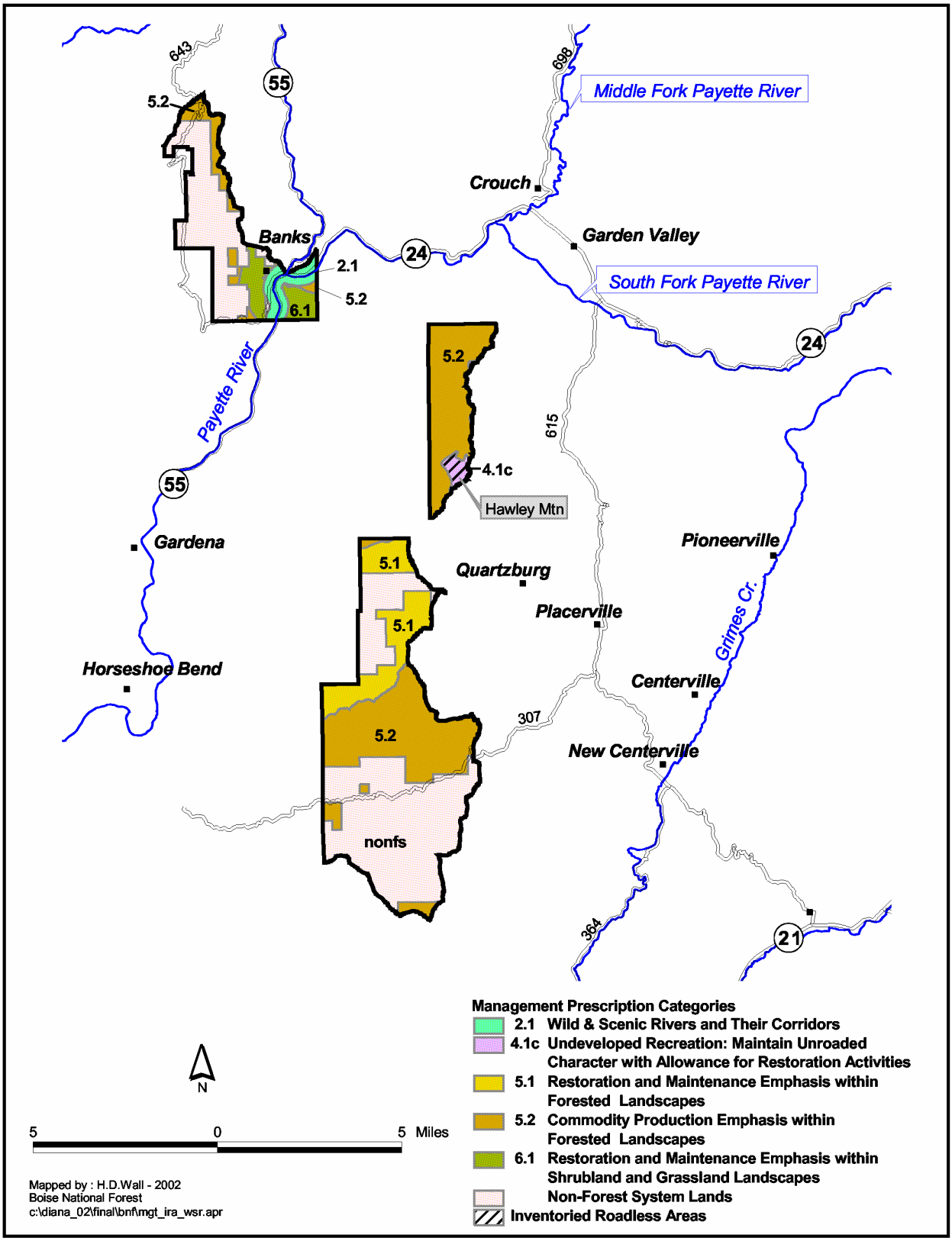
Management Area 09 - Harris Creek Location Map



Management Area 9
Harris Creek

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

Management Prescriptions - Management Area 9 has the following management prescriptions (see map on preceding page for distribution of prescriptions).

Management Prescription Category (MPC)	Percent of Mgt. Area
4.1c – Maintain Unroaded Character with Allowance for Restoration Activities	2
5.1 – Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Forested Landscapes	19
5.2 – Commodity Production Emphasis within Forested Landscapes	70
6.1 – Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Shrubland & Grassland Landscapes	9

General Location and Description - Management Area 9 is comprised of lands administered by the Boise National Forest between Boise and Banks, Idaho (see map, opposite page). The area lies in Boise County, 5-25 miles northeast of Boise, and is administered by the Idaho City and Emmett Ranger Districts. The management area is an estimated 27,500 acres, of which 52 percent are managed by the Forest Service, 38 percent are private inholdings, and 10 percent are State of Idaho lands. The area is bordered by a mixture of private, BLM and State lands along the Payette River corridor. The primary uses and activities in this management area have been dispersed recreation, timber management, and livestock grazing.

Access - The main access to the southern portion of the management area is by State Highway 55 to Forest Road 307 up Harris Creek to Forest Road 374, the Boise Ridge Road, and then either north or south along the Boise Ridge. The main access to the northern portion of the area is by State Highway 55 to Banks and Forest Road 643 up Dry Buck Creek. The density of classified roads in the management area is an estimated 3.8 miles per square mile, and very little of this area is inventoried as roadless. Total road density for area subwatersheds ranges between 2.1 and 4.1 miles per square mile. A number of user-defined, non-system trails exist in the area.

Special Features - State Highway 55 has been designated as a state and federal scenic byway. A small portion of the Hawley Mountain Roadless Area comprises an estimated 1 percent of the management area. A short segment of the main Payette River within the management area is eligible as a Wild and Scenic River. The classification of this segment is Recreational. The North Fork is considered eligible because of its outstandingly remarkable recreational values.

Air Quality - Portions of this management area lie within Montana/Idaho Airsheds ID-15 and 14 and in Boise County. Particulate matter is the primary pollutant of concern related to Forest management. There are ambient air monitors located in Treasure Valley (Boise, Caldwell, Meridian, etcetera) and Garden Valley to obtain current background levels, trends, and seasonal patterns of particulate matter. The Sawtooth Wilderness is the closest Class I area. Visibility monitoring has been expanded for this area.

Between 1995 and 1999, emissions trends in both counties improved for PM 10, while PM 2.5 emissions remained constant. The most common source of particulate matter in the county was fugitive dust from unpaved roads and agricultural activities such as tilling. In addition to Forest management activities, crop residue and ditch burning may contribute to particulate matter emissions, although the amount of agricultural-related burning was very low within Boise County (less than 100 acres). There were no point sources within the county.

Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources - Elevations range from 4,000 feet at the Forest boundary to 7,300 feet atop Hawley Mountain. Management Area 9 falls within portions of the Boise Ridge-Payette Canyonlands and Boise Foothills and Squaw Butte Subsections. The main geomorphic landforms associated with these subsections are strongly and moderately dissected fluvial lands, rolling fluvial slopes, and steep fluvial canyonlands. The dominant slope range is 30 to 75 percent in the dissected fluvial lands, 5 to 35 percent in the rolling fluvial slopes, and 60 to 80 percent in the steep canyonlands. The surface geology is primarily Idaho batholith granitics. Soils generally have moderate to high surface erosion potential, and moderate productivity. Subwatershed vulnerability ratings range from low to high (see table below).

Geomorphic Integrity ratings for the subwatersheds vary from high (functioning appropriately) to moderate (functioning at risk) to low (not functioning appropriately) (see table below). Localized areas have impacts from roads, timber harvest, livestock grazing, and recreation. Impacts include accelerated erosion, upland compaction, and stream channel modification.

The management area is in the Harris Creek Watershed and part of the Banks Watershed of the Payette River Subbasin. The major streams in the area are the Payette River and Harris Creek. There are no lakes or reservoirs in the management area. The Horseshoe Bend, Porter Creek, Gardena, Dry Buck Creek, Banks, and Hill Creek subwatersheds contribute to state-regulated public water systems for the community of Horseshoe Bend. Water Quality Integrity ratings for the subwatersheds vary from high (functioning appropriately) to moderate (functioning at risk) to low (not functioning appropriately), with the majority being moderate (see table below). Localized areas have accelerated sediment from roads, timber harvest, livestock grazing, and recreation. No water bodies are currently listed as impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, nor are there any TMDL-assigned watersheds associated with this management area.

Subwatershed Vulnerability			Geomorphic Integrity			Water Quality Integrity			No. 303(d) Subs	No. Subs With TMDLs	No. Public Water System Subs
High	Mod.	Low	High	Mod.	Low	High	Mod.	Low			
2	2	3	1	3	3	1	5	1	0	0	6

Anadromous fish species no longer exist within area streams due to downstream dams that block their migration routes to and from the ocean. The Payette River is a migration corridor for several native and introduced species, however bull trout, redband, and native cutthroat trout are not found in the rest of this management area. Aquatic habitat is functioning at risk due to accelerated sediment. Native fish populations are at risk due to the presence of non-native species and habitat impacts noted above.

Vegetation - An estimated 15 percent of the management area is comprised of rock, water, or shrubland and grassland vegetation groups, including Montane Shrub and Perennial Grass Slopes. The main forested vegetation groups in the area are Cool Dry Douglas-fir (4 percent), Dry Ponderosa Pine/Xeric Douglas-fir (5 percent), Warm Dry Douglas-fir/Moist Ponderosa Pine (33 percent), Cool Moist Grand Fir (29 percent), and Warm Dry Subalpine Fir (7 percent). Aspen is a component of the Douglas-fir and subalpine fir groups.

The Montane Shrub group is functioning properly, but it is trending toward old age structure, dense canopies, and low levels of herbaceous ground cover due to fire exclusion. The Perennial Grass Slopes group is moving toward proper functioning condition but is still considered to be at risk due to an increase in introduced species.

The Cool Dry Douglas-fir, Dry Ponderosa Pine/Xeric Douglas-fir, Warm Dry Douglas-fir/Moist Ponderosa Pine, and Cool Moist Grand Fir groups are functioning at risk. Fire exclusion has resulted in high stand densities and fuel loadings that have moved these groups from a non-lethal to a lethal fire regime. Insect and disease infestations have increased tree mortality and the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire. These groups also lack young structural stages and seral ponderosa pine and aspen.

The Warm Dry Subalpine Fir group is functioning low risk due to fire exclusion that has resulted in old stands without much structural diversity. Late seral subalpine fir is increasing, and seral Douglas-fir and aspen are decreasing.

Riparian vegetation is functioning at risk due to localized impacts from roads, livestock grazing, and recreation. Fire exclusion has resulted in longer fire return intervals, leading to increased fire intensity and severity. Exotic plant species have begun to encroach upon riparian areas, but recent prevention and control efforts have kept habitats intact.

Botanical Resources - Giant helleborine orchid, a Region 4 Sensitive species, is known from this management area. Kellogg's bitterroot and pale sedge, proposed Region 4 Sensitive species, are also known to occur in this management area. Buxbaum's sedge and swamp onion, Region 4 Watch species, also occur in this management area. No federally listed or proposed plant species are known to occur in this area, but potential habitat for Ute ladies'-tresses, Spalding's silene, and slender moonwort may exist. Ute ladies'-tresses, a Threatened species, may have high potential habitat in riparian/wetland areas from 1,000 to 7,000 feet. Spalding's silene, a Threatened species, may occur in fescue grassland habitats from 1,500 to 5,500 feet. Slender moonwort, a Candidate species, may occur in moderate to higher elevation grasslands, meadows, and small openings in spruce and lodgepole pine.

Non-native Plants – Spotted knapweed, Scotch thistle, St. Johnswort, and rush skeletonweed occur in or near this management area, primarily along the main road corridors. An estimated 68 percent of the area is highly susceptible to invasion by noxious weeds and exotic plant species. The main weeds of concern are spotted knapweed and Scotch thistle, which currently occur mainly on private land adjacent to the management area, but have a high likelihood of spreading onto the Forest.

Subwatersheds in the table below have an inherently high risk of weed establishment and spread from activities identified with a "yes" in the various activity columns. This risk is due to the amount of drainage area that is highly susceptible to noxious weed invasion and the relatively high level of exposure from those identified vectors or carriers of weed seed.

Subwatershed	Road-related Activities	Livestock Use	Timber Harvest	Recreation & Trail Use	ATV Off-Road Use
Dry Buck Creek	Yes	No	No	No	No
Harris Creek	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Gardena	No	Yes	No	No	No

Wildlife Resources - Warm ponderosa and Douglas-fir forests provide habitat for white-headed woodpecker, flammulated owl, goshawk, and limited winter range for deer and elk. The entire area provides nesting and forage habitat for migratory landbirds, and general habitat for wide-ranging mammals such as elk, bear, and mountain lion. Bald eagle may winter along the Payette River corridor. Overall, terrestrial habitat is functioning properly, although structural diversity could be improved.

Recreation Resources - The Banks Beach Picnic Area and put in/take out on the Payette River is the only developed recreation site in the area. The Payette River corridor receives an increasing amount of river-related recreation use, including fishing, rafting, and canoeing. Dispersed recreation is popular in the rest of the management area, particularly hunting, ATV use, and snowmobiling. The area is in portions of Idaho Fish and Game Management Units 32A, 32, and 39. Some facilities in this area are part of a fee demonstration project. Recreation special uses include group permits and outfitter permits to float the Payette River, and for commercial photography.

Cultural Resources – Cultural themes in the area are Prehistoric Archaeology and Ranching. This management area contains prehistoric sites that indicate the Boise Ridge system was a transportation corridor used by prehistoric peoples traveling to and from the Payette River canyon to higher-elevation camps in the Forest. Historically, ranchers in Jerusalem Valley and other Payette River communities used the Harris Creek watershed to pasture livestock. In the 1870s and 1880s, cattle and sheep raised in this area fed miners in Boise Basin's gold camps.

Timberland Resources - Of the estimated 11,200 tentatively suited acres in this management area, 8.700 acres have been identified as being suited timberlands, or appropriate for timber production. This represents about 2 percent of the Forest's suited timberland acres. The suited timberland acres are found in MPCs 5.1, 5.2, and 6.1 (see management area MPC map). Lands in MPC 4.1c have been identified as unsuited for timber production. The overall level of past timber management on these acres is moderate. Forest products such as fuelwood, posts, poles, and Christmas trees are also collected in designated areas.

Rangeland Resources - This area has portions of three cattle allotments. Management Area 9 provides an estimated 2,900 acres of capable rangeland. These acres represent less than 1 percent of the capable rangeland on the Forest.

Mineral Resources - This area is open to mineral development and activities. The potential for locatable minerals is considered low to moderate. The potential for geothermal development is considered moderate, but the potential for other leasable minerals is either low or unknown. The potential for common variety mineral materials is also low or unknown.

Fire Management - This area has a relatively high occurrence of wildland fires, both natural (lightning) and human-caused. The majority of these fire starts are successfully suppressed in initial attack, and no large wildfires have occurred on lands administered by the Forest. However, areas adjacent to the Forest have burned in recent years.

Fire suppression within the area is primarily the responsibility of the Idaho Department of Lands. In the past, all fires have been actively suppressed, and this policy will continue due to the occurrence of wildland-urban interface areas nearby. As such, fire use activities within this area will be limited to prescribed fire treatments. This management area is not in the Forest's wildland fire use planning area, so no wildland fire use is anticipated.

Banks is a National Fire Plan community, and Harris Creek, Dry Buck, and Gardena subwatersheds are considered wildland-urban interface areas due to private development adjacent to the Forest. These subwatersheds, as well as Porter Creek, are also considered to pose risks to life and property from potential post-fire floods and debris flows. Historical fire regimes for the area are estimated to be 51 percent mixed 1 or 2, and 49 percent non-lethal. An estimated 42 percent of the area regimes have vegetation conditions that are highly departed from their historical range. Most of this change has occurred in the historically non-lethal fire regimes, resulting in conditions where wildfire would likely be much larger and more intense and severe than historically. In addition, 31 percent of the area is in moderately departed conditions. Wildfire in these areas may result in somewhat larger patch sizes of high intensity or severity, but not to the same extent as in the highly departed areas in non-lethal fire regimes.

Lands and Special Uses - The Hawley Mountain designated communications site is located within the management area. There is a special-use authorization for the Banks store and café.

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

In addition to Forest-wide Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines that provide direction for all management areas, the following direction has been developed specifically for this area.

MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
MPC 2.1 Wild and Scenic Rivers	General Standard	0901	Manage the North Fork Payette River and Payette eligible corridors to their assigned Recreational classification standards, and preserve their ORVs and free-flowing status until the rivers undergo a suitability study and the study finds them suitable for designation by Congress, or releases them from further consideration as Wild and Scenic Rivers.
	Vegetation Guideline	0902	In Recreational corridors, mechanical vegetation treatments, including salvage harvest, may be used as long as ORVs are maintained within the river corridor.

MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
MPC 2.1 Wild and Scenic Rivers	Fire Guideline	0903	Prescribed fire may be used in any river corridor as long as ORVs are maintained within the corridor.
	Fire Guideline	0904	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize the impacts of suppression activities on river classifications and ORVs.
MPC 4.1c Undeveloped Recreation: Maintain Unroaded Character with Allowance for Restoration Activities	General Standard	0905	Management actions—including mechanical vegetation treatments, salvage harvest, prescribed fire, special use authorizations, and road maintenance—must be designed and implemented in a manner that would be consistent with the unroaded landscape in the temporary, short term, and long term. Exceptions to this standard are actions in the 4.1c road standard, below.
	Road Standard	0906	Road construction or reconstruction may only occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty.
	Fire Guideline	0907	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize tactics that minimize impacts of suppression activities on the unroaded landscape in the area.
MPC 5.1 Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Forested Landscapes	Vegetation Guideline	0908	The full range of treatment activities, except wildland fire use, may be used to restore and maintain desired vegetation and fuel conditions. Salvage harvest may also occur.
	Fire Guideline	0909	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize impacts to habitats, developments, and investments.
	Road Guideline	0910	Road construction or reconstruction may occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty, or c) To achieve restoration and maintenance objectives for vegetation, water quality, aquatic habitat, or terrestrial habitat, or d) To support management actions taken to reduce wildfire risks in wildland-urban interface areas; or e) To meet access and travel management objectives.
MPC 5.2 Commodity Production Emphasis within Forested Landscapes	Fire Guideline	0911	Prescribed fire may be used to: a) Maintain or restore desired vegetative conditions on unsuited timberlands; or b) Maintain or restore desired fuel conditions for all vegetation types; or c) Maintain desired vegetative conditions on suited timberlands within PVGs 2 through 10.
	Fire Guideline	0912	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize impacts to developments and investments.
MPC 6.1	Vegetation Guideline	0913	The full range of treatment activities, except wildland fire use, may be used to restore and maintain desired vegetation and fuel conditions. Salvage harvest may also occur.
	Fire Guideline	0914	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize impacts to habitats, developments, and investments.

MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
MPC 6.1 Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Shrubland and Grassland Landscapes	Road Guideline	0915	Road construction or reconstruction may occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty, or c) To achieve restoration and maintenance objectives for vegetation, water quality, aquatic habitat, or terrestrial habitat, or d) To support management actions taken to reduce wildfire risks in wildland-urban interface areas; or e) To meet access and travel management objectives.
Vegetation	Objective	0916	Restore or maintain large tree component and seral species (as described in Appendix A) in the Cool Dry Douglas-fir, Dry Ponderosa Pine/Xeric Douglas-fir, and Warm Dry Douglas-fir/Moist Ponderosa Pine vegetation groups.
Botanical Resources	Objective	0917	Maintain or restore for occupied habitat needs for TEPCS plant species, including giant helleborine orchid, Kellogg's bitterroot, and pale sedge, to contribute to the long-term viability of these species.
	Objective	0918	Reduce spotted knapweed and Scotch thistle within rare plant actual and potential habitat.
Non-native Plants	Objective	0919	Coordinate and cooperate with private landowners to treat spotted knapweed, Scotch thistle, and other undesirable plants. Contain spotted knapweed and Scotch thistle to private lands, and eradicate new infestations of these species.
Wildlife Resources	Objective	0920	Maintain or restore bald eagle wintering habitat along the Payette River corridor and other areas where potential habitat may exist.
	Objective	0921	Improve big-game winter range by restoring Perennial Grass Slopes and Montane Shrub vegetation groups along the North Fork Payette River corridor. Emphasize increasing native plant forage by reducing noxious weeds.
Recreation Resources	Goal	0922	Emphasize river-related recreation opportunities and experiences in the management of recreation resources within the Payette River corridors.
	Goal	0923	Emphasize dispersed recreation opportunities and experiences in the management of recreation resources outside of the Payette River corridors.
	Objective	0924	Continue to coordinate management and operation of Recreation Fee Demo sites with the BLM.
	Objective	0925	Improve river access near Banks by expanding parking areas and improving changing rooms to enhance recreation experiences and increase opportunities.
	Objective	0926	Evaluate Banks Beach area for potential expansion and improvement to enhance river-related recreation opportunities and experiences. Expand existing facilities to accommodate increasing use if possible.
	Objective	0927	Cooperate with the BLM to develop a river corridor management plan to guide management and development of river-related recreation resources.
	Objective	0928	Evaluate the Erskine Cabin permit for continuance and type of permit.
	Objective	0929	Complete vegetation management plans for Banks River Access, Banks Store and Café, Banks Beach, and high-use dispersed sites.
	Objective	0930	Work with adjacent landowners and partners to develop a management strategy for off trail/road use.

<table>
<tr><th>MPC/Resource Area</th><th>Direction</th><th>Number</th><th>Management Direction Description</th></tr>
<tr><td>Recreation Resources</td><td>Objective</td><td>0931</td><td>Achieve or maintain the following ROS strategy:
<table><tr><th rowspan="2">ROS Class</th><th colspan="2">Percent of Mgt. Area</th></tr><tr><th>Summer</th><th>Winter</th></tr><tr><td>Semi-Primitive Motorized</td><td>0%</td><td>83%</td></tr><tr><td>Roaded Natural</td><td>19%</td><td>17%</td></tr><tr><td>Roaded Modified</td><td>81%</td><td>0%</td></tr></table>
The above numbers reflect current travel regulations. These numbers may change as a result of future travel regulation planning.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Timberland Resources</td><td>Objective</td><td>0932</td><td>Emphasize stocking control and fuels reduction in plantations.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Objective</td><td>0933</td><td>Reduce densities in overstocked stands. Promote early seral species and open stands that can be maintained in a low fire hazard condition in the future in areas where restoration is emphasized within suitable vegetation groups.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Objective</td><td>0934</td><td>Restore and maintain species composition, structural diversity, and ecosystem processes in all vegetation groups at moderate to high hazard to uncharacteristic wildfire or insect epidemic to make them more resilient and resistant.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Rangeland Resources</td><td>Objective</td><td>0935</td><td>Continue to cooperate with BLM in the national Cooperative Resource Management Plan (CRMP).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Objective</td><td>0936</td><td>Evaluate and incorporate methods to help prevent weed establishment and spread from livestock grazing activities in the Harris Creek and Gardena subwatersheds. Methods to consider include changes in the timing, intensity, duration, or frequency of livestock use; the location of salting; and restoration of watering sites.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Fire Management</td><td>Objective</td><td>0937</td><td>Use prescribed fire and mechanical treatments to reduce fuel loadings and wildfire hazards within and adjacent to wildland-urban interface areas. Determine strategic locations for placement of fuel breaks, such as along the Boise Basin Ridge Road, to aid in protection of private lands. Develop and prioritize vegetation treatment plans for wildland-urban interface in coordination with local and tribal governments, agencies, and landowners.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Objective</td><td>0938</td><td>Coordinate and emphasize fire education and prevention programs with private landowners to help reduce wildfire hazards and risks. Work with landowners to increase defensible space around structures.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Objective</td><td>0939</td><td>Coordinate with adjacent land managers (e.g., BLM, state, and counties) to develop compatible wildland fire suppression strategies.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Lands and Special Uses</td><td>Objective</td><td>0940</td><td>Pursue road use cost-share agreement opportunities in the Boise Ridge area to improve recreational access where public and private lands are intermingled.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Objective</td><td>0941</td><td>Use land exchange opportunities to convey isolated parcels along Harris Creek on the western edge of the Management Area within the Idaho City Ranger District to improve management efficiency.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Objective</td><td>0942</td><td>Continue the authorized special use permit for the Banks Store.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Objective</td><td>0943</td><td>Evaluate relocating the State of Idaho Maintenance shed to provide additional parking for recreation needs. If the evaluation identifies viable alternatives to the current location, develop a relocation plan.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Facilities/Roads</td><td>Objective</td><td>0944</td><td>Coordinate maintenance on Roads 634 and 374 with Boise County.</td></tr>
</table>

MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
Facilities and Roads	Objective	0945	Evaluate and incorporate methods to help prevent weed establishment and spread from road management activities in the Dry Buck Creek and Harris Creek subwatersheds. Methods to consider include: ➢ When decommissioning roads, treat weeds before roads are made impassable. ➢ Schedule road maintenance activities when weeds are least likely to be viable or spread. Blade from least to most infested sites. ➢ Consult or coordinate with the district noxious weed coordinator when scheduling road maintenance activities. ➢ Periodically inspect road systems and rights of way. ➢ Avoid accessing water for dust abatement through weed-infested sites, or utilize mitigation to minimize weed seed transport.
Scenic Environment	Standard	0946	Meet the visual quality objectives as represented on the Forest VQO Map, and where indicated in the table below as viewed from the following areas/corridors:

Sensitive Travel Route Or Use Area	Sensitivity Level	Visual Quality Objective								
		Fg			Mg			Bg		
		Variety Class			Variety Class			Variety Class		
		A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Highway 55	1	R	R	PR	R	PR	PR	R	PR	M
Banks to Lowman Highway	1	R	R	PR	R	PR	PR	R	PR	M
Forest Road 643	2	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	MM
Forest Road 307	2	PR	PR	M	PR	M	M	PR	M	MM
Forest Road 615	2	PR	PR	M	PR	M	M	PR	M	MM
Forest Road 374	2	PR	PR	M	PR	M	M	PR	M	MM