Appendix B

As described in the individual Establishment Records, the following are brief descriptions of each RNA and the associated fire management direction.

Moose Creek Plateau RNA

This RNA is located on the Island Park Ranger District, in the Moose Creek Plateau. The Moose Creek Plateau was selected as an RNA because of its high elevation forests of lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and whitebark pine growing on droughty soils of obsidian sand. Of special interest was a depauperate site having sparce ground cover of Carex rossii and slightly more productive sites with ground cover of Vaccinium scoparium. Also, of interest and value was a forest in transition from seral lodgepole pine to climax subalpine fir and whitebark pine, caused by an epidemic of the mountain pine beetle. The 1988 Northfork Fire changed the cover type, but has not made the area less valuable.

Fire management direction for the Moose Creek Plateau RNA can be found on page 16 of the Establishment Record. That direction states: "Neither prescribed burning or livestock grazing are needed to maintain ecological conditions. Prescribed burning will not be allowed. Wildfire that originates within or threatens the RNA will be suppressed as soon as possible by methods that will cause the least disturbance."

Wyoming Creek Proposed RNA

This proposed RNA is located on the Ashton Ranger District in Prescription Area 2.1.1. Prescription area 2.1.1 is called SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS and is described on pages III-79 through III-82. This management prescription applies to areas with unique cultural, geologic, botanical, or zoological resource values. This site was selected as a candidate for an RNA because the plant communities in this area are not known to occur at any research natural area on National Forest System lands in the Yellowstone Highlands Section. While evidence of past human disturbance is present at the site, the Deschampsia cespitosa at this site are described as "excellent, large and pristine." The Wyoming Creek site was assessed as the best opportunity in the Henry's Fork watershed to provide representation of Deschampsia cespitosa on National Forest System lands.

Fire management direction for this proposed RNA is identified on page III-6 and page III-80 of the RLMP. That direction is as follows:

Page III-6 Forestwide S&G's
When feasible and appropriate, use prescribed burning to dispose of slash in order to return the inorganic and organic chemicals in the foliage and small woody material to the soil, to reduce fire hazard and to provide seed beds for natural regeneration. (G)

Page III-80 Prescription Area S&G's
Prescribed fire, utilizing both management ignited and natural ignitions, may be used to maintain fire dependent characteristics of the area. (G)

Rock Lake Proposed RNA

This proposed RNA is located on the Ashton Ranger District in Prescription Area 1.1.6. Prescription Area 1.1.6 is called DESIGNATED WILDERNESS and is described on pages III-67 through III-69. This proposed RNA is located in the Winegar Hole Wilderness Area. This site was selected as a candidate for an RNA because a lake with large areas of lily-pad cover and surrounding vegetation was desired. Extensive wet meadows add to the aquatic features of this area.

Fire management direction for this proposed RNA is identified on page III-6 and pages III-68 and 69 of the RLMP. That direction is as follows:

Page III-6 Forest wide S&G's
When feasible and appropriate, use prescribed burning to dispose of slash in order to return the inorganic and organic chemicals in the foliage and small woody material to the soil, to reduce fire hazard and to provide seed beds for natural regeneration. (G)

Page III-68 Prescription Area S&G's
Natural and manager-ignited fires will be allowed to burn under predetermined prescriptive conditions as described in the Wilderness Fire Management Action Plan. (G)