

Current Condition Matrix - St. Joe River

(Source: Appendix A - St. Joe Geographic Assessment)

The interdisciplinary team developed three current ecological condition categories for classifying all landscape areas (6th code HUC). These are displayed in the following matrix.

The ecological processes and/or conditions rated in the matrix are:

1. Need for long lived early seral species.
2. Need for large diameter trees, snags, down wood, stands dominated by large trees.
3. Current homogenization and/or simplification of landscape patterns.
4. Current state of riparian areas.
5. Sustaining/restoring habitats or plant communities that are in short supply.
6. Current state of rare and unique elements.
7. Current state of patch size and refugia.
8. Risk of significant short-term changes to ecological components.
9. Current state of exotic species.
10. State of aquatic condition.
11. State of consumptive and TES wildlife species.

This assessment matrix should provide valuable information for the development of ecological strategies and opportunities to address these issues as the Forest Plan revision process is further developed.

St. Joe Geographic Area Priority Matrix

ISSUES, OBJECTIVES, MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES		1 -- Loss of potentially long-lived early seral dominant tree species (action for WP is creating openings & planting; action for WL is thinning; action for PP is burning/thinning/planting; action for WBP is creating openings)	2 -- Loss of large diameter trees, snags, down woody, and stands dominated by large trees	3 -- Homogenization & simplification of <u>large-scale</u> landscape pattern: reduced range of patch sizes, shapes, ages, & canopy structures; fragmentation of large blocks; increase in edge; decoupling of veg patterns from underlying biophysical environment	4 -- High level of disturbance in riparian zones: loss of mature riparian communities, habitats, and structures; sustain remaining mature, and restore major altered riparian zones,
ZONE	LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS AREA	WP --- WL --- PP --- WBP			
St.	11 -- Middle Fk. St. Maries River	A -- B --- B ---- B	C	I	CB
Maries	12 -- West Fk. St. Maries River	A --- B --- B --- X	A	I	C/B -- No significant National Forest ownership, but major loss of riparian communities is an ecosystem issue
River	13 -- Emerald Creek	A --- B --- X --- X	A	I	B -- Small area National Forest ownership in riparian, but major loss of riparian communities is an ecosystem issue
	14 -- Charlie - Tyson - Fernwood	A ---- B ---- A ---- X	A	I	B -- Small area National Forest ownership in riparian, but major loss of riparian communities is an ecosystem issue
	15 -- Dennis Ridge - Lower St. Maries River	A ---- B ---- A ---- X	A	I	C/B -- Small area National Forest ownership in riparian, but major loss of riparian communities is an ecosystem issue
Lower	21 -- Delaney - Freezeout Crks.	B --- B --- X --- A	C	D	I
St.	22 -- Hobo - Cornwall	B --- B --- X --- X	C where old growth/mature & B in younger stands	D (west side in mature/OG)	I
Joe	23 -- Bear - Bussell	A --- A --- X --- X	B	B	I
River	24 -- Homestead - Boulder-Lower Marble	B --- B (where young stands) --- B --- B	D where old growth/mature (higher elev.) & B in lower Marble	D	B
	27 -- Lower St. Joe River	B --- B ---- A ---- X	x	B	X (no significant National Forest ownership, but major loss of riparian communities is an ecosystem issue)
Middle	31 -- Quartz - Gold	A/B --- D --- X --- A	C	B (increase patch sizes of younger age classes & retain residual overstory structure, while blocking up & maintaining larger contiguous blocks of mature/OG)	B
St. Joe	32 -- Skookum - Bird - Eagle	A/B ---- ? ---- X ---- B	C/B (depending upon age class)	B (increase patch sizes of younger age classes & retain residual overstory structure, while blocking up & maintaining larger contiguous blocks of mature/OG)	B/A for lower Bird & Eagle
River	33 -- North Fk. St. Joe - Loop Crk.	A/B --- B/C --- X ---- B	B	C (on northwest side)	A
	34 -- Slate Creek	B --- B (?)C --- X --- X	B	C	B
	35 -- Allen - Prospector - Bluff	A --- D --- X --- X	C	B (increase patch sizes of younger age classes, while blocking up & maintaining larger contiguous blocks of mature/OG)	B
	36 -- Sisters	B (?) --- C --- X --- X	X	I	X
	37 -- Siwash - Fishhook	B ---- C --- C --- X	D in upper end & B in lower end, younger age classes	D (maintain mature & old growth blocks in SW corner of LAA); I (for rest of area)	X
	38 -- Black Prince - Sheep Butte	X --- C --- B ---- X	D in riparian old growth & B in younger stands	C (with D in riparian old growth)	D in lower end where escaped 1910 fire
	39 -- Big Creek	X --- X --- B ---- X	X	C	B
Upper	41 -- Headwaters St. Joe - Heller	X --- X --- X --- A	X (not issue except where it exists in riparian)	D	D in Medicine Crk
St.	42 -- Red Ives - Simmons	B --- C --- X --- B	X in upper end (1910 higher elev. stands) & C in west side older age class blocks	D (on east half)	C
Joe	43 -- Fly - Mosquito	X --- C --- X --- X	X	D	C
Little	51 -- Stoney - Homestead - Glover	B --- B --- X --- X	B (where thinning opportunity in younger stands) & C (in older/mature stands)	C (corridor linking to Clearwater??)	C/B -- Small area National Forest ownership in riparian, but major loss of riparian communities is an ecosystem issue
North	52 -- Pinchot Butte - Floodwood	X --- C --- X --- X	D (in mature/OG on east side) & B (in younger stands on west side)	D (northern 1/2)	C/B -- Small area National Forest ownership in riparian, but major loss of riparian communities is an ecosystem issue
Fork	53 -- Lost - Louis - Upper Little North Fk.	X --- C --- X --- B	D in larger blocks of F. S. ownership	D (west side & where undeveloped)	D
Clearwater	54 -- Monumental - Joker - Foehl	X --- X ---- X ---- B	D	D	D
	55 -- Snow - Canyon- Sawtooth	X --- X ---- X ---- B	D in older stands	D	C/D in upper end unburned portion of Sawtooth
RATING SYSTEM:					
A	Hi Priority/opportunity for <u>action</u> and/or hi risk of undesirable changes if no action taken.				
B	Moderate Priority/ Opportunity for <u>action</u> and/or moderate risk of undesirable changes if no action taken.				
C	Moderate Priority /Opportunity to <u>maintain</u> current condition and/or relatively low risk of change if we leave alone.	For soil & hydrologic issues, mgmt. action potentially poses a moderate risk of undesirable impacts without remedial action (moderate = 20-40% of landscape potentially susceptible to this risk item)			
D	High Priority to <u>maintain</u> current condition and/or very low risk of change if we leave alone	For soil & hydrologic issues, mgmt. action potentially poses a high risk of undesirable impacts without remedial action (high risk = >40% of landscape potentially susceptible to this risk item)			
X	Not a significant issue in this Landscape analysis area				
I	Issue present in this landscape, but mgmt. implications unclear @ this scale; needs further analysis to know how to address.				

St. Joe Geographic Area Priority Matrix

ISSUES, OBJECTIVES, MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES		5 -- Sustain/restore habitats/communities in short supply (low elevation, open large PP/WLDF; low elevation moist coastal disjunct plant communities)	6 -- Maintain & protect rare & unique habitats & elements (for botanical rare elements see Mark Mousseaux's strategy & apply across all LAA's as appropriate)	7 -- Need for refugia/large blocks/security for wildlife sensitive to human disturbance or fragmentation	8 -- Risk of short-term major change in landscape scale composition or structure ** (Risk of change for # 8 does not automatically imply need to act)
ZONE	LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS AREA				I&D Risk ---- (1.) Fire/Moisture Risk Rating
St.	11 -- Middle Fk. St. Maries River				
		A		X	---- C
Maries	12 -- West Fk. St. Maries River				
		A		X	---- C (on wetter south-east side only)
River	13 -- Emerald Creek				
		A		X	---- X
	14 -- Charlie - Tyson - Fernwood				
		A		X	---- X
	15 -- Dennis Ridge - Lower St. Maries River				
		A		X	---- B
Lower	21 -- Delaney - Freezeout Crks.				
		X		D	---- D
St.	22 -- Hobo - Cornwall		D -- (Hobo Cedar Grove Botanical Area)	C	---- C
Joe	23 -- Bear - Bussell				
		C		X	---- C (north & east facing drainages)
River	24 -- Homestead - Boulder-Lower Marble	B (limited area)	D -- (Therault Lake RNA)	C (Marble Mtn/ CamelbackMtn /Devaggio Meadows)	---- D (higher elev. SE corner of LAA)
	27 -- Lower St. Joe River	A (significant ecologically but limited National Forest land)		X	---- B
Middle	31 -- Quartz - Gold			B (reduce road density to maintain corridor along Bitterroot Divide)	---- X
		X		C (for Skookum & Turkey Point/Turner) & B for Bitterroot Divide	---- X
St. Joe	32 -- Skookum - Bird - Eagle	B (Open DF on breaklands)	D -- (Skookum drainage -- potential for aquaic RNA)		---- X
River	33 -- North Fk. St. Joe - Loop Crk.	B (Open DF on breaklands)		B (reduce road density to maintain corridor along Bitterroot Divide) & C in Turner/Nelson	---- X
	34 -- Slate Creek	B (Some PP, but mostly open DF on breaklands)		C	---- B (lowest composit moisture rating)
	35 -- Allen - Prospector - Bluff				
		X		X	---- X
	36 -- Sisters				
		X		X	---- X
	37 -- Siwash - Fishhook	B?? (small amount in lower end)	D -- (Fishhook RNA)	X	---- X
	38 -- Black Prince - Sheep Butte	B	D -- (Black Prince drainage -- interest as potential aquatic RNA)	C	---- X
	39 -- Big Creek	B		C	---- X
Upper	41 -- Headwaters St. Joe - Heller		D -- (5 Lakes Butte RNA)		
		X		D	---- D
St.	42 -- Red Ives - Simmons			D (where undeveloped) & B (reduce road density along Bitterroot Divide)	---- X (D near 3 Links Crk OG)
Joe	43 -- Fly - Mosquito	C (?)		D	---- X
Little	51 -- Stoney - Homestead - Glover			D (maintain around Freezeout & high elevations)	---- C
		X			
North	52 -- Pinchot Butte - Floodwood			D (undeveloped - especially on NE side)	---- D (highest composit moisture rating)
		C			
Fork	53 -- Lost - Louis - Upper Little North Fk.			D (undeveloped & south side)	---- D
		C			
Clearwater	54 -- Monumental - Joker - Foehl			D	---- D
		D			
	55 -- Snow - Canyon - Sawtooth			D	---- D (on southern 1/3 of LAA)
		X			
RATING SYSTEM:					
A	Hi Priority/opportunity for <u>action</u> and/or hi risk of undesirable changes if no action taken.				(1.) Fire Moisture Rating: only evaluates the moisture-related component of fire risk; it does not account for current veg condition, elev., aspect, or potential evapotranspiration.
B	Moderate Priority/ Opportunity for <u>action</u> and/or moderate risk of undesirable changes if no action taken.				D = ≥6 composite moisture index rating, or major inclusion with 8+ values.
C	Moderate Priority /Opportunity to <u>maintain</u> current condition and/or relatively low risk of change if we leave alone.				C = ≥5.5 but <6 composite moisture index rating. If significant areas of contrasting high & low index scores, must have significant inclusion with scores >7.
D	High Priority to <u>maintain</u> current condition and/or very low risk of change if we leave alone				B = <3.9 composite moisture index rating. Only evaluates moisture-related fire risk; does not account for current veg condition, topography, potential ET, or surrounding area influences.
X	Not a significant issue in this Landscape analysis area				X = over-all available site moisture rating not significantly higher or lower than that is typical for St. Joe.
I	Issue present in this landscape, but mgmt. implications unclear @ this scale; needs further analysis to know how to address				

St. Joe Geographic Area Priority Matrix

ISSUES, OBJECTIVES, MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES		9 -- Weeds/exotics: prioritize where there's demonstrated need for action to protect specific values & where there's hi probability of success w/ realistic program levels	SUMMARY SCORES --- TERRESTRIAL ISSUES (weeds/exotics not included in summary score because of different management implications of ratings)
ZONE	LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS AREA		
St.	11 -- Middle Fk. St. Maries River	X -- established weed populations dominate this LAA, & no realistic opportunity for changing broad landscape pattern	A = 2; B = 4; C = 3; D = 0; X = 1; I = 1
Maries	12 -- West Fk. St. Maries River	X -- established weed populations dominate this LAA, & no realistic opportunity for changing broad landscape pattern	A = 3; B = 3; C = 2; D = 0; X = 2; I = 1
River	13 -- Emerald Creek	X -- established weed populations dominate this LAA, & no realistic opportunity for changing broad landscape pattern	A = 3; B = 2; C = 0; D = 0; X = 4; I = 1
	14 -- Charlie - Tyson - Fernwood	X -- established weed populations dominate this LAA, & no realistic opportunity for changing broad landscape pattern	A = 4; B = 2; C = 0; D = 0; X = 3; I = 1
	15 -- Dennis Ridge - Lower St. Maries River	X -- established weed populations dominate this LAA, & no realistic opportunity for changing broad landscape pattern	A = 4; B = 3; C = 1; D = 0; X = 2; I = 1
Lower	21 -- Delaney - Freezeout Crks.	A -- Weeds aren't ubiquitous: hi value recreation & roadless attributes, "natural" communities, & hi priority of successess if treat (Grandmother Mtn. area)	A = 1; B = 2; C = 1; D = 3; X = 2; I = 1
St.	22 -- Hobo - Cornwall	A -- Weeds aren't ubiquitous: hi value recreation & roadless attributes, "natural" communities, & hi priority of successess if treat (East Side)	A = 0; B = 3; C = 4; D = 2; X = 2; I = 1
Joe	23 -- Bear - Bussell	B/C -- weeds present in recently disturbed areas, roads, & river face; use seeding & spot treatment to limit spread after disturbances	A = 2; B = 2; C = 2; D = 0; X = 3; I = 1
River	24 -- Homestead - Boulder-Lower Marble	B/C -- weeds present in recently disturbed areas, roads, & river face; use seeding & spot treatment to limit spread after disturbances	A = 0; B = 6; C = 1; D = 4; X = 0; I = 0
	27 -- Lower St. Joe River	X -- established weed populations dominate this LAA, & no realistic opportunity for changing broad landscape pattern	A = 2; B = 4; C = 0; D = 0; X = 4; I = 0
Middle	31 -- Quartz - Gold	B/C -- weeds present in recently disturbed areas, roads, & river face; use seeding & spot treatment to limit spread after disturbances	A = 2; B = 4; C = 1; D = 1; X = 3; I = 0
St. Joe	32 -- Skookum - Bird - Eagle	B/C -- weeds present in recently disturbed areas, roads, & river face; use seeding & spot treatment to limit spread after disturbances	A = 2; B = 7; C = 2; D = 1; X = 2; I = 0
River	33 -- North Fk. St. Joe - Loop Crk.	B/C -- weeds present in recently disturbed areas, roads, & river face; use seeding & spot treatment to limit spread after disturbances	A = 2; B = 6; C = 2; D = 0; X = 2; I = 0
	34 -- Slate Creek	B/C -- weeds present in recently disturbed areas, roads, & river face; use seeding & spot treatment to limit spread after disturbances	A = 0; B = 5; C = 3; D = 0; X = 2; I = 0
	35 -- Allen - Prospector - Bluff	B/C -- weeds present in recently disturbed areas, roads, & river face; use seeding & spot treatment to limit spread after disturbances	A = 1; B = 2; C = 1; D = 1; X = 5; I = 0
	36 -- Sisters	B/C -- weeds present in recently disturbed areas, roads, & river face; use seeding & spot treatment to limit spread after disturbances	A = 0; B = 1; C = 1; D = 0; X = 7; I = 1
	37 -- Siwash - Fishhook	B/C -- weeds present in recently disturbed areas, roads, & river face; use seeding & spot treatment to limit spread after disturbances	A = 0; B = 3; C = 2; D = 2; X = 4; I = 0
	38 -- Black Prince - Sheep Butte	B/C -- weeds present in recently disturbed areas, roads, & river face; use seeding & spot treatment to limit spread after disturbances	A = 0; B = 3; C = 3; D = 4; X = 3; I = 0
	39 -- Big Creek	X -- established weed populations dominate this LAA, & no realistic opportunity for changing broad landscape pattern	A = 0; B = 3; C = 2; D = 1; X = 5; I = 0
Upper	41 -- Headwaters St. Joe - Heller	A -- Weeds aren't ubiquitous: hi value recreation & roadless attributes, "natural" communities, & hi priority of successess if treat	A = 1; B = 0; C = 0; D = 5; X = 5; I = 0
St.	42 -- Red Ives - Simmons	A -- Weeds aren't ubiquitous: hi value recreation & roadless attributes, "natural" communities, & hi priority of successess if treat	A = 0; B = 2; C = 2; D = 3; X = 3; I = 0
Joe	43 -- Fly - Mosquito	A -- Weeds aren't ubiquitous: hi value recreation & roadless attributes, "natural" communities, & hi priority of successess if treat	A = 0; B = 0; C = 3; D = 2; X = 5; I = 0
Little	51 -- Stoney - Homestead - Glover	X -- established weed populations dominate this LAA, & no realistic opportunity for changing broad landscape pattern	A = 0; B = 4; C = 4; D = 1; X = 3; I = 0
North	52 -- Pinchot Butte - Floodwood	X -- established weed populations dominate this LAA, & no realistic opportunity for changing broad landscape pattern	A = 0; B = 2; C = 3; D = 4; X = 3; I = 0
Fork	53 -- Lost - Louis - Upper Little North Fk.	A -- Weeds aren't ubiquitous: hi value recreation & roadless attributes, "natural" communities, & hi priority of successess if treat (West side only)	A = 0; B = 1; C = 2; D = 5; X = 2; I = 0
Clearwater	54 -- Monumental - Joker - Foehl	A -- Weeds aren't ubiquitous: hi value recreation & roadless attributes, "natural" communities, & hi priority of successess if treat	A = 0; B = 1; C = 0; D = 6; X = 3; I = 0
	55 -- Snow - Canyon- Sawtooth	A -- Weeds aren't ubiquitous: hi value recreation & roadless attributes, "natural" communities, & hi priority of successess if treat	A = 0; B = 1; C = 1; D = 5; X = 4; I = 0
RATING SYSTEM:			
A	Hi Priority/opportunity for <u>action</u> and/or hi risk of undesirable changes if no action taken.		
B	Moderate Priority/ Opportunity for <u>action</u> and/or moderate risk of undesirable changes if no action taken.		
C	Moderate Priority /Opportunity to <u>maintain</u> current condition and/or relatively low risk of change if we leave alone.		
D	High Priority to <u>maintain</u> current condition and/or very low risk of change if we leave alone		
X	Not a significant issue in this Landscape analysis area		
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