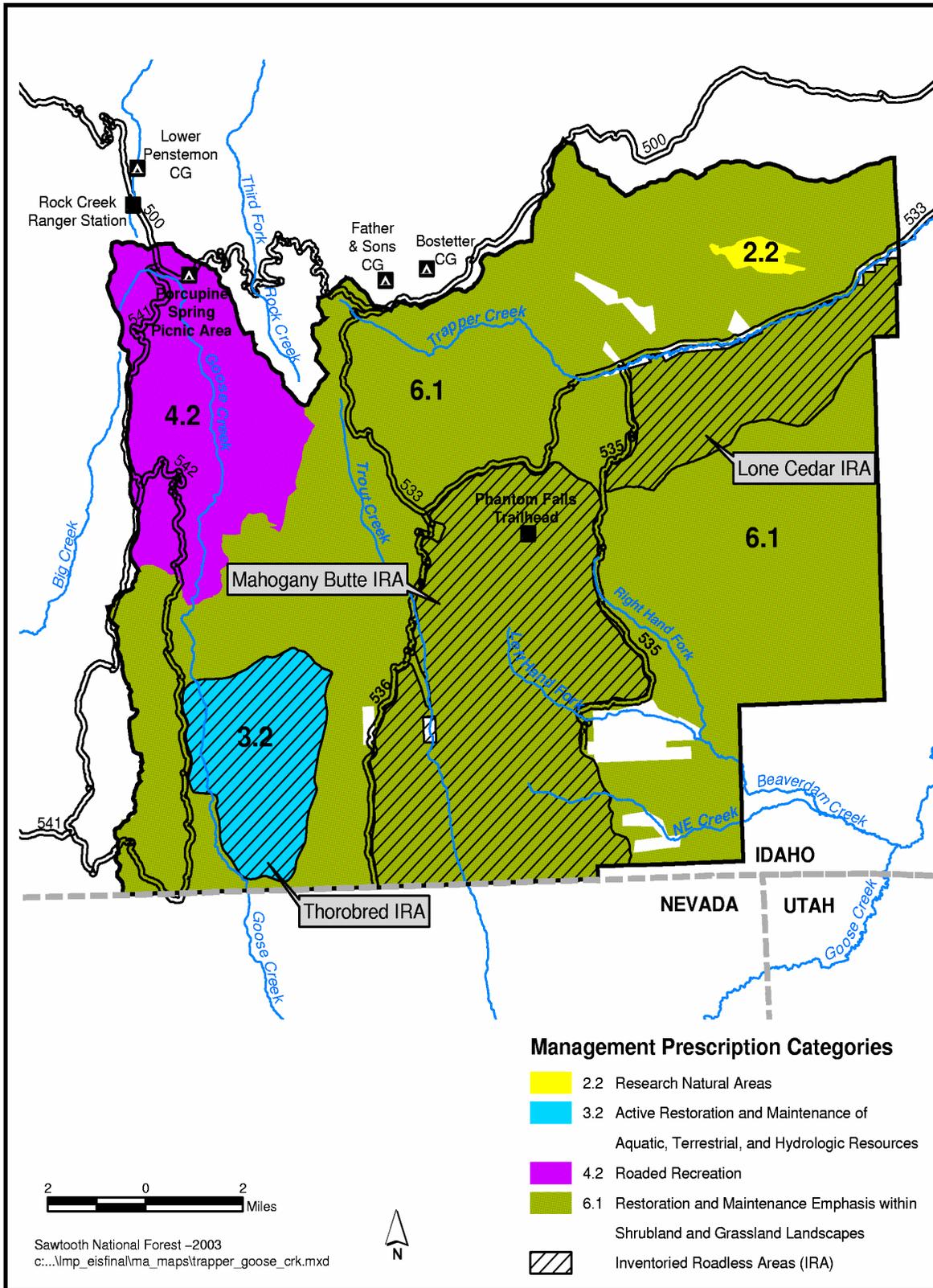


Management Area 13 –Trapper Creek/Goose Creek Location Map



## Management Area 13 Trapper Creek/Goose Creek

### MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

**Management Prescriptions** - Management Area 13 has the following management prescriptions (see map on preceding page for distribution of prescriptions).

Management Prescription Category (MPC)	Percent of Mgt. Area
2.2 – Research Natural Areas	1
3.2 – Active Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial & Hydrologic Resources	5
4.2 – Roaded Recreation Emphasis	10
6.1 – Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Shrubland & Grassland Landscapes	84

**General Location and Description** - Management Area 13 is comprised of Forest Service administered lands within the southeastern portion of the Cassia Division on the Minidoka Ranger District (see map, preceding page). The entire area lies primarily in Cassia County, with the western edge in Twin Falls County. The nearest large communities are Oakley to the east, Burley to the northeast, and Twin Falls to the northwest. The management area is an estimated 117,000 acres, including ten private land inholdings that make up about 2 percent of the area. The area is bordered by the Sawtooth National Forest to the north and west, and by primarily BLM administered land to the east and south. The primary uses or activities in this area are livestock grazing, developed and dispersed recreation, special uses (summer homes, camps, outfitter and guides), and timber management.

**Access** - There are a number of access routes into the area. For recreation, the most popular route is the paved Rock Creek Canyon Road, Forest Road 515, from the north to the Diamondfield Jack area. Other access routes include Forest Road 533 up the Trapper Creek drainage, and Forest Road 542 up Goose Creek drainage. Most roads in the area are native-surfaced and rough, and typically access private ranch inholdings or range developments. Total road density for area subwatersheds ranges between 0.5 and 2.6 miles per square mile. Seasonal road closures have been recently implemented to protect resources and reduce deer vulnerability during the hunting season. Trails access the roadless areas.

**Special Features** - The area around Diamondfield Jack is popular for recreation, featuring a variety of year-round opportunities and facilities. The trail to Phantom Falls is also popular. Numerous cultural resource sites exist, including Indian petroglyphs and Piney Cabin. The Trapper Creek Research Natural Area preserves low sagebrush and Utah juniper communities. An estimated 36 percent of the management area is inventoried as roadless, including all of the Lone Cedar, Mahogany Butte, and Thoroughbred Roadless Areas.

**Air Quality** - This management area lies within Montana/Idaho Airshed ID-25 and in Cassia County. Particulate matter is the primary pollutant of concern related to Forest management. The closest ambient air monitor is located in Twin Falls. It is used to obtain current background

levels, trends, and seasonal patterns of particulate matter. The Jarbidge Wilderness in Nevada is the only Class I area within 100 kilometers. The IMPROVE monitoring site has been in operation since 1988 and provides trend and visibility data for this Class I area.

Between 1995 and 1999, emissions trends in Cassia County improved for PM 10, while PM 2.5 emissions remained constant. The most common source of particulate matter within 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. The amount of agricultural-related burning was among the highest in the state, over 22,500 acres. There were no point sources located within the county.

**Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources** – Elevations range from around 5,000 feet at the Forest boundary to 8,060 feet atop Monument Peak. Management Area 13 is predominantly in the Humboldt River High Plateau subsection, and the dominant landforms are fluvial mountains, plateaus and escarpments, and depositional lands. Slope gradients range from 40 to 70 percent on the fluvial mountains, 0 to 30 percent on the plateaus and depositional lands, to near vertical on the escarpments. Surface geology is dominated by basalts in the north and volcanic ash in the south. Soil surface erosion potential is moderate, and soil productivity is generally moderate. Subwatershed vulnerability ratings in this area are all low (see table below). Geomorphic Integrity ratings for the subwatersheds vary from moderate (functioning at risk) to low (not functioning appropriately), with the majority being moderate (see table below). Some areas have impacts from roads, livestock grazing, and dispersed recreation. Impacts include accelerated erosion, upland compaction, and stream bank and channel modification.

The management area is comprised of portions of four watersheds that drain south and east into the Goose Creek Subbasin, which flows east and north into the Snake River Basin. The main streams in the area are Trapper Creek, Trout Creek, and Goose Creek. No lakes or reservoirs occur in the area. Water Quality Integrity ratings for the subwatersheds vary moderate (functioning at risk) to low (not functioning appropriately) (see table below). Some areas have depleted stream flows from irrigation uses, and accelerated sediment and nutrients from roads, livestock grazing, and dispersed recreation. Three of the fifteen subwatersheds in this area have water bodies that were listed as impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act in 2000. These subwatersheds are Beaverdam, South Cottonwood-Trapper, and Squaw-Rodeo. Pollutants of concern include bacteria, dissolved oxygen, stream flow alteration, and sediment. There are currently no TMDL-assigned subwatersheds 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			
0	0	15	0	12	3	0	7	8	3	0	0

No currently listed threatened or endangered fish species occur in Management Area 13. Area streams provide local fisheries consisting of rainbow, brook, and Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Trapper Creek also has leather-sided chub, an Idaho Department of Fish and Game species of concern. The Piney-Goose, Upper Goose Creek, and Trout Creek subwatersheds support strong

local populations of Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Trout Creek has a highly isolated local population. Aquatic habitat is functioning at risk in some areas due to localized sedimentation impacts from livestock grazing, roads, dispersed recreation, and dewatering from irrigation. Native fish populations are at risk due to the presence of introduced fish species. The Piney-Goose subwatershed has been identified as important to maintaining or restoring strong populations of Yellowstone cutthroat trout. This subwatershed is therefore a high-priority area for restoration.

**Vegetation** - Vegetation is naturally patchy in much of the management area, with islands of coniferous and aspen forest surrounded by sagebrush/grass communities. Lower and mid-elevations feature sagebrush/grass and juniper woodlands on south and west aspects. North and east aspects support juniper woodlands and aspen communities. Lodgepole pine occurs in frost pockets and cold air drainages. Subalpine fir and aspen dominate at mid to high elevations.

An estimated 85 percent of the management area is non-forested, or covered by grasslands, shrublands, meadows, rock, or water. Much of this area is comprised of the Mountain Big Sagebrush, Basin Big Sage, and Low Sage vegetation groups. The dominant forested vegetation groups are Pinyon-Juniper (3 percent), Persistent Lodgepole Pine (10 percent), and Aspen (3 percent).

The Low Sage group is functioning properly, although the herbaceous component could be increased to enhance diversity and maintain historic fire return intervals. The Mountain Big Sagebrush group is functioning at risk, and the Basin Big Sage group is not functioning properly in some areas due to fire exclusion and livestock grazing impacts, which have altered structure and species composition. Fire exclusion has allowed a high percentage of canopy cover, which has reduced the understory herbaceous cover. The bitterbrush component in the Basin Big Sage group is being replaced by cheatgrass and other introduced species. Non-native grasses have been extensively seeded on lands adjacent to the Forest, with some seeding on Forest as well.

The Persistent Lodgepole Pine group is functioning at risk because fire exclusion has resulted in older, more decadent stands with more climax subalpine fir and less early seral species, particularly aspen and lodgepole pine. Aspen is present in pure stands and mixed with lodgepole pine and subalpine fir; however, this group is functioning at low risk because some stands are dying out or being replaced by encroaching conifers. Older aspen stands are not regenerating. Fire hazard is increasing in conifer stands due to increasing mortality from insect and disease infestations. The Pinyon-Juniper group is not functioning properly in some areas due to fire exclusion and grazing impacts that have allowed older stands to dominate, resulting in fewer younger trees and herbaceous plants than desirable.

Riparian vegetation is functioning at risk in localized areas due to grazing and dispersed recreation impacts, and fire exclusion. In some areas, introduced grasses and noxious weeds are replacing native plants. Aspen and willow communities are becoming old and decadent, and are not regenerating due to fire exclusion and livestock use. Snag levels are below historic levels in some areas due to fuelwood gathering.

**Botanical Resources** – Idaho penstemon, a current Region 4 Sensitive species, is endemic to this management area. Goose Creek milkvetch is also a Region 4 Sensitive species that is endemic to the Goose Creek drainage, and potential habitat for this species exists within the area, although no populations have located to date. No federally listed or proposed plant species are known to occur in the area, but potential habitat exists for Ute ladies'-tresses. Ute ladies'-tresses, a Threatened species, may have moderate potential habitat in riparian/wetland areas from 1,000 to 7,000 feet.

**Non-native Plants** – Black henbane, diffuse knapweed, musk thistle, whitetop, Canada thistle, and leafy spurge occur in the management area, especially along main travel corridors and in areas of high activity. The main weeds of concern are leafy spurge, diffuse knapweed, and musk thistle, which currently occur in small, scattered populations. The spread of cheatgrass is also a concern. An estimated 26 percent of the management area is highly susceptible to establishment and spread of noxious weeds and exotic plants.

**Wildlife Resources** - The shrublands and forests provide sage grouse habitat and some winter range for mule deer. Nesting and foraging habitats for Region 4 Sensitive species, northern goshawk and flammulated owl, are found in mid-elevation forests. High-elevation forests and shrublands provide summer range for mule deer, and nesting and foraging habitat for flammulated owls and many migratory land birds. Other species present in the area include mountain lion, beaver, ruffed grouse, blue grouse, golden eagle, red-tail hawk, and a small population of elk. Sage grouse populations have been declining. The area is within lynx habitat as identified in the Canadian Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy (2000). Terrestrial habitat is functioning at risk in some areas due primarily to localized impacts to sage grouse and deer habitat from fire exclusion and introduced plant species. The level of human disturbance is low to moderate, and habitat fragmentation from roads, development, and fire is also low to moderate.

**Recreation Resources** - Management Area 13 offers year-round recreation opportunities, including Nordic skiing, camping, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, snowmobiling, off-road vehicle use, and mountain biking. Developed use is concentrated in the Diamondfield Jack area that has the Balsam Summer Home Area and three organizational camps, as well as two small campgrounds and several trailheads. Numerous dispersed camping sites are located in the Trapper Creek drainage. The management area is in Idaho Fish and Game Management Unit 54. Most users come from the Magic Valley. Most of the trails in the area are open to some form of motorized use. Increased motorized trail use has resulted in the pioneering of unauthorized trails. This area includes many of the designated snowmobile trails in the Cassia Division. Recreational special uses in the area include the Balsam recreation residences, three organizational camps (Tawakani, Kum Ba Yah, and one other), and one outfitter and guide operation for mountain lion hunting.

**Cultural Resources** – Cultural themes in this area are prehistoric and ranching. Prehistoric sites are numerous. Naturally occurring obsidians were quarried, and lithic scatters reflect quarrying and hunting activities. The area has been used by Shoshone-Bannock and Goshutes Tribes and their ancestors for hunting and gathering, particularly for pinyon nuts. Trapper Creek drainage

contains petroglyphs that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Grazing related to historic ranching occurred in the area. The Piney Cabin is an historic cabin associated with early livestock grazing.

**Timberland Resources** – Of the estimated 10,900 tentatively suited acres in this management area, 9,200 acres have been identified as being suited timberlands, or appropriate for timber production. This represents about 6 percent of the Forest's suited timberland acres. The suited timberland acres are found in MPCs 4.2 and 6.1, as shown on the map displaying the MPCs for this management area. Lands within MPC 2.2 and 3.2 are identified as not suited for timber production. Forest management practices include small sales, precommercial thinning, reforestation of commercial and recreation sites, aspen enhancement, wildland fire fuels reduction, and vegetation management plans for developed recreation sites. Forest products such as fuelwood, posts, poles, and ornamentals are also collected in designated areas.

**Rangeland Resources** - The area contains portions of two sheep allotments (Oakley Valley and Thirdfork) and one cattle allotment (Goose Creek). The area provides 88,100 acres of capable rangeland, which represents about 16 percent of capable rangeland on the Forest. The fencing of many riparian areas and improved rangeland management practices has resulted in an improving trend in rangeland and aquatic conditions.

**Mineral Resources** - Although numerous patented mining claims exist, current mining activity is low, and consists mainly of recreational rock collecting. The potential for mineral development is considered low.

**Fire Management** - Wildfires have burned about 10 percent of the area in the last 15 years. There are no National Fire Plan communities in this area, but the Upper Goose subwatershed is considered a wildland-urban interface due the organizational camps and summer homes in the area. Historical fire regimes for the area are estimated to be 6 percent lethal and 94 percent mixed1 or 2. None of the area regimes has vegetation conditions that are highly departed from their historical range. However, 23 percent of the area regimes have vegetation conditions that are moderately departed from their historical range. Wildfire in these areas may result in larger patch sizes of high intensity or severity.

**Lands and Special Uses** - There have been several land exchanges since 1987. See the Recreation Resources section for recreational special uses in the area.

## 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.

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
<b>MPC 2.2 Research Natural Areas</b>	General Standard	1301	Mechanical vegetation treatments, salvage harvest, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use may only be used to maintain values for which the area was established, or to achieve other objectives that are consistent with the RNA establishment record or management plan.
	Road Standard	1302	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, or c) To maintain the values for which the RNA was established.
	Fire Guideline	1303	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Fire suppression strategies and tactics should minimize impacts to the values for which the RNA was established.
<b>MPC 3.2 Active Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Hydrologic Resources</b>	General Standard	1304	Management actions, including salvage harvest, may only degrade aquatic, terrestrial, and watershed resource conditions in the temporary (up to 3 years) or short-term (3-15 years) time periods, and must be designed to avoid degradation of existing conditions in the long-term (greater than 15 years).
	Vegetation Standard	1305	Vegetative restoration or maintenance treatments—including wildland fire use, mechanical, and prescribed fire—may only occur where they: a) Maintain or restore water quality needed to fully support beneficial uses and habitat for native and desired non-native fish species; or b) Maintain or restore habitat for native and desired non-native wildlife and plant species; or c) Reduce risk of impacts from wildland fire to human life, structures, and investments.
	Road Standard	1306	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, or c) To support aquatic, terrestrial, and watershed restoration activities, or d) To address immediate response situations where, if the action is not taken, unacceptable impacts to hydrologic, aquatic, riparian or terrestrial resources, or health and safety, would result.
	Fire Guideline	1307	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize suppression strategies and tactics that minimize impacts on aquatic, terrestrial, or watershed resources.
<b>MPC 4.2 Roaded Recreation Emphasis</b>	Vegetation Guideline	1308	Vegetation management actions—including wildland fire use, prescribed fire, and mechanical treatments—may be used to maintain or restore desired vegetation and fuel conditions provided they do not prevent achievement of recreation resource objectives.
	Fire Guideline	1309	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize impacts to recreation developments and investments.
<b>MPC 6.1 Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Shrubland and Grassland Landscapes</b>	Vegetation Guideline	1310	The full range of vegetation treatment activities may be used to restore or maintain desired vegetation and fuel conditions. The available vegetation treatment activities include wildland fire use. Salvage harvest may also occur.
	Fire Guideline	1311	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.

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
<b>MPC 6.1 Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Shrubland and Grassland Landscapes</b>	Road Guideline	1312	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.
<b>Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources</b>	Objective	1313	Maintain or restore habitat for native Yellowstone cutthroat trout in the Piney-Goose subwatershed.
	Objective	1314	Restore or maintain riparian areas by reducing impacts from roads and livestock grazing in the Trapper/Falls and Trout Creek drainages, and the Piney-Goose subwatershed.
	Objective	1315	Restore ground cover in Beaverdam Creek, Dry Gulch, and Jay Creek drainages by reducing soil erosion in the Pinyon-Juniper vegetation group.
	Objective	1316	Encourage beaver occupancy of Goose and Trout Creeks to maintain or develop pool habitat for resident trout fisheries.
	Objective	1317	Coordinate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game regarding leather-sided chub and Yellowstone cutthroat trout management.
	Objective	1318	Work with DEQ and EPA to validate the authenticity and cause(s) for listing Beaverdam, South Cottonwood-Trapper, and Squaw-Rodeo as subwatersheds with 303(d) impaired water bodies, and to determine any Forest Service management activities that may be contributing to the listings.
<b>Vegetation</b>	Objective	1319	Restore the Pinyon-Juniper vegetation group to desired patterns of composition and structure, as described in Appendix A, using prescribed fire and mechanical treatments.
	Objective	1320	Maintain or restore early seral and climax aspen in the Aspen and Persistent Lodgepole Pine vegetation groups. Maintain or restore early seral lodgepole pine in the Persistent Lodgepole Pine vegetation group, as described in Appendix A.
	Objective	1321	Restore canopy covers to desired conditions, as described in Appendix A, within the Basin Big Sagebrush, Low Sage, and Mountain Big Sagebrush vegetation groups where these groups have been altered.
	Objective	1322	Restore open grassland conditions in the Beaverdam and Dry Gulch drainages in areas degraded by increasing juniper cover.
<b>Botanical Resources</b>	Objective	1323	Maintain or restore populations and occupied habitats of TEPCS species, including Idaho penstemon and Goose Creek milkvetch, to contribute to their long-term viability of these species.
	Objective	1324	Develop and implement a conservation strategy for Idaho penstemon.
	Objective	1325	Emphasize reducing diffuse knapweed, leafy spurge, and musk thistle within TEPCS plant actual and potential habitat.
	Guideline	1326	Coordinate grassland/shrubland restoration, prescribed fire, and non-native plant eradication efforts with a Forest botanist to minimize impacts to TEPCS plant species, potential habitat, and pollinators.
<b>Non-native Plants</b>	Objective	1327	Reduce cheatgrass by restoring native perennial grass/forb composition of plant communities in the Low Sage, Basin Big Sage, Pinyon-Juniper, and Mountain Big Sagebrush vegetation groups below 6,000 feet elevation.

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description														
<b>Non-native Plants</b>	Objective	1328	Control or contain leafy spurge, diffuse knapweed, musk thistle, and other noxious weeds in the area.														
<b>Wildlife Resources</b>	Guideline	1329	Management actions in sage grouse habitat should be designed to meet the desired conditions for sagebrush, as described in Appendix A. Where greater than 40 percent of the sage grouse habitat in the management area has less than 10 percent canopy cover, management actions should be designed to maintain or restore canopy cover conditions.														
<b>Recreation Resources</b>	Objective	1330	Develop a recreation management strategy for the Cassia Division that addresses law enforcement, ROS, site hardening, sanitation, noxious weeds and non-native plants, and travel management and closures.														
	Objective	1331	Reduce soil erosion and vegetation loss associated with off-road vehicles in the north half of the management area.														
	Objective	1332	Coordinate with Idaho Department of Fish and Game to pursue non-motorized hunting opportunities in the Ibex Peak area.														
	Objective	1333	Develop more ATV trail opportunities and curtail inappropriate ATV use of single-track trails to provide motorized recreation opportunities while reducing ATV impacts on other resources.														
	Objective	1334	Achieve or maintain the following ROS strategy: <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">ROS Class</th> <th colspan="2">Percent of Mgt. Area</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Summer</th> <th>Winter</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Semi-Primitive Motorized</td> <td>48%</td> <td>99%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roaded Natural</td> <td>10%</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roaded Modified</td> <td>42%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The above numbers reflect current travel regulations. These numbers may change as a result of future travel regulation planning</p>	ROS Class	Percent of Mgt. Area		Summer	Winter	Semi-Primitive Motorized	48%	99%	Roaded Natural	10%	1%	Roaded Modified	42%	0%
	ROS Class	Percent of Mgt. Area															
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	Semi-Primitive Motorized	48%	99%														
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Roaded Modified	42%	0%															
Objective	1335	Provide for continued use of the existing recreation residences and organization camps within established tracts.															
Objective	1336	Re-survey recreation residence tracts to eliminate undeveloped lots.															
Guideline	1337	When re-surveying recreation residence tracts, one or two undeveloped lots may be left as “in lieu” lots.															
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	Objective	1338	Implement the Cassia Division Interpretative Plan to enhance visitor education opportunities and recreation experiences.														
<b>Timberland Resources</b>	Objective	1339	Designate firewood-gathering areas in order to maintain snags and large woody debris components for wildlife and aquatic habitat, and soil stability and productivity.														
	Objective	1340	Provide for commercial harvest opportunities associated with restoration activities in the northwest third of the management area.														
<b>Rangeland Resources</b>	Objective	1341	Reduce the risk of disease transmission between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep.														
	Objective	1342	Whenever possible, modify developed springs and other water sources to restore natural free-flowing water and wet meadows in sage grouse habitat.														
	Guideline	1343	Within bighorn sheep emphasis areas, close sheep allotments as they become vacant, or convert them to cattle where appropriate. Do not convert cattle allotments to sheep allotments within occupied bighorn sheep habitat.														

<b>Resource/Program</b>	<b>Direction</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Management Direction Description</b>
<b>Rangeland Resources</b>	Guideline	1344	When constructing or reconstructing fences, design or relocate them to avoid potential sage grouse mortality near leks.
<b>Fire Management</b>	Objective	1345	Use prescribed fire and mechanical treatments adjacent to structures in the wildland-urban interface to manage fuels and reduce wildfire hazards.
	Objective	1346	Identify areas appropriate for Wildland Fire Use. Use wildland fire to restore or maintain vegetative desired conditions and to reduce fuel loadings.
	Guideline	1347	Coordinate with adjacent land managers to develop compatible wildfire suppression strategies and coordinated plans for wildland fire use.