres (wildlife closure) SPM: 43,450 acres	High value for SPM Low value for SPNM	Maintain existing recreation opportunity setting.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (high): 8,196 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 23,032 ac. Modification (low): 10,749 ac.	High scenic integrity retained for U.S. Interstate 15	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	Moderate potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	Some mining adjacent to IRA	Moderate potential on north end, low elsewhere.	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None	None	
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Outfitter and Guide, Mill Creek Power line		Rx that does not impede permit compliance

Description:

The Gannett Springs Roadless Area lies on the west side of U.S. Highway 89, northeast of Montpelier, Idaho on the Idaho/Wyoming state line. This IRA is shared between the Caribou National Forest and the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The Bridger-Teton National Forest has the lead responsibility to evaluate the entire roadless area for wilderness as one unit. About 45,122 acres occur on the Bridger Teton National Forest in Wyoming and the remaining 19,700 acres occur on the Caribou National Forest in Idaho. Only the Idaho portion is addressed here.

About 69 percent of the Idaho portion of this IRA is considered unstable with 16 percent of the area having an erosion hazard. Sensitive air quality receptors include Afton, Wyoming, and Soda Springs, Idaho. The area is within the twenty-mile radius for Soda Springs and is within 200 kilometers of a Class I area.

All watersheds within the IRA are rated as “yellow.” No 303(d) streams are present.

The IRA’s forested vegetation is composed of aspen and aspen/conifer. Very little disturbance has occurred in the area. Aspen decline rating is moderate, because existing aspen in the area are not adequately regenerating. The Insect hazard rating is low due to the limited amount of conifers. The fire hazard rating is considered moderate due to the presence of mixed stands of aspen and conifer. Invasive species affect 0.5 percent of the area. Species include Dyers woad (95 acres), Musk thistle (3 acres) and Yellow toadflax (2 acres).

Known occurrences of wolf (1991) and goshawks have been documented in the IRA. Elk Valley Marsh, a high-elevation wetland lies adjacent to the area. This area rated moderate for lynx linkage habitat based on: 1) the large amount of security areas (48 percent); and 2) the location adjacent to the Sublette Range/Salt River area managed by the Bridger-Teton. The area would have rated higher, but contains only a small amount of conifer cover and few major travel corridors (riparian and major ridges). Because of the moderate amount of security (48 percent), this area also ranks high for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA has little conifer cover (6 percent), ranking it low for forest-associated species. About 54 percent of the area is in grass/shrub cover. The nearest known sage grouse leks lie about five miles to the south. As a result the area is rated high for potential sage grouse habitat.

This IRA lies in Noss’ Gannett Hills site. The Noss study mentions that this area has some of the highest game values in Idaho. This area was placed in Quadrant 2 and has an irreplaceability score of 55. For this analysis it is rated moderate. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (34 percent), this area ranks as moderate potential.

Tributaries of Crow Creek drain the area. Although the Forest has not surveyed these tributaries, they are likely inhabited by Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Yellowstone cutthroat and brown trout inhabit Crow Creek.

A proposed sensitive plant (red glasswort) has been identified adjacent to the IRA at Elk Valley Marsh. Rare plant communities are present, particularly riparian/wetland communities at Julie’s Fence, along Crow Creek and in Elk Valley Marsh. Riparian/wetland plant communities along Crow Creek and in Elk Valley Marsh are considered plant community reference areas. Wildlife security areas identified by the Wildlife Biologist could serve as reference landscapes along with restoration of aquatic habitat for cutthroat trout. Elk Valley Marsh adjacent to the Roadless Area has been identified as having a unique reference value. A 200-acre complex around the marsh has been determined to be eligible for future study for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River system.

Recreation values are high for summer semi-primitive non-motorized with 9,045 acres managed for this use. Approximately 5,450 acres are managed for summer semi-primitive motorized use. The remainder of the area is managed as Roaded modified (4,196 acres) and Roaded natural (1,000 acres). In the winter, the entire area is managed as semi-primitive motorized.

The area is managed for moderate scenic integrity overall. The area around Elk Valley Marsh is managed for high scenic integrity with eight acres managed for preservation (very high). About 1,384 acres are managed for partial retention (moderate) and the remaining 18,300 acres are managed for modification (low).

The IRA lies within the overthrust belt and has a high potential for oil and gas leasing. Three abandoned oil wells are evident on or near the IRA boundary; however there are no existing leases for oil and gas. The area has no known potential for phosphate and there are no existing leases at this time. In addition, no active mines or exploration are occurring in the area for locatable minerals.

The area has no Special Use permits or utility corridors.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Allow summer, motorized travel on designated routes and winter motorized cross-country.
2. Manage as wilderness to protect deer, elk, moose and Bonneville cutthroat trout populations and close the “Boulevard jeep trail” so that Gannet and Red Mountain can be managed as one.
3. New motorized trail construction should be permitted.
4. Should be managed as wilderness or with similar protections due to highly erodible red soils and outstanding wildlife reserves.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Gannett Spring	04111	19,691	2.5	187	2.5	187	No change, W&S Rivers eligible site corridor at Elk Valley Marsh
			2.7.1	15	2.7.1	15	No change, big game winter range
			2.7.2	11,425	2.7.2	7,353	Readjustment of big game winter range based on actual use, flight data, and local knowledge of area, topographic features, such as watershed lines or elevation breaks with existing roads as boundary line.
			2.8.3	1,114	2.8.3	1,114	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.1	0	3.1	4,304	Wildlife security area, Bonneville cutthroat trout habitat, winter motors outside winter range
			3.2	732	3.2	0	Shifted acres to 3.1Rx, no summer motors
			6.1	25	6.1	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx
			6.2	0	6.2	6,717	Rangeland vegetation management and minor aspen restoration
			6.3	6,191	6.3	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx and lost acres to application of 3.1Rx.
			Total IRA Acres			19,689	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.8. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Gannett Springs (Idaho portion) # 04111

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	69% Unstable 16% Erosion Hazard	High	Rx 2.7.2, Rx 3.2, and/or Rx 6.2.
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Afton, Wyoming and Soda Springs, ID.	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	100% Yellow No 303(d) streams	Moderate overall potential	No recommendation
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	Moderate Low Moderate	Rx 3.3 for restoration in aspen and aspen/conifer stands. Remaining area in Rx 6.2
Invasive Plant Species	0.5% of area (100 acres)	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	Moderate High High Low High	Apply Rx 3.1a on large security blocks near Pinnacle and Worm Creek. Maintain low Open motorized road densities. Maintain sagebrush habitat for sage grouse.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Moderate Moderate	Rx 2.7.1 to maintain winter range outlined in Alternative 7. Any Rx that allows treatment in aspen/conifer (2,128 acres).
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	YCT present in Crow Creek and tributaries	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas. Rx 3.1 in watersheds with YCT strongholds.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Red Glasswort Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	Yes Yes Yes	Rx 2.1.1 or Rx 2.5 at Elk Valley Marsh. Site-specific management and mitigation are recommended.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: Elk Valley Marsh	High for Elk Valley Marsh and wildlife security areas, low elsewhere	Any Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPNM: 9,045 acres SPM: 5,450 acres Roaded Modified: 4,196 acres Roaded Natural: 1,000 acres	High value for SPNM Moderate value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation opportunity setting.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 19,709 acres	Moderate value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation opportunity setting.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Preservation (very high): 8 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 1,384 ac. Modification (low): 18,300 ac.	Moderate overall and high at Elk Valley Marsh	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	None known	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None	None	
Special Use Permits. Utility Corridors, Other	None		

Description:

This IRA lies in Franklin County, Idaho and Cache County, Utah. All of the area is on the old Cache National Forest. The Montpelier Ranger District administers the portion of the area within Idaho. The Logan Ranger District of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest administers the Utah portion. The area straddles the Utah-Idaho border and is located about eight miles west of Bear Lake.

The IRA has no unstable soils present and only 20 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. Sensitive air quality receptors include Logan, Utah and Preston, Idaho. The IRA is inside the twenty-mile radius of a sensitive receptor but outside the 200 kilometers of a Class I area. The watersheds within the IRA are all rated "green." No 303(d) streams are present.

The IRA's forested vegetation is composed of aspen and aspen/conifer on the west side with patches of Englemann spruce and lodgepole pine in and adjacent to Franklin Basin. Other forested areas support Douglas-fir. Past disturbance includes the Franklin Basin Timber Sale completed in the mid 1990's. Aspen decline is rated high on the west side in aspen stands and high on the south side where aspen/conifer exists. These areas are rated high because of conifer encroachment and lack of adequate aspen regeneration. The insect hazard rating is high due to the proportion of aging mixed conifer, spruce/fir and lodgepole pine. The fire hazard rating is considered high in mixed aspen/conifer stands and moderate elsewhere in the area. No known invasive species are present.

Known occurrences of goshawks have been documented in the IRA. This area rated high for lynx linkage habitat based on: 1) the amount of forested cover (43 percent); 2) adjacency to the Wasatch-Cache Gibson Roadless Area which is proposed to be managed as roadless (custodial level only); and 3) Logan River and Beaver Creek are major north-south drainages that connect to the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Because of the low amount of security (19 percent), this area ranks low for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA provides conifer cover on 43 percent of the area ranking it high for forest-associated species. The area has little grass/shrub (21 percent). The nearest known sage grouse leks lie five to ten miles east of the area, and as a result it is rated low for potential sage grouse habitat.

This IRA was not ranked by Noss, *et al.*, (2001) and is rated low for this analysis. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (48 percent), this area ranks as low potential.

A sensitive plant, the Cache penstemon, has been documented at Gibson Basin. No rare plant communities have been identified or documented. The area has no documented plant community reference areas. A wildlife security area (1,600 acres) identified by the Wildlife Biologist could serve as a reference landscape. A specific unique reference value has been identified in the tall forb restoration project. In addition, watershed condition for the entire IRA is rated "green" or excellent providing a unique reference value for other watersheds.

The IRA has a moderate value for summer semi-primitive non-motorized recreation experiences. Approximately 3,722 acres are managed for this use. The remainder of the area is managed for Roaded natural (4,686 acres). In the winter, the entire IRA is managed for semi-primitive motorized (8,320 acres).

Scenic integrity is rated moderate to high for the entire IRA with 308 acres managed for retention (high). The remaining 8,100 acres are managed for partial retention (moderate).

The IRA lies within the overthrust belt and rated as high potential for oil and gas. Currently no oil and gas or phosphate leases exist. No active mining or exploration is occurring for locatable minerals. No Special Use Permits or utility corridors are present.

IRA Specific, Prescribed Management Public Comments (Summarized):

1. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
2. Allow summer, motorized travel on designated routes and winter motorized cross-country.

3. Non-motorized during the summer months.
4. New motorized trail construction should be permitted.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Gibson	04181	8,408	2.8.3	236	2.8.3	236	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	8,172	3.2	4,149	Manageability of existing uses, access, shifted acres into 3.3 for aspen regeneration due to conifer encroachment
			3.3	0	3.3	3,233	Stable soils, Watershed restoration, aspen regeneration, BCT habitat
			5.2	0	5.2	790	Past harvest area, maintenance of stand integrity, stable soils, aspen regeneration due to conifer encroachment, high fire hazard rating in aspen/conifer
Total IRA Acres				8,408		8,408	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.9. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Gibson (Idaho portion) # 04181

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	0% Unstable 20% Erosion Hazard	Low	Rx 3.2, and/or Rx 6.2.
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Logan, UT and Preston, ID.	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	100% Green No 303(d) streams	High protection potential	Rx 3.1 to protect watershed condition
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	High High Moderate to high	Rx 5.1 in Franklin Basin and Rx 3.3 for restoration in aspen and aspen/conifer stands.
Invasive Plant Species	No known invasions	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	High Low Low High Low	Apply Rx 3.1a on large security area between Logan River and Beaver Creek (1,600 acres).
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	High Moderate	Any Rx that allows treatment in aspen and aspen/conifer that are at high departure from PFC and for restoration of tall forb sites converted to tarweed (4,000 acres)
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Limited Bonneville cutthroat trout population in Beaver Creek.	Moderate	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Cache penstemon Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	Yes None None	Site-specific management and mitigation are recommended.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: Tall forb restoration on tarweed, excellent condition of IRA watersheds.	Moderate to High	Any Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPNM: 3,722 acres Roaded Natural: 4,686 acres	Moderate value for SPNM	Maintain existing recreation opportunity setting.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 8,320 acres	High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation opportunity setting. Consider creating a SPNM area linked to Utah portion of IRA during site-specific travel planning
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (high): 308 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 8,100 ac.	Moderate to high scenic integrity	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	None known	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None	None	
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	None		

Description:

The Hell Hole Roadless Area is within Bear Lake County, Idaho on the Montpelier Ranger District. It lies approximately four miles east of Montpelier.

About 24 percent of the IRA is considered unstable and 49 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. The only sensitive air quality receptor is Montpelier, Idaho. The IRA lies outside the twenty-mile radius around sensitive receptors and is not within the 200-kilometer distance of a Class I area.

Most of the watersheds (92 percent) in this IRA are rated “red.” The remaining portion (8 percent) is rated “yellow.” No 303(d) streams have been identified for this area. Overall watershed conditions make this IRA high for watershed restoration activities.

The IRA’s vegetation is composed of sagebrush, aspen and a minor component of conifers. No past disturbances, such as timber sales or wildfire, have occurred in the area. The aspen decline rating, insect hazard rating, and fire hazard rating are all low for the area due to the small amount of conifer forests present. Invasive species occur on 0.5 percent of the area. Species include Canada thistle (14 acres), spotted knapweed (6 acres), Musk thistle (2 acres), Russian knapweed (1 acre) and Dyers woad (4 acres).

A known TES occurrence was documented for the wolverine in 1992. The area rates low for lynx linkage habitat based on: 1) the lack of forested cover (4 percent); 2) and lack of adjacent suitable habitat. Because there is no security (0 percent), this area ranks low for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA has conifer cover over 4 percent of the area ranking it low for forest-associated species. The area is predominately grass/shrub (80 percent). It is less than five miles from sage grouse leks to the south, and as a result is rated high for potential sage grouse habitat.

This IRA lies in Noss’ Gannett Hills site. The Noss study mentions that this area has some of the highest game values in Idaho. This area was placed in Quadrant 2 and has an irreplaceability score of 55. For this analysis it is rated moderate. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (16 percent), this area ranks as high potential.

This roadless area is drained by Montpelier Creek. Non-native fish (brown trout) occur in Montpelier Creek downstream of Montpelier Reservoir. When this stream reach was sampled in 2000, no Bonneville cutthroat trout were observed.

A sensitive plant, the Starveling milkvetch, has been identified at Wood Canyon. No rare plant communities or plant community reference areas have been documented in the IRA. Large-scale watershed restoration opportunities could provide a reference landscape. This reference area would be small for a large-scale reference because of the relatively small acreage within the IRA, less than 10,000 acres. No unique reference value has been identified for this IRA.

The entire IRA is managed in the summer as Roded natural (5,310 acres). The area does not offer any semi-primitive experiences. In the winter the entire IRA is managed for semi-primitive motorized. The IRA is managed overall for high scenic integrity. Approximately 900 acres are managed for retention (high) with the remaining area managed for partial retention (moderate).

The IRA lies within the overthrust belt and is rated high for oil and gas potential; however no current leases exist. A moderate potential for phosphate occurs particularly around active lease areas. The remainder of the IRA is rated low for phosphate leasing. No active mines or exploration are occurring for locatable minerals. No Special Use Permits or Utility corridors are present. The USFS maintains a radio communication repeater on Hell Hole Peak.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Allow summer and winter motorized cross-country, except in areas where travel is limited to designated trails or closed under the current Travel Plan.
2. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
3. New motorized trail construction should be permitted in areas where travel is limited under the current Travel Plan.

4. Non-motorized during the summer months

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Hell Hole	04168	5,308	2.1.2	175	2.1.2	509	Increased Rx area for visual quality maintenance in travel corridor
			2.7.1	483	2.7.1	0	Mapping error. Acres shifted to Rx 6.2
			2.8.3	278	2.8.3	278	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	1,352	3.2	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx for rangeland vegetation management and restoration
			6.2	0	6.2	4,522	Watershed restoration, rangeland vegetation management and restoration for sage grouse, depressed fisheries
			6.3	3,020	6.3	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx for rangeland vegetation management and restoration for sage grouse
Total IRA Acres				5,308		5,309	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.10. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Hell Hole # 04168

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	24% Unstable 49% Erosion hazard	Moderate	Rx 2.7.1, Rx 3.2, or Rx 6.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Montpelier, ID	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	92% Red 8% Yellow No 303(d) streams	High restoration potential	Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	Low Low Low	Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for watershed restoration.
Invasive Plant Species	0.5% of the IRA (27 acres)	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	Low Low Low Low High	Maintain sagebrush for sage grouse.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Moderate Low	No recommendation
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Non-native brown trout, no Bonneville cutthroat trout.	Low	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Starveling milkvetch Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	Yes None None	Site-specific management and mitigation are recommended. Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: None	Low	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	Roaded Natural: 5,310acres	N/A	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 5,310 acres	High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 903 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 4,405 ac.	High scenic integrity	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	Moderate to low potential around leased acreage, low elsewhere in IRA	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	USFS radio repeater		

Description:

The Huckleberry Basin Roadless Area is within Caribou and Bear Lake Counties in Idaho on the Soda Springs Ranger District. The area is approximately six miles east of Soda Springs, Idaho.

Only 4 percent of the area is considered unstable and only 19 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. Sensitive air quality receptors include Soda Springs, Idaho. The IRA lies outside the twenty-mile radius of Soda Springs and is not within 200 kilometers of a Class 1 area.

All of the watersheds within the IRA are rated “yellow.” Approximately 1.4 miles of 303(d) streams have been identified along Slug Creek.

The IRA’s vegetation is composed of aspen, aspen/conifer, Douglas-fir, mixed conifer, and lodgepole pine. Approximately 50 percent of this IRA has been brought under active timber management from the 1980’s through the mid 1990’s. Several timber sales have occurred, including Big Basin, Wild Flat, Huckleberry, Upper Fossil, The Hole, Rattlesnake, and Upper Dry. This IRA has experienced the heaviest timber management of any of the thirty-four IRAs on the Forest. Aspen decline, insect hazard and fire hazard ratings are all considered moderate due to late seral aspen and lack of regeneration, the presence of older conifer, and the associated fuel buildup in mixed conifer, Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. Invasive species occur on 2.1 percent of the IRA land base. Species include Canada thistle (39 acres), Dyers woad (310 acres), Musk thistle (54 acres) and Yellow toadflax (39 acres).

Known occurrences of lynx (1973), goshawks and great gray owls have been documented in the IRA. Allowing cross-country travel may conflict with mule deer movements to and from Soda Hills winter range. Swan Lake and Lakey Reservoir appear to be somewhat unique areas; Swan Lake, from a geological perspective and Lakey Reservoir as a low-elevation wetland. This area rated moderate for lynx linkage habitat based on: 1) the presence of a northeast-southwest ridge, which could provide a movement corridor; 2) the area has 28 percent conifer cover; and 3) and only about 8 percent of the area is available for wildlife security areas. Because of the low amount of security (8 percent), this area ranks low for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA has conifer cover over 28 percent of the area ranking it moderate for forest-associated species, with about 22 percent aspen and 16 percent aspen/conifer. About 33 percent of the area is covered in grass/shrub. The area is about five to ten miles from the nearest known sage grouse leks. It is rated moderate for sage grouse.

Parts of this roadless area lie in two of Noss’ sites. The Bear River Range site was placed in Quadrant 2 and has an irreplaceability score of 57. The Blackfoot-Salt site is part of the southeast Idaho phosphate belt and includes relatively recent lava flows. The area supports substantial aspen and willow bottoms. This site was placed in Quadrant 2 but has a high irreplaceability score of 88. For this analysis it is rated as moderate. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (38 percent), this area ranks as moderate potential.

The area is drained by Johnson Creek, which was surveyed in 2000 for fish. Only non-native brook trout were observed.

No rare plants or rare plant communities have been documented in this area. The riparian/wetland plant communities at “The Ponds” in Big Basin are considered a plant community reference area, although the area is relatively small. No unique reference value has been identified for this IRA; however the area could be a reference landscape for limited ‘natural setting’ restoration opportunities.

The majority of the IRA, 15,079 acres, is managed for summer semi-primitive motorized use. The remainder of the area is managed as Roaded modified (6,029 acres). In the winter, the entire IRA is managed for a semi-primitive motorized experience. The area is managed for moderate scenic integrity. Approximately 11,319 acres are managed for Partial Retention (moderate) and the remaining 9,789 acres are managed for Modified (low).

The IRA lies within the overthrust belt and has a high potential for oil and gas; however, there are no existing leases. High potential exist for phosphate on actively leased areas and on KPLA areas. The IRA contains 3,225 acres of existing phosphate leases which are all undeveloped at this time. An additional 3,300 acres of KPLA exists along with 1,500 acres in existing phosphate lease modification, fringe lease prospecting permits, and exploration license applications which are included in the KPLA acres. No active mining or exploration for locatable minerals is occurring.

One outfitter and guide is permitted to operate in the area. No utility corridors are present. This is a favorite area and heavily used by the public for firewood gathering.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
2. Allow summer and winter motorized cross-country, except in areas where travel is limited to designated trails or closed under the current Travel Plan.
3. Non-motorized during the summer months.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Huckleberry Basin	04165	21,108	2.7.1	2,975	2.7.1	2,975	No change, big game winter range
			2.8.3	781	2.8.3	781	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	16,552	3.2	0	Shifted acres to new 5.2 Rx
			5.2	0	5.2	17,352	Stable soils, past harvest area, timber stand integrity, moderate watershed condition, management access
			6.3	800	6.3	0	Shifted acres to new 5.2 Rx for aspen regeneration, management access to past harvest areas
Total IRA Acres				21,108		21,108	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.11. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Huckleberry Basin # 04165

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	4% Unstable 19% Erosion hazard	Low	Rx 2.7.1, Rx 3.2, Rx 6.2, Rx 8.2.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Soda Springs	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	100% Yellow 1.4 miles of 303(d) streams on Slug Creek	High restoration potential in Slug Creek watershed, low elsewhere	Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 on Slug Creek watershed. No recommendation for the remainder of the area.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	Moderate Moderate Moderate	Rx 5.1 for active timber management and access to past harvest areas.
Invasive Plant Species	2.1% of the IRA (442 acres)	High	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	Moderate Low Low Moderate Moderate	Maintain open motorized route densities and restrict travel to designated routes.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Moderate Moderate	Maintain winter range Rx as in Alt.7. Allowing x-county travel may conflict with mule deer movement to and from Soda Hills. Any Rx that allows restoration for aspen/conifer stands (3,500 acres).
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Non-native brook trout in Johnson Creek	Low	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: The Ponds Plant Community reference areas: The Ponds wetland/riparian areas	None Yes Yes	Site-specific management and mitigation are recommended. Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: None	Low	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPM: 15,079 acres Roaded Modified: 6,029acres	Moderate value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 20,103 acres	High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Partial Retention (moderate): 11,319 ac. Modification (low): 9,789 ac.	Moderate scenic integrity	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	Existing leases: 3,325 acres KPLA areas: 3,300 acres Other: 1,500 acres	High potential on leased and KPLA areas, moderate to low elsewhere	Rx 8.2.2 on active leases, Rx 8.2.1 for inactive leases, KPLA areas, and land where permit action is currently occurring.
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Bear River Outfitter and Guide, Heavy use by public for firewood		Any Rx that does not impede permit compliance.

Description:

This roadless area lies in Bear Lake and Franklin counties in Idaho on the Cache National Forest administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. It is approximately twelve miles west of Montpelier, south of State Highway 36.

No unstable areas have been identified in this IRA. Approximately 44 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. Sensitive air quality receptors include Soda Springs and Montpelier, Idaho. The IRA is inside the twenty-mile radius of a sensitive receptor. It is not within 200 kilometers of a Class I area.

All of the watersheds in this IRA are rated “yellow.” No 303(d) streams are present.

The IRA’s vegetation is composed predominantly of aspen, aspen/conifer, spruce/fir, mixed conifer, and Douglas-fir. Past disturbances include timber harvests from the mid to late 1980’s in Green Basin, Dry Basin, Mahogany Basin, and Emigration Flat. Aspen decline is rated as moderate due to the large areas where conifer is encroaching into aspen. A lack of adequate aspen regeneration is also evident. The insect hazard rating is also considered moderate because of the mixed species composition and aging conifer stands of spruce/fir and Douglas-fir. The fire hazard rating is considered high as a result of aging aspen/conifer, mixed conifer, and spruce/fir stands. No infestations of invasive species have been identified in the area.

One wolf occurrence was recorded in 1990 in this IRA. The area rated moderate for lynx linkage habitat based on: 1) the amount of forested cover (32 percent); 2) low security (10 percent); and 3) the presence of north-south ridges that may function as travel corridors. Because of the low amount of security (10 percent), this area ranks low for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA has conifer cover over 32 percent of the area ranking it moderate for forest-associated species. About 23 percent of the area is covered with grass/shrub. Sagebrush is found in smaller patches. The area is five to ten miles from the nearest known sage grouse leks, and as a result is rated low for potential sage grouse habitat.

This IRA was not ranked by Noss, *et al.*, (2001) and is rated low for this analysis. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (53 percent), this area ranks as low potential.

The major drainages in this area include Copenhagen and Mill Creeks. Copenhagen was fishless on the Forest in 2000. Bonneville Cutthroat trout dominated the salmonid community in Mill Creek. Brook trout were also present.

No rare plants, rare plant communities, or plant community reference areas have been identified or documented in this IRA. No unique reference value has been identified for this IRA; however large-scale restoration opportunities for aquatic habitat could serve as a reference landscape.

The area is primarily managed in the summer for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences on 6,950 acres. The remainder of the IRA is managed as Roaded Natural (8,197 acres). In the winter, the entire IRA is managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences.

The IRA is managed for high scenic integrity along and adjacent to the Highline National Recreation Trail (6,220 acres). Approximately 8,310 acres are managed for Partial retention (moderate), and the remaining 617 acres are managed for Modification (low).

The area lies within the overthrust belt. Although the potential of oil and gas reserves is high, there are no existing leases. The area has no known potential for phosphate. No active mining or exploration for locatable minerals is occurring in the area.

A Special Use Permit authorizes water transmission ditches along Mink Creek. A power line runs through Copenhagen Canyon.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
2. Allow summer and winter motorized cross-country.

3. Non-motorized during the summer months.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Liberty Creek	04175	15,147	2.1.2	105	2.1.2	255	Minor adjustment to boundary for visual quality and maintenance of travel corridor expanded
			2.8.3	449	2.8.3	449	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	14,057	3.2	2,260	Manageability of existing uses/access, lost some acres to 3.3 for aspen regeneration, old growth mgt.
			3.3	0	3.3	10,290	Stable soils, moderate watershed conditions, BCT habitat, aspen regeneration due to conifer encroachment, old growth spruce and fir protection
			5.1	22	5.1	0	Shifted acres to new 5.2 Rx
			5.2	0	5.2	1,413	Past timber harvest area, maintenance of stand integrity, high fire hazard rating in mixed aspen/conifer, aspen regeneration
			6.1	481	6.1	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx for rangeland vegetation management and restoration
			6.2	0	6.2	451	Rangeland vegetation management and restoration of Non-forested vegetation toward PFC
			8.1u	33	8.1u	29	Minor boundary adjustment, utility corridor
			Total IRA Acres				15,147

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.12. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Liberty Creek # 04175

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	0% Unstable 44% Erosion hazard	Low	Rx 3.2, Rx 5.1 or Rx 6.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Soda Springs, ID and Montpelier, ID	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	100% Yellow No 303(d) streams	Moderate overall condition	No recommendation
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	Moderate Moderate High	Rx 5.1, Rx 5.2 of Rx 3.3 to maintain timber sale areas, reduce fire hazard, and regenerate healthy aspen
Invasive Plant Species	No known infestations	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	Moderate Low Low Moderate Low	No increase in motorized access on major north-south ridges, except Highline Trail.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Low High	Any Rx that allows restoration treatment in aspen/conifer (2,658 ac.)
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Bonneville cutthroat trout present in Mill Creek.	Low	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas, Rx 3.1 in BCT stronghold watersheds.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: None Large-scale opportunities for aquatic habitat restoration	Moderate for BCT watersheds and aspen restoration, low elsewhere.	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPM: 6,950 acres Roaded Natural: 8,197 acres	High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 15,146 acres	Very high value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 6,220 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 8,310 ac. Modification (low): 617 ac.	High scenic integrity along Highline National Recreation Trail	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Water transmission ditch in Mink Creek, power line in Copenhagen Canyon		Any Rx that does not impede permit compliance.

Description:

The Meade Peak Roadless Area lies in Caribou and Bear Lake counties in Idaho and is administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. The center of this IRA is approximately twenty miles southwest of Afton, Wyoming.

Approximately 17 percent of the area is considered unstable; however, about 64 percent of the area is considered an erosion hazard. Sensitive air quality receptors include Soda Springs and Montpelier, Idaho. The IRA is outside the twenty-mile radius of these sensitive receptors and is not within 200 kilometers of a Class I area.

The majority of the watersheds (67 percent) in the IRA are rated as “yellow.” The remaining 37 percent is rated “red.” No 303(d) streams are present.

The IRA’s forested vegetation is composed of aspen, aspen/conifer, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and mixed conifer. A wildfire occurred in the early 1900’s in the area. In addition, the Snowdrift area was treated with prescribed fire, and two timber sales, Clear Creek and Home Canyon, have occurred in the area. The aspen decline rating is high due to older aspen stands and the lack of aspen regeneration in these areas. Conifer encroachment is also evident in many of the aspen stands. The insect hazard and fire hazard ratings are considered moderate, because of the small amount of old growth conifers overall. Some stands of older lodgepole pine exist. Approximately 1.4 percent of the IRA contains invasive species. These species include Canada thistle (11 acres), Dyers woad (547 acres), and Musk thistle (52 acres).

Known occurrences have been documented for lynx (1960’s), wolf (1991) and goshawks in the IRA. The area rated moderate for lynx linkage habitat based on: 1) the amount of security areas (31 percent); and 2) the major ridge along Snowdrift Mountain and the major drainage along the Montpelier Canyon drainage. Because of the moderate amount of security (27 percent), this area also ranks moderate for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA has little conifer cover (18 percent) ranking it low for forest-associated species. About 52 percent of the area has grass/shrub cover, which is within five miles of the nearest known sage grouse leks. As a result the area is rated high for potential sage grouse habitat.

This IRA lies in Noss’ Gannett Hills site. The Noss study mentions this area has some of the highest game values in Idaho. This area was placed in Quadrant 2 and has an irreplaceability score of 55. For this analysis it is rated moderate. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (31 percent), this area ranks as moderate potential.

The northern part of this area is drained by Crow Creek and is within the Snake River Basin. It is in the range of Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Crow Creek is considered a Yellowstone cutthroat trout stronghold stream. Most of the area drains into the Bear River Basin. Primary streams include Preuss, Montpelier, Georgetown, and Dunns Creeks. Of those streams, Preuss and Whiskey Creek (tributary to Montpelier Creek) are Bonneville cutthroat trout stronghold streams.

Two proposed sensitive plants, Unita Basin Cryptantha and Starveling milkvetch have been documented in Snowslide Canyon and Whiskey Flat. Rare upland plant communities are found within the Meade Peak Research Natural Area and within wetland/riparian communities at the Preuss Creek headwaters on State and Forest Service lands. Meade Peak RNA and the riparian/wetland communities around the Preuss Creek headwaters are considered plant community reference areas. The large wildlife security area identified by the Wildlife Biologist could serve as a reference landscape. The Meade Peak RNA and the Snowdrift prescribed fire treatment area could also serve as unique references values in this RNA.

This IRA is managed in the summer for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation on 9,827 acres and semi-primitive motorized on 11,403 acres. In the winter, a wildlife closure of 6,400 acres is managed as semi-primitive non-motorized. The remaining 34,277 acres are managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences.

Retention of high scenic integrity is maintained along and adjacent to Highway 30, the city of Georgetown, Idaho and Crow Creek Road. Partial retention (moderate) is maintained on 28,457 acres, while Modification (low) scenic integrity is maintained on 13,084 acres.

The IRA lies within the overthrust belt and has a high potential for oil and gas reserves; however, there are no existing oil and gas leases

in the area. The IRA borders on mined areas in the northwest section in Georgetown Canyon. An underground mine area is located in the southwest corner of the IRA in Home Canyon. Approximately 1,140 acres are leased for phosphate mining. An additional 2,580 acres have been identified as a KPLA area. High potential exists for phosphate ore on the leased acreage and in the KPLA area. Moderate to low potential exists around the leased acreage. The remainder of the IRA has a low potential for phosphate. No active mining or exploration for locatable minerals is occurring in the area.

No Special Uses and no utility corridors are found in the area. The State of Idaho owns a 636-acre in holding.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Allow summer and winter motorized cross-country, except in areas where travel is limited to designated trails or closed under the current Travel Plan.
2. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
3. New motorized trail construction should be permitted.
4. Non-motorized during the summer months.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Meade Peak	04167	44,587	2.1.2	64	2.1.2	350	Increased Rx area for visual quality maintenance along travel corridors
			2.2	309	2.2	309	No change, Research Natural Area, landscape reference site, rare plants
			2.7.1	1,052	2.7.1	680	Lost some acres to 3.1 for wildlife security area and readjustment of big game winter range based on actual use, flight data, local knowledge of area, topographic features, such as watershed lines or elevation breaks with existing roads as boundary line.
			2.7.2	7,002	2.7.2	6,952	Lost some acres to 3.1 for wildlife security area
			2.8.3	2,229	2.8.3	2,229	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.1	0	3.1	4,692	Wildlife security area, non-motorized year-round, lynx, wolverine and goshawk presence
			3.2	29,541	3.2	0	Lost acres to wildlife security area, shifted remaining area to new 6.2 Rx for rangeland restoration
			5.2	0	5.2	1,075	Home Canyon timber harvest area, maintenance of stand integrity, management access, aspen regeneration due to conifer encroachment
			6.1	85	6.1	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx for rangeland vegetation management and restoration
			6.2	0	6.2	28,298	YCT habitat, BCT habitat, Rangeland vegetation management and restoration
			6.3	4,277	6.3	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx for rangeland vegetation management and restoration
			8.1u	28	8.1u	0	Mapping error
			Total IRA Acres			44,587	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.13. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Meade Peak # 04167

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	17% Unstable 64% Erosion hazard	Moderate	Rx 2.2, Rx 2.7.1, Rx 2.7.2, Rx 3.2, or Rx 6.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Montpelier and Soda Springs, Idaho	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	37% Red 63% Yellow No 303(d) streams	Moderate restoration potential	Rx 3.3 for watershed restoration
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	High Moderate Moderate	Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for watershed and aspen restoration. Rx 5.1 on small acreage in Home Canyon and Clear Creek Timber Sale areas.
Invasive Plant Species	1.4% of the IRA (610 acres)	Medium	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	Moderate Moderate Moderate Low High	Rx 3.1a on security area that is east of Meade Peak (Beaver Dam Creek area). Maintain sagebrush for sage grouse.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Moderate Moderate	Maintain winter range outlined in Alternative 7. Any Rx that would allow treatment of aspen (4,518 acres).
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Yellowstone cutthroat trout in Crow Creek. BCT trout in Preuss Creek.	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas. Rx 3.1 on YCT and BCT watershed strongholds.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Unita Basin Cryptantha and Starveling milkvetch Rare Plant Communities: Meade Pk RNA and Preuss Creek Plant Community reference areas: RNA and Preuss Creek	Yes Yes Yes	Rx 2.2 on Meade Peak RNA, Rx that is non-motorized in the summer in Cryptantha and milkveetch habitat. Site-specific management and mitigation are recommended.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: Rx burn area in Snowdrift, RNA	High Overall	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPNM: 9,827 acres SPM: 11,403 acres	High value for SPNM and SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPNM: 6,400 acres SPM: 38,277 acres	High value for SPM Moderate value for SPNM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 3,045 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 28,457 ac. Modification (low): 13,084 ac.	High scenic integrity on Hwy 30, George-town and Crow Creek Rd.	Maintain or improve existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	Leased: 1,140 acres KPLA areas: 2,580 acres	High potential on leased and KPLA area, moderate to low elsewhere	Rx 8.2.2 on active leases, Rx 8.2.1 on KPLA areas. No recommendation for remaining area.
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	636 acres of State land in-holdings		

Description:

The Mink Creek Roadless Area lies within Franklin and Bear Lake Counties in Idaho on a portion of the old Cache National Forest now administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. It is located about twenty miles northeast of Preston, Idaho.

No unstable areas are found in this IRA. Approximately 28 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. Sensitive air quality receptors include Preston, Soda Springs, and Montpelier, Idaho. None of these sensitive receptor areas are within the twenty-mile radius. The IRA is not within 200 kilometers of a Class I area.

All of the watersheds in this IRA are rated as “yellow.” Approximately 0.6 miles of Mink Creek has been identified on the State of Idaho’s 303(d) list as being water quality limited.

The IRA’s forested vegetation is composed of aspen, Douglas-fir, aspen/conifer, mixed conifer, and maple. Past disturbances include the Dry Basin and Mass Canyon timber sales in the early 1990’s and located adjacent to the IRA. The aspen decline, insect and fire hazard ratings are all considered moderate in this IRA due to the presence of aging Douglas-fir, mixed conifer stands, and older aspen stands that are not experiencing adequate regeneration. Invasive species occupy approximately 0.2 percent of the IRA. Species include Canada thistle (13 acres), Musk thistle (2 acres), poison hemlock (14 acres) and Russian knapweed (5 acres).

One wolf occurrence (1993) and goshawks have been documented in the IRA. This area rated moderate for lynx linkage habitat based on: 1) the amount of forested cover (26 percent); 2) low security (13 percent); and 3) the presence of the Mink Creek drainage that may function as a travel corridor. Because of the low amount of security (13 percent), this area ranks low for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA has conifer cover over 26 percent of the area ranking it moderate for forest-associated species. About 14 percent of the area is in grass/shrub cover in smaller patches. The IRA is between five and ten miles from the nearest known sage grouse leks, and as a result is rated low for potential sage grouse habitat.

This IRA is in part of Noss’ Bear River Range site. This site was placed in Quadrant 2 and has an irreplaceability score of 57. It is rated as moderate for this analysis. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (41 percent), this area ranks as low potential.

The major drainages in this area include Strawberry and Mink Creeks. Strawberry Creek was fishless when sampled on the Forest in 2001. A low frequency of Bonneville cutthroat trout was observed by DEQ on private land downstream in 2000. Mink Creek was dominated by brook trout; although a low frequency of Bonneville cutthroat trout remain in the stream.

No rare plants, rare plant communities or plant community reference areas have been documented in the IRA. No unique reference value has been identified. Large-scale restoration opportunities for the Mink Creek watershed could serve as a reference landscape.

The majority of the IRA (10,193 acres) is managed in the summer for semi-primitive motorized experiences. The remainder of the IRA is managed as Roaded Natural (6,151 acres). In the winter, the entire IRA is managed for semi-primitive motorized use.

High scenic integrity retention is maintained adjacent to Highway 36 and the Highline National Recreation Trail. Partial retention (moderate) is maintained on 12,294 acres. Modification (low) is maintained on 776 acres.

The eastern portion of the IRA lies within the overthrust belt and has a high potential for oil and gas reserves; however, no oil and gas leases currently exist. The western portion of the IRA has a moderate potential for oil and gas reserves. The area does not contain any phosphate leases and no known phosphate potential exists in the area. No active mining or exploration is occurring for locatable minerals.

A water diversion for the Mink Creek Power Plan is managed under a Special Use Permit. A power line is adjacent to the southern boundary of the IRA.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
2. Allow summer and winter motorized cross-country.
3. Non-motorized during the summer months.
4. Area should be non-motorized during the winter to provide cross-country skiers with semi-primitive recreation opportunities.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Mink Creek	04176	16,344	2.1.2	150	2.1.2	357	Increased Rx area for visual quality maintenance along travel corridors
			2.7.2	5,763	2.7.2	5,763	No change, big game winter range
			2.8.3	579	2.8.3	579	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	9,529	3.2	6,915	Manageability of existing uses/access, lost some acres to 5.2 Rx
			5.1	2	5.1	0	Shifted acres to new 5.2 Rx
			5.2	0	5.2	2,702	Dry Basin past harvest area, maintenance of stand integrity, stable soils, mgt. access, moderate watershed conditions
			6.1	292	6.1	0	Shifted acres to new 5.2 Rx for aspen regeneration
			8.1u	28	8.1u	28	No change, utility corridor
			Total IRA Acres				16,343

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.14. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Mink Creek# 04176

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	0% Unstable 28% Erosion hazard	Low	Rx 2.7.1, Rx 3.2, Rx 5.2 or Rx 6.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Preston, Soda Springs, and Montpelier, ID	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	100% Yellow 0.6 miles of 303(d) streams on Mink Creek	Moderate restoration potential for Mink Creek watershed	Rx 3.1 or Rx 3.3 for Mink Creek watershed. No recommendation for the remaining area.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	Moderate Moderate Moderate	Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for watershed restoration. Small expansion of Rx 5.1 adjacent to past sale areas for management.
Invasive Plant Species	0.2% of the IRA (34 acres)	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	Moderate Low Low Moderate Low	Rx 3.1a and maintain low development of new roads/trails in Mink Creek drainage bottom.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noses Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Moderate High	Rx 2.7.2 outlined in Alternative 7 and any Rx that allows restoration of aspen/conifer (6,750 acres)
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Low densities Bonneville cutthroat trout in Mink Creek	Moderate	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: None Large-scale restoration of Mink Creek watershed.	Moderate for Mink Creek, low elsewhere	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPM: 10,193 acres Roadbed Natural: 6,151 acres	High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 16,343 acres	High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 3,274 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 12,294 ac. Modification (low): 776 ac.	High scenic integrity on Hwy 36 and the Highline Nat'l Recreation Trail	Maintain or improve existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential in eastern section, moderate potential in western section	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Water diversion-Mink Cr. Power plant, power line adjacent to southern boundary		Rx that does not impede permit compliance.

Description:

The Idaho portion of this IRA lies within Franklin County, Idaho. The west edge of the area is about four miles east of the community of Franklin, Idaho. The Mount Naomi Roadless Area originally included a combined area of 94,068 acres in Utah on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and a portion in Idaho on the old Cache National Forest administered by the Caribou National Forest. Utah wilderness legislation in 1984 designated 44,350 acres of the roadless area in Utah as wilderness. The public was notified at that time that the Idaho portion would be evaluated and any recommendations included in the Caribou National Forest Plan, rather than the entire area being included in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan.

The IRA contains no unstable areas. About 20 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. Sensitive air quality receptors include Preston, Idaho and Logan Utah. The IRA is inside the twenty-mile radius of sensitive receptors. It is not within 200-kilometers of a Class I area.

Approximately 72 percent of the watersheds in the IRA are rated “yellow.” The remaining 28 percent are rated “green.” The area contains 1.3 miles of 303(d) stream segments along Maple Creek.

The IRA’s vegetation is composed of maple, sagebrush, aspen, Douglas-fir, mixed conifer, and spruce/fir. In the early 1990’s the Forest completed the Franklin Basin Timber Sale, immediately adjacent to the IRA, because of spruce beetle infestations. The aspen decline, insect hazard, and fire hazard ratings are all considered to be moderate in the area. Older aspen stands are not regenerating adequately and are experiencing conifer encroachment. Aging conifer and aspen with a component of mixed conifer are evident in the area. Invasive species occupy 2.4 percent of the IRA. Species include Canada thistle (100 acres), Dyers woad (562 acres) and Whitetop (2 acres).

Known occurrences have been documented for goshawks and wolverine (1993) in the IRA. This area rated high for lynx linkage habitat based on: 1) the amount of forested cover (20 percent); 2) adjacency to a Wasatch-Cache National Forest roadless area that is currently being proposed for wilderness; 3) the Wilderness Peak ridge, a north-south ridge that connects to the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and 4) high security (40 percent). Because of the high amount of security (40 percent), this area ranks high for wolverine and wolves.

Conifer vegetation covers about 20 percent of the IRA ranking it low for forest-associated species. Grass/shrub vegetation occurs on about 29 percent, but is over ten miles from the nearest known sage grouse leks. As a result, the area is not rated as potential sage grouse habitat.

This IRA was not ranked by Noss, *et al.* (2001) and is rated low for this analysis. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (27 percent), this area ranks as moderate potential.

Bonneville cutthroat trout strongholds exist in every major drainage in the area, including Logan River, Maple Creek, Sugar Creek and Cub River. Non-native salmonids exist in Cub River. Brook trout have established a self-sustaining population, and rainbow trout are stocked annually.

The Cache penstemon, a sensitive plant, has been documented at Wilderness Peak, Hodge Nibley Creek, Crooked Creek, White Canyon and Franklin Basin. No rare plant communities or plant community reference areas have been documented in the area. Wildlife security areas identified by the Wildlife Biologist could serve as a reference landscape, as well as large-scale restoration opportunities for aquatic habitat. The portion of the IRA recommended for wilderness is considered a unique reference value for this IRA.

The majority of the IRA (14,343 acres) is managed in the summer for semi-primitive non-motorized experiences. Approximately 1,431 acres are managed in the summer for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences and 349 acres are managed for Roaded Modified. The remainder of the IRA is managed as Roaded Natural (12,342 acres). In the winter, approximately 28,077 acres are managed for semi-primitive non-motorized use.

The area is managed for very high scenic integrity because of its juxtaposition to the Utah wilderness portion. High scenic integrity retention is maintained on 1,744 acres. Partial retention (moderate) is maintained on 13,866 acres. Modification (low) is maintained on 12,505 acres.

The potential for oil and gas reserves is moderate to high; however the area does not have any current oil and gas leases at this time. No known potential exists for phosphate ore. No active mining or exploration for locatable minerals is occurring.

The IRA contains 40 acres of private land in -holdings.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Allow summer, motorized travel on designated trails under the current Travel Plan.
2. Designate it as wilderness, to protect critical “core” habitat areas and encourage the preservation and maintenance of the conservation corridor.
3. Winter motorized cross-country travel, except in areas where travel is closed under the current Travel Plan.
4. New motorized trail construction should be permitted in area where travel is limited under the current Travel Plan.
5. Allow snowmobiling in wilderness recommendation areas.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Mount Naomi	04758	28,116	1.3	13,509	1.3	12,711	Readjustment of big game winter range based on actual use, flight data, and local knowledge of area, topographic features, such as watershed lines or elevation breaks with existing roads as boundary line.
			2.7.2	1,554	2.7.2	2,401	Increased Rx area for manageability to topographic/cultural feature
			2.8.3	1,501	2.8.3	1,501	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	11,166	3.2	9,343	Manageability of existing uses/access, lost some acres to new 5.2 Rx
			4.3	0	4.3	331	Cub River Special Recreation Management Area
			5.2	0	5.2	1,829	Past harvest areas, maintenance of timber stand integrity, management access, minor aspen regeneration
			6.1	386	6.1	0	Shifted acres to new 5.2 Rx for aspen regeneration due to late seral aspen stands, lack of natural regeneration
Total IRA Acres				28,116		28,116	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.15. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Mount Naomi (Idaho Portion) # 04758

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	0% Unstable 20% Erosion hazard	Low	Rx 1.3, Rx 3.1, Rx 5.1, and Rx 6.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Preston, ID and Logan, UT	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	72% Yellow 28% Green 1.3 miles of 303(d) streams on Maple Creek	High restoration potential	Rx 3.1 or Rx 3.3 for Maple Creek watershed. No recommendation for the remaining area.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	Moderate Moderate Moderate	Rx 3.3 or any prescription compatible with Rx 1.3 to promote aspen regeneration in the area.
Invasive Plant Species	2.4% of the IRA (664 acres)	High	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	High High High Low N/A	Rx 1.3 for wilderness portion, Rx 3.1a in Wilderness Peak ridge area to maintain low road density and connectivity of habitat with adjacent wilderness and roadless areas to the south on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Low Moderate	Rx 2.7.2 as outlined in Alternative 7
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Bonneville Cutthroat trout strongholds present in all major drainages.	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas, and Rx 3.1 in all BCT stronghold watersheds.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Cache penstemon Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	Yes None None	1.3 or 3.1b on entire IRA and/or any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: Recommended portion for wilderness designation	High overall	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPNM: 14,343 acres SPM: 1,431 acres Roaded Modified: 349 acres Roaded Natural: 12,342 acres	High value for SPNM and low value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPNM: 28,077 acres	Low value for SPNM	Provide for SPM experience due to high public interest in snowmobiling in the area.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 1,744 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 13,866 ac. Modification (low): 12,505 ac.	Very high scenic integrity, adjacent to existing wilderness	Maintain or improve existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	Moderate to High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	40 acres of private land		

Description:

The North Pebble Roadless Area lies within Caribou County, Idaho on the Westside Ranger District. It is approximately nine air miles northwest of the community of Bancroft, Idaho.

Approximately 14 percent of the IRA is considered unstable and 18 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. The sensitive air quality receptor is Pocatello, Idaho. The IRA is inside the 20-mile radius for this sensitive receptor. It is more than 200 kilometers from a Class I area.

All of the watersheds in this IRA are rated as “yellow.” No 303(d) streams are present.

The IRA’s vegetation is composed primarily of mountain brush, aspen, and Douglas-fir. The North Pebble Timber Sale area is adjacent to the IRA. The aspen decline rating for the area is considered high because of the large component of aging (late seral) aspen and the lack of adequate regeneration. The insect hazard rating is considered low because the area displays mixed species composition with a small amount of conifer types present. The fire hazard rating is moderate because of aging conifer and aspen and moderate fuel buildups in the area. Invasive species occur on 0.3 percent of the area. Species include Musk thistle (9 acres) and Yellow toadflax (8 acres).

Idaho Department of Fish and Game has expressed concerns for mule deer in this IRA (See EIS and Wildlife Process Paper for rationale). This IRA is located on the Westside Ranger District and is not considered to provide linkage habitat for lynx. One relatively large security area occurs between Hornet and Trail Canyons. Because of the large amount of security (41 percent), this area has high potential for wolverine and wolf habitat. Wolverines have been recorded in the mountain range.

This IRA is a mix of aspen (40 percent) and mountain brush (38 percent), with smaller amounts of grass/shrub and conifer. Based on the amount of forested cover (14 percent), it ranks as low potential for habitat for forest-associated species. The area contains a small amount of grass/shrub (7 percent) but the closest know sage grouse leks are more than ten miles to the east. For these reasons, this area rates low for providing habitat for sage grouse.

This area was not identified as a conservation site by Noss, *et al*, (2001) and is rated low for this analysis. Because of the amount of aspen habitat at high departure from PFC (40 percent), the area ranks as low potential.

No fish-bearing streams have been identified in this IRA.

No rare plants, rare plant communities, or plant community reference areas have been identified or documented. The large security areas identified by the Wildlife Biologist could serve as reference landscapes. No unique reference value has been identified for this IRA.

Approximately 2,353 acres are managed in the summer for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation expiries, while 2,783 acres are managed for semi-primitive motorized experiences. The remainder of the area (349 acres) is managed as Roaded Modified.

The entire IRA area has moderate scenic integrity and is maintained in Partial Retention (moderate).

Oil and gas potential in the area is moderate. There are no existing oil and gas leases. No known potential for phosphate exists, and no active mining or exploration for locatable minerals is occurring.

One outfitter and guide is permitted to operate in the IRA. A power line runs adjacent to the IRA and a phosphate slurry line runs adjacent to the northern boundary of the IRA.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Allow summer, motorized travel limited to designated routes.
2. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
3. Allow winter, motorized travel in areas open under the current Travel Plan.

4. New motorized trail construction should be permitted.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
North Pebble	04155	5,485	2.8.3	134	2.8.3	134	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	1,996	3.2	3,815	Increased Rx acres from 6.1 Rx, manageability of existing uses/access
			5.1	1,375	5.1	0	Shifted acres to new Rx 5.2 for consolidation of Rx's
			5.2	0	5.2	1,535	Maintenance of timber stand integrity, past harvest area, management access, aspen regeneration due to conifer encroachment
			6.1	1,979	6.1	0	Shifted acres to 3.2 Rx and to new 5.2 Rx for consolidation of Rx's
Total IRA Acres				5,484		5,484	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.16. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: North Pebble # 04155

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	14% Unstable 18% Erosion hazard	Moderate	Rx 3.2, or Rx 6.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Pocatello, ID	Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	100% Yellow No 303(d) streams	Moderate condition overall	No recommendation.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	High Low Moderate	Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for watershed restoration and aspen management.
Invasive Plant Species	0.3% of the IRA (17 acres)	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	N/A High High Low Low	3.1a on large security area near South hornet Canyon to provide habitat for mule deer during hunting season and secure habitat for wolves/wolverines.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Low High	Rx 2.7.2 as outlined in Alternative 7, and Rx that allows for aspen management (2,200) acres.
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	No fish-bearing streams present	Low	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: None Wildlife security areas, although relatively small for large-scale reference area.	High to moderate for security areas, low elsewhere.	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPNM: 2,353 acres SPM: 2,783 acres Roaded Modified: 349 acres	High value for SPNM and SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 5,784 acres	High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Partial Retention (moderate): 5,484 ac.	Moderate scenic integrity	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	Moderate potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Outfitter and Guide, power line adjacent to IRA, phosphate slurry line adjacent to IRA		Rx that does not impede meeting permit conditions.

Description:

This IRA is located within Bannock, Franklin and Oneida Counties, Idaho on the Westside Ranger District. It includes the mountain range south of the community of Downey, Idaho between US Highway 91 and U.S. Interstate 15.

About 7 percent of the IRA is considered unstable. Approximately 25 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. Sensitive air quality receptors include Malad and Preston, Idaho. The IRA is within a twenty-mile radius of these sensitive receptors, but is more than 200 kilometers from a Class I area.

The majority of watersheds (89 percent) in this IRA are rated as “red.” The remaining 11 percent is rated “yellow.” Approximately 1.8 miles of 303(d) stream segments have been identified on Deep Creek.

The IRA’s forested vegetation is composed of aspen, aspen/maple, and Douglas-fir. Past disturbance includes a wildfire in the aspen/maple component and the Dry Canyon Timber Sale. The aspen decline rating is considered high due to the large component of aging aspen and the lack of adequate regeneration. The insect and fire hazard ratings are considered moderate. Douglas-fir bark beetles are evident in older stand, but the area affected is only a small component of the entire roadless area. Aging conifer and aspen with moderate fuel buildups are the reason for the moderate fire hazard rating. Invasive species, primarily leafy spurge (34 acres), occupy 0.08 percent of the area.

This IRA is located on the Westside Ranger District and is not considered to provide linkage habitat for lynx. A moderate amount of security area exists in this IRA (27 percent) and rates moderate potential for habitat for wolverines and wolves.

This IRA has about an even mix of grass/shrub (33 percent) and aspen/maple (31 percent), with lesser amounts of aspen and conifer. Based on the amount of forested cover (13 percent), it ranks as low potential for habitat for forest-associated species. Because of the amount of grass/shrub (33 percent) and its proximity to known sage grouse leks (within five miles), this area rates moderate for providing habitat for sage grouse.

This area lies partly in Noss’ Bear River site. The Noss study notes a loss of wetlands at the lower elevations (private land), with higher elevations of gentle, open-sagebrush with pockets of conifer and aspen. This site ranked out in Quadrant 4 and has an irreplaceability score of 30. It is rated low for this analysis. Because of the high amount of habitat at high departure from PFC (52 percent), the area ranks as low potential for habitat.

The north half of this area drains into the Snake River Basin and is within the range of Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Cherry Creek is the major drainage in the north part of the area. Native fish populations have been displaced by non-native brook trout and rainbow trout. The south half of this area drains in the Bear River Basin and is within the range of Bonneville cutthroat trout. The major drainages in the south half of this area include First, Second, and Third Creeks that drain into Deep Creek Reservoir. While First Creek is occupied by brook trout and cutthroat trout, Second and Third Creeks have only cutthroat trout in their salmonid communities.

No rare plants, rare plant communities, or plant community reference areas have been documented or identified in this IRA. The wildlife security areas identified by the Wildlife Biologist could serve as reference landscapes, as well as large-scale watershed restoration opportunities. No unique reference value has been identified for this area.

Approximately 12,170 acres are managed for summer semi-primitive non-motorized recreation experiences, while 25,732 acres are managed in the summer for semi-primitive motorized experiences. The remaining area (2,969 acres) is managed for Roaded Modified experiences. In the winter, the entire IRA is managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences.

The western portion of the IRA is managed for high scenic integrity because it is adjacent and visible from U.S. Interstate 15. The eastern portion is also managed for high scenic integrity, because of the viewshed from Highway 91. Approximately 692 acres are managed for retention (high). Partial retention (moderate) is maintained on 32,978 acres and Modification (low) is maintained on 7,201 acres.

The IRA has a moderate potential for oil and gas reserves; however, no oil and gas leases exist at this time. No known potential for phosphate exists. The IRA contains areas on the northern portion that have experienced exploratory drilling in the past. Signs of historic prospecting are evident; however, no active mining or exploration for locatable minerals is occurring.

One outfitter and guide is permitted to operate in the IRA.

IRA Specific, Prescribed Management Public Comments (Summarized):

1. Allow summer, motorized travel limited to designated routes.
2. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
3. Allow winter, motorized cross-country.
4. Non-motorized during the summer months.
5. New motorized trail construction should be permitted.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Oxford Peak	04157	40,871	2.1.2	0	2.1.2	408	Applied Rx for visual quality maintenance along travel corridors
			2.7.2	8,924	2.7.2	8,719	Lost some acres to Rx 2.1.2 and to new 5.2 Rx
			2.8.3	2,282	2.8.3	2,282	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			5.2	0	5.2	720	Maintenance of stand integrity, past harvest area, past fire disturbance, management access, aspen regeneration due to lack of natural regeneration
			6.2	0	6.2	28,742	Watershed restoration, BCT habitat, rangeland vegetation management, consolidation of Rxs
			6.3	29,665	6.3	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx and lost acres to 5.2 for consolidation of Rx's and aspen regeneration needs
Total IRA Acres				40,871		40,871	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.17. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Oxford Mountain # 04157

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	7% Unstable 25% Erosion hazard	Low	Rx 2.7.2, Rx 3.2, and/or Rx 6.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Malad and Preston, Idaho	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	89% Red 11% Yellow 1.8 miles of 303(d) streams on Deep Creek	High restoration potential	Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 on entire IRA for watershed restoration.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	High Moderate Moderate	Rx 5.1 in New and Dray Canyons for specific conifer stands, Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for watershed and aspen restoration
Invasive Plant Species	0.08% of the IRA (34 acres)	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	N/A Moderate Moderate Low High	Rx 3.1a on large security area around Oxford Mountain to maintain big game security during hunting season.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Low High	Maintain winter range as outlined in Alternative 7 and any Rx that allows restoration of aspen and juniper (21,000 acres)
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Bonneville cutthroat trout present in Second and Third Creeks	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas and Rx 3.1 in BCT stronghold watersheds.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: None Wildlife Security areas and large-scale watershed restoration opportunities	Low	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPNM: 12,170 acres SPM: 25,732 acres Roaded Modified: 2,969 acres	High value for SPNM and SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPPM: 41,071 acres	High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 692 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 32,978 ac. Modification (low): 7,201 ac.	High scenic integrity adjacent to Hwy 91 and Interstate 15	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	Moderate potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Moderate to Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Outfitter and Guide		

Description:

This IRA lies within Bear Lake County, Idaho on the old Cache National Forest now administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. It is located approximately six miles west of Bloomington, Idaho.

This IRA has no unstable areas. About 48 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. Sensitive air quality receptors include Preston and Montpelier, Idaho. Both of these receptors are within the twenty-mile radius. The IRA is more than 200 kilometers from a Class I area.

All of the watersheds within the IRA are rated as “yellow.” No 303(d) streams are present.

The IRA’s forested vegetation is composed of aspen, mixed conifer, spruce/fir, aspen/conifer, Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. Past disturbance includes Dick’s Retreat Timber Sale, windthrow damage in the late 1990’s and subsequent salvage activities, and a wildfire in 2000. The aspen decline rating is considered high due to the large component of aging aspen in the area that are not adequately regenerating. The insect and fire hazard ratings are considered moderate due to the mixed species composition, a high percentage of aspen, and old conifers in the western portion of the IRA. Fuel loading along the western boundary of the IRA is occurring. Invasive species occupy 0.6% of the area. Species include Canada thistle (21 acres), Dyers woad (33 acres) and Musk thistle (3 acres).

This area rated moderate for lynx linkage habitat, based on: 1) the amount of forested cover (28 percent); 2) moderate security (22 percent) and 3) potential travel corridor from Paris Peak Ridge up to Highline. Because of the amount of security (22 percent), this area ranks moderate for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA has conifer cover over 28 percent of the area ranking it moderate for forest-associated species. About 24 percent of the area has a grass/shrub cover in small isolated patches. The grass/shrub component is within two to ten miles of the nearest known sage grouse leks, and as a result, is rated low for potential sage grouse habitat.

This IRA was not identified as a conservation site by Noss, *et al.* and this criteria rated low. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (54 percent), this area ranks as low potential.

Non-native fish dominates the salmonid community in Bloomington and Paris Creeks. Extremely low frequencies of Bonneville cutthroat trout occur in these streams.

A proposed sensitive plant, the Wasatch bladderpod, occurs at the Paris Ice Cave. No rare plant communities or plant community reference areas have been documented in the area. The large wildlife security areas identified by the Wildlife Biologist could serve as a reference landscape. In addition areas within the IRA that have been treated with prescribed fire or have experienced wildfire activity serve as a unique reference value in this IRA.

The majority of the IRA (4,623 acres) is managed in the summer for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences. The remaining area (4,193 acres) is managed for Roaded Natural recreation experiences. In the winter, the entire IRA (8,816 acres) is managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences.

Overall, the area is managed for moderate scenery integrity. Retention (high) is maintained on 281 acres and Partial Retention (moderate) is maintained on the remaining 8,536 acres.

The IRA has a high potential for oil and gas reserves; however no oil and gas leases exist in the area at the present time. No known potential for phosphate exists, and no active mining or exploration for locatable minerals is occurring. Special Use Permits include water diversion structures on Paris Creek, a yurt in Bloomington Canyon maintained by Idaho State University, a water diversion ditch for Utah Power & Light, and an electronic site on Paris Peak. A utility power line runs along the northern boundary of the IRA.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Allow summer, motorized cross-country, except in areas where travel is limited to designated routes under the current Travel Plan.

2. Non-motorized during the summer months.
3. Allow winter, motorized cross-country.
4. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
5. New motorized trail construction should be permitted in areas where travel is limited under the current Travel Plan.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Paris Peak	04177	8,816	2.7.1	2,027	2.7.1	0	Readjustment of big game winter range based on actual use, flight data, and local knowledge of area, topographic features, such as watershed lines or elevation breaks with existing roads as boundary line. Acres shifted to Rx 3.3 for aspen regeneration and watershed restoration
			2.7.2	8	2.7.2	0	Shifted acres to 3.3 Rx for aspen regeneration
			2.8.3	267	2.8.3	267	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	6,494	3.2	0	Shifted some acres to 3.3 Rx for aspen regeneration due to lack of natural regeneration, late seral aspen
			3.3	0	3.3	7,440	Aspen regeneration due to lack of natural regeneration, high composition of mixed species in western section of IRA
			5.1	6	5.1	0	Shifted acres to new 5.2 Rx for consolidation of Rx's
			5.2	0	5.2	1,093	Maintenance of stand integrity, past harvest area, windthrow disturbance area, management access, aspen regeneration
			6.1	4	6.1	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx for consolidation of Rx's
			6.2	0	6.2	4	Rangeland vegetation management, consolidation of Rx's, aspen regeneration needs
			8.1u	12	8.1u	12	No change, utility corridor
Total IRA Acres				8,818		8,816	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.18. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Paris Peak # 04177

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	0% Unstable 48% Erosion hazard	Low	Rx 2.7.1, Rx 3.2, Rx 5.1 or Rx 6.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Preston and Montpelier, ID	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	100% Yellow No 303(d) streams	Moderate overall condition	No recommendation.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	High Moderate Moderate	Rx 5.1, Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for watershed and aspen restoration.
Invasive Plant Species	0.6% of the IRA (57 acres)	Medium	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	Moderate Moderate Moderate Moderate Low	Rx 3.1a on security area at Harry's Hollow.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Low High	Maintain winter range outlined in Alternative 7 and any Rx that allows restoration treatments on aspen, mixed conifer, riparian areas and tall forb communities.
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Low frequencies of Bonneville cutthroat trout in Bloomington and Paris Creeks.	Moderate	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Wasatch bladderpod Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	Yes None None	Site-specific management and mitigation are recommended. Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: Rx fire and wildfire. Also Wildlife Security area	Moderate for security and burned areas, low elsewhere.	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPM: 4,623 acres Roaded Natural: 4,193 acres	High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 8,816 acres	High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings. Consider SPNM backcountry skiing in site-specific travel planning
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 281 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 8,536 ac.	Moderate scenic integrity	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Water diversions, Yurt, electronic site, power line along northern boundary		

Description:

The Pole Creek Roadless Area lies within Bonneville County, Idaho on the Soda Springs Ranger District and the Palisades Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The area is approximately twelve miles north of Wayan, Idaho.

The majority of this IRA, 84 percent, is considered unstable. Approximately 57 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. Afton, Wyoming is a sensitive air quality receptor and is within the twenty-mile sensitive receptor radius. The IRA is also within 200 kilometers of a Class I area.

All of the watersheds within the IRA are rated “red.” No 303(d) streams are present.

The IRA’s vegetation is composed of lodgepole pine plantations, aspen/conifer, aspen, sage/grass, Douglas-fir, and mixed conifer. Past disturbance includes extensive timber harvest in the Brockman area and a wildfire in 2000. Aspen decline is rated high due to older aspen and the lack of adequate regeneration in these areas. The insect and fire hazard ratings are considered moderate due to past disturbance, the large component of aging aspen, and active fuel treatments on conifer and aspen sites. Invasive species occupy only 0.08% of the area. Species include Canada thistle (1 acre) and Musk thistle (2 acres.)

This area rates low for lynx linkage. This is based on the low amount of forested cover (23 percent), lack of security (0 percent). A ridge ties into the Brockman area and is adjacent to a Targhee roadless area, which is being managed for timber. This area has no security areas and is rated low for wolverine and wolves.

Vegetation cover in the IRA is about 36 percent grass/shrub, 23 percent conifer, 21 percent aspen/conifer and 16 percent aspen. Based on the amount of forested habitat, the area is rated moderate for forest-associated species. The grass/shrub component is over ten miles from any known sage grouse leks and is not considered habitat for sage grouse.

The IRA lies in Noss’s South Caribou-Grays Lake mega site. The irreplaceability score is high at 75.8 and is placed in Quadrant 1. The Noss study placed an emphasis on aspen, willow riparian and meadows in this site. Elk habitat is some of the best, and this area has the highest density of elk in southeast Idaho (Noss, *et al.*, 2001). This IRA is rated high for this analysis. Because a moderate percentage of the vegetation is at high departure from PFC (37 percent), this area ranks moderate for providing habitat suitable for most species.

Tributaries of McCoy Creek drain this IRA. These tributaries are considered stronghold streams for Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

No rare plants, rare plant communities, or plant community reference sites have been documented in the area. Large-scale watershed and aquatic habitat restoration opportunities could serve as reference landscapes. No unique reference value for the area has been identified.

The majority of the area is managed in the summer for semi-primitive motorized recreation on 2,749 acres. The remainder of the area (913 acres) is managed for Roaded Modified experiences. In the winter, the entire IRA is managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences.

The area is managed for moderate scenic integrity. Approximately 3,633 acres are maintained in Partial Retention (moderate). The remaining 2,245 acres is maintained in Modification (low).

The IRA lies within the overthrust belt. The potential for oil and gas reserves is high, but there are no current leases. No known potential for phosphate exists. Current and historic gold mining activity occurs along McCoy Creek immediately adjacent to the southern boundary of the IRA. No active mining or exploration for locatable minerals is occurring within the IRA boundary.

One outfitter and guide service is permitted to operate in the IRA.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Non-motorized during the summer months.

2. Allow summer motorized, cross-country except in areas where travel is closed under the current Travel Plan.
3. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
4. Allow winter, motorized cross-country.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Pole Creek	04160	3,662	2.1.4	0	2.1.4	47	Historic mining area in McCoy Creek to preserve those features for future study and interpretation. Rx includes direction for restoring fisheries in McCoy Creek.
			2.8.3	189	2.8.3	189	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.3	2,102	3.3	3,077	Unstable soils, high erosion rating, YCT habitat, increased acres in Rx from Rx 5.3 for aspen regeneration in mixed stands and lack of natural regeneration
			5.3	213	5.3	0	Shifted acres to Rx 3.3 for aspen regeneration in mixed stands and lack of natural regeneration and watershed restoration needs
			6.2	0	6.2	349	Rangeland vegetation management and watershed restoration
			6.3	1,157	6.3	0	Shifted some acres to Rx 6.2 and the remaining acres into Rx 3.3 for aspen regeneration and watershed restoration
			Total IRA Acres				3,661

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.19. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Pole Creek # 04160

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	84% Unstable 57% Erosion hazard	Moderate	Rx 2.7.1, Rx 3.2, or Rx 6.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Afton, WY	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	100% Red No 303(d) streams	High restoration potential	Rx 3.1, or Rx 3.3 for watershed restoration
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	High Low Low	Rx 5.1 to protect lodgepole pine plantations and continue to manage them, Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for watershed and aspen restoration.
Invasive Plant Species	0.08% of the IRA (3 acres)	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	Low Low Low Moderate N/A	Due to small size of IRA and lack of security areas, no recommendation.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	High Moderate	Any Rx that allows restoration on habitats at risk (1,350 acres)
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Yellowstone cutthroat trout present in McCoy Creek tributaries	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas, Rx 3.1 in YCT stronghold watersheds.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: None Large-scale watershed and aquatic habitat restoration opportunities	Moderate for restoration opportunities, low elsewhere.	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPM: 2,749 acres Roaded Modified: 913 acres	Moderate value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 3,633 acres	High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Partial Retention (moderate): 1,416 ac. Modification (low): 2,245 ac.	Moderate scenic integrity	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Outfitter and Guide		Any Rx that does not impede compliance with permit

Description:

The Red Mountain Roadless Area lies within Bear Lake County, Idaho on the Montpelier Ranger District. It is located approximately four miles northwest of the community of Geneva, Idaho, and one mile west of the Idaho-Wyoming State line.

The majority (76 percent) of this IRA is considered unstable. Approximately 29 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. Sensitive air quality receptors include Afton, Wyoming and Montpelier, Idaho. These two communities are within the twenty-mile radius around sensitive receptors. The IRA is not within 200 kilometers of a Class I area.

Approximately 88 percent of the watersheds in this IRA are rated “red.” The remaining 12 percent is rated “yellow.” About 5.7 miles of 303(d) stream segments exist along Preuss and Dry Creeks.

The IRA’s forested vegetation is composed of aspen, Douglas-fir, mixed conifer, lodgepole pine, and aspen/conifer. No significant or recent disturbances have occurred in the area. Aspen decline is considered high in the area due to aging and older aspen stands that are not adequately regenerating. The insect hazard rating is low due to the small proportion of conifer and the large component of aspen. The fire hazard rating is considered moderate, because of the presence of aspen/conifer and conifer along the northern and western boundaries of the IRA. Invasive species occupy 0.1 percent of the IRA. Species include Canada thistle (5 acres), Dyers woad (4 acres), Henbane (1 acre), and Musk thistle (4 acres).

Known occurrences of goshawks have been recorded in the IRA. This area rated low for lynx linkage habitat based on: 1) the low amount of security areas (16 percent); 2) low amount of forested cover (7 percent); 3) the proximity to the Salt River area managed by the Bridger-Teton; and 4) north-south drainages of Beaver and Dry Creek may act as travel corridors. Because of the low amount of security (16 percent), this area also ranks low for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA has little conifer cover (7 percent) ranking it low for forest-associated species. About 50 percent of the area has a grass/shrub cover. These areas are within two miles of the nearest known sage grouse leks, and as a result, these areas rated high for potential sage grouse habitat.

The area lies in Noss’ Gannet Hills site. The Noss study mentioned that this area has some of the highest game values in Idaho. This area was placed in Quadrant 2 and has an irreplaceability score of 55. For this analysis it is rated moderate. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (42 percent), this area ranks as low potential.

Dry and Preuss Creeks primarily drain the area. Both of these streams are stronghold streams for Bonneville cutthroat trout.

No rare plants, rare plant communities, or plant community reference areas have been documented in the area. Large-scale watershed and aquatic habitat restoration opportunities could serve as reference landscapes. Large stands of old aspen and natural landslides in the area are considered as having unique reference value.

The entire IRA is managed for Road Modified (2,074 acres) and Roded Natural (11,627 acres) in the summer. During the winter, the entire IRA is managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences, with the exception of the closure of some areas because of active mining activities.

This IRA is managed for moderate scenic integrity. Partial retention (moderate) is maintained on 6,921 acres. Modification (low) is maintained on 6,779 acres.

The IRA lies within the overthrust belt. Although the potential for oil and gas reserves is high in the area, no oil and gas leases currently exist. No known potential for phosphate and no active mining or exploration of locatable minerals is occurring at this time.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Allow summer, motorized travel limited to designated routes, and winter, motorized cross-country.
2. Manage as wilderness to protect deer, elk, moose and Bonneville cutthroat trout populations, and close the “Boulevard jeep trail” so that Gannet and Red Mountain can be managed as one.

3. New motorized trail construction should be permitted.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Red Mountain	04170	13,701	2.7.1	1,578	2.7.1	1,770	Increased acres in Rx to match topo/cultural features for manageability
			2.8.3	1,259	2.8.3	1,259	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.1	0	3.1	5,863	Wildlife Security Area, sage grouse habitat
			6.2	0	6.2	4,808	Rangeland vegetation management and restoration for sagebrush habitats, BCT habitat
			6.3	10,863	6.3	0	Lost acres to Wildlife Security Area in 3.1 Rx and remaining acres shifted to new 6.2 Rx
Total IRA Acres				13,700		13,700	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.20. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Red Mountain # 04170

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	76% Unstable 29% Erosion hazard	High	Rx 2.7.1, Rx 3.1 or Rx 3.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Afton, WY and Montpelier, ID	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	88% Red 12% Yellow 5.7 miles of 303(d) streams along Preuss and Dry Creeks	High restoration potential	Rx 3.1, Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for restoration and protection.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	High Low Moderate	Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for watershed and aspen restoration.
Invasive Plant Species	0.1% of the IRA (14 acres)	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	Low Low Low Low High	Rx 3.1a on large security area between Preuss and Dry Creeks to maintain non-motorized area and any Rx that maintains sagebrush for sage grouse.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Moderate High	Maintain winter range outlined in Alt 7 and any Rx that allows for restoration of aspen (5,800 acres).
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	BCT are present in Preuss and Dry Creeks	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas and Rx 3.1 in BCT stronghold watersheds.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: Old aspen stands, and natural landslide areas. Large-scale watershed/aquatic habitat restoration opportunities.	Moderate for natural landslides and BCT habitat, low elsewhere	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	No SPM in this IRA Roaded Modified: 2,074 ac. Roaded Natural: 11,627 ac.	N/A	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 13,689 acres	Moderate value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 903 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 4,405 ac.	Moderate scenic integrity	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	None		

Description:

The Sage Creek Roadless Area is within Caribou County, Idaho on the Soda Springs Ranger District. It is located approximately ten miles southwest of Afton, Wyoming.

Only 2 percent of the IRA is considered unstable. Approximately 23 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. Sensitive air quality receptors are Afton, Wyoming and Soda Springs, Idaho. The IRA is within the twenty-mile sensitive receptor radius. It is also within 200 kilometers of a Class I area.

The majority of the watersheds, about 88 percent, in this IRA are rated “yellow.” The remaining 12 percent are rated “green.” No 303(d) streams are present.

The IRA’s forested vegetation is composed of aspen, Douglas-fir, mixed conifer, lodgepole pine, and aspen/conifer. Past disturbance includes the South Fork, Pole Canyon, and Sage Creek Timber Sales and historic and active mining activities. Aspen decline is rated high in the area due to aging and older aspen stands with conifer encroachment occurring on these sites. The insect and fire hazard ratings are both moderate for the area due to the older conifer composition and fuel buildup in the understory. Invasive species occupy 0.2 percent of the area. Species include Canada thistle (17 acres) and Musk thistle (5 acres.)

Known occurrences of wolf (1985), three-toed woodpecker, goshawks, and great gray owls have been recorded in the IRA. This area rated high for lynx linkage habitat based on: 1) the presence of a major north-south ridge, which could provide a movement corridor; 2) the area has 41 percent conifer cover; 3) location midway between the Targhee and south end of the Preuss Range; and 4) area offers about 9 percent for security areas. Because of the low amount of security (9 percent), this area also ranks low for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA has conifer cover over 40 percent of the area ranking it high for forest-associated species. About 22 percent of the area has grass/shrub in smaller patches. These patches are between five and ten miles from the nearest known sage grouse leks. These areas are rated low for sage grouse habitat.

This IRA was not ranked by Noss, *et al.*, (2001) and is ranked low for this analysis. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (36 percent), this area ranks as moderate potential.

Sage, Manning, and Deer Creeks drain the area. They are tributaries to Crow Creek. Although Forest surveys have not been completed on these streams, they are likely inhabited by Yellowstone cutthroat trout since Crow Creek is a stronghold stream.

No rare plants, rare plant communities, or plant community references areas have been documented in the area. The Deer Creek watershed is not impacted by mining as are the surrounding watersheds. This area could have unique reference value as relatively undisturbed area adjacent to highly disturbed areas. Large-scale aquatic habitat restoration opportunities could serve as reference landscapes.

A large portion of the IRA is managed in the summer for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences (10,674 acres). The remaining area (2,037 acres) is managed for Roaded Modified experiences. In the winter, the entire IRA is managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences.

The area has low scenic integrity. Partial retention (moderate) is maintained on 4,043 acres. Modification (low) is maintained on 8,668 acres.

The IRA lies within the overthrust belt. Although the area has high potential for oil and gas reserves, there are no existing oil and gas leases. The IRA contains about 3,000 acres under active phosphate leases and an additional 2,400 acres in KPLA areas. An active phosphate mine is present. At the current time, a phosphate prospecting permit and a lease modification application are in progress. In addition, two expired exploration licenses exist. All of these additional activities concern land within the IRA.

Several phosphate mine-related Special Use Permits are present. The USFS has a radio repeater in the area, and a Special Use Permit is in effect for a two-acre fenced special use area. A phosphate slurry pipeline runs along the northern boundary of the area. A power line

is also located on the northeastern IRA boundary.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
2. Allow summer and winter, motorized cross-country, except in areas where travel is limited to designated trails or closed under the current Travel Plan.
3. Non-motorized during the summer months.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Sage Creek	04166	12,711	2.7.2	3,436	2.7.2	2,021	Readjustment of big game winter range based on actual use, flight data, and local knowledge of area, topographic features, such as watershed lines or elevation breaks with existing roads as boundary line. Acres shifted to Rx 6.2.
			2.8.3	855	2.8.3	855	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	8,373	3.2	0	Shifted acres to 5.2 Rx for aspen regeneration due to conifer encroachment
			5.1	4	5.1	0	Shifted acres to 5.2 Rx for aspen regeneration due to Conifer encroachment
			5.2	0	5.2	6,110	Stable soils, maintenance of timber stand integrity, past harvest area, management access, aspen regeneration due to conifer encroachment
			6.2	0	6.2	3,682	Moderate watershed conditions, rangeland vegetation management and restoration, YCT habitat
			8.2.2	43	8.2.2	43	No change, active phosphate lease
			Total IRA Acres			12,711	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.21. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Sage Creek # 04166

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	2% Unstable 23% Erosion hazard	Low	Rx 2.7.2, Rx 3.2, Rx 5.1, Rx 6.2 and Rx 8.2.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Afton, WY and Soda Springs, ID	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	88% Yellow 12% Green No 303(d) streams	Moderate overall condition	No recommendation.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	High Moderate Moderate	Rx 5.1, Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for watershed and aspen restoration.
Invasive Plant Species	0.2% of the IRA (22 acres)	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	High Low Low High Low	No recommendation of this IRA due to its irregular shape and lack of security areas.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Low Moderate	Any Rx that would allow restoration of aspen areas
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Yellowstone cutthroat trout assumed to be present in Sage, Manning, and Deer Creeks	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas and Rx 3.1 in YCT stronghold watersheds.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: Deer Creek Watershed Large-scale aquatic habitat restoration opportunities	High for Deer Creek, moderate to low elsewhere	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPM: 10,674 acres Roaded Modified: 2,037 acres	Moderate value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 12,709 acres	Moderate value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Partial Retention (moderate): 4,043 ac. Modification (low): 8,668 ac.	Low scenic integrity	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	Active leases: 3,000 acres KPLA areas: 2,400 acres	High potential on leased and KPLA areas, moderate to low elsewhere.	Rx 8.2.2 on active leases and SUP areas, Rx 8.2.1 on inactive leases, KPLA's and prospecting and exploration areas.
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Several phosphate SUPs, SUP for 2-acre fenced area, phosphate slurry line and power line on northern end of IRA, USFS radio repeater		Any Rx that does not impede permit compliance.

Description:

Schmid Peak Roadless Area is located in Caribou County, Idaho on the Soda Springs Ranger District. It is located approximately seventeen miles northeast of Soda Springs.

None of the area within the IRA boundary is considered unstable. Only 12 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. Afton, Wyoming and Soda Springs, Idaho are the two sensitive air quality receptors. Both of these communities lie within the twenty-mile sensitive receptor radius. In addition, this IRA is within 200 kilometers of a Class I area.

The majority of watershed (93 percent) in this IRA are rated "Green." The remaining 7 percent is rated "yellow." Approximately 2.4 miles of 303(d) stream segments are present on Diamond Creek.

The IRA's forest vegetation is composed of Douglas-fir, aspen, lodgepole pine, mixed conifer and aspen/conifer. Past disturbance includes timber harvest activities in Diamond Creek, Bench, Campbell and Mosquito Creek areas. Mining activity occurs in Maybe Canyon. Aspen decline is considered low for this area because of the small component of aspen in the vegetation composition of the area. Insect and fire hazard ratings are considered moderate due to stands of aging conifer, particularly Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and mixed conifer, and the associated fuel buildup in these areas. Invasive species occupy 0.5 percent of the area. Species include Canada thistle (1 acre), Musk thistle (10 acres), and Yellow toadflax (23 acres).

This IRA is rated moderate for lynx linkage habitat based on: 1) the area has 51 percent conifer cover; 2) about 33 percent of the area offers security areas, and 3) the location of the IRA between Caribou Mountain and Bear Creek IRAs to the north and Preuss to the south. Because of the amount of security (33 percent), this area ranks high for wolverine and wolves. This IRA has conifer cover over 51 percent of the area ranking it high for forest-associated species, with about 19 percent aspen. About 25 percent of the area has grass/shrub cover. These areas are located between five and ten miles or more from the nearest known sage grouse leks and are rated moderate for sage grouse.

This IRA is in part of Noss' Blackfoot-Salt site. The Blackfoot-Salt site is part of the southeast Idaho phosphate belt and includes relatively recent lava flows. The area supports substantial aspen and willow bottoms. This site was placed in Quadrant 2 but has a high irreplaceability score of 88. For this analysis it is rated as moderate. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (20 percent), this area ranks as high potential.

The salmonid community in Diamond Creek is dominated by Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Brook trout are also present.

No rare plants, rare plant communities, or plant community references areas have been documented in this IRA. Wildlife security areas and large-scale restoration opportunities on the Diamond Creek watershed could serve as reference landscapes. The wildlife security area in an IRA that is heavily developed from mining and timber activities has unique reference value.

The majority of the IRA is managed in the summer for semi-primitive motorized recreation on 6,577 acres. The remainder of the area (539 acres) is managed as Roaded Modified in the summer. During the winter the entire IRA is managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences.

This IRA has low scenic integrity. The majority of the area (4,112 acres) is retained in Modification (low).

The IRA lies within the overthrust belt. Although high potential for oil and gas reserves exist, there are no existing oil and gas leases in the area. The IRA contains 600 acres of leases and 120 acres of unleased KPLA land. Some mined and inactive leases are adjacent to the IRA. No active mining or exploration for locatable minerals is occurring at this time.

One outfitter and guide service is permitted to operate in the IRA. A utility power line runs adjacent to the IRA boundary on the east side. A phosphate slurry line runs along the southern boundary of the IRA.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
2. Allow summer and winter, motorized cross-country, except in areas where travel is limited to designated trails or closed under the current Travel Plan.
3. Non-motorized during the summer months.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Schmid Peak	04163	7,116	2.7.2	573	2.7.2	572	No Change, big game winter range
			2.8.3	328	2.8.3	328	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	0	3.2	3,788	Manageability of existing uses/access
			3.3	5,500	3.3	1,927	Lost acres to 3.2 Rx, remaining acres identified for fuel reduction
			5.1	1	5.1	0	Shifted acres into 5.2 Rx for consolidation of Rx's
			5.2	0	5.2	278	Stable soils, good watershed condition, past timber harvest, mining disturbances, management access
			6.2	0	6.2	195	Rangeland vegetation management and restoration to PFC
			6.3	689	6.3	0	Shifted acres into 3.2 and 3.3 Rx for consolidation of Rx's
			8.1u	26	8.1u	26	No change, utility corridor
	Total IRA Acres				7,117		7,114

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.22. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Schmid Peak # 04163

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	0% Unstable 12% Erosion hazard	Low	Rx 2.7.2, Rx 3.3, Rx 5.1, Rx 6.2, Rx 8.2.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Afton, WY and Montpelier, ID	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	7% Yellow 93% Green 2.4 miles of 303(d) streams segments on Diamond Creek	Moderate preservation potential	Rx 3.3 or Rx 5.2 on Diamond Creek watershed. Rx 3.1 or Rx 3.2 on remaining area.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	Low Moderate Moderate	Rx 5.1 to manage aging conifer and increasing fuels loading.
Invasive Plant Species	0.5% of the IRA (34 acres)	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	Moderate High High High Moderate	Rx 3.1a on security area in Campbell Canyon area to provide secure habitat in an area heavily impacted by mining.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Moderate Low	No recommendation
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Diamond Creek is dominated by Yellowstone cutthroat trout	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas and Rx 3.1 in YCT stronghold watersheds.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: Wildlife Security Area in heavily impacted IRA. Large-scale aquatic habitat restoration	Moderate overall	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPM: 6,577 acres Roaded Modified: 539 acres	Moderate value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 7,112 acres	Moderate value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Modification (low): 4,112 ac.	Low scenic integrity	Maintain or improve existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	Active leases: 600 acres KPLA areas: 120 acres	High potential on leased and KPLA areas; moderate to low elsewhere in IRA	8.2.1 on inactive leases and KPLAs.
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Outfitter and Guide, power line on east boundary, phosphate slurry line on south boundary.		Any Rx that does not impede compliance with permit.

Description:

The Scout Mountain Roadless Area is within Bannock County, Idaho on the Westside Ranger District. The center of the area is located about thirteen miles southeast of Pocatello, Idaho in the Bannock Mountain range.

This IRA contains no unstable areas. Approximately 30 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. Pocatello, Idaho is the sensitive air quality receptor and lies inside the twenty-mile sensitive receptor radius. The IRA is not within 200 kilometers of a Class I area.

The majority of the watersheds, about 90 percent, are rated “yellow.” The remaining watersheds are rated “Green.” Approximately 0.4 miles of 303(d) stream segment is present on Mink Creek.

The IRA’s vegetation is composed of sagebrush/grass, Douglas-fir, and aspen. Past disturbance includes the Valve House Timber Sale and salvage activities near the Scout Mountain Campground. Aspen decline is considered low for the area, because aspen is a very small component of the overall vegetation composition. Insect and fire hazard ratings are moderate due to the presence of aging Douglas-fir and associated fuel loading. Invasive species occupy 0.2 percent of the IRA. Species include Canada thistle (22 acres) and Musk thistle (33 acres).

The flammulated owl is the known TES occurrence in this IRA. This IRA is located on the Westside Ranger District and is not considered to provide linkage habitat for lynx. Several security areas are evident across the east side of the area. Because of the amount of security (21 percent), this area has moderate potential for habitat for wolverines and wolves.

This IRA contains a mix of conifer (21 percent) and grass/shrub (63 percent). Based on the amount of forested cover, it ranks as low potential for habitat for forest-associated species. Although a large amount of grass/shrub habitat is evident, it is over ten miles from the nearest known sage grouse lek and is not considered sage grouse habitat.

Noss, *et al*, (1999) placed this area in the Portneuf site. This site ranked in Quadrant 1, but the irreplaceability was placed at 51, which is moderate. The Noss study mentions significant herds of mule deer and growing herds of elk. This IRA is rated high for this criterion. Because of the low amount of habitat at high departure from PFC (6 percent), the area ranks as high potential.

The major drainages in the Scout Mountain Roadless Area include Indian, Walker, Bell Marsh, Goodenough, South Fork Mink, and East Fork Mink Creeks. Of those streams, Walker, Bell Marsh, Goodenough, South Fork Mink, and East Fork Mink Creeks are considered Yellowstone cutthroat trout stronghold streams. Yellowstone cutthroat trout were the only salmonid observed in each of these streams, except East Fork Mink Creek, where a low population of brook trout was also observed.

No rare plants, rare plant communities or plant community reference sites have been documented in this area. The wildlife security areas identified by the Wildlife Biologist could serve as reference landscapes, along with large-scale restoration opportunities for the Mink Creek watershed. No unique reference value has been identified for this IRA.

Approximately 9,031 acres are managed in the summer for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation. About 4,480 acres is managed for semi-primitive motorized use. The remaining 5,432 acres is managed as Roaded Natural. In the winter, about 4,480 acres are managed as semi-primitive non-motorized inside a wildlife exclosure. The remaining 18,130 acres is managed for semi-primitive motorized use.

The area is managed for high scenic value because of its proximity to Pocatello, Idaho. Retention (high) is maintained on 7,486 acres. Partial retention (moderate) is maintained on 5,512 acres, and Modification (low) is maintained on 9,609 acres.

The IRA has a moderate potential for oil and gas reserves; however, there are no existing oil and gas leases. No known potential exists for phosphate in the area. Past locatable mineral exploration of the area is evident on small known reserves, mineral patents, and numerous prospect areas. An historic mine is located just north of the IRA. No active mining or exploration is occurring at the present time.

The area also contains a summer home site. One outfitter and guide is permitted to operate in the IRA. A portion of the East Mink Creek cross-country ski area is within the IRA boundaries, but the majority is outside the area. Several electronic sites are visible atop Scout Mountain. This IRA contains 630 acres of state land and 50 acres of private in-holdings.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Allow summer, motorized with travel limited to designated routes.
2. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
3. Allow winter, motorized cross-country.
4. New motorized trail construction should be permitted.
5. Area should be non-motorized during the winter to provide cross-country skiers with semi-primitive recreation opportunities.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Scout Mountain	04152	22,607	2.1.2	97	2.1.2	207	Increased acres for visual quality maintenance in travel corridors
			2.7.2	3,547	2.7.2	5,799	Increased Rx area to coincide with current travel plan restrictions and user compliance
			2.8.3	1,069	2.8.3	1,069	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	16,051	3.2	11,206	Manageability of existing uses/access, some acres shifted to 3.3 for watershed restoration and 303(d) stream improvements and 6.2 for rangeland restoration
			3.3	0	3.3	1,134	Watershed restoration and 303(d) stream improvements, YCT habitat
			4.3	1,602	4.3	1,672	Dispersed recreation areas in the watershed.
			5.2	0	5.2	225	Maintenance of timber stand integrity, past harvest area, mgt. access
			6.1	242	6.1	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx for rangeland vegetation management and restoration
			6.2	0	6.2	1,296	Rangeland vegetation management and restoration
Total IRA Acres				22,608		22,608	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.23. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Scout Mountain # 04152

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	0% Unstable 30% Erosion hazard	Low	Rx 2.7.2, Rx 3.2, Rx 4.3 or Rx 6.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Pocatello, ID	Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	90% Yellow 10% Green 0.4 miles of 303(d) stream segments on Mink Creek	High restoration potential on Mink Creek watershed, low elsewhere	Rx 3.1, Rx 3.3, Rx 5.2 or Rx 6.2 on Mink Creek watershed. No recommendation for remaining area
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	Low Moderate Moderate	Rx 3.1, Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for watershed restoration.
Invasive Plant Species	0.2% of the IRA (55 acres)	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	N/A Moderate Moderate Low N/A	Rx 3.1a on either Walker Peak, Walker Creek, peak north of Goodenough Creek, or Old Tom Mountain area to maintain a non-motorized habitat area.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	High Low	Maintain winter range outlined in Alternative 7
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Bonneville cutthroat trout in Walker, Bell Marsh, Goodenough, SF Mink, and EF Mink Creeks.	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas, Rx3.1 in YCT stronghold watersheds.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: None Wildlife security areas and Mink Creek watershed restoration opportunities	High overall	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	APNM: 9,031 acres SPM: 4,076 acres Roaded Natural: 5,432 acres	Very high value for SPNM and SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPNM: 4,480 acres SPM: 18,130 acres	High value for SPNM and SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscap e Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 7,486 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 5,512 ac. Modification (low): 9,609 ac.	High scenic integrity	Maintain or improve existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	Moderate potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Moderate potential in Valve House and EF Mink Creek, low elsewhere	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Summer home site, Ridge Outfitter and Guide, Cross-country ski area, electronic sites at Scout Mountain		Any Rx that does not impede compliance with permit.

Description:

This unit lies in Bear Lake County, Idaho on the old Cache National Forest administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. It is east of Eightmile Creek Road about twelve miles south of Soda Springs.

This IRA has no known unstable areas and no erosion hazard. Sensitive air quality receptors include Soda Springs and Grace, Idaho. The IRA is within a twenty-mile radius of Soda Springs. It is not within 200 kilometers of a Class I area.

All of the watersheds within this IRA are considered “yellow.” No 303(d) streams are present.

The IRA’s vegetation is composed of aspen/conifer, Douglas-fir, sagebrush/grass, and aspen. Past disturbance includes timber sales in the Nounan Peak and Mill Canyon areas. Aspen decline for the area is considered high due to the presence of conifer encroachment into aspen. The insect hazard rating is considered low due to mixed species composition in the area. The fire hazard rating is high, because of aging conifer and its encroachment into aspen with associated fuel buildup. Invasive species occupy 0.06% of the IRA. Species include Musk thistle (5 acres).

This IRA is one of three, including Soda Point and Stauffer Creek that encompasses the northern quarter of the Bear River Range and makes up a portion of continuous roadless area along most of the northeast exposure of this range. Portions of the northeast side of the Soda Point IRA and the north end of the Sherman Peak IRA are located on the Forest boundary and form an urban interface with the Bailey Creek subdivision. When combined with two adjacent IRA’s, they encompass 37,316 acres, have the third highest number of forested vegetation acres with a “high” fire hazard rating (16,923), and the fifth highest number of acres with a “high” insect (5,295) and aspen decline rating (13,402). They make up a large block of mature conifer, principally Douglas-fir, and aspen succeeding to conifer on this highly visible landscape from State Highway 30 and Soda Springs, Idaho.

A lynx occurrence (1972) has been recorded in the IRA. This area rated moderate for lynx linkage habitat based on: 1) the amount of forested cover (40 percent); 2) low security (21 percent); and 3) the presence of north-south ridge along Sherman Peak that may function as a travel corridor. Because of the amount of security (21 percent), this area ranks moderate for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA has conifer cover over 40 percent of the area, ranking it moderate for forest-associated species. Approximately 19 percent of the area is in grass/shrub cover but these areas are five to ten miles from the nearest known sage grouse leks and is not considered potential sage grouse habitat.

This IRA was not ranked by Noss, *et al.*, (2001) and is rated low for this analysis. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (43 percent), this area ranks as low potential.

The salmonid community in Eightmile Creek is dominated by non-native brook trout. Bonneville cutthroat trout are still present in low densities. The salmonid community in Pearl Creek is dominated by Bonneville cutthroat trout, although brook trout are present in low densities.

No rare plants, rare plant communities or plant community reference areas are documented in the area. Wildlife security areas identified by the Wildlife Biologist and large-scale restoration opportunities for native trout habitat could serve as reference landscapes. No unique reference value has been identified for the area.

The area is managed in the summer for semi-primitive non-motorized experiences on 1,389 acres. A portion, about 2,554 acres, is managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation. The remaining 3,813 acres are managed for Roaded Natural. In the winter, the entire IRA is managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences.

The area is managed for retention (high) on 428 acres, primarily along the eastern side. Partial retention (moderate) is maintained on 2,259 acres, and Modification (low) is maintained on 5,069 acres.

The IRA lies within the overthrust belt. Although oil and gas reserve potential is high for the area, there are no existing oil and gas leases. No known potential for phosphate exists, and no active mining or exploration for locatable minerals is occurring in the area.

Utah State University is permitted to operate an avalanche forecasting hut. The area contains one electronic site.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Allow winter, motorized cross-country.
2. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
3. Allow summer, motorized cross-country, except in areas where travel is closed under the current Travel Plan.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Sherman Peak	04172	7,756	2.8.3	348	2.8.3	348	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	7,402	3.2	5,975	Shifted acres to 5.2 Rx for aspen regeneration due to conifer encroachment and high fire hazard rating
			5.1	6	5.1	0	Shifted acres to 5.2 Rx to consolidate Rx's
			5.2	0	5.2	1,433	Maintenance of timber stand integrity, past harvest area, mgt. access, aspen regeneration due to conifer encroachment, high fire hazard rating
Total IRA Acres				7,756		7,756	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.24. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Sherman Peak # 04172

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	0% Unstable 0% Erosion hazard	Low	Rx 2.7.2, Rx 3.2, Rx 5.1 or Rx 6.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Soda Springs and Grace, ID	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	100% Yellow No 303(d) streams	Moderate overall condition	No recommendation
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	High Low High	Rx 5.1, or Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for aspen restoration and fire hazard reduction activities.
Invasive Plant Species	0.06% of the IRA (5 acres)	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	Moderate Moderate Moderate Moderate N/A	Rx 3.1a for wildlife security area near Sherman Peak to preclude building new trails.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Low High	Any Rx that treats aspen/conifer (3,000 acres) to move toward PFC.
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Bonneville cutthroat trout in Eightmile and Pearl Creeks.	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas, Rx 3.1 in BCT watershed strongholds
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: None Wildlife Security area near Sherman Peak and BCT habitat	Moderate for wildlife security area and BCT habitat, low elsewhere.	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPNM: 1,389 acres SPM: 2,554 acres Roaded Natural: 3,813 acres	Moderate value for SPNM, High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 7,756 acres	High values for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings. Consider SPNM area for x-country skiing during site-specific travel planning.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 428 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 2,259 ac. Modification (low); 5,069 ac.	High scenic integrity	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Avalanche forecasting hut, electronic site		Any Rx that does not impede compliance with permit

Description:

The Soda Point Roadless Area lies in Caribou and Bear Lake Counties, Idaho on the old Cache National Forest administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. The center of the area is about seven miles south of Soda Springs, Idaho.

No unstable areas are found in this IRA. About 28 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. Soda Springs and Grace Idaho are sensitive air quality receptors and are within the twenty-mile sensitive receptor radius. The IRA is not within 200 kilometers of a Class I area.

Approximately 3 percent of the areas watersheds are rated "red." The remaining watersheds are considered "yellow." No 303(d) streams are present.

The IRA's vegetation is composed of aspen/conifer, Douglas-fir, maple, mountain mahogany, and aspen. Past disturbance includes the McPherson Timber Sale. Aspen decline rating is considered high due to the high proportion of the aging conifer/aspen. The insect hazard rating is considered low to due the mixed species composition of the area. The fire hazard rating is considered high, because of the aging aspen/conifer and its encroachment into aspen areas and the associated fuel buildup. Invasive species occupy 27.6 percent of the area. Species include leafy spurge (2 acres), Dyers woad (6,348 acres), Musk thistle (4 acres), and Whitetop (22 acres).

This IRA is one of three, including Sherman Peak and Stauffer Creek that encompasses the northern quarter of the Bear River Range, and makes up a continuous band along most of the northeast exposure of this range. Portions of the northeast side of the Soda Point IRA and the north end of the Sherman Peak IRA are located on the Forest boundary, and form an urban interface with the Bailey Creek subdivision. When combined with two adjacent IRA's, they encompass 37,316 acres, have the third highest number of forested vegetation acres with a "high" fire hazard rating (16,923), and the fifth highest number of acres with a "high" insect (5,295) and aspen decline rating (13,402). They make up a large block of mature conifer, principally Douglas-fir, and aspen succeeding to conifer on this highly visible landscape from State Highway 30 and Soda Springs, Idaho.

A known occurrence for the boreal owl has been recorded in the IRA. This area rated moderate for lynx linkage habitat based on: 1) the amount of forested cover (31 percent); 2) low security (15 percent); and 3) the presence of a north-south ridge that may function as a travel corridor. Because of the low amount of security (15 percent), this area ranks low for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA has conifer cover over 31 percent of the area, ranking it moderate for forest-associated species. About 8 percent of the area is in grass/shrub cover, but these areas over ten miles from the nearest known sage grouse leks and are not considered potential sage grouse habitat.

Parts of this roadless area lie in Noss' Bear River Range site. The Bear River Range site was placed in Quadrant 2, and has an irreplaceability score of 57. It ranks moderate for this criteria. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (34 percent), this area ranks as moderate potential.

Bailey Creek is dominated by non-native brook trout, although some Bonneville cutthroat trout remain. Most drainages in this area are dry/fishless.

No rare plants, rare plant communities, or plant community reference areas have been documented in this IRA. Large scale restoration opportunities could serve as reference landscapes. No unique reference value has been identified for this area. Large-scale restoration opportunities could serve as reference landscapes in the area. The area contains a Research Natural Area and an ungrazed municipal watershed. These areas have unique reference value.

The area is managed in the summer for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation experience on 3,486 acres, and for semi-primitive motorized experience on 11,184 acres. The remaining 8,457 acres are managed for Roaded Natural. In the winter 3,486 acres are managed for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation. The remaining 19,635 acres is managed for semi-primitive motorized experiences.

Retention (high) is maintained on 9,537 acres adjacent to Soda Springs, Idaho and State highways 34 and 30. Partial retention (moderate) is maintained on 8,518 acres, and Modification (low) on 5,072 acres.

The IRA lies within the overthrust belt. Although the potential for oil and gas reserves is high in the area, there are no existing leases. No known potential exists for phosphate ore, and no active mining or exploration for locatable minerals is occurring.

The area contains several electronic sites administered under Special Use Permits.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Allow summer and winter, motorized cross-country except in areas where travel is limited to designated trails under the current Travel Plan.
2. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
3. New motorized trail construction should be permitted in areas where travel is limited under the current Travel Plan.
4. Due to potential adverse effects to water quality, particularly in Bailey Creek, no timber sales should be allowed in this IRA.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Soda Point	04171	23,127	2.1.3	1,302	2.1.3	0	Dropped Municipal Watershed Rx, not Congressionally designated. Shifted acres to 2.7.2 Rx.
			2.2	908	2.2	908	No change, Research Natural Area, landscape reference site
			2.7.1	9,794	2.7.1	3,579	Readjustment of big game winter range based on actual use, flight data, and local knowledge of area, topographic features, such as watershed lines or elevation breaks with existing roads as boundary line. Acres shifted to Rx 2.7.2 or Rx 3.3.
			2.7.2	648	2.7.2	1,130	Increased acres by shifting 2.1.3 acres for lower road density in big game winter range
			2.8.3	1,773	2.8.3	1,773	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	7,545	3.2	7,341	Shifted some acres to new 5.2 Rx for aspen regeneration and fuel reduction in interface areas.
			3.3	0	3.3	1,156	Aspen regeneration and rangeland vegetation management, fuels treatments.
			5.2	0	5.2	7,238	Stable soils, moderate watershed condition, aspen regeneration and fuel reductions for interface area
			6.1	1,156	6.1	0	Shifted acres to new 5.2 Rx for aspen regeneration and fuel reductions in interface area
	Total IRA Acres				23,126		23,125

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.25. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Soda Point # 04171

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	0% Unstable 28% Erosion hazard	Moderate	Rx 2.13, Rx 2.2, Rx 2.7.1, Rx 3.2, Rx 5.1 or Rx 6.1
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Soda Springs and Grace, ID	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	3% Red 97% Yellow No 303(d) streams	Moderate overall condition	No recommendation.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	High Low High	Rx 5.1, or Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for aspen restoration and fire hazard reduction activities.
Invasive Plant Species	27.6% of the IRA (6,376 acres)	High	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	Moderate Low Low Moderate N/A	Maintain the RNA designation and municipal watershed, because they provide wildlife benefits as undeveloped areas.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Moderate Moderate	Maintain winter range as outlined in Alternative 7. Any Rx that allows restoration of aspen (6,700 acres).
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Bonneville cutthroat trout in Bailey Creek.	Moderate	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: RNA and Grace municipal watershed. Large scale aspen restoration areas	Moderate to high	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPNM: 3,486 acres SPM: 11,184 acres Roaded Natural: 8,457 acres	Moderate value for SPNM, high value for SPM due to Highline Trail	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPNM: 3,486 acres SPM: 5,310 acres	Low value for SPNM High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 9,537 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 8,518 ac. Modification (low): 5,072 ac.	High scenic integrity adjacent to Soda Springs and highways 34 and 30	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation.
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation.
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation.
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Electronic sites		Any Rx that does not impede compliance with permit.

Description:

The Station Creek Roadless Area lies in Franklin, Idaho on the old Cache National Forest administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. It is located approximately eleven miles northeast of Preston, Idaho.

Approximately 3 percent of the area is unstable. About 3 percent of the IRA has an erosion hazard. Sensitive air quality receptors are Preston, Idaho and Logan, Utah. The IRA is within the twenty-mile sensitive receptor radius. It is not within 200 kilometers of a Class I area.

Watersheds in the IRA are rated as “yellow.” No 303(d) streams are present.

The IRA’s vegetation is composed of maple, sage/grass, Douglas-fir and aspen. No significant disturbance has occurred in the area. Aspen decline is rated as moderate due the small portion of the area with aspen present. Limited amounts of aspen/conifer occur along the southeast boundary. The insect and fire hazard ratings are both considered low, because of the small amount of conifers present in the area and the limited amount of forested vegetation. Invasive species occupy 3.4 percent of the area. Species include Canada thistle (54 acres), Dyers woad (255 acres) and Poison hemlock (16 acres).

Goshawks have been documented and reported in the IRA. This area rated low for lynx linkage habitat based on: 1) the amount of forested cover (8 percent); and 2) low security (0 percent). Because of the low amount of security (0 percent), this area ranks low for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA has conifer cover over 8 percent of the area ranking it low for forest-associated species. About 40 percent of the area has grass/shrub cover in smaller patches. These areas are over ten miles from the nearest known sage grouse leks and are not considered potential sage grouse habitat.

This area was not ranked as a conservation site by Noss, *et al*, (2001). It received a low ranking for this analysis. Based on the small amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (6 percent), this area ranks as high potential.

Birch Creek in the Mink Creek system and Worm Creek are the major drainages in the area. Bonneville cutthroat trout were the only salmonid in Birch Creek. Worm Creek was dry.

No rare plants, rare plant communities, or plant community reference areas have been documented in this IRA. Aquatic habitat restoration opportunities for Bonneville cutthroat trout in the Birch Creek area could serve as a reference landscape. No unique reference value has been identified for this area.

Approximately 4,614 acres are managed for summer semi-primitive motorized recreation. The remaining 5,066 acres is managed for Roaded Natural. In the winter, the entire roadless area is managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences.

The area is maintained for moderate scenic integrity. Approximately 531 acres are maintained in retention (high). Partial retention (moderate) is maintained on 7,502 acres and Modification (low) in maintained on the remaining 1,648 acres.

The area has a moderate potential for oil and gas reserves; however there are no existing leases at this time. No known potential for phosphate exist, and no active mines or exploration for locatable minerals is occurring.

A power line runs along the northern boundary of the IRA. The Hull Valley Boy Scout Camp is adjacent to the IRA.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
2. Allow summer and winter, motorized cross-country.
3. Non-motorized during the summer months.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Station Creek	04178	9,681	2.7.2	3,100	2.7.2	2,524	Readjustment of big game winter range based on actual use, flight data, local knowledge of area, topographic features, such as watershed lines or elevation breaks with existing roads as boundary line. Acres shifted to Rx 6.2.
			2.8.3	423	2.8.3	423	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	3,724	3.2	693	Manageability of existing uses/access, large number of acres shifted to 6.2 for rangeland vegetation management and restoration
			6.1	2,417	6.1	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx for rangeland vegetation management and restoration
			6.2	0	6.2	6,022	Stable soils, moderate watershed conditions, BCT habitat, rangeland vegetation management and restoration
			8.1u	18	8.1u	18	No change, utility corridor
Total IRA Acres				9,682		9,680	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.26. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Station Creek # 04178

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	3% Unstable 3% Erosion hazard	Low	Rx 2.7.2, Rx 3.2, or Rx 6.1
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Preston, ID and Logan, UT	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	100% Yellow No 303(d) streams	Moderate overall condition	No recommendation.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	Moderate Low Low	Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for watershed protection and limited aspen restoration.
Invasive Plant Species	3.4% of the IRA (325 acres)	High	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	Low Low Low Low N/A	No recommendation.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Low Low	Rx 2.7.2 to maintain winter range as outlined in Alternative 7
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Bonneville cutthroat trout in Birch Creek.	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas, Rx 3.1 in BCT stronghold watersheds
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: None Aquatic habitat restoration for BCT in Birch Creek area	Low	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPM: 4,614 acres Roaded Natural: 5,066 acres	High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 9,681 acres	Moderate value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 531 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 7,503 ac. Modification (low): 1,648 ac.	Moderate scenic integrity	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	Moderate potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Power line on northern boundary, IRA adjacent to Hull Valley BSC		

Description:

The Stauffer Creek IRA lies within Bear Lake County, Idaho on the old Cache National Forest administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. It is located about seven miles west of Georgetown, Idaho.

No areas within this IRA are considered unstable. Approximately 18 percent has an erosion hazard. Sensitive air quality receptors include Soda Springs and Montpelier, Idaho. The IRA is inside the twenty-mile sensitive receptor radius. It is more than 200 kilometers of Class I areas.

All of the watersheds in the IRA are rated “yellow.” Approximately 0.2 miles of 303(d) stream segment is located on Stauffer Creek.

The IRA’s vegetation is composed of aspen/conifer, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and mixed conifer. Past disturbance includes the Nounan Peak, Stauffer Creek, Alder Flat, Meadow Creek and Co-op timber sale areas. Aspen decline is considered high for the area, because of the large areas of aspen/conifer. The insect hazard is rated as moderate due to the presence of older conifer that is moderated by mixed species composition when considering the IRA as a whole. The fire hazard rating is considered high in the area due to the presence of aging conifer, aspen/conifer and the associated fuel buildup. No known infestations of invasive species are present.

This IRA is one of three (including Sherman Peak and Soda Point) that encompass the northern quarter of the Bear River Range, and makes up a continuous band along most of the northeast exposure of this range. Portions of the northeast side of the Soda Point IRA and the north end of the Sherman Peak IRA are located on the Forest boundary and form an urban interface with the Bailey Creek subdivision. When combined with two adjacent IRA’s, they encompass 37,316 acres, have the third highest number of forested vegetation acres with a “high” fire hazard rating (16,923), and the fifth highest number of acres with a “high” insect (5,295) and aspen decline rating (13,402). They make up a large block of mature conifer, principally Douglas-fir, and aspen succeeding to conifer on this highly visible landscape from State Highway 30 and Soda Springs, Idaho.

Goshawks have been documented and recorded in the IRA. This area rated low for lynx linkage habitat based on: 1) the amount of forested cover (32 percent); 2) low security (5 percent); and 3) the presence of a few small drainages but no major ridges that may function as travel corridors. Because of the low amount of security (5 percent), this area ranks low for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA has conifer cover over 32 percent of the area ranking it moderate for forest-associated species. About 25 percent of the area is in grass/shrub cover but is over ten miles from the nearest known sage grouse leks. These areas are not considered potential sage grouse habitat.

This area was not ranked as a conservation site by Noss, *et al*, (2001). It received a low ranking for this analysis. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (46 percent), this area ranks as low potential.

Bonneville cutthroat trout strongholds are present in Stauffer, Co-op and Skinner Creeks.

No rare plants, rare plant communities, or plant community reference areas have been documented in the area. Large-scale aquatic habitat restoration opportunities in the Stauffer Creek watershed could serve as a reference landscape. No unique reference value has been identified for this area.

Approximately 3,777 acres are managed in the summer for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences. The remaining 2,656 acres are managed for Roaded Natural. In the winter, the entire IRA is managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation uses.

A moderate scenic integrity is maintained for the area, because the western edge of the IRA is visible from Highway 30. Partial retention (moderate) is maintained on 3,378 acres, and Modification (low) is maintained on 3,055 acres.

The IRA lies within the overthrust belt. Although the area has a high potential for oil and gas reserves, there are no existing leases. No know potential exists for phosphate, and no active mining or exploration for locatable minerals is occurring.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
2. Allow summer and winter, motorized cross-country.
3. Non-motorized during the summer months.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Stauffer Creek	04173	6,433	2.7.2	1,955	2.7.2	0	Readjustment of big game winter range based on actual use, flight data, local knowledge of area, topographic features, such as watershed lines or elevation breaks with existing roads as boundary line. Acres shifted to Rx 3.2
			2.8.3	418	2.8.3	418	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area.
			3.2	4,060	3.2	6,015	Manageability of existing uses/access.
Total IRA Acres				6,433		6,433	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.27. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Stauffer Creek # 04173

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	0% Unstable 18% Erosion hazard	Low	Rx 2.7.2, Rx 3.2, or Rx 5.1
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Soda Springs and Montpelier, ID	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	100% Yellow 0.2 miles of 303(d) streams on Stauffer Creek	Moderate restoration potential in Stauffer Creek watershed, low elsewhere	Rx 3.1, Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 on Stauffer Creek watershed. No recommendation for remaining area.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	High Moderate High	Rx 5.1, or Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for aspen restoration and fire hazard reduction activities.
Invasive Plant Species	No known infestations	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	Low Low Low Moderate N/A	No recommendation.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Low High	Rx 2.7.2 maintain as outlined in Alternative 7. Any Rx that allows for aspen restoration (3,000 acres).
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Bonneville cutthroat trout strongholds in Stauffer, Co-op and Skinner Creeks	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas, Rx 3.1 in BCT stronghold watersheds.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: None Aquatic habitat restoration for BCT	Moderate for Stauffer Creek, low elsewhere	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPM: 3,777 acres Roaded Natural: 2,656 acres	Moderate value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 6,432 acres	High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Partial Retention (moderate): 3,378 ac. Modification (low): 3,055 ac.	Moderate scenic integrity on western edge seen from Highway 30	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	None		

Description:

The Stump Peak Roadless Area is within Caribou County, Idaho and Lincoln County, Wyoming on the Soda Spring Ranger District. It is located approximately twenty miles northeast of Soda Springs, Idaho and ten miles northwest of Afton, Wyoming. The Tincup Highway is the northern boundary of the area.

Approximately 49 percent of this IRA is considered unstable. About 31 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. Soda Springs, Idaho and Afton, Wyoming are sensitive air quality receptors and are within the twenty-mile sensitive receptor radius. This IRA is within 200 kilometers of a Class I area.

About half (49 percent) of the IRA's watersheds are rated "yellow." The remaining 51 percent are rated "green." An estimated eight miles of 303(d) stream segments have been identified on Boulder Creek.

The IRA's vegetation is composed of Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, aspen/conifer and mixed conifer. Past disturbance includes the Diamond Flat and Bacon Salvage timber sale areas. Mining activities are occurring in Smokey Canyon. The Brown's Canyon wildfire occurred just adjacent to the IRA.

This IRA has the largest number of forested vegetation acres (66,768). It has the second highest number of forested vegetation acres with a "high" fire hazard rating (26,616), and the highest number of acres with a "high" insect hazard rating (12,562) and aspen decline rating (20,448). The north half of the IRA, north of Stump Creek and the Lander Cutoff Trail, is dominated by mountains of the Caribou Range where large blocks of aspen are succeeding to conifer and mature conifer stands. The southern portion, dominated by Webster Ridge, has large blocks of primarily mature lodgepole pine and Douglas fir. In 1994, the south half of this IRA, which adjoins the Caribou Mountain IRA, experienced the second largest high intensity, stand-replacing wildfire to occur on the Forest in the past eighty years, in primarily mature conifer vegetation. The aspen decline rating is considered moderate due to large blocks of aspen/conifer on the north end and smaller blocks on the south end. The insect and fire hazard ratings are both high for the area due to aging conifer and conifer encroachment into aspen stands. Invasive species occupy 0.2 percent of the area. Species include leafy spurge (22 acres), Canada thistle (80 acres), Henbane (3 acres), Musk thistle (47 acres) and Yellow toadflax (6 acres).

Known occurrences of great gray owl have been documented in the IRA. The area lies south of the historic Caribou City country and the Bridger-Teton National Forest to the east making it important for movements of species from the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Idaho Department Fish and Game has been managing for trophy elk hunting in this area as well. The IRA rated high for lynx linkage habitat, based on: 1) the presence of several major drainages and ridges, which could provide movement corridors; 2) proximity to GYE and importance for movements to the south; 3) the area has 48 percent conifer cover; and 4) large amount of security (26 percent). Because of the amount of security (26 percent) this area ranks moderate for wolverines and wolves. Wildlife security areas are available in several areas, including Terrace Canyon, Lander Creek/Stump Peak and Scheiss Creek.

This IRA has forested cover over 48 percent of the area ranking it high for forest-associated species. The area has 30 percent grass/shrub within five to ten miles of the nearest known sage grouse lek and is rated moderate for sage grouse.

This IRA is in part of Noss' Blackfoot-Salt site. The Blackfoot-Salt site is part of the southeast Idaho phosphate belt and includes relatively recent lava flows. The area supports substantial aspen and willow bottoms. This site was placed in Quadrant 2 but has a high irreplaceability score of 88. For this analysis it is rated as moderate. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (21 percent), this area ranks as moderate potential.

Major drainages include Tincup, Toms, Stump, Horse, Timothy, Bacon, Webster, and Drainey Creeks. Yellowstone cutthroat trout strongholds exist in Tincup, Stump, Horse, and Drainey Creeks. Timothy and Bacon Creeks have not been surveyed, but they are assumed to be inhabited by Yellowstone cutthroat.

The area contains no documented rare plants. Rare plant communities have been documented in the upland and riparian communities in the Horse Creek Research Natural Area. This RNA has also been identified as having unique reference values. Large wildlife security areas identified by the wildlife biologist, aspen restoration opportunities, and large-scale aquatic habitat restoration for native trout could serve as reference landscapes.

In the summer approximately 4,069 acres are managed as semi-primitive non-motorized recreation. About 85,426 acres is managed for semi-primitive motorized, and the remaining 7,806 acres are managed as Roaded Modified. In the winter, about 6,200 acres are managed for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation, and the remaining 91,189 acres are managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences.

The area is maintained in retention (high) scenic integrity adjacent to the historic Lander Trail, Tincup Scenic Byway, and Star Valley, Wyoming. Partial retention (moderate) is maintained on 69,604 acres. Modification (low) is maintained on 20,232 acres.

The IRA lies within the overthrust belt. Although a high potential exists for oil and gas resources, there are no existing leases. The IRA contains 160 acres of phosphate leases along the south and southeastern edge, and 100 acres of KPLA areas. An active phosphate mine exists adjacent to the southeast boundary of the IRA. No active mining or exploration for locatable minerals is occurring.

One outfitter and guide is permitted in the IRA. Historical and interpretive trips are conducted along the Lander Trail. A power line runs along the southwestern boundary of the IRA. The area also has produced significant paleontological resources.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Allow summer and winter, motorized cross-country except in areas where travel is limited to designated trails or closed under the current Travel Plan.
2. Should be managed as wilderness or with similar protections due to highly erodible red soils and outstanding wildlife reserves.
3. No new roads should be built and no timber sales should be developed in the northern half of this IRA due to the instability of the soils (slumpy red clay beds).

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Stump Creek	04162	97,302	2.1.2	396	2.1.2	1,169	Increased Rx acres for Visual Quality maintenance along travel corridors
			2.1.5	0	2.1.5	1,316	Applied new Rx to Lander Trail historic site corridor
			2.2	496	2.2	496	No change, Research Natural Area, landscape reference site
			2.7.2	17,231	2.7.2	18,800	Increased Rx area to match topo/cultural features for manageability, big game winter range
			2.8.3	6,367	2.8.3	6,367	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.1	0	3.1	5,985	Wildlife Security Area, wolverine habitat, lynx habitat
			3.2	71,685	3.2	53,221	Manageability of existing uses/access, some acres shifted to 2.1.5 for Lander trail, 2.1.2 for visual quality maintenance along travel corridors, 5.2 for insect, disease and fire hazard management
			5.1	5	5.1	0	Shifted acres to 5.2 Rx for insect, disease, and fire hazard reduction
			5.2	0	5.2	6,847	Maintenance of stand integrity, past harvest area, management access, insect, disease and fire hazard reductions
			6.1	715	6.1	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx for consolidation of Rx's
			6.2	0	6.2	2,983	Increased Rx area to include some acres from 3.2 Rx, rangeland vegetation management and restoration
			6.3	287	6.3	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx for consolidation of Rx's
			8.1u	119	8.1u	116	Minor boundary adjustment for utility corridor
			8.2.2	0	8.2.2	1	Phosphate lease
			Total IRA Acres				97,296

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.28. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Stump Creek # 04162

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	49% Unstable 31% Erosion hazard	High	Rx 2.7.1, Rx 2.2, Rx 3.1, Rx 3.2, or Rx 6.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Soda Springs, ID and Afton, WY	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	49% Yellow 51% Green 8 miles of 303(d) streams on Boulder Creek	High restoration potential in Boulder Creek, low elsewhere	Rx 3.1, Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 on Boulder Creek, no recommendation for remaining area.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	Moderate High High	Rx 3.3, Rx 5.1 or Rx 6.2 on southern portion, Rx 3.3 or 6.2 on northern portion for watershed and aspen restoration.
Invasive Plant Species	0.2% of the IRA (158 acres)	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species(forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	High Moderate Moderate High Moderate	Rx 3.1a on security areas in Terrence Canyon, Lander/Stump Peak, Scheiss Creek for non-motorized secure areas for wolverines and elk during hunting season.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Moderate Moderate	Maintain winter range as outlined in Alternative 7
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	YCT in Tincup, Toms, Stump, Horse, Timothy, Bacon, Webster and Draineey Creeks	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas, Rx 3.1 in Ct stronghold watersheds.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Horse Creek RNA Plant Community reference areas: Horse Creek RNA	None Yes Yes	Maintain Rx 2.2 in RNA, then any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: RNA Wildlife security areas, aspen and aquatic habitat restoration	High Overall	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPNM: 4,069 acres SPM: 85,426 acres Roaded Modified: 7,806 acres	High value for SPNM and SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings and consider increase in SPNM in site-specific travel planning
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPNM: 6,192 acres SPM: 91,189 acres	High value for SPNM and SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings and consider increase in SPNM in site-specific travel planning.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 7,466 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 69,604 ac. Modification (low): 20,232 ac.	High scenic integrity on Lander Trail, Tincup Scenic Byway, Star Valley	Maintain or improve scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	Active leases: 160 acres KPLAs: 100 acres	High potential on lease and KPLAs, Moderate to low elsewhere	Rx 8.2.2 on active leases, Rx 8.2.1 on inactive and KPLA areas, no recommendation for remaining area.
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Outfitter and guide, Interpretive trips on Lander trail, power line adjacent to IRA, paleontological resources		Any Rx that does not impede compliance with permit.

Description:

This Idaho portion of this IRA lies within Bear Lake and Franklin Counties, Idaho on the old Cache National Forest now administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. The Utah portion is located in Rich and Cache Counties, Utah on the old Cache National Forest now administered by the Logan Ranger District. The area straddles the Utah-Idaho state line and is located about three miles west of Fish Haven, Idaho. The Idaho portion contains approximately 6,156 acres, which is addressed in this discussion. The remaining 9,569 acre-portion is in Utah and is addressed in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's forest planning process.

None of the Idaho portion of this IRA is considered unstable. About 39 percent of the Idaho portion has an erosion hazard. Montpelier, Idaho and Logan, Utah are sensitive air quality receptors. Both of these communities are within the twenty-mile sensitive receptor area. The IRA is more than 200 kilometers from a Class I area.

Approximately 76 percent of the watersheds in this IRA are rated "yellow," the remaining 24 percent is rated "Green." No 303(d) streams are present in the Idaho portion.

The IRA's vegetation is composed of mixed conifer, Douglas -fir, aspen, aspen/conifer, lodgepole pine and spruce/fir. Past disturbance includes the Fish Haven, Swan Flat, and Old Logan Road timber sale areas. Aspen decline is rated as moderate due to aging aspen and lack of adequate regeneration. The insect and fire hazard ratings are considered high, because of the presence of older conifers, conifer encroachment into aspen, and the associated fuel buildup. The eastern side of this IRA is on the Forest boundary and borders private land with summer homes. It also borders big game winter range. Although the Idaho portion of this IRA is relatively small, over 80 percent of the area is covered with mature coniferous vegetation with the largest block of multi-canopy mixed conifer on the forest (subalpine fir, Douglas fir, Engelmann spruce, and lodgepole pine). These forests, with their preponderance of shade-tolerant tree species, develop into dense stands with live fuels in the understory and tree crowns extending to the forest floor. This characteristic adds to the "high" fire hazard rating for this IRA. No infestations of invasive species have been identified in this area.

Known occurrences of goshawks and flammulated owls have been recorded in the IRA. This area rated moderate for lynx linkage habitat, based on: 1) the amount of forested cover (57 percent); 2) adjacency to a Wasatch-Cache roadless area being proposed for "custodial" management; and 3) amount of security (15 percent). Because of the low amount of security (15 percent), this area ranks low for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA has conifer cover on 57 percent of the area ranking it high for forest-associated species. The area has little grass/shrub (15 percent), generally found in small patches and located between two to five miles of the nearest known sage grouse leks to the east. As a result the area is rated low for potential sage grouse habitat.

This IRA was not ranked by Noss, *et al.*, (2001) and is rated low for this analysis. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (30 percent), this area ranks as moderate potential.

Fish Haven Creek, the only major drainage, is dominated by non-native brook trout. No BCT trout have been documented in the area.

No rare plants, rare plant communities, or plant community reference areas have been documented in this IRA. Large-scale restoration opportunities for fuels reduction could serve as a reference landscape. No unique reference value has been identified in this IRA.

In the summer the area is managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences on 4,704 acres. The remaining 2,725 acres is managed as Roaded Natural. In the winter, the entire IRA (7,330 acres) is managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation.

Partial Retention (moderate) scenic integrity is maintained across the entire IRA, because it is adjacent to Bear Lake Valley and U.S. Highway 89.

The IRA lies within the overthrust belt. Although the potential is high for oil and gas reserves, there are no leases at the present time. No know potential exists of phosphate, and no active mining or exploration is occurring for locatable minerals.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Allow summer, motorized with travel limited to designated routes.
2. Non-motorized during the summer months.
3. Allow winter, motorized cross-country.
4. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
5. New motorized trail construction should be permitted.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Swan Mountain	04180	7,428	2.7.1	2,043	2.7.1	956	Readjustment of big game winter range based on actual use, flight data, local knowledge of area, topographic features, such as watershed lines or elevation breaks with existing roads as boundary line. Acres shifted to Rx 3.3
			2.8.3	140	2.8.3	140	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	5,246	3.2	0	Shifted acres to 3.3 Rx for aspen regeneration
			3.3	0	3.3	6,332	Aspen regeneration, reduction of insect, disease and fire hazard ratings, maintenance of timber stand integrity, past harvest area, management access
Total IRA Acres				7,429		7,428	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.29. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Swan Creek Mountain (Idaho portion) # 04180

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	0% Unstable 39% Erosion hazard	Low	Rx 2.7.1, Rx 3.2, or Rx 5.1
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Montpelier, ID and Logan, Utah	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	76% Yellow 24% Green No 303(d) streams	Moderate overall condition	No recommendation.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	Moderate High High	Rx 5.1, Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for aspen restoration and fuel buildup.
Invasive Plant Species	No known infestations	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species (forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	Moderate Low Low High Low	Any Rx that allows for restoration of tarweed that is present in tall forb communities (acres are unknown at this time).
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Low Moderate	Maintain winter range as outlined in Alternative 7
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Non-native brook trout in Fish Haven, No BCT documented	Low	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: None Large-scale fuels reduction activities	High for fuels reduction areas, low elsewhere	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPM: 4,704 acres Roaded Natural: 2,725 acres	High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 7,330 acres	High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Partial Retention (moderate): 7,428 ac.	Moderate scenic integrity adjacent to Bear Valley and US Hwy. 89	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	Moderate to low potential around leased acreage, low elsewhere in IRA	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	None		

Description:

The Telephone Draw Roadless Area is within Bear Lake County, Idaho on the Montpelier Ranger District. It is located approximately seven miles east of Montpelier and four miles west of Geneva, Idaho.

Approximately 23 percent of the IRA is considered unstable. About 59 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. Montpelier, Idaho and Afton Wyoming are sensitive air quality receptors. Both of these communities are within the twenty-mile sensitive receptor radius. The IRA is more than 200 kilometers from a Class I area.

All of the watersheds in this IRA are rated "Red." About 1.8 miles of 303(d) stream segments have been identified in Snowslide Canyon.

The IRA's vegetation is composed of sagebrush/grass, lodgepole pine, and Douglas-fir. No major disturbance has occurred in the area. Aspen decline, insect and fire ratings are all considered low for the area, because of the small amount of aspen and coniferous forest. Invasive species occur on 0.2 percent of this IRA. Species include Canada thistle (1 acre) and Dyers woad (8 acres).

This area rates low for lynx linkage habitat, based on: 1) the lack of forested cover (3 percent); 2) amount of security (28 percent); and 3) lack of adjacent suitable habitat. Because of the amount of security (28 percent), this area ranks moderate for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA has conifer cover on only 3 percent of the area ranking it low for forest-associated species. The area is predominately grass/shrub (96 percent). It is located within two to five miles of known sage grouse leks to the east, and as a result, is rated high for potential sage grouse habitat.

This IRA lies in Noss' Gannet Hills site. The Noss study mentions that this area has some of the highest game values in Idaho. This area was placed in Quadrant 2, and has an irreplaceability score of 55. For this analysis it is rated moderate. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (1 percent), this area ranks as high potential.

This IRA is dominated by non-native fish, primarily brook trout. Low frequencies of Bonneville Cutthroat trout exist in Snowslide and Montpelier Creeks.

A proposed sensitive plant, the Unita Basin Cryptantha, and the sensitive plant, starveling milkvetch occur at or near Montpelier Reservoir, Snowslide Canyon, Telephone Draw, and east of Geneva Summit. No rare plant communities or plant community reference areas have been documented in the IRA. Large-scale watershed restoration opportunities could serve as landscape references. No unique reference value has been identified in the area.

In the summer the IRA is managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation on 3,212 acres. The remaining 1,706 acres are managed for Roaded Natural. In the winter, approximately 2,880 acres in a wildlife enclosure are managed for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation. The remaining 2,063 acres are managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation.

Overall, the IRA is managed for moderate scenic integrity. Retention (high) is maintained on 368 acres. Partial retention (moderate) is maintained on 4,316 acres. Modification (low) is maintained on the remaining 234 acres.

The IRA lies within the overthrust belt. Although the area has a high potential for oil and gas reserves, there are no existing leases. No known potential exists for phosphate, and no active mining or exploration of locatable minerals is occurring.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Allow winter, motorized cross-country, except in areas where travel is limited or closed under the current Travel Plan.
2. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
3. Allow summer, motorized with travel limited to designated routes.

4. Non-motorized during the summer months.
5. New motorized trail construction should be permitted.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Telephone Draw	04169	4,918	2.1.2	36	2.1.2	81	Increased Rx acres for visual quality maintenance in travel corridors
							Readjustment of big game winter range based on actual use, flight data, local knowledge of area, topographic features, such as watershed lines or elevation breaks with existing roads as boundary line. Acres shifted to Rx 6.2.
			2.7.1	4,308	2.7.1	3,297	
			2.8.3	228	2.8.3	228	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			4.3	0	4.3	2	Dispersed recreation area
			6.2	0	6.2	1,310	Watershed restoration, rangeland vegetation management and restoration, Rx consolidation
			6.3	345	6.3	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx for consolidation of Rx's
Total IRA Acres				4,917		4,916	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.30. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Telephone Draw # 04169

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	23% Unstable 49% Erosion hazard	Moderate	Rx 2.7.1, Rx 3.2, and/or Rx 6.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Montpelier, ID and Afton, Wyoming	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	100% Red 1.8 miles of 303(d) streams in Snowslide Canyon	High restoration potential	Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for watershed restoration
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	Low Low Low	Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for watershed restoration.
Invasive Plant Species	0.2% of the IRA (9 acres)	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species (forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	Low Moderate Moderate Low High	Maintain sagebrush for sage grouse.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Moderate Low	Maintain winter range as outlined in Alternative 7.
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Low density of BCT in Snowslide and Montpelier Creeks.	Moderate	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Starveling milkvetch, Unita Basin Cryptantha Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	Yes None None	Non-motorized Rx to protect sensitive plants. Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: None Large-scale watershed restoration activities	Moderate for watershed, low elsewhere.	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPM: 3,212 acres Roaded Natural: 1,706 acres	High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPNM: 2,880 acres SPM: 2,063 acres	Very High value for SPM, moderate value for SPNM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 368 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 4,316 ac. Modification (low): 234 ac.	Moderate scenic integrity	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	None		

Description:

This roadless area unit is located within Bannock and Caribou Counties, Idaho on the Westside Ranger District. It is located approximately twelve air miles east of Pocatello, Idaho

About 6 percent of this IRA is considered unstable. About 36 percent has an erosion hazard. Pocatello, Idaho is the only sensitive air quality receptor and is within the twenty-mile sensitive receptor radius. The IRA is more than 200 kilometers from a Class 1 area.

The majority of watersheds (98 percent) in this IRA are rated "Yellow." No 303(d) streams are present.

The IRA's vegetation is composed of mountain brush, sagebrush/grass, aspen, Douglas-fir, and aspen/conifer. Past disturbance includes a minor amount of prescribed fire treatment, minor windthrow stand damage, and harvest on adjacent State of Idaho land. Aspen decline is rated high due to the age of existing aspen in the area and the lack of adequate regeneration. The Insect hazard rating is considered low, due to the small amount of coniferous trees in the area. The fire hazard is moderate, because of the presence of aspen/conifer, older conifer, and the associated fuel buildup. Invasive species occupy approximately 1.9 percent of the area. Species include Canada thistle (28 acres), Musk thistle (42 acres), and Tall larkspur (274 acres).

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has expressed concern for mule deer in the area (See EIS and Wildlife Process Paper for rationale). Known TES occurrences for this IRA include Townsends Big-eared bat. This IRA is located on the Westside Ranger District and is not considered to provide linkage habitat for lynx. Only one fairly large security area exists along the northern part of the IRA. Because of the large amount of security (75 percent), this area has high potential for habitat for wolverines and wolves. Observations of wolverine have been recorded in the mountain range.

This IRA is a mix of aspen (30 percent), grass/shrub (13 percent) and conifer (6 percent), with smaller amounts of other types. Based on the amount of forested cover, it ranks as low potential for habitat for forest-associated species. Although this area has a small amount of grass/shrub and is within five to ten miles of known sage grouse leks, it rates high because of the contiguous acres of sagebrush.

This IRA was not included as a conservation site in Noss, *et al*, (2001) and this criteria rated low for this analysis. Because of the amount of habitat at high departure from PFC (37 percent), the area ranks as moderate potential.

The Middle and South Forks of Toponce Creek are considered Yellowstone cutthroat trout stronghold streams. In the Middle Fork, Yellowstone cutthroat trout make up the entire salmonid community. In the South Fork, hatchery rainbow trout are stocked by the Idaho Department of Fish & Game; however, the majority of the salmonid community consists of Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

No rare plants, rare plant communities or plant community reference areas have been documented in the IRA. Wildlife security areas identified by the Wildlife Biologist and large-scale aquatic habitat restoration for Yellowstone cutthroat trout could serve as reference landscapes. No unique reference value has been identified in the area.

In the summer the area is managed for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation on about 16,240 acres. The remaining 2,056 acres are managed for Roaded Modified. In the winter, approximately 853 acres in a wildlife enclosure are managed for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation. The remaining 17,443 acres are managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences.

The area is managed for overall moderate scenery integrity. Approximately 1,379 acres are maintained for retention (high) scenic integrity. Partial retention (moderate) is maintained on 7,624 acres. Modification (low) is maintained on 9,653 acres.

The area has a moderate potential for oil and gas reserves; however, there are no existing leases at the present time. No known potential exists for phosphate. The IRA contains an abandoned copper mine in the southwest corner of the area. No active mining or exploration for locatable minerals is occurring.

One outfitter is permitted to operate in the area. McNab and Inman yurts are maintained by Idaho State University. The IRA is adjacent to a phosphate slurry pipeline along the southern boundary.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
2. Allow winter, motorized cross-country.
3. Area should be non-motorized during the winter to provide cross-country skiers with semi-primitive recreation opportunities.
4. An area around the McNabb yurt should be designated as non-motorized winter use.
5. Area should be non-motorized year-round in order to protect the peaks, which are sacred to the “Indians,” and the side on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation is kept in good condition.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Toponce	04153	18,296	2.7.1	1,134	2.7.1	1,144	Minor adjustment of Rx boundary to topo/cultural feature for manageability
			2.8.3	1,307	2.8.3	1,307	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.1	11,814	3.1	6,865	Wildlife Security Area, wolverine habitat, sage grouse habitat, shifted some acres to 6.2 Rx for aspen regeneration in late seral stands
			6.1	4,031	6.1	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx for rangeland vegetation management and restoration for sagebrush, Rx consolidation
			6.2	0	6.2	8,970	YCT habitat, rangeland vegetation management and restoration of sagebrush
			8.1u	10	8.1u	10	No change, utility corridor
Total IRA Acres				18,296		18,296	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.31. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Toponce # 04153

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	6% Unstable 36% Erosion hazard	Moderate	Rx 2.7.1, Rx 3.1, or Rx 6.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Pocatello, ID	Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	98% Yellow No 303(d) streams	High restoration potential	No recommendation.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	High Low Moderate	Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for aspen restoration and fuels reduction.
Invasive Plant Species	1.9% of the IRA (344 acres)	Medium	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species (forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	N/A High High Low High	Rx 3.1a on large security area in the western portion of this IRA. Maintain sagebrush for sage grouse.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Low Moderate	Maintain winter range as outlined in Alternative 7.
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Yellowstone cutthroat trout in middle and south fork of Toponce Creek	Low	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas, Rx 3.1 in YCT stronghold watersheds.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: None Wildlife security areas, aquatic habitat restoration areas	High for security areas, low elsewhere.	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPNM: 16,240 acres Roaded Modified: 2,056 acres	High value for SPNM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPNM: 853 acres SPM: 17,443 acres	High values for SPM and low value for SPNM	Maintain existing recreation settings. Consider increase in SPNM during site-specific travel planning.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 1,379 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 7,264 ac. Modification (low): 9,653 ac.	Moderate scenic integrity	Maintain or improve existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	Moderate potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Outfitter & Guide, McNab and Inman yurts, phosphate slurry line adjacent to IRA		Any Rx that does not impede permit compliance.

Description:

The West Mink Roadless Area is within Bannock and Power Counties, Idaho on the Westside Ranger District. The center of the area is about six miles south of Pocatello, Idaho in the Bannock Mountain range.

None of the IRA is considered unstable. About 31 percent of the area has an erosion hazard. Pocatello, Idaho is the only sensitive air-quality receptor and is located within the twenty-mile sensitive receptor radius. The IRA is more than 200 kilometers from a Class I area.

All of the watersheds in the IRA are rated "Yellow." No 303(d) streams are present. The Pocatello Municipal watershed lies within the IRA and has been congressionally designated to protect domestic use water for the city of Pocatello. This area has been given a special management prescription (2.1.3) and will be managed according to the direction in the Caribou National Forest Revised Forest Plan.

The IRA's vegetation is composed of sagebrush/grass, Douglas-fir, mountain brush, aspen and aspen/conifer. The only past disturbance is the Crystal timber sale area. The aspen decline rating is moderate for the area, due to the presence of primarily older aspen stands and the lack of adequate regeneration. The Insect and fire hazard ratings are moderate due to the presence of aging Douglas-fir, conifer encroachment into aspen areas, and associated fuel buildup. Invasive species occupy 2.0 percent of the IRA. Species include Canada thistle (25 acres), Musk thistle (15 acres), Poison hemlock (4 acres), and tall larkspur (360 acres).

Known TES occurrences for this IRA include the flammulated owl. Idaho Partners in Flight have designated Mink Creek/Cherry Springs area as an Important Bird Area. This IRA is located on the Westside Ranger District and is not considered to provide linkage habitat for lynx. A few small security areas are available in this IRA. Because of the amount of security (24 percent), this area has moderate potential for habitat for wolverines and wolves.

This IRA is a largely a mix of conifer (17 percent) and grass/shrub (55 percent). Based on the amount of forested cover, it ranks as low potential for habitat for forest-associated species. Although there is a large amount of grass/shrub habitat, it is located more than ten miles from the nearest known sage grouse lek and is not considered sage grouse habitat.

Noss, *et al*, (1999) placed this area in the Portneuf site. This site ranked in Quadrant 1. The irreplaceability was placed at 51, which is moderate. The study mentions significant herds of mule deer and growing herds of elk. This IRA is rated high for this criterion. Because of the low amount of habitat at high departure from PFC (14 percent), the area ranks as high potential.

West Mink Roadless Area is inhabited by Yellowstone cutthroat trout, a Regional Forester's Sensitive Species. West Fork Mink and Gibson Jack Creeks are the primary streams in the area. They are considered Yellowstone cutthroat trout stronghold streams. The West Fork of Mink Creek was dominated by Yellowstone cutthroat trout. A low frequency of brown trout inhabits the lower reach of the stream. Gibson Jack Creek, a source for Pocatello's drinking water, has high quality habitat. Yellowstone cutthroat trout are the only salmonid observed in Gibson Jack Creek.

Other major drainages in the area include City and Midnight Creeks. No fish were observed in City Creek on the Forest in 2001, although habitat was good. Midnight Creek was dry on the Forest when sampled in 2001. However, Midnight Creek, downstream of the Forest boundary, was inhabited by Yellowstone cutthroat trout as the sole salmonid, making it a stronghold stream.

No rare plants have been documented in the IRA. Upland and wetland/riparian plant communities in the Gibson Jack and West Fork Mink Creek Research Natural Areas, and a rare riparian plant community at the Cherry Springs Natural Area have been identified as rare plant communities, and as plant community reference areas. The two RNA's in this roadless area provide unique reference values. Large-scale aquatic restoration for native Yellowstone cutthroat trout could serve as a reference landscape.

The area is one of the nearest natural recreation areas to Pocatello, Idaho and enjoys heavy use in the summer and winter. In the summer, approximately 10,350 acres are managed for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation. Semi-primitive motorized recreation is featured on 8,904 acres. The remaining 1,392 acres are managed for Roaded Natural. In the winter,

approximately 9,558 acres are managed for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation, including a cross-country ski area. The remaining 11,094 acres are managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences.

Overall the area is maintained for high scenic integrity, because of heavy public use year-round and its close location to Pocatello, Idaho. Retention (high) is maintained on 3,655 acres, and partial retention is maintained on 3,503 acres. The remaining 13,487 acres are maintained in Modification (low).

A moderate potential exists for oil and gas reserves; however, there are no existing leases at this time. No known potential exist for phosphate, and no active mining or exploration of locatable minerals is occurring.

One outfitter and guide is permitted to operate in the area. A waterline exists to Pocatello, Idaho for non-culinary purposes. A power line runs along the northwestern corner of the IRA. Approximately 80 acres within the IRA are privately owned.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Allow summer, motorized with travel limited to designated routes.
2. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
3. Allow winter, motorized cross-country.
4. Area should be managed as roadless, with no new roads or timber harvests, due to its high recreation values. Grazing should also be eliminated for the same reason and because cattle spread noxious weeds.
5. New motorized trail construction should be permitted.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
West Mink	04151	20,646	2.1.2	231	2.1.2	632	Increased Rx acres for visual quality maintenance along travel corridors
			2.1.3	5,020	2.1.3	5,001	Minor boundary adjustment, Pocatello Municipal Watershed Area
			2.2	2,716	2.2	2,716	No change, Research Natural Area, landscape reference site
			2.7.2	1,136	2.7.2	1,512	Increased acres from 3.2 to match current travel plan restrictions and user compliance. Big game winter range
			2.8.3	1,250	2.8.3	1,250	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	8,939	3.2	8,606	Manageability of existing uses/access, some acres shifted to 2.1.2 for visual quality maintenance, 5.2 past timber harvest area management
			5.2	0	5.2	901	Maintenance of timber stand integrity in past harvest area, management access
			6.1	1,326	6.1	0	Shifted acres to 3.2 Rx for consolidation of Rx's
			8.1u	28	8.1u	28	No change, utility corridor
Total IRA Acres				20,646		20,646	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.32. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: West Mink #04151

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	0% Unstable 31% Erosion hazard	Low	Rx 2.1.3, Rx 2.2, Rx 2.7.1, and/or Rx 3.2
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Pocatello, ID	Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	100% Yellow No 303(d) streams	Moderate overall conditions	No recommendations
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	Moderate Moderate Moderate	Rx 5.1 in the vicinity of the Crystal Timber Sale, Rx 3.3 for aspen restoration and fuel reduction.
Invasive Plant Species	2.0% of the IRA (404 acres)	High	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species (forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	N/A Moderate Moderate Low N/A	Maintain Rx for RNAs and municipal watershed. Undeveloped nature of these areas is a benefit to wildlife
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	High Low	Maintain winter range as outlined in Alternative 7
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	WF Mink and Gibson Jack, and Midnight Creeks are YCT strongholds	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas, Rx 3.1 in YCT stronghold watersheds.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Two RNAs, Cherry Springs Natural Area Plant Community reference areas: Two RNAs, Cherry Springs Natural Area	None Yes Yes	Rx 2.2 on RNAs and any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: Two RNA's and ungrazed municipal watershed. Large-scale aspen restoration	High overall	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPNM: 10,350 acres SPM: 8,904 Roaded Natural: 1,392 acres	Very high value for SPNM and high value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPNM: 9,558 acres SPM: 11,094 acres	High value for SPNM and SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 3,655 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 3,503 ac. Modification (low): 13,487 ac.	High scenic integrity	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	Moderate potential	No recommendation.
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation.
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation.
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Outfitter and Guide, non-culinary waterline for Pocatello, power line on northwestern end of IRA, 80 acres of private land.		Any Rx that does not impede compliance with permit

Description:

The Williams Creek Roadless Area lies in Franklin and Bear Lake Counties, Idaho on the old Cache National Forest administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. It is located about fifteen miles west of Montpelier, Idaho.

About 4 percent of the area is considered unstable and approximately 21 percent has an erosion hazard. Sensitive air quality receptors include Soda Springs, Preston, and Montpelier, Idaho. The IRA is within the twenty-mile sensitive receptor radius. It is more than 200 kilometers from a Class I area.

All of the watersheds within the IRA are rated "yellow." Approximately 0.1 mile of 303(d) stream segment has been identified on Strawberry Creek.

The IRA's forested vegetation is composed of aspen, aspen/conifer, maple, Douglas-fir, mountain mahogany, lodgepole pine, mixed conifer and spruce/fir. Past disturbance includes the Upper Cully, North Fork Emigration, Squirrel Hollow and Right Fork Williams Creek timber sale areas. Aspen decline is considered high in the area due to older aspens stands and the lack of adequate regeneration. The Insect hazard rating is considered moderate due to the presence of older Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. The Fire hazard rating is high, because of the aging conifer and aspen and the associated fuel buildup. Invasive species occupy 0.7 percent of the IRA. Species include Canada thistle (15 acres), Dyers woad (2 acres) and Musk thistle (49 acres).

This area rated low for lynx linkage habitat, based on: 1) the amount of forested cover (20 percent); 2) low security (3 percent); and 3) the presence of Williams Creek and Main Canyon that may function as travel corridors. Because of the low amount of security (3 percent), this area ranks low for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA has conifer cover over 20 percent of the area ranking it low for forest-associated species. The area has about 8 percent in grass/shrub cover that is more than ten miles from the nearest sage grouse lek; it is not considered potential sage grouse habitat.

Parts of this roadless area lie in Noss' Bear River Range site. The Bear River Range site was placed in Quadrant 2, and has an irreplaceability score of 57. It ranks moderate for this criteria. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (48 percent), this area ranks as low potential.

Williams Creek is the only major drainage and has a self-sustaining population of non-native rainbow trout.

No rare plants, rare plant communities or plant community reference areas have been documented in the area. Large-scale watershed restoration efforts for water quality improvement in Strawberry Creek could serve as a reference landscape. No unique reference value has been identified in this IRA.

In the summer the IRA is managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation on 2,741 acres. The remaining 7,455 acres are managed for Roded Natural. In the winter, the entire IRA (9,922 acres) is managed for semi-primitive motorized.

Retention (high) scenic integrity is maintained on 2,578 acres, primarily adjacent to Highway 36 and the Highline National Recreation Trail. Partial retention is maintained on 4,159 acres.

The IRA has a high to moderate potential for oil and gas reserves; however, there are no existing leases at the present time. No known potential exists for phosphate, and no active mines or exploration is occurring for locatable minerals.

Two power lines run adjacent to the IRA: one on the northern boundary and one on the southern boundary.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Non-motorized year-round because of the high ecological and year-round recreational value.
2. Allow summer and winter, motorized cross-country.
3. Non-motorized during the summer months.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Williams Creek	04174	9,917	2.1.2	258	2.1.2	565	Increased Rx acres for visual quality maintenance along travel corridors
			2.7.2	5,024	2.7.2	1,939	Readjustment of big game winter range based on actual use, flight data, local knowledge of area, topographic features, such as watershed lines or elevation breaks with existing roads as boundary line. Acres shifted to Rx 3.2.
			2.8.3	218	2.8.3	218	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	4,389	3.2	2,395	Shifted acres to 2.1.3 and 5.2 to topo/cultural features for manageability and adjacent Rx consolidation
			5.2	0	5.2	4,775	Maintenance of timber stand integrity, past harvest area, management access
			8.1u	29	8.1u	25	Minor boundary adjustment, utility corridor
Total IRA Acres				9,918		9,917	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.33. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Williams Creek # 04174

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	4% Unstable 21% Erosion hazard	Low	Rx 2.7.2, Rx 3.2, and/or Rx 5.1
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Soda Springs, Preston, and Montpelier, ID	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	100% Yellow 0.1 mile of 303(d) streams on Strawberry Creek	High restoration potential in Strawberry Creek, low elsewhere	Rx 3.1, Rx 3.3 or Rx 5.2 on Strawberry Creek, no recommendation for remaining area.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	High Moderate High	Rx 5.1 around timber sale units, Rx 3.3 for watershed and aspen restoration.
Invasive Plant Species	0.7% of the IRA (66 acres)	Medium	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species (forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	Low Low Low Low N/A	No recommendation.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Moderate Low	Maintain winter range as outlined in Alternative 7, any Rx that allows restoration of aspen (4,800 acres)
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	Self-sustaining rainbow trout population in Williams Creek	Low	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Rare Plant Communities: Plant Community reference areas:	None None None	Any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: None Watershed restoration in Strawberry Creek	Moderate for Strawberry Creek, low elsewhere	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPM: 2,471 acres Roaded Natural: 7,446 acres	High value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPM: 9,922 acres	Very high value for SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 2,758 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 4,159 ac.	High scenic integrity adjacent to Hwy 36 and Highline National Recreation Trail	Maintain or improve existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation.
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation.
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation.
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	Two power lines running adjacent to IRA: one on north boundary, one on south boundary.		Any Rx that does not impede compliance with permit.

Description:

The Worm Creek Roadless Area lies within Bear Lake and Franklin Counties, Idaho on the old Cache National Forest administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. The center of the area is located about eight miles west of St. Charles, Idaho.

None of the area is considered unstable, and only about 35 percent of the IRA has an erosion potential. Sensitive air quality receptors include Preston and Montpelier, Idaho and Logan, Utah. These communities are within the twenty-mile sensitive receptor radius. The IRA is more than 200 kilometers from a Class I area.

The majority of the watersheds in this IRA, about 91 percent, are rated “yellow.” The remaining 9 percent is rated “green.” No 303(d) streams are present.

The IRA’s vegetation is composed of sagebrush/grass, aspen, aspen/conifer, Douglas-fir, mixed conifer, spruce/fir, mountain mahogany, and lodgepole pine. Past disturbance includes windthrow stand damage, timber harvest in Egan Basin, Green Canyon, Bloomington, and Middle Fork of Bloomington. Prescribed fire treatments have occurred on a limited basis. The aspen decline rating is moderate for the area, due to older aspen and lack of adequate regeneration. The Insect hazard and fire ratings are high, because of the presence of older conifer and its distribution throughout the IRA, past salvage activities adjacent to St. Charles Canyon in lodgepole pine, and fuel buildup in the understory. Invasive species occupy 0.1 percent of the area. Species include Canada thistle (41 acres) and Musk thistle (4 acres).

Known occurrences of goshawks, Townsends big-eared bat and flammulated owl have been recorded in the IRA. This area rated high for lynx linkage habitat, based on: 1) the amount of forested cover (32 percent); 2) the presence of several east-west drainages that may act as movement corridors; and 3) a moderate amount of security (24 percent). Because of the amount of security (24 percent), this area ranks moderate for wolverine and wolves.

This IRA has conifer cover over 32 percent of the area ranking it moderate for forest-associated species. About 29 percent of the area has grass/shrub cover in small, scattered patches within five to ten miles of the nearest known sage grouse leks. The area rates low for sage grouse habitat.

This IRA was not ranked by Noss, *et al.*, (2001) and is rated low for this analysis. Based on the amount of vegetation at high departure from PFC (36 percent), this area ranks as moderate potential.

Primary drainages include Bloomington, Worm and St. Charles Creek. Worm Creek was dry when surveyed in 2000. St. Charles Creek is dominated by Bonneville cutthroat trout.

The proposed sensitive plant species, Ryberg’s Musineon, Green spleenwort, and Wasatch bladderpod, have been documented at Bloomington Lake. A sensitive plant species, Cache penstemon, has been documented at Cub Peak. Rare plant community occurrences have been documented in the Worm Creek area. Upland plant communities in St. Charles Creek Research Natural Area and plant communities associated with Bloomington Lake cirque are also documented as rare plant communities. The St. Charles Creek RNA and upland plant communities in Worm Creek are identified as plant community reference areas. Bloomington Lake is a proposed Special Management Area with tall forb restoration opportunities. This area has been identified as having unique reference values. Wildlife security areas identified by the Wildlife Biologist could serve as landscape references.

In the summer about 7,958 acres are managed for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation and for semi-primitive motorized recreation on 12,676 acres. The remaining 21,808 acres is managed as Roaded Natural. In the winter, about 1,600 acres in a wildlife closure is managed for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation experiences. The remaining 40,891 acres is managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation.

Retention (high) scenic integrity is maintained on 8,515 acres. Partial retention (moderate) is maintained on 32,900 acres, and Modification (low) is maintained on 1,017 acres.

The IRA lies within the overthrust belt. Although the potential is high for oil and gas reserves, there are no existing leases. No known potential exist for phosphate. One patented inactive mine claim and other past exploration and prospecting is evident in the area; however, no active mining or exploration for locatable minerals is occurring at the present time.

Summarized IRA Specific Public Comments:

1. Area should not be a wilderness recommendation.
2. Area should be non-motorized during the winter in order to protect moose populations (snowmobiles are detrimental to their survival) and because it is hard on elk calving.
3. Allow summer motorized with travel limited to designated routes.
4. Allow winter motorized cross-country except in areas where travel is limited under the current Travel Plan.
5. New motorized trail construction should be permitted.

Selected IRA Management Prescriptions and Rationale:

Roadless Area	IRA No.	1996 Acres	Rx in Alt 7	Acres	Rx in Alt 7R	Acres	Decision and Rationale for Rx Application in Selected Alternative
Worm Creek	04179	42,442	2.1.1	198	2.1.1	198	No change, Bloomington Lake Special Management Area
			2.2	314	2.2	314	No change, Research Natural Area, landscape reference site
			2.5	1,189	2.5	1,189	No change, Wild & Scenic Rivers eligible site corridor on St. Charles Creek
			2.7.1	8,354	2.7.1	5,843	Readjustment of big game winter range based on actual use, flight data, local knowledge of area, topographic features, such as watershed lines or elevation breaks with existing roads as boundary line. Acres shifted to Rx 3.2 and Rx 3.3 to correspond with adjacent prescription.
			2.8.3	1,857	2.8.3	1,857	No change. Riparian/Wetland Emphasis Area
			3.2	27,571	3.2	11,993	Shifted about 50% of the acres to 3.3 Rx for aspen regeneration and fuel reduction activities, remaining acres maintain existing uses and access to area
			3.3	0	3.3	14,837	Aspen regeneration due to conifer encroachment and for reduction of fuels
			4.3	0	4.3	1	Dispersed recreation area
			5.2	0	5.2	830	Maintenance of timber stand integrity in past harvest area, management access, aspen regeneration, fuels reduction
			6.1	2,952	6.1	0	Shifted acres to new 6.2 Rx for consolidation of Rx's, rangeland vegetation management
			6.2	0	6.2	5,373	Moderate watershed conditions, rangeland vegetation management and restoration, BCT habitat
			8.1u	8	8.1u	8	No change, utility corridor
Total IRA Acres				42,443		42,443	

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Table R.34. IRA Characteristics Re-Evaluation: Worm Creek # 04179

Characteristic	Resource Findings	Assessment Rating	Prescription Recommendation(s)
Soil	0% Unstable 35% Erosion hazard	Low	Rx 2.1.1, Rx 2.7.1, Rx 3.2, Rx 4.3, and/or Rx 6.1
Air	Sensitive Receptors: Montpelier, ID, Preston, Id, and Logan, UT	Non-Restrictive	Any Rx that would not exceed the limits of a Class I area.
Water	91% Yellow 9% Green No 303(d) streams	Moderate overall conditions	No recommendation.
Ecosystem Disturbances	Aspen Decline: Insect Hazard: Fire Hazard	Moderate High High	Rx 3.3 or Rx 6.2 for aspen restoration and fuels reduction.
Invasive Plant Species	0.1% of the IRA (45 acres)	Low	Use IPM management approach on infestations and any Rx that allows motorized access.
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Habitat	T & E Species: lynx T & E Species: wolf Sensitive Species: wolverine Sensitive Species (forested habitat): Management Indicator Species (grass/shrub habitat):	High Moderate Moderate Moderate Low	Rx 3.1a on two large security areas: Limekiln Lake/Worm Lake and Dry Creek at the Forest boundary.
Wildlife Biological Strongholds	Reed Noss Findings: Departure from Vegetation PFC:	Low Moderate	Maintain winter range as outlined in Alternative 7. Any Rx that allows aspen restoration (6,300 acres).
Fisheries Biological Strongholds	St. Charles Creek is dominated by Bonneville cutthroat trout.	High	Rx 2.8.3 with INFISH in all riparian areas, Rx 3.1 in BCT stronghold watersheds.
Rare Plants, Rare Plant Communities, & Plant Communities	Rare Plants: Proposed and sensitive plants at Bloomington Lake and Cub Peak Rare Plant Communities: RNA and Bloomington Lake cirque headwall Plant Community reference areas: RNA and upland plant communities in Worm Creek	Yes Yes Yes	Rx 2.1.1 on Bloomington Lake Area, Rx 2.2 on St. Charles RNA, and any Rx that maintains or improves native vegetation.
Reference Landscapes	Unique Reference Value: RNA and upland plant communities in Worm Creek Wildlife security areas	High overall	Rx that maintains the reference value of this site, if it is chosen as a reference landscape.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Summer (Snow Free)	SPNM: 7,958 acres SPM: 12,676 acres Roaded Natural: 21,808 acres	Very high value for SPNM and SPM	Maintain existing recreation settings.
Semi-Primitive Recreation: Winter (Snow Season)	SPNM: 1,600 acres SPM: 40,891 acres	Very high value for SPM, low value for SPNM	Maintain existing recreation settings. Consider an increase in SPNM during site-specific travel planning.
Landscape Character & Scenic Integrity	Retention (High): 8,525 ac. Partial Retention (moderate): 32,900 ac. Modification (low): 1,017 ac.	Very high scenic integrity	Maintain existing scenic integrity.
Oil & Gas	No existing leases	High potential	No recommendation
Phosphate	No existing leases	No known potential	No recommendation
Locatable Minerals	No active mines or exploration	Low potential	No recommendation
Mineral Materials	None		
Special Use Permits, Utility Corridors, Other	None		

Summary Table of Prescription Changes Between Alternative 7 and Alternative 7R

Acres from GIS run dated July 26, 2002

Management Prescription	Rx Acres in Alternative 7	Rx Acres in Alternative 7R	Change in acres (+ or -)
1.3	41,747	38,461	-3,286
2.1.1	198	198	No change
2.1.2	2,065	5,919	+3,854
2.1.3	6,323	5,001	-1,322
2.1.4	0	13,101	+13,101
2.1.5	0	1,316	+1,316
2.2	5,275	5,275	No change
2.5	1,377	1,377	No change
2.7.1	66,575	53,100	-13,475
2.7.2	80,151	74,388	-5,763
2.8.3	44,263	44,263	No change
3.1	24,425	40,950	+16,525
3.2	292,179	159,953	-132,226
3.3	24,800	60,852	+36,052
4.2	772	772	No change
4.3	1,602	2,005	+403
5.1	1,424	0	-1,424
5.2	0	63,154	+63,154
5.3	424	0	-424
6.1	21,342	0	-21,342
6.2	0	178,073	+178,073
6.3	132,887	0	-132,887
8.1u	902	573	-329
8.2.2	107	102	-5
TOTAL ACRES	748,838*	748,833*	

* Acre differences due to rounding

