United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Idaho
National Forests

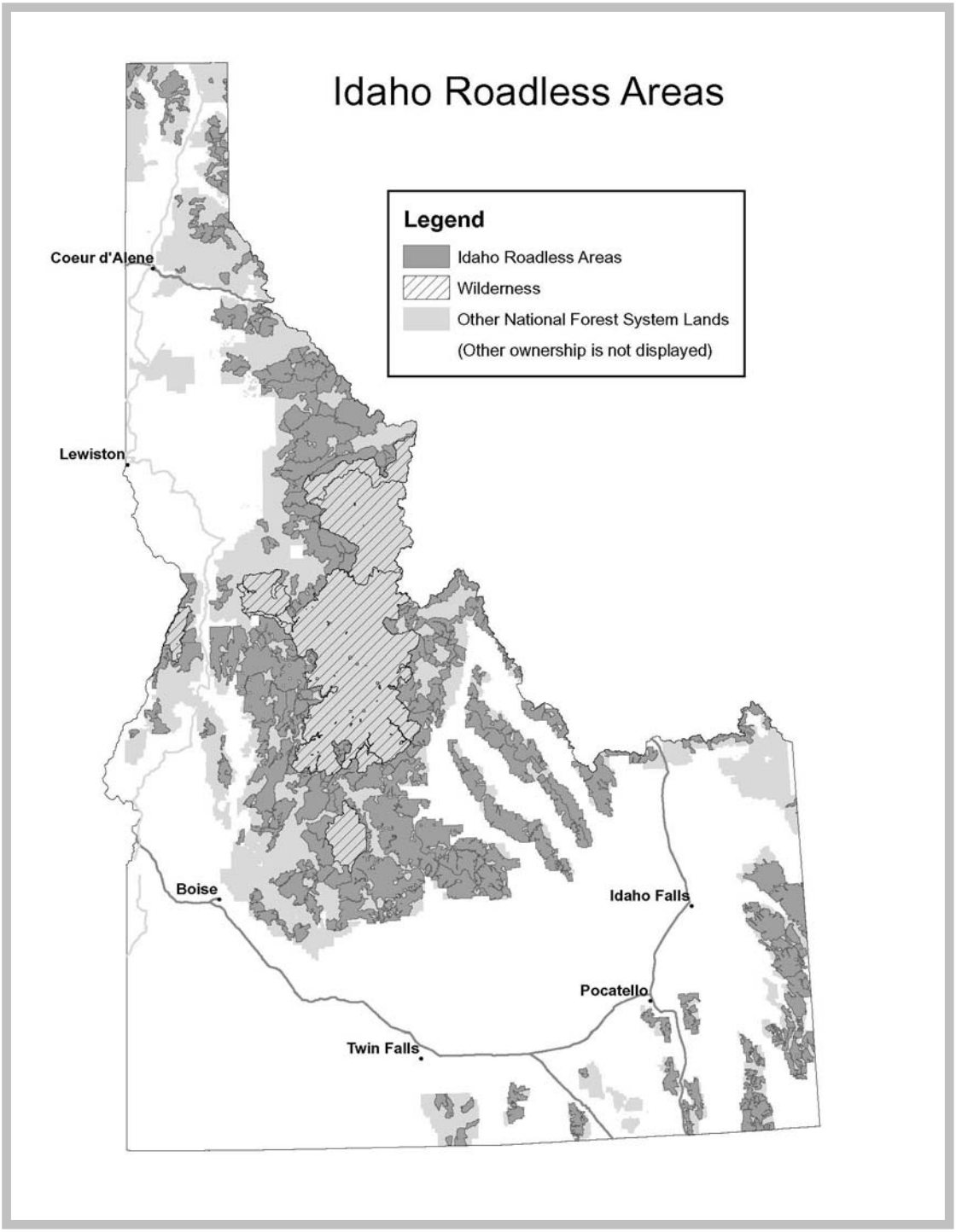
December 2007

Roadless Area Conservation

National Forest System Lands in Idaho

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Appendix C—Idaho Roadless Areas



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Table of Contents

Appendix C. Idaho Roadless Areas 1

Boise National Forest

Bald Mountain #019 3
Bear Wallow #125 5
Bernard #029 7
Black Lake #036 9
Blue Bunch #923 see Challis National Forest
Breadwinner #006 11
Burnt Log #035 13
Cathedral Rocks #038 15
Caton Lake #912 see Payette National Forest
Cow Creek #028 17
Danskin #002 19
Deadwood #020 21
Elk Creek #022 24
Grand Mountain #007 26
Grimes Pass #017 28
Hanson Lakes # 915 see Sawtooth National Forest
Hawley Mountain #018 30
Horse Heaven #925 see Payette National Forest
House Mountain #001 32
Lime Creek #937 see Sawtooth National Forest
Lost Man Creek #041 34
Meadow Creek #913 see Payette National Forest
Mount Heinen #003 36
Nameless Creek #034 38
Needles #911 see Payette National Forest
Peace Rock #026 40
Poison Creek #042 43
Poker Meadows #032 46
Rainbow #008 48
Red Mountain #916 50
Reeves Creek #010 54
Sheep Creek #005 56
Smoky Mountains #914 see Sawtooth National Forest
Snowbank #924 59
Steel Mountain #012 62
Stony Meadows #027 64
Ten Mile/Black Warrior #013 66
Tennessee #033 69
Whiskey #031 71
Whiskey Jack #009 73
Whitehawk Mountain #021 75
Wilson Peak #040 77

Caribou National Forest

Bear Creek #615 79
Bonneville Peak #154 81
Caribou City #161 83
Clarkston Mountain #159 85
Deep Creek #158 87
Dry Ridge #164 89
Elkhorn Mountain #156 91
Gannett-Spring Creek #111 93
Gibson #181 95
Hell Hole #168 97
Huckleberry Basin #165 99
Liberty Creek #175 101
Meade Peak #167 103
Mink Creek #176 105
Mount Naomi #758 107
North Pebble #155 109
Oxford Mountain #157 111
Paris Peak #177 113
Pole Creek #160 115
Red Mountain #170 117
Sage Creek #166 119
Schmid Peak #163 121
Scout Mountain #152 123
Sherman Peak #172 125
Soda Point #171 127
Station Creek #178 129
Stauffer Creek #173 131
Stump Creek #162 133
Swan Creek #180 135
Telephone Draw #169 137
Toponce #153 139
West Mink #151 141
Williams Creek #174 143
Worm Creek #179 145

Challis National Forest

Blue Bunch #923 147
Borah Peak #012 150
Boulder-White Clouds #920 see Sawtooth National Forest
Camas Creek #901 see Salmon National Forest
Challis Creek #004 152
Cold Springs #026 154
Copper Basin #019 156
Diamond Peak #601 158

Greylock #007 161
Grouse Peak #010 163
Hanson Lakes #915 see Sawtooth National Forest
Jumpoff Mountain #014 165
King Mountain #013 167
Lemhi Range #903 see Salmon National Forest
Loon Creek #908 169
Pahsimeroi Mountain #011 172
Pioneer Mountains #921 see Sawtooth National Forest
Prophyry Peak #017 174
Railroad Ridge #922 see Sawtooth National Forest
Red Hill #027 176
Red Mountain #916 see Boise National Forest
Seafoam #009 178
Spring Basin #006 180
Squaw Creek #005 182
Taylor Mountain #902 see Salmon National Forest
Warm Creek #024 184
White Knob #025 186
Wood Canyon #028 188

Clearwater National Forest

Bighorn-Weitas #306 190
Eldorado Creek #312 194
Hoodoo #301 196
Lochsa Face #311 200
Lolo Creek #805 204
Mallard-Larkins #300 see Idaho Panhandle National Forest
Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork #302 see Idaho Panhandle National Forest
Moose Mountain #305 207
North Fork Spruce–White Sand #309 209
North Lochsa Slope #307 212
Pot Mountain #304 216
Racliff-Gedney #841 see Nez Perce National Forest
Rawhide #313 218
Siwash #303 220
Sneakfoot Meadows #314 222
Weir–Post Office Creek #308 225

Idaho Panhandle National Forest

Beetop #130 227
Big Creek #143 230
Blacktail Mountain #122 233
Blacktail Mountain #161 235
Buckhorn Ridge #661 238
Continental Mountain #153 240
East Cathedral Peak #131 242
East Fork Elk #678 244
Gilt Edge – Silver Creek #792 246
Graham Coal #139 249
Grandmother Mountain #148 251
Hammond Creek #145 253
Hellroaring #128 256
Katka Peak #157 258
Kootenai Peak #126 260
Little Grass Mountain #121 262
Lost Creek #137 264
Magee #132 266
Mallard - Larkins #300 268
Maple Peak #141 274
Meadow Creek–Upper North Fork #302 276
Midget Peak #151 280
Mosquito Fly #150 282
Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle 284
North Fork #147 287
Packsaddle #155 289
Pinchot Butte #149 291
Roland Point #146 293
Saddle Mountain #154 295
Salmo-Priest #981 297
Schafer Peak #160 299
Scotchman Peaks #662 301
Selkirk #125 304
Sheep Mountain – State Line #799 307
Skitwish Ridge #135 311
Spion Kop #136 313
Stevens Peak #142 315
Storm Creek #144 317
Tepee Creek #133 319
Trestle Peak #129 321
Trouble Creek #138 323
Trout Creek #664 325
Upper Priest #123 328
White Mountain #127 331
Wonderful Peak #152 333

Kootenai National Forest

Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle #173 see Idaho Panhandle National Forest
Roberts #691 336
Scotchman Peaks #662 see Idaho Panhandle National Forest
West Fork Elk #692 338

Nez Perce National Forest

Clear Creek #844 340
Dixie Summit-Nut Hill #235 342
East Meadow Creek #845D 344
Gospel Hump #921 347
Gospel Hump Adjacent to Wilderness #923 .. 349
John Day #852 351
Lick Point #227 353
Little Slate Creek #851 355
Little Slate Creek North #856 357
Mallard #847 359
North Fork Slate Creek #850 361
O'Hara-Falls Creek #226 363
Rackliff-Gedney #841 366
Rapid River #922 see Payette National Forest
Salmon Face #855 370
Selway Bitteroot #new 372
Silver Creek-Pilot Knob #849 373
West Fork Crooked River #new 376
West Meadow Creek #845C 378

Payette National Forest

Big Creek Fringe #009 381
Caton Lake #912 383
Chimney Rock #006 386
Cottontail Point/Pilot Peak #004 388
Council Mountain #018 391
Crystal Mountain #005 394
Cuddy Mountain #016 396
French Creek #026 399
Hells Canyon/Seven Devils Scenic #001 402
Horse Heaven #925 405
Indian Creek #019 408
Meadow Creek #913 410
Needles #911 413
Patrick Butte #002 417
Placer Creek #008 420
Poison Creek #042 – see Boise National Forest
Rapid River #922 422
Secesh #010 426
Sheep Gulch #017 429
Smith Creek #007 431
Snowbank #924 – see Boise National Forest
Sugar Mountain #014 433

Salmon National Forest

Agency Creek #512 435
Allan Mountain #946 437
Anderson Mountain #942 440
Blue Joint Mountain #941 443
Camas Creek #901 446
Deep Creek #509 449
Duck Peak #518 451
Goat Mountain #944 453
Goldbug Ridge #903A 456
Haystack Mountain #507 458
Italian Peak #945 460
Jesse Creek #510 463
Jureano #506 465
Lemhi Range #903 467
Little Horse #514 470
Long Tom #521 472
McEleny #505 474
Musgrove #517 476
Napias #515 478
Napoleon Ridge #501 480
Oreana #516 483
Perreau Creek #511 485
Phelan #508 487
Sal Mountain #513 489
Sheepeater #520 491
South Deep Creek #509A 493
South Panther #504A 495
Taylor Mountain #902 497
West Big Hole #943 500
West Panther Creek #504 504

Sawtooth National Forest

Blackhorse Creek #039 507
Black Pine #003 509
Boulder-White Clouds #920 512
Buttercup Mountain #038 517
Cache Peak #007 520
Cottonwood #010 523
Elk Ridge #019 525
Fifth Fork Rock Creek #023 527
Hanson Lakes #915 530
Huckleberry #016 534
Liberal Mountain #040 537
Lime Creek #937 539
Lone Cedar #011 542
Loon Creek #908 see Challis National Forest
Mahogany Butte #012 544
Mount Harrison #006 547
Pettit #017 550
Pioneer Mountains #921 552
Railroad Ridge #922 556
Smoky Mountains #914 559
Sublett #005 563
Third Fork Rock Creek #009 565

Thorobred #013 568

Targhee National Forest

Bald Mountain #614 570
Bear Creek #615 see Caribou National Forest
Caribou City #161 see Caribou National Forest
Diamond Peak #601 see Challis National Forest
Garfield Mountain #961 572
Garns Mountain #611 574
Italian Peak #945 see Salmon National Forest
Lionhead #963 576
Mount Jefferson #962 578
Palisades #613 581
Pole Creek #913; see Caribou National Forest
Poker Peak #616 583
Raynolds Pass #603 585
Two Top #604 587
West Slope Tetons #610 589
Winegar Hole #347 591

Wallowa Whitman National Forest

Big Canyon #853 593
Klopton Creek-Corral Creek #854 595

Appendix C. Idaho Roadless Areas

The following appendix describes the roadless area attributes and characteristics for each roadless area found in Idaho. This roadless area specific information is intended to inform the public and decision maker about the variability in roadless character across the continuum of roadless areas. For reference, Appendix D summarizes the roadless characteristics in a tabular form. Maps of each of the roadless areas with the Existing Plan themes and Idaho Roadless Rule themes may be found in the EIS map packet.

The appendix is based on existing plan documents describing the roadless areas – generally found in appendix C of the existing plan environmental impact statements. Some of the plan appendix C's date back to 1987, others are more current because they have recently revised their plans. Information has been updated where new information was available.

Most acres have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

[This page intentionally left blank.]

Bald Mountain #019

6,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Bald Mountain Roadless Area, on the Emmett Ranger District, includes the south slopes of the South Fork Payette River from the Garden Valley Ranger Station to Danskin Creek. This roadless area is accessed from the Banks-Lowman Highway (Forest Highway 17) via State Highway 55.

Elevations range from 3,100 feet along the South Fork Payette River to 5,148 feet at Bald Mountain. The area is underlain by Cretaceous granitics of the Idaho Batholith. Sagebrush-bitterbrush/grass communities and scattered stands of ponderosa pine are located on steep fluvial lands. Overall, the Bald Mountain area is marked with open slopes supporting sparse grass and brush vegetation interspersed with open stands of ponderosa pine. Major side drainages are deeply incised, with steep banks. Bald Mountain is the area's predominant feature.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The apparent naturalness and natural integrity of the Bald Mountain area have been affected by wildlife habitat improvements of bitterbrush plantings in some locations. In the northern portion there is evidence of constructed fire lines and some plantations following the 1987 Anderson Creek fire.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, and challenging experiences are somewhat limited by the relatively small size of the area. The steep and rugged terrain provides for challenging cross-country travel. The broken and complex terrain provides some opportunities for solitude.

Special Features: A segment of the South Fork Payette River lies adjacent to the southern boundary. This river segment is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. Approximately 300 acres of the river corridor occurs within the roadless area.

Manageability: Along the southern edge, ownership boundaries would form some of the boundaries, while in other locations a logical boundary could be created by a defined offset from the riverbank or highway. The other boundaries would benefit from some minor adjustments to make them more logical and definable.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This roadless area contains a portion of the South Fork Payette River from the confluence with Danskin Creek downstream to the Garden Valley Ranger Station. This portion of the river does not provide spawning habitat for listed bull trout but is potential nodal habitat (migrational and over-winter rearing). This portion of the river also provides a migration corridor that bull trout use to access spawning and rearing habitat outside the roadless area. The South Fork Payette River within the roadless area provides rearing habitat for redband rainbow trout. This roadless area also includes several tributaries to the South Fork Payette River that flow in from the north. These tributaries have been field surveyed, and Poorman Creek, Nelson Creek, and Carpenter Creek are not fish-bearing streams. Since these are the largest tributaries within the roadless area, it is not likely that any tributaries in the roadless area are fish bearing.

Wildlife: Bald eagles occur in this roadless area. Suitable habitat for federally listed species is limited within this roadless area. Species such as gray wolf and lynx may occur within the roadless area; however, occurrence of these species is probably related to dispersing individuals. There is no identified lynx habitat in the area. Habitat for Regional sensitive species varies within this area. Habitat for boreal owl and great gray owl does not exist or is very limited, while habitat for northern goshawk, flammulated owl, and white-headed woodpecker does exist. Most of the area provides important elk and deer winter range. Habitat for pileated woodpecker nesting exists in the northern and southern portion of this area.

Water: Bald Mountain has numerous perennial streams that mostly flow southerly to the South Fork Payette River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest. An estimated 3 acres of the area are within a municipal watershed for the Rivers Point Property Owners.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Most of the area has been infested by rush skeletonweed, a noxious weed.

Recreation: The area receives fairly heavy use during the fall big-game hunting season. The trails within the area provide for other backpacking and day hiking use.

Timber: The area includes an estimated 30,000 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 58,800 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 3,100 acres (50 percent) of the Bald Mountain roadless area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 500 acres have low productivity; 2,500 acres, moderate productivity; and 300 acres, high productivity.

Range: There are no open grazing allotments in the roadless area. There are 160 acres of capable sheep rangeland within the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 4,300 acres of WUI.

Minerals: A portion of the inactive Abella molybdenum mine lies along the area's western edge. The roadless area is not a mineral development interest area. There is a small area in the southwest corner of the roadless area that is identified as a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand, and gravel. There are no active mineral claims within the area. This roadless area contains 6,200 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There is no private or state land within the roadless area. One outfitter-guide service provides cougar and bear hunting trips in the area, and another provides trail rides.

Roads and Trails: There is a 2-mile segment of a non-motorized trail in the area.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. Surveys in adjoining and overlapping areas, in similar topographic situations, have resulted in low cultural resource site densities.

Disturbances: An estimated 650 acres of the roadless area were burned in the 1987 Anderson Complex fire. Approximately 80 percent of the area was burned in low intensity prescribed fires in 1997. Soil movement and localized landslides have occurred in the Hanks Creek, Whiskey Creek, Poorman Creek, and Russell Creek drainages during recent rain-on-snow events.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATION

Bald Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	6,200	5,900	5,900
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	300	300
Total Acres	**6,200**	**6,200**	**6,200**

Bear Wallow #125

9,100 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Bear Wallow Roadless Area, on the Emmett Ranger District, lies between the Scriver Creek Road and the Middle Fork Payette River Road. The area is accessed from the Middle Fork Payette River Road (Forest Road 698) from the Banks-Lowman Highway (Forest Highway 17) via State Highway 55. The Bear Wallow Trail traverses the area from north to south. Elevations range from about 3,200 feet to 6,000 feet. Slopes are steep, dissected by small streams, and dominated by dense stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir.

Dense brush fields and old fire scars occur along the upper ridges and in the southern portion of the area. Timbered stands are concentrated near Scriver Creek and Middle Fork Payette River. Slopes into the river are over-steepened and highly erosive, with sparse vegetation except on the river terrace and in side drainages. The gentler slopes into Scriver Creek support denser stands of timber, interspersed with impenetrable stands of brush that originated from old fires. No prominent topographic features lie in the Bear Wallow Roadless Area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and apparent naturalness of the Bear Wallow Roadless Area are intact because few activities have occurred in this area.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude and remoteness are available due to the complex, broken terrain and the fairly continuous vegetative cover. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are good due to the rugged terrain. The area can be characterized as hot and dry during the summer months.

Special Features: A segment of the Middle Fork Payette River lies adjacent to the eastern boundary. This river segment is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 1.3 miles of the river and approximately 700 acres of the river corridor occur within the roadless area.

Manageability: The southeastern boundary could be logically defined as a certain offset from the Payette River Road or the riverbank itself. The other boundaries would benefit from some minor changes to create more logical and manageable boundaries.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bear Wallow includes small tributary streams that flow into the Middle Fork Payette River from the east. These tributaries are upstream from Scriver Creek and downstream of Sixmile Creek, which is partially included in the roadless area. Most of these tributaries have not been surveyed primarily due to their small size. The most likely fish-bearing streams are Tie, Baron, and Rocky Canyon Creeks (the largest of the tributaries), and any fish present are likely to be redband rainbow trout. Tributaries within this roadless area are identified as bull trout key watersheds (State of Idaho 1996). Bull trout are present.

Wildlife: Suitable habitat for federally listed endangered species such as the wolf and lynx is limited within this roadless area. There is no potential lynx habitat in this area. Individuals that pass through when dispersing from other areas are not likely to stay long because of the lack of denning habitat. The lower portion of the roadless area adjoins the South Fork Payette River, which provides bald eagle wintering habitat. No peregrine falcon habitat exists within this roadless area. Habitat exists for white-headed woodpecker and flammulated owl within lower-elevation ponderosa pine stands. Habitat for northern goshawk is provided within mid-slope forested areas. Limited habitat for pileated and white-headed woodpecker, and meadow and red-backed vole, exists within the roadless area. Key winter range habitat is provided for elk and deer, most of it in the lower elevations adjacent to the Middle Fork Payette River.

Water: Bear Wallow has a number of perennial streams, most of them flowing easterly towards the Middle Fork Payette River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest. An estimated 2,400 acres are within a municipal watershed of Rivers Point Property Owners.

Botanical: Giant helleborine (*Epipactis gigantea*), a sensitive plant species, occurs in the area. A very minor amount of rush skeletonweed has been identified in the area.

Recreation: The recreation use in this area is fairly minimal, with most of the use occurring during the fall big-game hunting season.

Timber: The area includes 65,400 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 131,900 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 6,700 acres (73 percent) of the Bear Wallow Roadless Area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 300 acres are considered to have low productivity; 2,900 acres, moderate productivity; and 3,600 acres, high productivity.

Range: Approximately 80 percent of the area is within an active sheep allotment. An estimated 2,300 acres are capable sheep rangelands.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 900 acres of WUI.

Minerals: The area is not a mineral development interest area. There are only two mining claims in the area. This roadless area contains 9,100 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There is no private or state land within the roadless area. One outfitter-guide service provides cougar and bear hunting trips in the area.

Roads and Trails: There is some all-terrain vehicle use on the motorized trail along the western side. There are segments of two motorized trails in the area, totaling about 6.1 miles.

Heritage: Although prehistoric sites have been documented in the South Fork Payette River corridor, the steep topography of the roadless area results in the area having low cultural resource sensitivity.

Disturbances: An estimated 700 acres have burned by wildfire since 1960.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Bear Wallow Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	8,400	8,400
Backcountry	9,100	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	700	700
Total Acres	**9,100**	**9,100**	**9,100**

Bernard #029

20,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Bernard Roadless Area, on the Cascade and Lowman Ranger Districts, includes parts of the Elk Creek, Sulphur Creek, and Deadwood River drainages. This area is accessed from the Warm Lake Highway (Forest Road 22), via State Highways 21 or 55. This area is also accessed from the Porter Creek (008), Tyndall-Sulphur (095), and West Fork Elk Creek (006) Trails.

Elevations range from about 6,000 feet along the Deadwood River to 8,203 feet atop Bernard Mountain. The southern portion of the area has characteristic moderately steep slopes, while the northern portion is dominated by glacial trough lands. Moderate to dense stands of Douglas-fir exist at the lower elevations, and stands of Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir are found at the higher elevations.

Overall, the area is marked with steep forested slopes that give way to open alpine meadows and scattered alpine timber stands. Scenic views of the Deadwood River Canyon, Deadwood Reservoir, and the Sawtooth Mountains can be seen from ridge tops. Notable landmarks include Pilgrim Mountain (8,196 feet), and Bernard Mountain (8,203 feet).

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and appearance of the area are intact.

Opportunities for Experience: When considered as part of the adjacent Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are plentiful. The steep and rugged terrain provides challenges to cross-country travel.

Special Features: A segment of the Deadwood River lies adjacent to the western boundary. This river segment is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation with a recreational classification. An estimated 500 acres of the river corridor occur within the roadless area.

Manageability: The area has some very complex and irregular boundaries due to the long cherry stem exclusion of the road along Sulphur Creek. The eastern boundary of the area is adjacent to the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Upper Sulphur Creek and its tributaries lie within the northern portion of the roadless area. A tributary from the north supports westslope cutthroat trout. Sulphur Creek is a tributary to the Middle Fork Salmon River that supports westslope cutthroat trout and listed Chinook and steelhead and is critical habitat for Snake River spring/summer Chinook. The area encompasses portions of other streams in the Johnson Creek drainage that may also provide spawning and/or rearing habitat for listed Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout. The entire roadless area lies within an area designated as critical habitat for spring/summer Chinook salmon. The southern portion of the Bernard Roadless Area contains North Fork Deer Creek, Little Beaver Creek, and East Fork Deadwood River. All of these streams except Little Beaver Creek flow into the Upper South Fork Payette key bull trout watershed (State of Idaho 1996).

North Fork Deer Creek contains a small section of focal (spawning and rearing) bull trout habitat. This and adjacent subpopulations of bull trout in the South Fork Deer Creek are important because the upper Deadwood River watershed is isolated from colonization due to Deadwood Dam.

East Fork Deadwood River, Topnotch, Bernard, and other small tributaries to the upper Deadwood River contain only short sections of redband rainbow trout spawning and rearing habitat near their mouths. The rest of these streams are too steep and small. The East Fork Deadwood River appears to have good habitat; however, bull trout and other fish are absent upstream of the mouth.

Little Beaver Creek flows into Bear Valley, which has been designated as critical salmon habitat. Chinook salmon and steelhead trout may use the lower sections for rearing. Redband rainbow trout and westslope

cutthroat trout may use Little Beaver Creek for spawning and rearing. An estimated 4.5 miles of streams in the area have bull trout spawning and rearing habitat. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon and steelhead are identified as present in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Confirmed gray wolf activity has occurred in this roadless area with increasing activity occurring since the augmentation program in the 1990s. Sixty-eight percent of the roadless area has potential lynx habitat, but it is not known if lynx are present. Fisher, wolverine, boreal owl, great gray owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, and spotted frog are Region 4 sensitive species. These species are either known or highly likely to occur in this roadless area.

Water: The area has drainages flowing predominantly westerly to Johnson Creek and southerly to Deer Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: Idaho Douglasia (*Douglasia idahoensis*), a sensitive plant species, occurs in the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Recreation: The area receives some backcountry hunting, hiking, and camping.

Timber: The area includes an estimated 132,000 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 260,000 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 17,800 acres (85 percent) of the roadless area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 12,100 acres are considered to have low productivity; 5,900 acres, moderate productivity; and 400 acres, high productivity.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 2,800 acres of WUI.

Range: A portion of one cattle allotment encompasses about 35 percent of the roadless area and is managed under a rest-rotation system. There are 944 acres of capable cattle rangelands in the roadless area.

Minerals: Twenty-one mining claims exist in the area. The patented Deadwood mine adjoins the roadless area. The area is not an identified mineral development interest area. This roadless area contains 20,900 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state-owned lands within the roadless area. One outfitter-guide provide bear and cougar hunting trips in the area, while another provides deer and elk hunting trips, summer pack trips, and trail rides.

Roads and Trails: The area has three non-motorized trails totaling about 4.6 miles that access the adjacent Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as low to moderate. Mining sites have been located along the Deadwood River, although none have been identified within the roadless area.

Disturbances: There have been four recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences since 1960. An estimated 6,500 acres have burned in wildfires, most of this in the 1987 Deadwood fire.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Bernard Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	20,900	20,400	20,400
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	500	500
Total Acres	**20,900**	**20,900**	**20,900**

Black Lake #036

5,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Black Lake Roadless Area, on the Cascade Ranger District, lies between the Thunder Mountain and Trapper Creek Roads (Forest Roads 440 and 440A), and adjoins the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness. The area is accessed from the Thunder Mountain Road, off the Johnson Creek Road (Forest Road 413) north of Landmark. The area is also accessed by the Summit Trail (068).

Elevations range from about 7,000 feet near the Thunder Mountain Road to 9,169 feet at Pistol Rock. The area is underlain by Cretaceous granitics of the Idaho Batholith. Steep-sided, unshaped glacial valleys are vegetated with Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine in the higher country and Douglas-fir at the lower elevations. Generally, the Black Lake area has high-elevation U-shaped glacial valleys and cirque basin topography. Prominent landmarks include Pistol Rock and Black Lake.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural appearance and integrity of the area has been affected in some locations by historic mining activity. Overall, the area generally retains its natural appearance and natural integrity.

Opportunities for Experience: When considered alone, the Black Lake area has limited opportunities for solitude, challenge, and primitive recreation due to its small size. When considered as an addition to the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness, the area would compliment the extensive opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in the Wilderness.

Special Features: About 100 acres of the 1,290-acre Chilcoot Peak Research Natural Area lie within this roadless area.

Manageability: A portion of the area's boundaries is shared with the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness. Only a few minor boundary adjustments would be needed to make this a manageable addition.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Trapper and Riordan Creeks support bull trout. As the headwaters of Riordan Creek, Black Lake may also support bull trout. The entire roadless area is within area designated as critical habitat for spring/summer Chinook salmon. Spawning and rearing habitat exists for Chinook salmon and bull trout. There is an estimated 3.1 miles of stream with bull trout spawning and rearing habitat. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Confirmed gray wolf activity has occurred in this roadless area, with increasing activity occurring since the augmentation program in the 1990s. An estimated 88 percent of this roadless area is identified lynx habitat. Fisher, wolverine, boreal owl, great gray owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, and spotted frog are Region 4 sensitive species either known or highly likely to occur in this roadless area. Potential wolverine denning habitat has been identified in the area.

Water: There are a few scattered small bodies of water in the area. Black Lake contains the headwaters of Riordan Creek and Trapper Creek that eventually flow to Johnson Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There has been few plant surveys conducted in the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Timber: The roadless area has 33,900 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 67,100 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 4,400 acres (83 percent) of the Black Lake Roadless Area are

tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 2,000 acres are considered to have low productivity and 3,000 acres are considered moderate productivity.

Range: Portions of two allotments encompassing the entire roadless area. One allotment is grazed by cattle and managed under a rest-rotation system. The other allotment is grazed with horses under a season-long grazing system. There are 200 acres of capable cattle rangeland in this roadless area.

Minerals: There are 263 mining claims in the area. The area is estimated to have a high level of mineral development interest. This roadless area contains 5,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state lands within the roadless area, and no special uses.

Roads and Trails: There is one non-motorized trail of an estimated 2.5 miles.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as moderate based upon the topography and report of historic sites. The area has had few surveys conducted within it.

Disturbances: There have been no major disturbances in the area recently.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Black Lake Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	5,300	5,200	5,200
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	100	100
Total Acres	**5,300**	**5,300**	**5,300**

Breadwinner #006

20,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Breadwinner Roadless Area is located on the Idaho City and Mountain Home Ranger Districts, and extends between Badger Creek recreation site and Alexander Flats along the Middle Fork Boise River and between Troutdale and Barber Flat on the North Fork Boise River. The Breadwinner area can also be accessed by the Cottonwood Creek (189), Haga Creek (130), and Short Creek (168) Trails.

Elevations in this roadless area, which is underlain by granitics of the Idaho Batholithic, range from 3,100 to 6,000 feet. Slopes are steep and dissected by small streams; about one-third of the area has slopes over 60 percent. Hot dry summers and shallow granitic soils support open brush-grass communities scattered with stands of ponderosa pine. Stands of Douglas-fir occur on northern slopes and are broken by open non-forested areas. Overall, the Breadwinner area has rolling dry slopes, forested peaks, and V-shaped canyons and gullies. The North Fork Boise River Canyon, from Troutdale to Rabbit Creek, provides good opportunities for river floating.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Although the natural integrity of this area has been affected by early placer mining, evidence of these past activities is very limited. The natural appearance is relatively intact. There is a short segment (0.17 mile) of forest road just within the roadless area boundary.

Opportunities for Experience: The 7-mile float trip down the North Fork Boise River from Rabbit Creek to Troutdale provides the best opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, and challenging experience in this roadless area. This section of the river is rugged and isolated. Opportunities for the float trip are restricted to certain times of the year when river flows are adequate.

Special Features: The 900-acre North Fork Boise River Research Natural Area is contained within the Breadwinner Roadless Area. The Breadwinner Roadless Area contains an eight-mile stretch of the North Fork Boise River just prior to its confluence with the Middle Fork. The confluence of the Middle and North Fork Boise River occurs within the roadless area. A segment of the Middle Fork Boise River lies adjacent to the southern boundary and a segment of the North Fork Boise River bisects the roadless area. These river segments are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. Within the roadless area there are a total of 9.8 river miles and an estimated 3,000 corridor acres eligible for inclusion within the Wild and Scenic River system.

Manageability: There is a small (about 1,500 acres) portion in the northwestern corner that is effectively isolated from the main body of the roadless area. Redefining the boundaries to exclude this portion would facilitate wilderness manageability. The North Fork and Middle Forks of the Boise River would make logical boundaries for much of the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Streams that are located in this area are Logging Gulch, French Creek, Haga Creek, and Meadow Creek. These streams contain redband rainbow trout, brook trout, and bull trout. The North Fork Boise River is important nodal (migration and over-wintering) habitat for bull trout and also contains suckers, whitefish, and sculpins. The North Fork Boise River also provides important wintering habitat for adult redband rainbow trout.

Wildlife: Bald eagles winter along the North and Middle Forks Boise River in this roadless area. The area contains species typical for ponderosa pine up to subalpine fir habitats. The area contains important security area for big game (elk and deer) and for species such as wolverine. Habitat for fisher, northern goshawk, white-headed woodpecker, flammulated owl, great gray owl, and mountain quail exists or is likely to exist in the area. Important winter range for elk and mule deer occurs along the Middle Fork and North Forks Boise River.

Water: The Breadwinner Roadless Area contains a portion of the North Fork Boise River, and the Middle Fork Boise River borders the area to the south. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Rush skeletonweed, a noxious weed, has infested an estimated 200 acres.

Recreation: Recreational use consists primarily of fall big-game hunting, some upland bird hunting, and some spring river floating and river fishing in the Middle and North Fork Boise River. There is some incidental hiking and backpacking in the area.

Timber: The roadless area includes about 77,500 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 155,400 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 8,600 acres (41 percent) are tentatively suited timberland, with 4,000 acres considered to have low productivity; 6,300 acres, moderate productivity; and 1,300 acres, high productivity.

Range: All of the roadless area is within a sheep allotment. There are no grazing improvements within the roadless area. There are 2,400 acres of capable sheep rangelands.

Minerals: There are currently 98 mining claims within the area. This roadless area contains 20,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state lands within the roadless area. One outfitter-guide provides cougar and bear hunting opportunities.

Roads and Trails: There are three trails in the area, including two motorized trails totaling about 5.7 miles and 1.5 miles of non-motorized trail.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. There are Civilian Conservation Corps structures, mining, and prehistoric sites documented along the Middle Fork Boise River.

Disturbances: There have been 13 recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences since 1960. An estimated 700 acres have burned by wildfire since then.

ALTERNATIVES DESIGNATIONS

Breadwinner Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	20,500	16,600	16,600
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	3,900	3,900
Total Acres	20,500	20,500	20,500

Burnt Log #035

23,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Burnt Log Roadless Area, on the Cascade Ranger District, lies about one mile north of Landmark. The area is accessed by the Horn Creek and Burnt Log Roads (Forest Roads 414 and 447), via the Warm Lake-Stanley Road (Forest Road 579). The area is also accessed by the McClure (089), Burnt Log (123), and Pistol Creek (087) Trails. The area has a very irregular shape, with long fingers and a narrow section adjoining the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness.

Elevations range from about 5,400 feet at the mouth of Burnt Log Creek to about 9,000 feet near Chilcoot Peak. In the lower portion of the Burnt Log Creek drainage, flat to gently rolling terrain drops off steeply into Johnson Creek. The area is dominated by lodgepole pine and subalpine fir, though stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir are found on lower, steep slopes. Overall, the Burnt Log Roadless Area is marked by flat ridge-tops and deep, steep V-shaped drainages.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and appearance of the Burnt Log Roadless Area is generally intact. There are short segments of three different forest roads within the roadless area, totaling 0.6 mile.

Opportunities for Experience: The area is fairly large, yet the extremely irregular and complex shape limits the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. As a result, many portions of the area are less than one mile wide, while the widest portion is less than 4 miles in width. Opportunities for solitude exist due to the complex and varied terrain, while the convoluted shape restricts opportunities for challenge or primitive recreation. A very narrow segment of the area is contiguous to the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness.

Special Features: About 700 acres of the 1,290 acre Chilcoot Peak Research Natural Area lies within this roadless area. A segment of Burnt Log Creek bisects the roadless area and is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 10.5 miles of the river and 3,100 acres of the river corridor occur within the roadless area. This roadless area also supports a small population of mountain goats. Chilcoot Creek and nearby Chilcoot Lake are areas of special recreational interest.

Manageability: Because of the very complex and irregular boundaries, it would be difficult to define and administer the area as a designated wilderness. More logical and definable boundaries could be drawn, but would result in a large reduction of acreage.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Peanut Creek, a tributary to Burnt Log Creek, supports westslope cutthroat trout. Burnt Log Creek supports westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout populations, and is used as spawning and rearing habitat by listed Chinook and steelhead. The roadless area encompasses portions of other streams in the Johnson Creek drainage that may also provide spawning and/or rearing habitat for listed Chinook, steelhead, bull trout, and cutthroat trout. The entire roadless area is within an area designated as critical habitat for spring/summer Chinook salmon. An estimated 15.7 miles of stream are bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Confirmed gray wolf activity has occurred in this roadless area, with increasing activity occurring since the augmentation program in the 1990s. Over 70 percent of this roadless area is potential lynx habitat. The roadless area provides relatively undisturbed and remote habitat that is very valuable for species. Fisher, a Region 4 sensitive species also occurs in this roadless area.

Water: There are a few scattered small bodies of water in the area. The area has a number of perennial streams in the Burnt Log Creek drainage that flow northwesterly to Johnson Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish, wildlife and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There has been few plant surveys conducted in the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Timber: The roadless area has 187,400 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 369,000 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 21,300 acres (90 percent) of the Burnt Log Roadless Area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 14,200 acres are considered to have low productivity and 8,800 acres are considered moderate productivity.

Range: A portion of one allotment encompasses about 80 percent of the roadless area. It is grazed by cattle and managed under a rest-rotation system. There are approximately 1,000 acres of capable cattle rangeland in the roadless area. The portion of the allotment within the roadless area receives moderate use and contains fences used for stock management.

Minerals: There are no mining claims in the area and the area is not considered a potential mineral development area. A portion of the roadless area is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel. This roadless area contains 23,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There is no private or state land within the roadless area. There is one outfitter-guide permit for big-game hunting and horse trail riding.

Roads and Trails: There are five trails within the roadless area, of which about 12 miles are motorized and 7.2 miles are non-motorized.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as moderate. Historic mining sites, Thunder Mountain Road, and prehistoric sites have been identified adjacent the area.

Disturbances: There have been six recorded wildfire ignitions or events since 1960 in the area, burning an estimated 1,900 acres.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Burnt Log Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	23,700	19,900	19,900
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	3,800	3,800
Total Acres	**23,700**	**23,700**	**23,700**

Cathedral Rocks #038

8,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

In the previous Forest Plan, the Cathedral Rocks Roadless Area was as considered part of the larger Danskin Roadless Area. The area was and continues to be effectively segregated from the larger Danskin Roadless Area by Forest Road 165. Accordingly, the area has been made a separate, independent roadless area.

The Cathedral Rocks Roadless Area, in the Mountain Home Ranger District, is roughly bounded by the forest boundary on the south, and the South Fork Boise River on the north and east. This area lies about 35 miles east of Boise, and is accessed by Forest Roads 134 and 113 leading from State Highway 20.

Elevations range from 3,200 to 7,000 feet. The topography includes rolling to very steep hills, broadening into benches and valleys. Brush and grass communities, with scattered stands of ponderosa pine, dominate this area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: A primitive road network winds through the area. The northern portion retains its predominant natural appearance, while the southern portion is crossed by a number of primitive roads. There is a number of grazing developments in the form of water troughs or other water developments that detract from the natural appearance.

Opportunities for Experience: There are few opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation due to the relatively small size and the generally open terrain. The central portion narrows to about a mile in width.

Special Features: A segment of the South Fork Boise River lies adjacent to the eastern boundary and is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 1.5 miles of the river and 500 acres of the river corridor occur within the roadless area. Cathedral Rocks are a unique geological formation of special interest.

Manageability: The existing network of primitive roads could result in manageability problems with a wilderness designation. Much of the current boundaries occur along private/federal landlines.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Streams that are located in this area are Bock Creek, Menecke Creek, and Cayuse Creek. These streams are small with high gradients, but may provide some fish habitat during the spring and early summer. Usually, the flows decrease in late summer and fall to where the streams are too small to support a fish population. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area occurs within the range of the gray wolf, although there is no known denning or rendezvous activity reported in the area. Habitat for wintering bald eagles occurs within the area. There is a historical nest site for peregrine falcon in the Cathedral Rocks area, but there has been no recorded nesting in the last 25 years. Only minor potential habitat occurs for northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, and flammulated owl, due to past fires eliminating much of the nesting habitat. Potential habitat occurs for spotted bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, and the spotted frog. Historical habitat occurs for mountain quail. The roadless area provides security for big game and contains big-game winter range.

Water: A few perennial streams flow northeasterly to the South Fork Boise River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Leafy spurge, a noxious weed, has infested an estimated 26 acres.

Recreation: There are few recreational activities occurring in the area.

Timber: The roadless area contains 4,100 thousand board of standing timber volume, equivalent to 7,900 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 900 acres (11 percent) of the Cathedral Rocks roadless area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 100 acres are considered to have low productivity; 900 acres, moderate productivity; and 100 acres, high productivity.

Range: Portions of two cattle allotments cover the entire area. One is managed under a rest rotation system, and both have improvements such as water developments and fences within the roadless area. There are approximately 2,000 acres of capable cattle rangeland in the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 7,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are few mining claims in the area. This roadless area contains 8,200 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state lands within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are no inventoried trails in the area.

Heritage: This area has had little previous survey; however, based upon the topography and sites found in the adjacent roaded areas, this roadless area appears to have moderate site sensitivity.

Disturbances: There have been 19 recorded wildfire occurrences or ignitions since 1960. Most of the acreage burned (8,000 acres) with the 1992 Foothills fire.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Cathedral Rocks Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	7,700	7,700
Backcountry	8,200	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	500	500
Total Acres	**8,200**	**8,200**	**8,200**

Cow Creek #028

14,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Cow Creek Roadless Area lies south and west of Arrowrock Reservoir, north of the Wood Creek Road, and east of the Grouse Creek Road. The northern boundary adjoins the Arrowrock Reservoir. The area is accessed from the Wood Creek Road and Grouse Creek Trail, via the Upper Black's Creek Road off Interstate 84. No trail access is present.

Elevations range from about 3,200 feet along the Middle Fork Boise River to about 5,000 feet. The area is underlain by Cretaceous granitics of the Idaho Batholith. Moderately steep lands with rounded ridge tops are strongly dissected and covered with open brush-grass communities. Overall, the area is marked by steep to rolling dry hills, broken by V-shaped canyons. No prominent features are present.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and apparent naturalness of the Cow Creek area is generally intact. There are approximately 50 stock tanks consisting of heavy equipment tires, scattered through the area that detract from the natural appearance. There are two segments of forest roads within the roadless area that total 3.76 miles. These roads penetrate to the interior of the roadless area.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are affected by the lack of cover and views of adjacent development. A sense of solitude would be difficult to achieve from points where motorized use on Arrowrock Reservoir is readily observable.

Special Features: There are no identified special features.

Manageability: The area has some irregular boundaries that could be difficult toad minister. Offsets from high water elevations of the reservoir could form fairly logical boundaries along most of the northern and eastern sides.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Streams of this area are Grouse, Cow, and Deadman Creeks. These streams are short and steep with intermittent flows. Grouse Creek is the largest stream and may have some redband rainbow trout in the lower reach. The fishery value of these streams is limited due to their small size. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area occurs within the range of the gray wolf although there is no known denning or rendezvous activity reported in the area. Bald eagles occur in this roadless area and there is an active eagle nest. Minor potential habitat occurs for northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, and white-headed woodpecker due to past fires eliminating nesting habitat. Potential habitat occurs for spotted bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, and spotted frog. Historical habitat occurs for mountain quail. The roadless area provides security for big game and contains big-game winter range.

Water: Perennials flow north and east to Arrowrock Reservoir and south to Wood Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest. An estimated 940 acres are within a municipal watershed of United Water Idaho.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Rush skeletonweed has infested an estimated 2 acres of the roadless area.

Recreation: Day hikers and fishermen accessing the South Fork Boise River use the area.

Timber: The roadless area contains 10,500 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 20,800 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 1000 acres (7 percent) of the Cow Creek Roadless Area contains tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 800 acres are considered to have low productivity; 900 acres, moderate productivity; and 10 acres, high productivity.

Range: All of the area is within one sheep allotment managed under a rest rotation system. There is an intensive amount of water developments and some fencing. There are approximately 2,000 acres of capable cattle rangeland in the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 5,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals: A small portion of the southwest corner of the roadless area has been identified as a low potential mineral development area. There are over 100 scattered mining claims in the southern portion of the roadless area. The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel. This roadless area contains 14,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state lands within the roadless area. One outfitter-guide provides cougar and bear hunting opportunities.

Roads and Trails: There are no inventoried system trails in the area.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. Surveys in adjoining and overlapping areas, in similar topographic situations, indicate the area likely has a low site density.

Disturbances: There have been 11 recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. A total of 14,600 acres have burned in wildfires, with most of this attributed to the 1992 Foothills fire.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Cow Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	14,700	14,700
Backcountry	14,700	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**14,700**	**14,700**	**14,700**

Danskin #002

30,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Danskin Roadless Area, in the Mountain Home Ranger District, is roughly bounded by the forest boundary to the west, and the South Fork Boise River to the north and east. This area lies about 35 miles east of Boise, and is accessed by the Upper Black's Creek Road from Interstate 84. The area may also be accessed with off-highway vehicles throughout the Willow Creek area.

Elevations range from 3,200 to 7,000 feet. The topography includes rolling to very steep hills, broadening into benches and valleys. Brush and grass communities, with scattered stands of ponderosa pine, dominate this area. Overall, this area is marked by well-dissected rolling and steep hills, broke by v-shaped valleys. Danskin Peak (6,694 feet) lies west of the roadless area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and appearance of this area has been altered in many locations by an extensive network of all-terrain vehicle and motorcycle trails. There are 3.17 miles of forest roads within the roadless area. There are numerous scattered water troughs to facilitate grazing that also detract from the natural appearance.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude are provided due to the large area and the complex broken terrain formed by the numerous drainages and streams flowing to the South Fork Boise River. The lack of vegetative screening on many of the arid slopes and upper elevations limits the available solitude. Currently motorized use on the popular off-road trail system interrupts the available solitude in much of the area. The large land area does provide opportunities for primitive recreation, while the harsh, arid summer climate challenges cross-country trekkers. The southeastern portion is almost effectively segregated by land ownership in holdings and adds little to the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation found in the rest of the area.

Special Features: The 600-acre Raspberry Gulch Research Natural Area occurs in the southeastern portion of the roadless area. A segment of the South Fork Boise River lies adjacent to the eastern boundary and is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 7.4 river miles and 1,900 corridor acres are within the roadless area. Approximately 300 acres of the Research Natural Area is within the river corridor.

Manageability: Due to the current and historical motorized use, management as designated wilderness with the accompanying motorized use restrictions could be unpopular with motorized user groups. A logical boundary adjustment to accommodate a wilderness designation would be the deletion of the southeastern portion (about 5,000 acres) that is effectively isolated by landownership exclusions. This portion also contains totally enclosed private parcels and primitive access roads that would add to the management difficulty.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The main stream in this roadless area is Willow Creek, with tributaries of Beaver, Horse, and Packsaddle Creeks. Virtually all of the tributaries of Willow Creek are quite small with stream flows that are marginal for supporting fish life. Some of the small streams on the eastern side of this area may be providing spawning habitat for fish inhabiting the South Fork Boise River. Willow Creek contains a moderate-sized population of redband rainbow trout, but most of the tributaries are too small and intermittent to sustain fish populations. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area occurs within the range of the gray wolf, although there is no known denning or rendezvous activity in the area. Wintering bald eagle habitat occurs within the area. Only minor potential habitat occurs for northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, pileated woodpecker, and white-headed woodpecker due to past fires that have eliminated much of the nesting habitat. Potential habitat occurs for spotted bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, and spotted frog. Historical

habitat occurs for the mountain quail. The roadless area provides security for big game, and the area contains a considerable amount of big-game winter range.

Water: Willow Creek and associated streams drain the central portion of the area. Along the eastern boundary, perennial streams flow to the South Fork Boise River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Scotch thistle, a noxious weed, has infested an estimated 3 acres.

Recreation: The Danskin Mountains Trail Management Area occupies a large portion of this roadless area. The use is mainly motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle, although non-motorized uses are also gaining in popularity. There are hiking and horseback riding activities in the area. The area is a popular fall big-game hunting area; it also receives some upland bird hunting.

Timber: The roadless area contains 22,800 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 43,800 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 2,300 acres (8 percent) of the Danskin Roadless Area contains tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 1,100 acres are considered to have low productivity; 2,300acres, moderate productivity; and 50 acres, high productivity.

Range: The Danskin Roadless Area contains portions of four active cattle allotments. All utilize a rest rotation system and have water developments and fences. There are approximately 6,100 acres of capable cattle rangeland in the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 19,300 acres of WUI.

Minerals: Minerals present within the area include molybdenum, gold, silver, copper, lead, nitrate, asbestos, beryllium, and small amounts of uranium. The potential to develop these minerals is low to moderate. There are hundreds of mining claims located mainly in the western portion of the roadless area, which is a low potential mineral development area. This roadless area contains 30,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are three parcels of private land ownership totaling about 320 acres within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area is noted for its extensive network of all-terrain vehicle and motorcycle trails. There are 59 trails with a total of 114 miles in the area. All are motorized trails.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. Prehistoric isolates and historic habitations have been documented within the area.

Disturbances: There have been 23 recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. A total of 30,200 acres have burned in wildfires, with most of this attributed to the 1992 Foothills fire.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Danskin Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	28,500	28,500
Backcountry	30,700	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	2,200	2,200
Total Acres	**30,700**	**30,700**	**30,700**

Deadwood #020

52,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Deadwood Roadless Area, on the Lowman and Emmett Ranger District, encompasses the Deadwood River drainage from the Deadwood Reservoir to the confluence of the South Fork Payette River. The area is bounded by the Scott Mountain Road (Forest Road 555) on the west and Deadwood Ridge on the east, and is accessed by the Banks-Lowman Highway (Forest Highway 17). The area is also accessed by the Deadwood Ridge (019) and Julie Creek (020) trails.

Elevations range from about 3,800 feet along the South Fork Payette River to 7,066 feet at Deadwood Mountain. This roadless area is underlain by granitics of the Idaho Batholith. Lands at lower elevations are moderately steep and dry, while those at higher elevations are steeper, moister, and more strongly dissected by streams. Steep, rugged canyons enclose the Deadwood River. Sagebrush-grass communities with stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir abound at lower elevations, while dense stands of lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and subalpine fir dominate in higher areas.

Overall, the Deadwood Roadless Area is steep, rugged, and remote. Prominent features include the Deadwood River Canyon, Stevens Point (6,640 feet), Deadwood Mountain, and Deadwood Ridge.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural appearance and integrity of this roadless area is intact. There is some evidence of salvage logging in the southeast portion within the Clear Creek drainage.

Opportunities for Experience: The large land mass and the complex mountainous terrain broken by the numerous drainages flowing to the Deadwood River, and the Deadwood River Canyon provide opportunities for solitude and remoteness. Opportunities for primitive recreation are good, especially along the Deadwood River, and the ruggedness of the canyon provides challenging recreation experiences.

Special Features: The lower portion of the Deadwood River bisects the roadless area. The South Fork Payette River lies adjacent to the southern boundary. These river segments are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. There are an estimated 13.4 river miles and 4,500 river corridor acres within the roadless area. A portion of a Research Natural Area (about 600 acres) is located in this roadless area.

Manageability: Some minor boundary adjustments would be desirable to facilitate identification and management if the area were to be designated wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Streams draining the Deadwood Roadless Area are within the Upper South Fork Payette River bull trout key watershed (State of Idaho 1996). The lower Deadwood River bisects the Deadwood Roadless Area. Lower Deadwood River potentially serves as the only migratory corridor between the isolated populations of bull trout in Scott and Warm Springs Creeks. The Scott Creek population is located within this roadless area. Given the occurrence of a strong migratory population of bull trout in Clear Creek, the lower Deadwood may also provide feeding habitat or a migratory corridor for large migratory bull trout.

Scott, Ninemile, and No Man Creek, and the lower Deadwood River provide spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow trout throughout much of their extent. Many of the other streams within this roadless area--such as Lorenzo, Nellie's Basin, Meadow Camp Creek and several unnamed streams--provide spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow where they join the Deadwood River. All of these streams are too steep to provide fish habitat beyond a few hundred meters from their confluence with the Deadwood River. This roadless area also borders Clear Creek, and many tributaries of Clear Creek originate within this roadless area. Clear Creek is of special note because it contains the only

documented strong migratory population of bull trout within South Fork Payette River drainage. The area contains an estimated 4.1 miles of streams with bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Gray wolves are known to occur within this area. Bald eagles can be found along the lower portion of Deadwood River and along the South Fork Payette River from mid-October to April. Fish from these rivers and carrion found on adjacent ungulate winter ranges are primary sources of food for wintering eagles. In addition, the Deadwood River corridor at the north end of the roadless area may provide a source of food for breeding bald eagles prior to ice melt at Deadwood Reservoir. Potential habitat for lynx, wolverine, and fisher occurs, however their presence in the area is unknown. Wolverine denning habitat has been identified in the area. An estimated 35 percent of the area contains potential lynx habitat.

The roadless area provides relatively secluded habitat important to these species. Fisher, wolverine, boreal owl, great gray owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, Townsend's bigeared bat, spotted bat, and spotted frog are Region 4 sensitive species that are known to occur or could potentially occur within the roadless area. The area provides summer and fall habitat for elk and mule deer. The roadless area provides security areas for elk and deer during hunting seasons. Lower-elevation slopes along the Deadwood and South Fork Payette Rivers provide wintering areas for elk, deer, and moose.

Water: The Deadwood Roadless Area has a number of perennial streams that flow to the Deadwood River. Along the east boundary a few perennials flow to Clear Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: Idaho bitterroot (*Lewisia kelloggii)*, a Region 4 proposed sensitive plant, occurs in the area. Rush skeletonweed, a noxious weed, has infested an estimated 4,100 acres of the roadless area.

Recreation: The roadless area receives backcountry fall big-game hunting use concentrated mostly in the areas adjacent to trails and roads. Fall hunting is the predominant recreational use. A few trails in the area receive some mountain bike use. Some of the trails, particularly the Deadwood Ridge Trail, are popular hiking trails as well.

Timber: The area includes an estimated 339,700 thousand board feet of standing timber, equivalent to 662,700 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 40,700 acres (78 percent) of the Deadwood Roadless Area are considered tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 16,700 acres have low productivity; 20,600 acres, moderate productivity; and 50 acres, high productivity.

Range: Portions of 3 different allotments cover approximately 50 percent of the roadless area. These allotments are vacant sheep grazing allotments. Deadwood has 4,500 acres of capable sheep rangeland.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 900 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are currently 177 scattered mining claims in the area. The southwestern portion is part of an identified moderate potential mineral development area. The area also has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel. This roadless area contains 52,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There is no other private or state land within the roadless area. There is a television translator and buried power line in the area. One outfitter-guide service provides big game (deer and elk) and bear and cougar hunting trips in the area. Another outfitter-guide provides big game (deer and elk) hunting trips, summer pack trips, and trail rides in the area. There is a permitted seismic monitoring station east of Scott Mountain Lookout.

Roads and Trails: There is a popular network of motorized trails in the area that receives a moderate amount of motorized trail bike and all-terrain vehicle use. There are segments of four motorized trails in the area totaling about 24.5 miles.

Heritage: The area has a low to moderate cultural resource sensitivity based on the topography. There are documented prehistoric, historic, and mining sites in the vicinity.

Disturbances: There have been eight recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. About 800 acres have burned in wildfires. There have been high infestations of Douglas-fir beetle along the southeast side in the Clear Creek drainage.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Deadwood Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	29,100	29,100
Backcountry	52,500	18,300	18,300
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	5,100	5,100
Total Acres	**52,500**	**52,500**	**52,500**

Elk Creek #022

15,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Elk Creek Roadless Area, in the Lowman Ranger District, is bordered by Bear Valley Creek on the east, Elk Creek on the north and Bearskin Creek on the west and south. The roadless area is accessed from the Clear Creek/Bear Valley Creek Road (Forest Road 582) via State Highway 21, and Warm Lake-Stanley Highway (Forest Road 579) via State Highway 55 or State Highway 21. The area is also accessed by Sheep Creek Trail, used by hunters and livestock permittees.

Elevations range from 6,500 feet to 7,700 feet. Steep slopes at lower elevations are vegetated with scattered to dense stands of lodgepole pine. At higher elevations and on northern exposures, subalpine fir dominates. Overall, the Elk Creek Roadless Area is marked by rolling, mountainous terrain dissected by Sheep Trail Creek and Cook Creek. A prominent landmark is Cook Creek Ridge on the northern end of the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and apparent naturalness of this roadless area are relatively intact, since few activities have occurred in this area.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are moderate because of the relatively small size of the area, and the proximity to developed areas; however, the rugged and forested nature of the area tends to counter these limitations.

Special Features: Segments of Elk Creek and Bear Valley Creek lie adjacent or within the northern and eastern roadless area boundaries. These creeks are eligible for designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers. There are an estimated 8.3 river miles and 2,300 corridor acres within the roadless area.

Manageability: The creeks that border the area on the north and to the east make fairly logical and definable boundaries for management. Forest Road 564 makes a deep intrusion into the area from the west, which makes the northern portion a long narrow area generally separated from the main body of the inventoried area. This road has made irregular boundaries that would benefit from adjustments to create a more manageable and definable boundary location if the area were to be designated wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Except for some minor headwater segments, this roadless area contains all of Sheep Trail Creek, which flows into Bear Valley Creek at the roadless area boundary, and all of Cook Creek, which flows into Elk Creek at the roadless area boundary. The northwestern boundary of the roadless area roughly follows the lower 2 miles of Bearskin Creek. The northern boundary roughly follows the lower 5 miles of Elk Creek, almost to its confluence with Bear Valley Creek. The eastern boundary roughly follows 8 miles of Bear Valley Creek, to within a half mile of Elk Creek.

Bear Valley Creek and Elk Creek both serve as spawning and rearing habitat for listed spring/summer Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, although most steelhead spawning is believed to take place further down stream in Bear Valley Creek. Bearskin Creek historically served as Chinook spawning habitat, but because of stream habitat changes, today Bearskin Creek serves only as rearing habitat. The lower ends of other perennial streams may also serve as rearing habitat for both Chinook and steelhead. The entire roadless area has been designated as critical habitat for salmon. An estimated 17.1 miles of streams have salmon and steelhead spawning and rearing habitat.

The portion of Elk Creek adjacent to this roadless area, and the portion of Bear Valley Creek downstream of Cache Creek, serves as nodal or migratory habitat for listed bull trout. Bearskin Creek, the portion of Bear Valley Creek above Cache Creek, Sheep Trail Creek, and Cook Creek serve as adjunct habitat, meaning hat they could provide spawning and rearing habitat. Bull trout have been found in portions of

Sheep Trail Creek and Bearskin Creek, but do not represent population strongholds. There is spawning and rearing habitat for cutthroat trout.

Wildlife: Boreal owl, great gray owl, northern goshawk, and spotted frog are sensitive species that are known to occur or could potentially occur within the roadless area. Gray wolves are known to occur within this area. The complex of wet meadows and adjacent forest cover with high elk use make this area potentially suitable for denning and rendezvous habitat. Potential habitat for wolverine and fisher occurs; however, their presence in the area is unknown. Great gray owls and northern goshawks are known to breed in the roadless area or in similar habitats immediately adjacent to the roadless area.

Water: Perennial streams in the area flow to Elk Creek and Bear Valley Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: There have been few plant surveys conducted in the area. No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Recreation: The roadless area receives typical backcountry fall big-game hunting use, concentrated mostly in the areas adjacent to the Cook Ridge Road. The area receives little other recreational use. There are no recreation trails in the area.

Timber: The roadless area contains an estimated 120,700 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 239,600 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 14,200 acres (95 percent) of the roadless area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 9,600 acres are considered to have low productivity; and about 4,600 acres are considered moderate productivity.

Range: There are no open grazing allotments in the area. There are a number of short drift fences within the area. There are approximately 700 acres of capable cattle rangeland in the roadless area.

Minerals: There are a few scattered mining claims in the area. The area is not an identified potential mineral development area. The roadless area does have some areas considered fair to good for common variety sand and gravel deposits. This roadless area contains 15,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state-owned lands within the roadless area. One outfitter-guide provides bear and cougar hunting trips in the area, while another provides deer and elk hunting trips, summer pack trips, and trail rides.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as moderate. Numerous prehistoric and historic mining sites have been identified adjacent to and within the area.

Disturbances: There have been 14 recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. Approximately 400 acres have burned in wildfires.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Elk Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	15,000	12,700	12,700
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	2,300	2,300
Total Acres	**15,000**	**15,000**	**15,000**

Grand Mountain #007

14,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Grand Mountain Roadless Area, on the Idaho City Ranger District, lies between Barber Flat and Dutch Creek, northeast of Boise. The area is bordered with the Barber Flat Road and the North Fork Boise River on the west and the Swanholm drainage on the east. The area is accessed by the Middle Fork Boise River Road and North Fork Boise River Road from State Highway 21.

Elevations range from about 3,860 feet at Alexander Flats to 7,264 atop Grand Mountain. The Middle Fork Boise River drainage is characterized by shallow to steep granitic stream-cut lands dominated by open stands of brush-grass communities. About 60 percent of the area has slopes greater than 60 percent. Lands drained by the North Fork Boise River are strongly dissected, granitic lands dominated by dense stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. Steep, dry peaks and valleys are the dominant landforms.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Generally, the area retains its natural integrity and natural appearance. There are short segments of three forest roads within the roadless area totaling 0.4 mile.

Opportunities for Experience: There are opportunities for solitude and remoteness. The rugged terrain provides some opportunities for challenging recreation experiences. The opportunities are somewhat limited due to the shape of the area that narrows down to less than a half mile wide in the central portion. This irregular and disjointed shape affects the continuity of the area and limits the sense of remoteness and the available challenge of backcountry travel.

Special Features: A segment of the Middle Fork Boise River lies adjacent to the southern boundary. This river segment is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 700 acres of the river corridor occurs within the roadless area.

Manageability: The area has some fairly irregular and complex boundaries. Manageability as a designated wilderness would benefit from simplified boundaries that could be created with little acreage difference.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Streams located in this area are Beaver, Browns, and Granite Creek. These are relatively small, steep, and rapid-flowing streams that contain moderate-sized populations of redband rainbow trout. They do not contain bull trout. The adjacent Middle Fork Boise River is an important bull trout stream that provides habitat for migration, rearing, and wintering.

Wildlife: The roadless area provides an important security area for big game (deer and elk) and is surrounded by highly roaded areas for the most part. The area forms an important link between unroaded areas to the south and the Sawtooth Wilderness for species such as pine martin and wolverine. There is a minor amount of potential lynx habitat (200 acres). There is identified habitat for fisher, northern goshawk, white-headed woodpecker, flamulated owl, and northern three toed woodpeckers. Winter range for elk and mule deer occurs primarily along the Middle Fork Boise River.

Water: There are a number of perennial streams in the area that flow mostly southerly to the Middle Fork Boise River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Minor amounts (less than 1 acre each) of St. Johnswort and Dalmation toadflax occur in the area.

Recreation: The area has low recreation use. There is some fall big-game hunting and some upland bird hunting in the area.

Timber: The roadless area has an estimated 65,000 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to about 129,500 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 6,900 acres (48 percent) of the roadless area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 5,000 acres are considered to have low productivity; 3,000 acres, moderate productivity; and 1,800 acres, high productivity.

Range: All of the area is within a sheep allotment. There are no grazing improvements within the roadless area. There are approximately 2,400 acres of capable sheep rangeland.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 600 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are 14 mining claims in the Grand Mountain area. There are known geothermal locations along the adjacent Middle Fork Boise River. This roadless area contains 14,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state lands within the roadless area. One outfitter-guide provides cougar and bear hunting opportunities.

Roads and Trails: There are two motorized trails totaling about 5 miles.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. There are Civilian Conservation Corps structures, and mining and prehistoric sites documented in the vicinity.

Disturbances: There have been seven recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. An estimated 1,500 acres have burned in wildfires, with most of this attributed to the 1992 Foothills fire. Past insect and disease activity have affected approximately 90 percent of the roadless area. Most of the conifer vegetation has had some defoliation, and there are scattered pockets of mortality.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Grand Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	14,500	13,800	13,800
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	700	700
Total Acres	**14,500**	**14,500**	**14,500**

Grimes Pass #017

13,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Grimes Pass Roadless Area, in the Emmett Ranger District, extends from the Grimes Pass Road (Forest Road 382) to Rock Creek, south of the South Fork Payette River. The area is accessed from the Banks-Lowman Highway (Forest Road 17) via State Highway 55 and the Grimes Creek Road via State Highway 21. The Grimes Pass Roadless Area is underlain by Cretaceous granitics of the Idaho Batholith.

Elevations range from about 3,500 feet to 7,000 feet. Strongly dissected fluvial lands are vegetated with moderate to dense stands of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine. Overall, the Grimes Pass Roadless Area has steep slopes and deep ravines. Dense timber stands of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine are interspersed with brushy areas and rock outcrops.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and appearance of this roadless area have been somewhat affected by scattered evidence of old mining roads and old diggings. There are segments of five different forest roads within the roadless area totaling 2.1 miles.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, and challenging experiences are somewhat limited because of this area's narrow and irregular shape, which confines use. The steep and rugged terrain provides considerable challenge to cross country foot travel and the broken terrain allows for seclusion and solitude.

Special Features: A segment of the South Fork Payette River lies adjacent and within the northern boundary. This river segment is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 6.5 river miles and 2,000 eligible corridor acres occur within the roadless area.

Manageability: The Grimes Pass area could be more easily managed if the boundary were changed to eliminate that portion west of the Grayback/Bear Creek Ridge. However, the size and shape of the area are not well suited for wilderness management.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This roadless area contains a portion of the South Fork Payette River from Rock Creek, downstream to Sweet Creek. This portion of the river does not provide spawning habitat for listed bull trout but is identified as a nodal habitat (migrational and over-winter rearing). This portion of the river also provides a migration corridor that bull trout use to access spawning and rearing habitat outside the Grimes Pass Roadless Area. The South Fork Payette River within the Grimes Pass Roadless Area provides rearing habitat for redband rainbow trout.

This roadless area also includes several tributaries to the South Fork Payette River that flow in from the south. These tributaries have not been surveyed due to lack of access and because the natural channel morphology of these tributaries is steep, high gradient, and cascading. Therefore, it is not likely that these tributaries provide habitat for bull trout due to elevation, drainage size, and access limitations. Some of these tributaries most likely contain spawning and rearing habitat for redband rain bow trout.

Wildlife: Gray wolves may occur within this area. Bald eagles winter along the South Fork Payette River. Fish from the river and carrion found on ungulate winter range provide the primary sources of food. Potential habitat for lynx, wolverine, and fisher occurs; however, their presence in the area is unknown. An estimated 13 percent if the area is potential lynx habitat. The roadless area provides relatively secluded habitat important to these species. Boreal owl, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, white headed woodpecker, three-toed woodpecker, and spotted frog are sensitive species that are known to occur or could potentially occur within the roadless area. The area provides summer and fall habitat for elk and mule deer. Most of the area provides important winter range, with the lower elevation and south

aspects in Rock Creek receiving the most use. The roadless area provides security areas for elk and deer during hunting seasons.

Water: The Grimes Pass Roadless Area has a number of perennial streams that flow northerly to the South Fork Payette River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest. This roadless area contains 1,600 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Rush skeletonweed has infested an estimated 14 acres of the roadless area.

Recreation: The roadless area receives backcountry fall big-game hunting use that is concentrated mostly in the areas adjacent to trails and roads, but the area receives little other recreational use. There are no recreation trails in the area.

Timber: The roadless area includes an estimated 112,800 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 218,000 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 10,800 acres (81 percent) of the roadless area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 2,500 acres have low timber productivity; 8,200 acres, moderate productivity; and 1,200 acres, high productivity

Range: There are no open allotments or capable grazing lands within the roadless area. There are 300 acres of capable sheep rangeland in this roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 4,100 acres of WUI.

Minerals: The Pine Creek Camp and AMAX molybdenum prospects are located in this area. There are known geothermal sites along the adjacent South Fork Payette River. Most of the roadless area is identified as an area of potential mineral development. There are over 600 mining claims in the roadless area. This roadless area contains 13,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state-owned lands in the area. One outfitter-guide service provide cougar and bear hunting trips in the area, four river outfitting companies provide river trips on the South Fork Payette, and one river outfitter has an assigned camp site just within the roadless boundary. There is a special use permit for an Idaho Power transmission line at a short segment along the roadless boundary.

Heritage: There is a high probability that historic cultural resources can be found in this roadless area because mining has occurred since the late 1800s. The area is included in the Boise Historic Mining District. Homesteads, mining, and prehistoric sites have been recorded in the vicinity.

Disturbances: There are high incidences of Douglas-fir mistletoe on the north slopes facing the South Fork Payette River.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Grimes Pass Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	13,300	9,600	9,600
GFRG	0	1,700	1,700
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	2,000	2,000
Total Acres	**13,300**	**13,300**	**13,300**

Hawley Mountain #018

7,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Hawley Mountain Roadless Area, in the Idaho City and Emmett Ranger Districts, lies between the Quartzburg exclusion and the forest boundary. This roadless area is accessed from the Jerusalem area off State Highway 55. No trail access is present.

Elevations range from 4,400 feet to 7,301 feet atop Hawley Mountain. Some strongly dissected granitic fluvial lands are vegetated with moderate to dense stands of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine, while other lands include brush-grass communities interspersed with scattered stands of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine. Much of the area was burned during a wildfire in the 1960s and is currently vegetated with dense brush, young ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. Overall, this area is marked by large areas of heavy brush, with smaller areas of heavy Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and grand fir. Hawley Mountain is the area's most prominent landmark.

The Hawley Mountain fire Lookout is staffed through a cooperative agreement with the State of Idaho. The lookout and access road has been excluded from the roadless area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and apparent naturalness of the Hawley Mountain area have been affected in some areas by past fire control activities such as constructed fire lines and segments of primitive roads. There are segments of three forest roads within the roadless area totaling 1.58 miles. These roads extend into the central portion of the roadless area.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, and challenging experiences are limited somewhat by the relatively small size of the area. The rugged terrain and remote location of the area does provide for a degree of solitude and remoteness. The narrowness of the area (most of the area is less than 2 miles in width) tends to confine and limit use.

Special Features: No special features have been identified in this area.

Manageability: Some minor boundary adjustments would facilitate management as a designated wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This roadless area contains portions of headwater tributaries of the South Fork Payette River (Charters Creek and Coski Creek) and Alder Creek (Schilling, McKinzie, Longs, Bunches, and West Fork Creeks). The only surveyed stream within this roadless area is West Fork Creek, a headwater tributary to Alder Creek. Redband rainbow trout have been found within West Fork Creek and could potentially occur within Bunches, Longs, and Shilling Creeks within this roadless area. Coski and Charters Creeks within this roadless area have not been surveyed; potential fish presence is questionable since these are headwater tributaries of small streams. It is not likely that any of these tributaries within the roadless area provide habitat for bull trout due to drainage size and access limitations. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Suitable habitat for federally listed endangered species is limited within this roadless area. Species such as the gray wolf and lynx may occur within the roadless area; however, occurrence of these species is probably related to dispersing individuals. There is no identified lynx habitat in the roadless area. Bald eagle and peregrine falcon habitat does not exist within the area. Habitat for Region 4 sensitive species such of white headed woodpecker, great gray owl, northern goshawk, flamulated owl, and northern three-toed woodpecker is identified in the area. The area provides some elk and deer winter range. Habitat for pileated woodpecker nesting exists in the northern and southern portion of this area.

Water: The area has perennial streams that flow easterly to Alder Creek and southeasterly to Granite Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest. This roadless area contains 900 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. A minor amount of Rush skeletonweed occurs in the area (less than 1 acre).

Recreation: The area receives moderate use during the fall big-game hunting season, but there is little other recreational use.

Timber: The area has an estimated 33,400 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 68,300 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 6,400 acres (83 percent) of the Hawley Mountain Roadless Area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 1,900 acres have low productivity; 3,600 acres, moderate productivity; and 1,100 acres, high productivity.

Range: There are portions of two active cattle allotments covering approximately 75 percent of the area. The area has about 400 acres of capable cattle rangeland in this roadless area and 50 acres of capable sheep rangeland.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 4,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals: The general area around Hawley Mountain Roadless Area includes some of the first mineral developments in the Boise Basin. There are currently 27 scattered mining claims in the area. The roadless area is not identified as a potential mineral development area. This roadless area contains 7,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There is no private or state land within the roadless area. One outfitter-guide service provides cougar and bear hunting trips in the area.

Roads and Trails: There are no trails in the area.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. Surveys in the adjoining and overlapping areas, in similar topographic situations, indicate the area has a low site density.

Disturbances: There have been two recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. Approximately 3,600 acres have burned in wildfires, with most of this attributed to the 1966 Charter Mountains fire.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Hawley Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	7,700	7,700
Backcountry	7,700	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**7,700**	**7,700**	**7,700**

House Mountain #001

25,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The House Mountain Roadless Area, on the Mountain Home Ranger District, lies about 37 miles north of Mountain Home, northeast of Boise. The area is accessed from a two-lane graveled road that parallels the South Fork Boise River on the area's southern boundary. Access is also provided from Forest Road 137, the Smith Prairie Road on the west, and the Castle Creek Road on the east.

Elevations within this area range from 3,200 to 7,700 feet, and most slopes are steep, dry and non-forested. About two-thirds of the area contains slopes over 40 percent. Sagebrush with an understory of forbs predominates on southern slopes, while scattered stands of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine with understories of dense brush or grass prevail on northern slopes. Overall, the area has steep, dry peaks and valleys. House Mountain (elevation 7,700 feet) lies along the roadless area's northern boundary, and Anderson Ranch Reservoir and Dam lie about one mile east of the roadless area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and appearance of the House Mountain area is intact as little evidence of man's activity exists. There are short segments of three different forest roads just within the roadless area boundaries. These segments total 0.6 miles.

Opportunities for Experience: There are moderate opportunities provided for solitude or remoteness. The lack of vegetative screening limits solitude in some locations. Views to the roads and other activities outside of the area readily occur in many locations. Opportunities for primitive recreation or challenging experiences are enhanced with the rugged terrain of the area.

Special Features: The South Fork Boise River lies adjacent to the southern and southwestern boundary. This river is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation with a recreational classification. An estimated 800 acres of this river corridor occurs within the roadless area.

Manageability: There are some very irregular boundaries in the northern portion that would create some management complexity. Many of the other boundaries are formed by other private or state lands ownership.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This unit has several short, small streams with limited amounts of water that drain into the South Fork Boise River. The main streams in the area are Pierce, Rock, and Elk Creeks. Pierce Creek has a population of redband rainbow trout that is small but self-sustaining at this time. Rock Creek has a population of cutthroat trout that are isolated from the South Fork Boise River by cascades and waterfalls near the mouth of the stream. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area occurs within the range of the gray wolf although there is no known denning or rendezvous activity reported in the area. Wintering bald eagle habitat occurs within the area, and the area contains bald eagle nesting habitat. Minor lynx and wolverine habitat occur in the area. Potential habitat occurs for northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, white-headed woodpecker, pileated woodpecker, spotted bat and Townsend's big-eared bat. Known spotted frog populations occur. Historical habitat for mountain quail occurs. The roadless area provides security for big game and contains big-game winter range primarily in the south and west portions adjacent to the South Fork Boise River.

Water: Numerous perennial streams drain east and southeast to Anderson Ranch Reservoir, while others drain westerly to the South Fork Boise River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Two noxious weeds, leafy spurge, and yellow toadflax, have infested an estimated 10 acres of the roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use is primarily big-game hunting, dispersed camping, and fishing.

Timber: The roadless area contains 65,200 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 135,100 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 10,800 acres (42 percent) of the roadless area contains tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 3,800 acres are considered to have low productivity; 5,500 acres, moderate productivity; and 3,800 acres, high productivity.

Range: There are two sheep allotments that cover about 80 percent of the area, and two cattle allotments that cover the remaining 20 percent of the area. One cattle allotment has a few water developments and fences, and the other has no improvements. There are approximately 2,300 acres of capable cattle rangeland and 3,500 acres of capable sheep rangeland in this roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 5,600 acres of WUI.

Minerals: The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel. There has been no mining activity in the past. There are currently 75 scattered mining claims in the area. This roadless area contains 25,600 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: No private or state land occurs within the roadless area. There are two outfitter-guide permittees that operate in the area; one is permitted for cougar and bear hunting, and the other for bear hunting only.

Roads and Trails: There are 4.7 miles of motorized trails in the area.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. Surveys in adjoining and overlapping area, in similar topographic situations, indicate the area likely has a low site density.

Disturbances: There have been no areas burned by wildfire since 1960. Douglas-fir bark beetle populations continue to be active at above endemic levels and are most pronounced where defoliation occurred by the Douglas-fir tussock moth in the early 1990s. Evidence of western pine and spruce beetle activity exists mainly east of House Mountain.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

House Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	24,800	24,800
Backcountry	25,600	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	800	800
Total Acres	**25,600**	**25,600**	**25,600**

Lost Man Creek #041

12,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Lost Man Creek Roadless Area is a recently delineated roadless area that was identified during a 1999 roadless area inventory update for the Forest Plan Revision. The Lost Man Creek Roadless Area, in the Mountain Home and Idaho City Ranger Districts, lies about 12 miles west of Atlanta, northeast of Boise. The area is bordered by the Middle Fork Boise River to the north, Roaring River to the west, and Phifer Creek to the east. The area is accessed from the Middle Fork Boise River Road from State Highway 21.

Elevations range from 4,200 feet along the Boise River to 7,600 feet in the southeast corner. The area has complex drainage patterns formed by drainages to the north, west, and east. Primary streams in the interior of the area are Lost Man Creek and Deadman Creek. Lands drained by the Middle Fork Boise River are strongly dissected, granitic lands dominated by dense stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir.

Overall the area is characterized by steep rugged terrain, with complex drainage patterns eventually leading to the Middle Fork Boise River. The terrain is generally forested and dominated with stands of mixed conifer, ponderosa pine, and Douglas-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Generally, the area retains its natural integrity and natural appearance.

Opportunities for Experience: There are opportunities for solitude and remoteness. The rugged terrain provides numerous opportunities for challenging recreation experiences. The size of the area provides ample opportunities for solitude, and the complex terrain and vegetative screening provide opportunities for isolation and visual screening.

Special Features: A segment of the Middle Fork Boise River lies adjacent to the northern boundary. This river segment is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 4.3 miles of the river and 700 acres of the river corridor occur within the roadless area.

Manageability: The area has fairly logical boundaries along the north, east, and west formed by roads paralleling river drainages. The southern portion of the area has some irregular boundaries formed by past timber harvest areas and timber access roads. Manageability as a designated wilderness would benefit from simplified boundaries in the southern portion of the unit.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Streams located in this area are Lost Man Creek, Buck Creek, Phifer Creek, and Roaring River. All these streams are tributaries to the Middle Fork Boise River. Both occupied (focal) and unoccupied (adjunct) bull trout spawning and rearing habitat are present in the area. In addition to bull trout, redband/rainbow trout, and sculpin are present. The Middle Fork Boise River is important nodal (migration and over-wintering) habitat for bull trout, over-wintering habitat for adult redband/rainbow trout, and habitat for sculpin, whitefish, and suckers.

Wildlife: The area provides potential habitat for a number of sensitive wildlife species. Sensitive species likely to be found include mountain quail, northern goshawk, spotted frog, flammulated owl, and white-headed woodpecker. Wolverines have been sited wandering in the Trinity area, and these sightings have been confirmed with radio-collared wolverines. It is likely wolverines pass through this roadless area to get to the Trinities. Potential three-toed woodpecker habitat occurs in the roadless area. There have been fisher sightings along the Middle Fork Boise River. It is likely that the area provides foraging habitat for the Townsend big-eared and spotted bats. In general the area provides potential habitat for most or all current Region 4 sensitive species that occur on the Boise National Forest. At this time, there is no known

wolf pack activity occurring in the area. Lynx habitat occurs in the southeastern and central portions of the area, equating to approximately 18 percent of the roadless area.

Water: There are a number of perennial streams in the area that flow mostly northerly to the Middle Fork Boise River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There are some minor amounts (0.04 acre) of rush skeletonweed, a noxious weed, identified in the area.

Recreation: Recreation use is low in the area. There is some fall big-game hunting and some upland bird hunting in the area.

Timber: An estimated 8,000 acres (63 percent) of the roadless area are tentatively suited timberlands. The roadless area has 81,400thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 161,000 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 5,400 acres in the area are considered to have low productivity; 3,000 acres, moderate productivity; and 1,900 acres, high productivity.

Range: All of the area is within a sheep allotment. There are no grazing improvements within the roadless area. There are approximately 2,600 acres of capable sheep rangeland in the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 100 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are geothermal hot springs along the adjacent Middle Fork Boise River. There are currently 42 scattered mining claims in the area. The area has a small portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel. This roadless area contains 12,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state-owned lands within the roadless area. One outfitter-guide provides cougar and bear hunting opportunities.

Roads and Trails: An estimated 2.6 miles of one motorized trail occur within the area.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. Historical logging and mining sites have been identified in the general vicinity.

Disturbances: Past insect and disease activity have affected the area. Much of the roadless area's conifer vegetation has had some defoliation by Douglas-fir tussock moth, and a pattern of widely scattered tree mortality exists.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Lost Man Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	12,000	12,000
Backcountry	12,700	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	700	700
Total Acres	**12,700**	**12,700**	**12,700**

Mt. Heinen #003

12,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Mt. Heinen Roadless Area, in the Mountain Home Ranger District, is bordered by Arrowrock Reservoir on the south, Cottonwood Creek on the east, and private parcels on the west. This area lies about 20 miles northeast of Boise, and is accessed by the Middle Fork Boise River Road off State Highway 21.

Elevations in the Mt. Heinen area range from 3,200 feet along Arrowrock Reservoir to 6,339 feet at Mt. Heinen. The area is underlain by granitics of the Idaho Batholith, and many slopes are easily eroded. About half the area has slopes of over 40 percent. At lower elevations, sagebrush and bitterbrush with an understory of forbs and cheatgrass predominates, while stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir prevail at higher elevations.

Overall, the area is marked with steep, dry slopes that become more moist and forested at higher elevations. Mt. Heinen lies near the center of the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and appearance of the Mt. Heinen Roadless Area are generally intact, as little human activity has occurred in the roadless area. There are about 7 miles of cleared fire lines radiating north, south, east, and west of Mt. Heinen. There are two segments of primitive road totaling about 1 mile within the roadless area.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are somewhat limited because of the relatively small size of the area and the excluded private parcels that extend into the area.

Special Features: No special features have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Some of the current boundaries follow private property lines. A small portion is effectively segregated by private property along Deer Creek. Manageability as a designated wilderness area would be improved by altering the boundaries to exclude this portion.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Streams of this area are Deer, Cinch, and the upper part of Smith Creek. These are short, small streams with steep gradients and intermittent flows. Grouse Creek is the largest stream and may have some redband rainbow trout in the lower reach on years when flows are adequate.

Wildlife: The area occurs within the range of the gray wolf, although there is no known denning or rendezvous activity reported in the area. Wintering bald eagle and nesting habitat occurs within the area. Minor wolverine habitat occurs in the area. Potential habitat occurs for northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, and white-headed woodpecker. Potential habitat occurs for spotted bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, and spotted frog. Historical habitat occurs for the mountain quail. The roadless area provides security for big game. The southern portion contains important elk and mule deer winter range.

Water: Perennial streams flow south to Arrowrock Reservoir and east to Cottonwood Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest. An estimated 490 acres are within a municipal watershed of United Water Idaho.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Recreation: Most of the recreation use in this area consists of fall big-game hunting and spring turkey hunting. There is some hiking and backpacking occurring in the area, with the top of Mt. Heinen generally being the destination for the views it provides.

Timber: The roadless area has 36,800 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 73,900 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 4,100 acres (32 percent) of the Mt. Heinen Roadless Area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 1,700 acres are considered to have low productivity; 2,900 acres, moderate productivity; and 500 acres, high productivity.

Range: Approximately 75 percent of the area is within an active cattle allotment managed under a restoration system. There are range improvements in the form of fences and water developments. The remaining 25 percent of the area is in a vacant allotment. There are approximately 500 acres of capable cattle grazing land and 600 acres of capable sheep grazing land in the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 5,300 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are 40 mining claims in the area. Near Wood Gulch on the east, the area adjoins patented and unpatented lode mining claims with high gold potential. This roadless area contains 12,800 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There is no private or state land within the roadless area. No special uses are known in the area.

Roads and Trails: There are no recreation trails in the area. There is some illegal motorized use on some of the ridges.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. Surveys in adjoining and overlapping areas, in similar topographic situations, show the area to be characterized by a low site density.

Disturbances: There have been three recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area since 1960. An estimated 4,800 acres have burned in wildfires, with most of this attributed to the 1992 Dunnigan fire. Douglas-fir and Western pine bark beetle activity occurs at low to moderate levels mainly along the perimeter of burned areas.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Mt. Heinen Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	12,800	12,800
Backcountry	12,800	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**12,800**	**12,800**	**12,800**

Nameless Creek #034

2,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Nameless Creek Roadless Area, on the Lowman Ranger District, is a "residual" area not included when the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness was created in 1980. This area adjoins the southwestern portion of the wilderness and is accessed by the Warm Lake-Stanley Road (Forest Road 579) via State Highways 21 or 55. The area is also accessed by the North Fork Elk Creek (005) Trail.

Elevations range from about 6,400 feet along Bear Valley Creek to nearly 8,000 feet. Lands vary from flat, wet grassy meadows with scattered stands of lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce, to moderately steep slopes with moderate to dense stands of lodgepole pine. Overall, the area has rolling to mountainous topography interspersed with large meadows. Prominent features include Nameless Creek and Nameless Meadow.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural appearance and integrity of this area are intact.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude are good. When considered as part of the adjacent Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are plentiful.

Special Features: No special features have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: The northern boundary of the area is adjacent to the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness. Some minor boundary adjustments could make more logical, manageable boundaries if the area were to be designated wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This roadless area contains all of Nameless Creek except the lower two-thirds mile that flows out of the roadless area and enters Elk Creek. Nameless Creek does not provide spawning habitat for listed Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon or Snake River Basin steelhead, but may provide some rearing habitat at its lower end. The entire Bear Valley basin, including this roadless area, has been designated as critical habitat for salmon. Nameless Creek has not been surveyed thoroughly, but has been designated as adjunct habitat, meaning that it could provide spawning and rearing habitat for listed bull trout. This portion of Elk Creek serves as nodal or migratory habitat for bull trout. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon and steel head habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Gray wolves are known to occur within this area, with adjacent habitats within the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness used by wolves for denning and rearing areas. Potential habitat for lynx and wolverine occurs; however, their presence in the area is unknown. The mature forest habitats within the roadless area currently provide important cover and travel areas for these species. About 52 percent of the roadless area has been identified as potential lynx habitat. Great gray owl, northern goshawk, northern three-toed woodpecker, and spotted frog are sensitive species that are known to occur or could potentially occur within the roadless area. Great gray owls and goshawks are known to breed in Bear Valley in habitats similar to those found in this roadless area. Many of these sensitive species occupy mid- to late-seral forested habitats, which have recently burned in this area. The roadless area provides summer and fall habitat for elk and mule deer, and elk calving areas.

Water: The area has a number of streams that flow to Elk Creek including Nameless Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: There has been few plant surveys conducted in the area. No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Recreation: The roadless area receives typical backcountry fall big-game hunting use, concentrated mostly in the areas adjacent to trails and roads. The North Fork Elk Creek area is part of a "Watchable Wildlife Area." The area receives light use as a portal to this wilderness.

Timber: The area has 5,400 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 10,900 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 1,700 acres (75 percent) of the Nameless Roadless Area are considered tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 1,000 acres are considered to have low productivity and 700 acres are considered moderate productivity.

Range: There are no grazing allotments in the roadless area. There are short drift fences in the area. There are 413 acres of capable cattle rangeland in the roadless area.

Minerals: The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel. There are two mining claims in the area. This roadless area contains 2,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state-owned lands within the roadless area. One outfitter-guide provides bear and cougar hunting trips in the area, and another provides deer and elk hunting trips, summer pack trips, and trail rides.

Roads and Trails: There is a 1.2-mile segment of a non-motorized trail in the area, which accesses the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as moderate. Prehistoric sites have been identified adjacent the area. The roadless area has not been surveyed, but it is expected that sites exist within the area.

Disturbances: There has been one recorded wildfire occurrence in the area since 1960. An estimated 2,200 acres burned in the 1987 Deadwood fire.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Nameless Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	2,300	2,300	2,300
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**2,300**	**2,300**	**2,300**

Peace Rock #026

191,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Switchback Roadless Area, identified in the 1990 Boise National Forest Plan, was merged with the Peace Rock Roadless Area, as they shared common boundaries. Peace Rock is the largest roadless area on the Boise National Forest. The roadless area is on the Cascade, Emmett, and Lowman Ranger Districts, between the Middle Fork Payette River and the Deadwood River. Additional stringers of land extend into the headwaters of the South Fork Salmon River. The roadless area is accessed off the Banks-Lowman Highway (Forest Highway 17), the Scott Mountain Road (Forest Road 555), and the Middle Fork Payette River Road (Forest Road 698), via State Highways 55 or 21. The area is also accessed by several trails, including the Switchback, Middle Fork Payette, Rattlesnake, Lightning Ridge, Silver Creek Summit, Peace Creek, and Tranquil Basin Trails.

Elevations range from about 3,600 feet along the Middle Fork Payette River to 8,696 feet at Rice Peak. The dominant landforms are steep, highly dissected slopes with sharp ridge tops and v-shaped drainages. At lower elevations, scattered to dense stands of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine predominate, while in higher areas, moderate to dense stands of subalpine fir and scattered stands of lodgepole pine prevail. Prominent features include Scott Mountain, Peace Rock, Wild Buck Peak, Lightning Creek Rock, Silver Creek Summit, Rice Peak, and several hot springs along the Middle Fork Payette River.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The apparent naturalness and natural integrity of the area have generally been unaffected, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. There are five short forest road segments that are just within the roadless area boundaries totaling 2.28 miles. Most are in the Silver Creek vicinity.

Opportunities for Experience: The area's rugged terrain provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Opportunities are extremely good for high-quality backpacking, remote hiking, and hunting. Opportunities for solitude are plentiful due to the large area, rugged and steep terrain, and numerous drainages.

Special Features: The jagged, rocky knobs of Peace Rock and Silver Creek Summit are notable distinct features. Scattered high-elevation glacial basins are special features that contrast with the dry steep terrain of most of the area. The Long Fork Silver Creek with its steep canyon walls is also a special feature of the area. Rice Peak fire lookout is managed for recreational rental use.

This roadless area contains segments of three different rivers that have been identified as eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers: Middle Fork Payette River, South Fork Payette River, and Deadwood River. The segments total an estimated 5,800 acres and 16.2 river miles within the roadless area. About 1,300 acres of a Research Natural Area are also located within this roadless area.

Manageability: The Peace Rock Roadless Area has some very complex and irregular boundaries in some locations due to cherry stem boundaries caused by excluding roads and associated timber harvest. Some of the boundaries would be difficult to identify on the ground and to administer. Creating more manageable boundaries would result in a reduction of acreage.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Peace Rock Roadless Area contains portions of three major drainages that have important fisheries populations and habitats; Middle Fork Payette River, South Fork Salmon River, and Johnson Creek. This roadless area contains a sizeable portion of the Middle Fork Payette River from Bridge Creek upstream, including the headwaters and various tributaries. This reach of the Middle Fork includes focal, nodal, and adjunct bull trout habitat. This roadless area also contains Bull Creek and Sixteen-to-one Creek, which provide focal habitat and/or adjunct habitat for bull trout. Wet Foot, West Fork, Six-mile, Valley, Peace, Lightning, Silver, and Long Fork Silver are identified as adjunct bull trout habitat. Streams

downstream that have been sampled include Goat, Lake, Dash, Bryan, Bridge, Rattlesnake, Big Bulldog, Lightning, Onion, Lookout, Anderson Creeks, and all contain redband rainbow trout habitat. These tributaries are within state-identified bull trout key watersheds (State of Idaho 1996).

This roadless area also contains a segment of the South Fork Salmon River, including the headwaters. The mainstem South Fork within and adjacent to the roadless area provides spawning and rearing habitat for bull trout as well as westslope cutthroat, and listed Chinook and steelhead. Lodge pole, Mormon, Bear, Rice and Tyndall Creeks, and tributaries to Rice Creek and Yellowjacket Creek, support bull trout populations. Bear Lake has not been surveyed but could support bull trout. Other streams in the South Fork and Johnson Creek drainages may also provide spawning and/or rearing habitat for listed Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout. Portions of the roadless area within the South Fork and Johnson Creek drainages are designated as critical habitat for spring/summer Chinook salmon. There are an estimated 1.7 miles of stream with salmon and steelhead spawning and rearing habitat, and 45.8 miles of stream with bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Fisher, wolverine, boreal owl, great gray owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, and flammulated owl occur within this roadless area. Confirmed gray wolf activity has occurred in this roadless area, with increasing activity occurring since the augmentation program in the 1990s. An estimated 48 percent of the roadless area is potential lynx habitat; however is not known if lynx are present. A small amount (200 acres) of bald eagle wintering habitat occurs in the area. There is very limited elk or mule deer winter range in the area, most of it along the small portion adjacent the South Fork Payette River.

Water: There are some high-elevation lakes in the northern portion of the area. The area has a complex drainage system with streams flowing in every direction to various major watersheds. The area contains a portion of the Middle Fork Payette River with numerous perennial streams flowing to it from the east and west, including Bull Creek. The area also has perennial streams flowing east and west to the South Fork Salmon River, east to the Deadwood River and Reservoir, and perennials flowing south to the South Fork Payette River and Anderson Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest. An estimated 7,830 acres are within a municipal watershed of the Rivers Point Property Owners.

Botanical: Idaho Douglasia (*Douglasia idahoensis*), Giant helleborine *(Epipactis gigantean),* and Swamp willow-weed *(Epilobium palustre),* three sensitive plant species occur in the roadless area. Rush skeletonweed, a noxious weed, has infested an estimated 4,200 acres of the roadless area.

Recreation: The area supports a wide range of backcountry recreation such as hunting, camping, and horseback riding. The area receives fairly high fall big-game hunting use. The Rice Peak Lookout is being developed into a lookout/cabin rental.

Timber: The area has 1,337,900 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, or 2,665,200 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 158,900 acres (83 percent) of the Peace Rock Roadless Area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 64,400 acres are considered to have low productivity; 73,800 acres, moderate productivity; and 30,300 acres, high productivity.

Range: There are portions of five allotments encompassing about 50 percent of the roadless area. One allotment is grazed by cattle and managed under a rest-rotation system. The other four are vacant sheep allotments. There are few range improvements in the area. There are 270 acres of capable cattle grazing land and 20,500 acres of capable sheep grazing land in the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 6,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are geothermal hot springs along the Middle Fork Payette River. There are currently 270 mining claims in the roadless area. A portion of the inactive Abella molybdenum mining operation is located in the southeast corner of the area. The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor

permissive area for silt, sand and gravel. This roadless area contains 191,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There is no private or state land within the roadless area. There is an outfitter-guide permit for horse trail rides. One outfitter-guide service provides cougar and bear hunting trips in the area, while another provides deer and elk hunting trips, summer pack trips, and trail rides in the area.

Roads and Trails: This very large area has an extensive, well-maintained trail system. Most of the trail use is by all-terrain vehicle or motorcycle. There are 35 trails within the roadless area, of which 137.1 miles are motorized and 21.9 miles are non-motorized.

Heritage: The area has high cultural resource sensitivity. There are historic and prehistoric sites identified in the area. The South Fork Payette River corridor, the Wild Buck Trail area, and Tranquil Basin are locations where such sites have been identified.

Disturbances: There have been eight recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. An estimated 8,400 acres have burned in wildfires. Approximately 11,000 acres of low-intensity prescribed fire have occurred in the Bulldog and Rattlesnake Creek drainages. Localized areas of Douglas-fir beetle infestations killed a large percentage of the older Douglas-fir trees in the early 1900s. Evidence of this mortality occurs in scattered locations throughout the roadless area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Peace Rock Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	137,400	137,400
Backcountry	191,700	47,200	47,200
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	7,100	7,100
Total Acres	**191,700**	**191,700**	**191,700**

Poison Creek #042

4,900 Acres Boise
400 Acres Payette
5,300 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Poison Creek Roadless Area is a recently delineated roadless area that was identified during a 1999 roadless area inventory for the Forest Plan Revision. The Poison Creek area lies within the West Mountain range, west of the Cascade Reservoir and northwest of Cascade, Idaho. The area lies within the Cascade Ranger District on the Boise National Forest and the Council Ranger District on the Payette National Forest. The area is accessed via Forest Road 422 along the west side of Cascade Reservoir and by the West Mountain Ridge Road (Forest Road 653). The area is also accessed by the motorized Poison Creek (4196) and Arling (4116) Trails. Generally the area consists of east-facing slopes of the West Mountain Ridge that form a backdrop for Cascade Reservoir.

Elevations range from 5,200 feet along the east boundary to 7,836 feet at Lone Tree Summit. Slopes in the roadless area are generally moist and stream-cut. Moderate to dense mixed conifer stands of grand fir, Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and western larch are found at lower elevations, while subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce and whitebark pine dominate in the higher country. Lodgepole pine is scattered throughout. Typical understory grasses include Idaho fescue, pine grass, elk and Ross sedges. Several shrubs are evident, including mountain maple, ninebark, common and mountain snowberry, blue huckleberry, grouse whortleberry, sagebrush and alder. Overall, the Poison Creek Roadless Area is marked by dense timber at lower elevations, giving way to alpine vegetation, meadows, exposed rock outcroppings, and steep non-forested slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area generally appears primarily affected by the forces of nature, with little evidence of man's imprint. The natural integrity of the area is intact. There are two short segments of unauthorized roads within the perimeter of the roadless area totaling 0.35 mile.

Opportunities for Experience: There are opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation due to the rugged terrain and forested cover over much of the area. The relatively small size diminishes the opportunities for challenge and risk. In some locations of the roadless area, a feeling of solitude or remoteness is diminished by the proximity of Cascade Reservoir, the adjacent rural developments, and the nearby communities of Cascade and Donnelly.

Special Features: The high-elevation Poison Lake is a special water feature. Lone Tree Summit is a notable landmark feature.

Manageability: The ridge road along the west boundary would form a logical boundary as would landownership boundaries along the north, south, and eastern boundaries.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The roadless area contains the headwater portions of Poison Creek, Rock Creek, Duck Creek, Gibson Creek, and three unnamed streams to the south of Duck Creek. These are mostly small, very steep, and rapid-flowing streams that contain small to moderate-sized populations of brook trout and possibly small populations of redband rainbow trout. They contain bull trout but are not in a priority bull trout watershed. No fishery exists in Poison Lake, but an exceptional assortment of aquatic invertebrates and amphibians inhabits the pond.

Wildlife: The ridge top provides an important raptor migration corridor. The area provides habitat for big-game species such as mountain lion, black bear, elk, and mule deer. An estimated 29 percent of the area contains lynx habitat. There also is potential wolverine denning habitat. Pileated woodpecker and boreal owl nesting habitat has been identified in portions of the area. White-headed woodpecker,

flammulated owl, northern goshawk, and northern three-toed woodpecker habitat likely exists in the area.

Bald eagles are known to use the lower portions of this area for perching during the spring and summer months, the area has a very small amount of bald eagle nesting habitat.

Water: Poison Lake is a high-elevation picturesque small water body. Perennial streams flow easterly to Cascade Reservoir, with Poison and Duck Creeks as the dominant drainages. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest. This roadless area contains 3,200 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Recreation: Summer recreation use is low, while fall recreation use increases slightly with big-game hunting seasons. The area is closed to off-road and off-trail motorized travel except for snowmobiles. Most of the snowmobile use occurs on the ridge top and on some of the east facing slopes that are void of trees. The winter snowmobile use is low due to the difficult terrain and the avalanche danger on the open east-facing slopes.

Timber: There is an estimated 25,900 thousand board feet of standing timber within the roadless area, equivalent to 51,300 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 2,500 acres (48 percent) of the roadless area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 800 acres are considered to have low productivity; with 1,300 acres, moderate productivity; and 1,000 acres, high productivity.

Range: There are no grazing allotments in the area. There are approximately 200 acres of capable cattle rangeland in the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 2,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are currently 5 mining claims in the roadless area. This roadless area contains 5,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There is no state or private lands, or authorized special uses in the area.

Roads and Trails: There are two motorized trails within the roadless area totaling 3.5 miles. Trail use is low and generally occurs during the fall big-game hunting season.

Heritage: Although sites have been documented adjacent and within the area, the cultural resource site sensitivity is low.

Disturbances: There have been no major disturbances in the area since 1960.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Poison Creek Management Theme Boise	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	4,900	0
Backcountry	4,900	0	4,900
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**4,900**	**4,900**	**4,900**

Management Theme Payette	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	400	0
Backcountry	400	0	400
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**400**	**400**	**400**

Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	5,300	0
Backcountry	5,300	0	5,300
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**5,300**	**5,300**	**5,300**

Poker Meadows #032

700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Poker Meadows Roadless Area, on the Lowman Ranger District, is a "residual" area not included in the wilderness when the Frank Church - River of No Return was created in 1980. This area adjoins the southwestern portion of the wilderness, and is accessed by the Warm Lake-Stanley Road (Forest Road 22) via State Highways 21 or 55. No trail access is present.

Elevations range from about 6,400 feet along Bear Valley Creek to nearly 8,000 feet. Lands vary from flat, wet grassy meadows with scattered stands of lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce to moderately steep slopes with moderate to dense stands of lodgepole pine. Overall, the Poker Meadows Roadless Area is marked with moderately steep forested slopes with interspersed wet meadows. No prominent landscape features are present.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural appearance and integrity of this area is intact.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude are limited by the area's small size. When considered as part of the adjacent Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are plentiful.

Special Features: This roadless area is adjacent to segments of Elk Creek that are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 2.9 miles of the river and 400 acres of the river corridor occur within the roadless area.

Manageability: The northern boundary of the area is adjacent to the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness. Some minor boundary adjustments could make more logical, manageable boundaries if the area were to be designated wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This roadless area contains the lower two-thirds of an unnamed stream that flows into Bear Valley Creek at the roadless area boundary. This unnamed creek does not provide spawning habitat for listed Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon or Snake River Basin steelhead trout, but may provide rearing habitat at its lower end. The entire Bear Valley basin, including this roadless area, has been designated as critical habitat for salmon. This creek has not been surveyed, but probably does not provide spawning and rearing habitat for listed bull trout. The area contains an estimated 4.4 miles of stream with bull trout spawning and rearing habitat, and 4.6 miles of streams with salmon and steelhead spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Fisher (S) occur in this roadless area. Gray wolves are known to occur within this area. The complex of wet meadows and adjacent forest cover with high elk use make this area potentially suitable for denning and rendezvous habitat, although the proximity to the Warm Lake -Stanley Road may reduce this potential. Potential habitat for wide-ranging lynx and wolverine exists. An estimated 82 percent of the roadless area has identified potential lynx habitat. The mature forest habitats within the roadless area currently provide important cover and travel areas for these species. Great gray owls and goshawks are known to breed in the adjacent Bear Valley in habitats similar to those found in Poker Meadows Roadless Area. Many of the sensitive species occupy mid- to late-seral forested habitats. The importance of these late-successional habitats within this roadless area has increased due to the large fire-created seral areas occurring to the north of the roadless area.

This roadless area is part of a large complex of wet meadows interspersed with dense forest cover. These areas are used by elk for calving and are considered key summer habitat. The roadless area is important for providing security areas for elk and deer during hunting seasons and for maintaining the snag component of forested habitats across large areas.

Water: The area includes parts of Bear Valley Creek and a few associated streams that flow into Bear Valley Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: There have been few plant surveys conducted in the area. No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area.

Recreation: The roadless area receives typical backcountry fall big-game hunting use, and some snowmobile use in the open areas and meadows.

Timber: The area includes 5,600 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 12,500 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 600 acres (89 percent) of the roadless area contain tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 100 acres are considered to have low productivity; 600 acres are considered moderate productivity.

Range: There are no grazing allotments in the area. There are approximately 100 acres of capable cattle rangeland in the area.

Minerals: The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel. There are few mining claims in the area. This roadless area contains 700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state-owned lands within the roadless area. One outfitter-guide provide bear and cougar hunting trips in the area, while another provides deer and elk hunting trips, summer pack trips, and trail rides.

Roads and Trails: There are no recreation trails in the area.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as high. Prehistoric sites have been identified adjacent and within the area.

Disturbances: There have been four recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. Approximately 100 acres have burned in wildfires.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Poker Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	700	300	300
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	400	400
Total Acres	**700**	**700**	**700**

Rainbow #008

31,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Rainbow Roadless Area, in the Mountain Home Ranger District, is located north of Anderson Ranch Reservoir, and south of Trinity Lakes. This area is accessed either by Fall Creek Road north of the reservoir, or Trinity Creek Road northwest of Featherville. The Rainbow Roadless Area is also accessed by the Alpine Lakes (1174), Rainbow Lakes (1175), Bear Hole (1176), and Cross Cut (1172) Trails.

Elevations in the Rainbow Roadless Area range from 6,000 to 9,100 feet. In the northern portion of the area, glaciers have created U-shaped valleys, rocky cirques, and scoured side slopes. Stands of subalpine fir and whitebark pine are scattered among extensive barren areas. Pockets of lodgepole pine occur in the northern portion. In the southern portion, granitic stream-cut lands with moderate to steep slopes are covered with moderate to dense stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. Overall, Rainbow Roadless Area provides a scenic subalpine environment, marked by craggy peaks and cirque basins. Trinity Mountain lies within this roadless area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and appearance of the Rainbow Roadless Area is intact since little evidence of man's activity exists. There are four short segments of forest roads within the perimeter of the roadless area totaling 0.85 mile.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for primitive recreation are good as this area provides challenge and diversity of opportunity, and contains few man-made facilities. Opportunities for solitude are enhanced by complex terrain and forested vegetative cover. Glacial scouring and river dissection of the terrain provides a complex broken terrain that affords ample opportunities for experiencing solitude or remoteness.

Special Features: The numerous high-elevation glacial lakes found in the headwaters of the Rainbow Creek drainage are special features that attract many day hikers and backpackers. About 200 acres of the Trinity Mountain Research Natural Area is contained within the roadless area.

Manageability: The area has some fairly irregular and complex boundaries. Manageability as a designated wilderness would benefit from simplified boundaries that could be created with little acreage difference.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Major streams with headwaters in this area are Fall Creek and Trinity Creek. Smaller streams are Talley, Dog, Green, and Wagontown Creeks. This unit has a diversity of fish species. Bull trout were found in Fall Creek in l994 and are known to have inhabited Trinity Creek in past years (Casey, personal communication, l996). The upper half of Fall Creek and all of the Trinity Creek drainage are bull trout priority watersheds. Redband rainbow trout are located in all the streams with suitable habitat such as Wagontown, Green, Dog, Fall, Bear Wallow, Tally, Parks, and Trinity Creeks. Kokanee salmon spawn in the lower part of Trinity Creek in the fall months but are blocked from using Fall Creek by the large culvert at the crossing of Forest Road 113. An estimated 29.5 miles of streams contain bull trout spawning and rearing habitat. Trinity Lakes and the Rainbow Basin Lakes are very popular waters for hikers and anglers during the summer months. These lakes contain rainbow, cutthroat, and brook trout.

Wildlife: The area occurs within the range of the gray wolf, although there is no known denning or rendezvous activity reported in the area. Wintering and nesting bald eagle habitat occurs within the area. The northern and central portions contain lynx habitat on an estimated 23 percent of the roadless area. Good wolverine and fisher habitat occurs in the area. Potential habitat occurs for northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, and white-headed woodpecker. Potential habitat occurs for spotted bat and Townsend’s big-eared bat. Known populations of spotted frog occur. Potential

habitat occurs for mountain quail. The roadless area provides security for big game and contains big-game winter range.

Water: The Rainbow area contains some of the highly attractive and popular high-elevation lakes around Trinity Mountain Lookout. Perennial streams flow east and southeast to the South Fork Boise River and Anderson Ranch Reservoir. Other perennials flow west and southwest to Fall Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Few plant surveys have been conducted in the area.

Recreation: Recreation activities include backpacking, camping, big-game hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and trail bike riding. There is a concentration of non-motorized trails in the high-elevation Rainbow Lakes areas, with many of the lakes being destination camping or day hiking spots.

Timber: The roadless area has 128,000 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 255,300 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 17,700 acres (56 percent) of the roadless area contains tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 10,700 acres are considered to have low productivity; 6,100 acres, moderate productivity; and 7,300 acres, high productivity.

Range: Approximately 85 percent of the area is within two sheep allotments that have no improvements. Ten percent of the area (around Rainbow Lakes) is not in an allotment. The remaining five percent of the area is within a cattle allotment that has some improvements in the form of fences and water developments. There are approximately 600 acres of capable cattle grazing land and 6,900 acres of capable sheep grazing land.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 8,700 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are few mining claims in the area. The roadless area does contain a small area considered a fair to good area for sand and gravel along the South Fork Boise River. This roadless area contains 31,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There is no private or state land within the roadless area. One outfitter-guide provides cougar and bear hunting opportunities.

Roads and Trails: There are nine non-motorized trails totaling about 6 miles, and five motorized trails totaling an estimated 16.7 miles.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. Surveys in adjoining and overlapping areas, in similar topographic situations, indicate the area likely has a low site density.

Disturbances: Douglas-fir bark beetle populations continue to be active at above endemic levels and are most pronounced where defoliation occurred by the Douglas-fir tussock moth in the early 1990s. A complex of other bark beetle activity exists at various levels throughout the roadless area and adjacent areas. Tree mortality is most pronounced on north aspect Douglas-fir stands and where subalpine fir predominates.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Rainbow Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	31,300	31,300
Backcountry	31,500	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	200	200
Total Acres	**31,500**	**31,500**	**31,500**

Red Mountain #916

110,400 Acres Boise
4,900 Acres Challis
115,300 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Red Mountain Roadless Area, on the Lowman Ranger District, Boise National Forest, and Yankee Fork Ranger District, Challis portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest, lies north and east of Lowman and includes the Eight-mile and Warm Springs Creek drainages of the South Fork Payette River drainage, and the area east of Bear Valley Creek in the Middle Fork Salmon River drainage. The area is accessed from State Highway 21, the Clear Creek Road from Lowman to Bear Valley (Forest Road 582), the Warm Lake Road from Cascade (Forest Road 22), and the Fir Creek Road from Stanley (Forest Road 579). The northeastern part of the area is also accessed by the Bench Creek Trail (024), near Highway 21. The area is also accessed by several trails, including the Wyoming-Fir Creek (015), Clear Creek (145), Warm Springs (147), Link (148), and Kirkham Ridge (144) trails.

Elevations range from about 4,500 feet along the South Fork Payette River to 8,722 feet atop Red Mountain. Lower elevations include steep stream-cut slopes and canyons, while higher elevations are characterized by glacial trough lands and cirques. Vegetation in the South Fork Payette River drainage includes open sagebrush/grass communities, and moderate to dense stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. The Clear Creek and Bear Valley areas are marked by scattered to dense stands of lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and subalpine fir, with scattered stands of Engelmann spruce in the wetter areas.

Overall, the area includes diverse mountainous terrain, ranging from heavily forested slopes to barren and dissected rocky canyons, to high alpine mountain lakes in cirque basins. Prominent features include Red Mountain, Eight-mile Mountain (7,871 feet), and the high-elevation Red Mountain lakes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Generally the area retains its natural appearance and natural integrity. There is one short segment (0.57 mile) of unauthorized road within the perimeter of the roadless area.

Opportunities for Experience: The large area, extensive mountain terrain, and varied vegetative, landform, and water features allow for ample opportunities to experience solitude and primitive or challenging forms of recreation.

Special Features: The high-elevation Red Mountain Lakes are special landscape features. The roadless area lies adjacent to segments of Bear Valley Creek and the South Fork Payette River, which are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. There are an estimated 700 acres of these river corridors within the roadless area. Important habitat for three threatened fish species occurs in this roadless area.

Manageability: Some minor boundary adjustments would be desirable to facilitate identification and management if the area were to be designated wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: All of the streams within the Red Mountain Roadless Area are within either the Bear Valley or upper South Fork Payette River bull trout key watersheds (State of Idaho 1996). The entire Bear Valley basin, including portions of this roadless area, has been designated as critical habitat for salmon.

The main streams within the Bear Valley watershed that are bordered by or fall within this roadless area include Bear Valley, Fir, Cold, Wyoming, Sack, Pole, and Cache Creeks. This roadless area borders Bear Valley Creek, which provides spawning and rearing habitat for listed Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. This section of Bear Valley Creek also contains nodal listed bull trout habitat and provides habitat for redband rainbow and westslope cutthroat trout. The mouth and lower portion of Fir Creek may have historically provided spawning habitat for Chinook and steelhead; however, currently Fir Creek is probably only used by these fish for rearing. Fir Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for

redband rainbow, westslope cutthroat, and bull trout. Cold Creek provides focal bull trout habitat, and redband rainbow have been observed. Wyoming Creek provides focal bull trout habitat and spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow and possibly westslope cutthroat trout. Pole Creek may provide marginal rearing habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead. The same section of stream may also provide very limited spawning and rearing habitat for bull trout, westslope cutthroat, and redband rainbow. The lower 2 miles of Cache Creek may have historically provided spawning habitat for Chinook and steelhead, but currently only serves only as potential rearing habitat. Steelhead may potentially use up to 4 miles for rearing. Cache Creek provide focal and adjunct bull trout habitat. In addition, there are redband rainbow and potential westslope cutthroat trout spawning and rearing habitat. Sack Creek historically may have provided spawning habitat for Chinook and steelhead. Currently about one mile is potentially used by Chinook for rearing, and steelhead may use about 2.5 miles for rearing. A portion of Sack Creek is adjunct bull trout habitat and potentially provides spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow and westslope cutthroat trout. Sack Creek has very high densities of non-native brook trout.

Lost Lake is a small lake within the roadless area that contains bull trout, redband rainbow, and cutthroat trout. East and West Cache Lakes are also located within this roadless area, and both contain strong populations of native redband rainbow trout. These lakes are somewhat unique in that they support native populations of fish that are not augmented with hatchery fish.

The major streams within the upper South Fork Payette key bull trout watershed that border or fall within this roadless area include Clear, Fivemile, Eightmile, Little Tenmile, Casner, Warmspring, and Canyon Creeks. The streams listed above contain an estimated 20 miles of nodal and 29 miles of focal bull trout habitat. Clear Creek originates within this roadless area and is of special note because it contains the only documented strong migratory population of bull trout within the South Fork Payette River. In addition, Clear Creek is listed as a bull trout priority watershed. All of the streams listed above provide spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow trout. Many of the large number of small, unnamed streams that originate within this roadless area provide some spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow trout.

The Red Mountain and Cat Creek cluster of lakes are relatively pristine and can only be accessed by foot, horseback, bike, or, motorcycle. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has planted these lakes with rainbow, westslope cutthroat, rainbow/cutthroat hybrids, and grayling. In addition, a few of the lakes appear to have some remnant populations of native redband rainbow. The roadless area contains an estimated 29.5 miles of streams with bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Gray wolves are known to occur within this area. The complex of wet meadows and adjacent forest cover with high elk use in the north-northwest portion make this area potentially suitable for denning and rendezvous habitat. Potential habitat for lynx, wolverine, and fisher occurs; however, their presence in the area is unknown. Suitable potential denning habitat for wolverine has been identified within the roadless area. Approximately 50 percent of the area is potential lynx habitat, with most of it concentrated in the northern half of the roadless area. Boreal owl, great gray owl, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, white-headed woodpecker, and three-toed woodpecker, and spotted frog are sensitive species known to occur or that could potentially occur in the roadless area.

The area provides summer and fall habitat for elk and mule deer. The northern portion falls within Bear Valley and is used by elk for calving and rearing. The roadless area is important for providing security areas for elk and deer during hunting seasons. There is limited winter range for elk and deer, primarily along the lower elevations adjacent the South Fork Payette River.

Water: The area has a complex drainage system of numerous perennial streams that flow northwest to Bear Valley Creek, west to Clear Creek, and south to the South Fork Payette River. There are a number of small high elevation lakes around the Red Mountain summit. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish wildlife and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: Idaho Douglasia (*Douglasia idahoensis*), Giant helleborine *(Epipactis gigantean),* and Swamp willow-weed *(Epilobium palustre)* sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area. There are minor amounts of spotted knapweed, rush skeletonweed, and Dalmation toadflax (noxious weeds), with less than 1 acre considered occupied or invaded by each.

Recreation: This is a large area and receives a variety of backcountry motorized and non-motorized use mostly on the existing 66-mile trail system. The roadless area receives typical backcountry fall big-game hunting use, concentrated mostly in the areas adjacent to trails and roads. A popular groomed snowmobile route follows the northern boundary, and snowmobile use occurs adjacent this trail in the open forest and open meadow areas. The high-elevation lakes in the northern portion of the roadless area are popular recreation destinations, accessible by a network of trails.

Timber: The roadless area has an estimated 545,000 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 1,075,900 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 74,900 acres (65 percent) of the roadless area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 47,600 acres have low productivity; 35,100 acres, moderate productivity; and 3,300 acres, high productivity.

Range: There are portions of two vacant sheep grazing allotments that occupy approximately 50 percent of the roadless area. There are a few short drift fences in the area. There are approximately 800 acres of capable cattle grazing land and 7,500 acres of capable sheep grazing land.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 6,700 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are currently 590 mining claims in the roadless area. The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel. This roadless area contains 115,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state owned lands within the roadless area. There are three outfitter-guide services that provide big game (deer and elk) hunting trips and summer pack trips in the area. Another outfitter provides cougar and bear hunting trips in the area. An avalanche forecasting station is planned for this area. A domestic water transmission line and a diversion for irrigation and domestic water are permitted water uses in the area.

Roads and Trails: There are 11 trails within the area, of which 59.6 miles are motorized and 6.4 miles are non-motorized.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as low.

Disturbances: The 1992 County Line fire and 1989 Lowman fire were major disturbances. A total of 15,600 acres have been burned by wildfire since 1960. There have been nine recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. The Mace Creek area has high infestations of Douglas-fir beetle. In the Canyon Creek corridor, an outbreak of spruce budworm has been followed by Douglas-fir beetle infestations.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Red Mountain Management Theme Boise	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	85,900	85,900
Primitive	0	11,800	11,800
Backcountry	110,400	11,400	11,400
GFRG	0	600	600
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	700	700
Total Acres	**110,400**	**110,400**	**110,400**

Red Mountain Management Theme Challis	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	4,900	4,900	4,900
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**4,900**	**4,900**	**4,900**

Red Mountain Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	85,900	85,900
Primitive	0	11,800	11,800
Backcountry	115,300	16,300	16,300
GFRG	0	600	600
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	700	700
Total Acres	**115,300**	**115,300**	**115,300**

Reeves Creek #010

10,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Reeves Creek Roadless Area was part of the larger Caton Lake Roadless Area during the 1990 Forest Plan roadless evaluation. During the evaluation undertaken for Forest Plan Revision, it was determined that the utility corridor along Cabin Creek effectively separates this area from the main portion of Caton Lake, resulting in a spatially separate roadless area. Located on the Cascade Ranger District, the Reeves Creek Roadless Area lies northeast of Warm Lake within the South Fork Salmon River and Johnson Creek drainages. The area is accessed by the Johnson Creek Road from Landmark (Forest Road 413) via the Warm Lake Highway (Forest Road 22), and by roads leading from the South Fork Salmon River Road (Forest Road 474).

Elevations range from 5,280 feet in Paradise Valley to an 8,241-foot unnamed mountaintop. Slopes are moderately steep to steep and stream-cut, while many peaks and ridges have been glacially scoured and are separated by U-shaped glacial valleys. The lower slopes contain ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, while lodgepole pine and subalpine fir are the predominant cover types in the high country.

Overall, the Reeves Creek Roadless Area is characterized as a forested mountain ridge broken by complex drainage patterns created by creeks and drainages flowing to Johnson Creek to the east, and to the South Fork Salmon River to the west.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural integrity and appearance of the area are largely intact.

Opportunities for Experience: There are opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in the area. Opportunities for solitude have been limited in some areas due to the loss of vegetative screening from recent wildfires.

Special Features: There are no special features identified in the area.

Manageability: Cherry-stem roads to the east will make management difficult. Adjustments to simplify these boundaries would result in substantial reduction in the roadless area's size.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Upper Cabin Creek supports bull trout populations. While lower portions of Cabin Creek, Knox Creek, and Reeves Creek provide spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook, and likely for steelhead, the upper portions that are within the roadless area do not. The roadless area encompasses portions of streams on both South Fork Salmon River and Johnson Creek drainages that do or potentially may provide spawning and/or rearing habitat for listed species. The entire roadless area is within an area designated as critical habitat for spring/summer Chinook salmon. An estimated 3.1 miles of streams contain bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Confirmed gray wolf activity has occurred in this roadless area, with increasing activity occurring since the augmentation program in the 1990s. About 59 percent of this roadless area is potential lynx habitat. This roadless area has noted elk winter range. There is cliff habitat that provides good potential habitat for peregrine falcon. Fisher, wolverine, boreal owl, great gray owl, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, and spotted frog are sensitive species known to occur or that could potentially occur in the roadless area. Flammulated owl habitat is present along the lower elevations on west and south-facing slopes. Potential wolverine denning habitat has been identified in the area.

Water: There are a few scattered small bodies of water in the area. The area has perennial streams that drain southwest to Warm Lake Creek and east to Johnson Creek. Reeves Creek is the primary drainage in the area. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish wildlife and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use is low with horseback riding, and hunting use occurring.

Timber: The roadless area has 66,000 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 130,900 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 8,500 acres (81 percent) of the Reeves Creek Roadless Area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 4,900 acres are considered to have low productivity; 4,000 acres, moderate productivity; and 200 acres, high productivity.

Range: There is a portion of one allotment encompassing about 50 percent of the roadless area that is grazed by cattle and managed under a rest-rotation system. There are approximately 400 acres of capable cattle grazing land. The portion of the allotment within the roadless area receives very little use.

Minerals: The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel. There are currently 20 mining claims in the area. This roadless area contains 10,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There is no private or state land within the roadless area. There are three outfitter-guide permits for fishing, hunting and horseback riding.

Roads and Trails: There are no trails within this roadless area.

Heritage: The cultural resource site sensitivity is moderate. Historic mining, cabin, and prehistoric sites have been documented adjacent and within the area.

Disturbances: There have been two recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area since 1960. An estimated 4,200 acres have burned in wildfires, with most of this attributed to the 1989 Warm Lake complex of fires. Approximately 1,100 acres were burned recently with low- intensity prescribed fire in the Cabin Creek and Reeves Creek area. Epidemic levels of Douglas-fir beetle infestations resulted in mortality of a large percentage of the older Douglas-fir trees in the early 1990s. Evidence of this mortality occurs in scattered locations throughout the roadless area where Douglas-fir is present.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Reeves Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	10,500	10,500	10,500
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**10,500**	**10,500**	**10,500**

Sheep Creek #005

70,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Sheep Creek Roadless Area, in the Mountain Home and Boise Ranger Districts, lies south of the Middle Fork Boise River, about 45 miles east of Boise. The area is primarily accessed by the Middle Fork Boise River Road, although the high elevation, southern portion may be accessed by the Fall Creek and Roaring River Roads. The area is also accessed from the William H. Pogue National Recreation trail, and Lava Mountain, Roaring River, Corral Creek, and Devil's Creek trails. Elevations range from 3,500 feet along the Middle Fork to over 8,000 feet in the Trinities.

The Sheep Creek Roadless Area is underlain by granitics of the Idaho Batholith. Lower slopes, typically steep and dissected by small streams, are covered by grass and forbs that thrive in the hot, dry summers and shallow granitic soils. Open brush and grass communities are scattered with ponderosa pine on moister northern and eastern slopes. The higher elevations are characterized with glaciated peaks, valleys, and slopes; several small lakes are found along the southern divide. Stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir occur in upper Sheep Creek, but subalpine fir and whitebark pine prevail at higher elevations.

Overall, the area includes dry, rolling hills that gradually give way to steep, forested slopes and, at the highest elevations, craggy glacial peaks, cirques, and alpine lakes. Sheep Mountain (8,211 feet) lies near the area's eastern border, and Rattlesnake Mountain (8,177 feet) lies in the southwestern corner.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Although the natural integrity of this area has been altered by past mining activities, the natural appearance is basically intact. There are localized areas around the historic mining sites that have evidence of previous occupation and mining.

Opportunities for Experience: The area provides good opportunities for solitude since the area is vast, and has steep canyons and extensive timber cover. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are good because of the area's size, diversity, and topography, which provide opportunities for fishing, hunting, high-elevation hiking, cross-country skiing, and pack trips.

Special Features: The 500-acre Roaring River Research Natural Area occurs within the Sheep Creek Roadless Area. The roadless area lies adjacent to the Middle Fork Boise River, which is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 3.0 river miles and 2,500 eligible corridor acres occur within the roadless area.

Manageability: Some of the current boundaries follow some fairly irregular lines that would be difficult to administer if the area were designated wilderness. Established motorized use could also complicate a non-motorized mandate like designated wilderness. Simpler, more logical boundaries could be developed with little change in the overall acreage.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Streams in this area are Sheep Creek, Devils Creek, Pete Creek, Big Five Creek, and Roaring River. This area has been largely isolated from any development activity and is a very important refuge area for bull trout. Sheep Creek and Roaring River are both priority bull trout watersheds and have healthy self-sustaining populations of bull trout at this time. The Sheep Creek population appears to be one of the more stable and stronger subpopulations on the forest. Nodal habitat is also available to both of these streams in the Middle Fork Boise River. Roaring River presently has a large culvert at the crossing of Forest Road 255 that is blocking any upstream migration of bull trout to the upper reaches of the stream. Redband rainbow trout also inhabit the streams of this area. The adjacent Middle Fork Boise River contains mountain suckers, whitefish, and kokanee during the fall months. An estimated 34.8 miles of streams are considered bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: The area occurs within the range of the gray wolf, although there is no known denning or rendezvous activity reported in the area. Wintering bald eagle habitat occurs within the area. An estimated 24 percent of the area in the southeastern half of the area is identified as potential lynx habitat. Good potential habitat occurs for the fisher and wolverine. Potential habitat occurs for northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, great gray owl, and white-headed woodpecker. Potential habitat occurs for spotted bat and Townsend's big-eared bat. Known populations of spotted frog occur in the area. Habitat occurs for mountain quail; a recent (within last 10 years) sighting has occurred in the Roaring River drainage. The roadless area provides security for big game and contains big-game winter range.

Water: This area contains the headwaters of Sheep Creek, Roaring River, and Smith Creek. There are numerous perennials that flow to these creeks and rivers and well as those that flow directly to the Middle Fork Boise River, located along the northern boundary. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There are small amounts of noxious weeds present, with an estimated 2 acres infested by spotted knapweed, and 4 acres by rush skeletonweed.

Recreation: Recreation is concentrated mostly on the trail system that is used by expert motorcycle riders and is also popular with hikers, backpackers, and horseback riders. The area is also used extensively during the fall hunting season. There is some fishing in the high-elevation lakes, and hiking or backpacking occurring with the lakes as destinations.

Timber: The roadless area has 291,000 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 574,100 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 38,100 acres (54 percent) of the Sheep Creek Roadless Area are tentatively suited timberland. An estimated 19,500 acres are considered to have low productivity; 21,300 acres, moderate productivity; 6,300 acres, high productivity.

Range: Ninety percent of the area is within a vacant allotment. Five percent is within a cattle allotment managed under a rest rotation system and has some water developments. Another 5 percent is within a sheep allotment that has no improvements. There are approximately 100 acres of capable cattle grazing land and 9,500 acres of capable sheep grazing land in the roadless area.

Minerals: The probability of finding minerals in the area is high as historic mining areas of Twin Springs, Sheep Creek, Rattlesnake Mountain, and the West Fork, Middle Fork, and East Fork Roaring River all lay within this roadless area. Minerals produced include gold, silver, and lead. Some molybdenum exploration has occurred in the Sevir Creek drainage. There are currently 460 mining claims in the area. This roadless area contains 70,400 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state lands within the roadless area. There are two outfitter-guides that provide bear and cougar hunting and one outfitter-guide that provides llama pack trips and fishing.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity, based on the topography. Sites in the vicinity include historic mining, prehistoric, and isolated historic finds likely related to sheep herding activities.

Roads and Trails: There are eight motorized trails in the area totaling an estimated 56.7 miles.

Disturbances: There have been two recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area since 1960. Most of the area (27,700 acres) was burned in the 1992 Foothills fire. Douglas-fir bark beetle activity has been active at moderate to high levels through 1996, but appears to have declined since 1997. During a recent rain-on-snow event, there were blowouts and soil movement in the Roaring River, South Fork Sheep Creek, and Sheep Creek drainages.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Sheep Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	67,400	67,400
Backcountry	70,400	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	3,000	3,000
Total Acres	**70,400**	**70,400**	**70,400**

Snowbank #924

34,200 Acres Boise
1,500 Acres Payette
35,700 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Snowbank Roadless Area lies within the West Mountain range, west and south of Cascade. The area lies within the Emmett and Cascade Ranger Districts on the Boise National Forest and the Council Ranger District on the Payette National Forest. The area is accessed from the Snowbank Mountain Road (Forest Road 446) off State Highway 55. Snowbank is also accessed from Anderson Creek Road, Pole Creek Road, and Forest Roads 622, 625, 646, and 653. The area is also accessed by several forest trails, including Wilson Creek (133), West Mountain (139), Blue Lake (119), and Skein Lake (122) trails.

Elevations range from 5,200 feet to 8,322 feet at Snowbank Mountain. Slopes in the roadless area are generally moist and stream-cut. On the North Fork Payette slope, glaciated trough lands predominate. Moderate to dense stands of Douglas-fir, grand fir, and ponderosa pine are found at lower elevations, while subalpine fir and whitebark pine dominate in the higher country. Lodgepole pine is scattered throughout. Typical understory grasses include Idaho fescue, pine grass, elk and ross sedges. Several shrubs are evident, including ninebark, common and mountain snowberry, huckleberry, grouse whortleberry, sagebrush and alder.

On Snowbank Mountain there is a federal aviation site, a radar site, and an access road that has been excluded from the Snowbank Roadless Area. Overall, the Snowbank Roadless Area is marked by dense timber at lower elevations, giving way to alpine vegetation, meadows, and small mountain lakes near the peaks. Special attractions include Gabes Lake, Blue Lake, Shirts Lake, Tripod Peak, and Wilson Meadows.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area's natural appearance and natural integrity are noticeably altered in many locations from intensive grazing. This is particularly noticeable around the high elevation lakes and wet meadows. There are segments of 3 unauthorized roads totaling 1.97 miles within the roadless area. There is a sheep driveway within the roadless area.

Opportunities for Experience: Generally there are considerable opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation due to the large size and rugged terrain of the area. In some locations adjacent to the Snowbank summit the opportunities are reduced by the physical presence of the summit facilities and the access road.

Special Features: The high-elevation lakes are a special water feature. Mountain cirques and craggy rock peaks are also special features. There is a fire lookout on Tripod Peak.

Manageability: The road to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) communication site would complicate wilderness management in this area. This area is an especially popular area for winter snowmobile and summer motorized use. A wilderness designation could cause considerable conflicts with established use.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The west slopes contain portions of the headwaters of Sagehen, Renwick, Antelope, Third Fork Squaw, Squaw, and Poison Creeks, all of which drain into Squaw Creek. These tributaries are within the Squaw Creek Key Watershed for bull trout (State of Idaho 1996). Bull trout have been found within the headwater areas of Squaw Creek and Third Fork Squaw Creek, and most of the tributaries to Squaw Creek identified within the roadless area are identified as potential bull trout habitat. Gabes Lake does not support fish, but provides good macro-invertebrate and amphibian habitat. Bull Corral Creek contains rainbow trout. An estimated 13.8 miles of streams contain bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Peregrine falcon habitat and a historic (1950) nest site is present in this roadless area. The ridge top provides an important raptor migration corridor. The area provides habitat for big-game species such as mountain lion, black bear, elk, and mule deer. Potential lynx and wolverine denning habitat has been identified in the area. An estimated 48 percent of the area is potential lynx habitat. Sizeable amounts of pileated woodpecker nesting habitat have been identified in the western portion of the area. Habitat for northern goshawk, great gray owl, flammulated owl, boreal owl, white-headed woodpecker, and northern three-toed woodpecker occur in the area.

Water: Blue Lake is a highly used, picturesque lake less than one mile from the Snowbank Road. Gabes Lake is also another popular use lake in the area. There are other small high-elevation lakes in the area. There are several perennial streams that flow either easterly to the Cascade Reservoir or the North Fork Payette River, or westerly to Squaw Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest. This roadless area contains 4,600 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Rush skeletonweed, a noxious weed, has infested less than 1 acre of the roadless area.

Recreation: The area supports a wide range of backcountry recreation such as hunting, camping, horseback riding, and fishing. The area receives fairly heavy winter snowmobile use, and the steep east facing slopes rising to West Mountain are particularly favored for challenging a snow machine's "high tracking" ability. The area also receives fairly heavy fall big-game hunting use. Some of the high elevation lakes are popular backpacking or hiking destinations.

Timber: The area has 234,300 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 470,300 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 27,600 acres (77 percent of the roadless area) are considered tentatively suitable timberland. An estimated 5,600 acres are considered to have low productivity; 16,900 acres, moderate productivity; and 7,300 acres, high productivity.

Range: Portions of five cattle grazing allotments encompass about 85 percent of the roadless area. There are some structural improvements in the form of fencing, spring developments, and rider cabins within the roadless area. There are 4,300 acres of capable cattle rangeland within the roadless area. The Van Wyck sheep driveway crosses the northern portion of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 2,600 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are currently 14 mining claims located in the area. This roadless area contains 35,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There is no private or state land within the roadless area. There is an outfitter-guide permit for horse trail riding and a cooperative agreement with the state for a fire lookout at Tripod Peak. There is a permit for an irrigation water transmission line.

Heritage: Early mining sites and old cabin remnants are scattered within the Snowbank Roadless Area and a wide variety of sites have been documented in and around the roadless area. Cultural resource sensitivity is moderate.

Roads and Trails: There are 13 trails within the roadless area, of which 7.4 miles are motorized and 42 miles are non-motorized.

Disturbances: There have been no recent major disturbances in the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Snowbank Management Theme Boise	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	34,200	34,200
Backcountry	34,200	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**34,200**	**34,200**	**34,200**

Snowbank Management Theme Payette	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	1,500	1,500
Backcountry	1,500	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**1,500**	**1,500**	**1,500**

Snowbank Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	35,700	35,700
Backcountry	35,700	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**35,700**	**35,700**	**35,700**

Steel Mountain #012

23,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Steel Mountain Roadless Area, located in the Idaho City and Mountain Home Ranger Districts, is bounded on the west by Phifer Creek Road, on the east by James Creek Road, and on the north by the Middle Fork Boise River Road. The area is also accessed by Hot Creek Trail, which bisects the area from west to east.

Elevations range from about 4,500 feet along the Middle Fork Boise River to 9,730 feet at Steel Mountain. Glaciated peaks, valleys, and slopes with rugged and rocky terrain characterize higher elevations. Nearly 40 percent of the land surface consists of outcrops of hard, fractured granite. Open brush and grass communities, and moderate to dense Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir forests occur in the lower areas. There are scattered pockets of whitebark pine in elevations above 8,000 feet.

Overall, the area includes glaciated, rocky peaks at higher elevations, several small lakes at mid elevations, and steep timbered slopes at lower elevations. Steel Mountain, at 9,730 feet elevation, is the highest peak on the Boise National Forest.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and appearance of the Steel Mountain Roadless Area has been slightly affected by past mining activity. There is evidence of dredging adjacent the Middle Fork Boise River. There is an estimated 4 miles of primitive road in the Bald Mountain Creek area.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude are good because the extensive vegetation and rugged topography creates several isolated areas. Opportunities for primitive recreation are also good because the rugged terrain provides challenging cross-country travel.

Special Features: Steel Mountain, at 9,730 feet elevation, is the highest peak on the Boise National Forest. The roadless area contains segments of Elk Creek and the Middle Fork Boise River, which are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 4.1 river miles and 2,200 acres of corridor occur within the roadless area. Lake Creek is a high-elevation alpine lake of special interest.

Manageability: The area has some readily manageable boundaries. The northern boundary could logically consist of the Middle Fork Boise River while the west and southwest boundary would be an offset from the road along James Creek and Grade Creek.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Streams in this area are the upper ends of Steel, Elk, Phifer, Hot, and Lake Creeks, which are very small and steep, with limited fishery habitat. They contain redband rainbow trout in the lower reaches where flows are sufficient. The southern part of this area also contains the headwaters of Elk Creek, a priority bull trout watershed. Large waterfalls at the road crossing of Forest Road 126 prevent the upstream migration of fish to the headwaters of Elk Creek. Within the roadless area, there are 12.5 miles of streams considered bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: The roadless area is an important security area for deer and elk. The area forms an important link between unroaded areas to the south and the Sawtooth Wilderness for species such as pine martin, wolverine, and perhaps lynx. Potential lynx habitat is scattered throughout the area, with about 36 percent of the roadless area being potential habitat. Potential wolverine denning habitat has been identified in the area. Habitat for fisher, northern goshawk, boreal owl, flammulated owl, northern three-toed woodpecker and white-headed woodpecker occurs in the area. Winter range for big game is generally absent. Steel Mountain contains potential mountain goat habitat.

Water: Steel Mountain has a number of perennial streams that flow northwest and east to the Middle Fork Boise River, and south to Feather River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife

habitat, and other uses on the forest. This roadless area contains 3,100 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Idaho Douglasia (*Douglasia idahoensis*) a sensitive plant species occurs in the roadless area. There is approximately 8 acres considered infested by St. Johnswort, a noxious weed, and less that 1 acre occupied by Dalmation toadflax.

Recreation: The area receives some fall big-game hunting, backpacking, and hiking. Fishing occurs in Lake Creek Lake. The trails receive motorized use and some equestrian use.

Timber: The roadless area has 113,700 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 221,200 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 13,900 acres (59 percent) of the roadless area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 8,600 acres are considered to have low productivity; 6,300 acres, moderate productivity; and 2,300 acres, high productivity.

Range: The entire area is within two sheep grazing allotments, and there are no grazing improvements within the roadless area. There are approximately 2,600 acres of capable sheep rangeland in the roadless area.

Minerals: There has been considerable past mining activity along the Middle Fork Boise River and some limited activity along James Creek Road. The area has a low estimated interest in mineral development. There are 165 mining claims in the area. This roadless area contains 23,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state lands within the roadless area. There are two outfitter-guide permittees that provide cougar and bear hunting opportunities.

Roads and Trails: There is one 8.7 mile motorized trail in the area.

Heritage: The area is part of the South Boise Historic Mining District. Prehistoric and historic sites, including the mining towns of Atlanta and Yuba City, are located adjacent and within the roadless area. Cultural resource site sensitivity of the roadless area is moderate.

Disturbances: None of the area has burned in wildfires since 1960. Bark beetles have affected much of the northern portion of the roadless area. The southern portion has had heavy infestations of Tussock moth. Such insect and disease processes have affected about 60 percent of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Steel Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	21,300	21,300
Backcountry	23,500	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	2,200	2,200
Total Acres	**23,500**	**23,500**	**23,500**

Stony Meadows #027

13,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Stony Meadows Roadless Area, on the Cascade Ranger District, lies west of Warm Lake in the Clear Creek, Big Creek, and Curtis Creek drainages. This area is accessed from Warm Lake Highway (Forest Road 22) via State Highway 55, the Clear Creek Road (Forest Road 409), and Stony Meadows Road (Forest Road 433). The area is also accessed from Tyndall Creek (107) and Alpine Creek (106) trails.

Elevations range from about 5,500 feet to over 8,000 feet. Moderately steep to steep slopes are moderately dissected, and are vegetated with moderate to dense stands of grand fir, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir; and scattered stands of Douglas-fir. Curtis Lake is centrally located in the roadless area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and apparent naturalness of the Stony Meadows Roadless Area are generally intact.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation occur within the area. Dense vegetation and dissected terrain provide some opportunities for solitude. The irregular shape with narrow appendages and cherry stemmed road exclusions limits opportunities for primitive recreation.

Special Features: The high-elevation lakes are special landscape features. Curtis Lake is a high elevation lake of special interest.

Manageability: The very complex and irregular shape would make boundary identification and administration difficult. Creating a more manageable unit would result in a loss of considerable acres.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Stony Meadow Creek in the Middle Fork Payette River drainage supports bull trout. Within the portion of the roadless area that lie in the South Fork Salmon River drainage, Trail Creek, Trail Creek tributaries, and Curtis Creek and tributaries support westslope cutthroat and bull trout. The roadless area encompasses all or portions of other streams in the South Fork Salmon River drainage that may also provide spawning and/or rearing habitat for listed Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout. That portion of the roadless area that lies within the South Fork Salmon River drainage is designated as critical habitat for spring/summer Chinook salmon. An estimated 8.4 miles of streams in the area provide bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Confirmed gray wolf activity has occurred in this roadless area, with increasing activity occurring since the augmentation program in the early 1990s. Approximately 77 percent of this roadless area is potential lynx habitat. Fisher, wolverine, boreal owl, great gray owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, and spotted frog are Region 4 sensitive species either known or highly likely to occur in this roadless area.

Water: Curtis Lake is a popular backcountry lake. There are a few other small, scattered high- elevation lakes. The Oro Mountain area has perennial streams that flow east primarily to Curtis Creek and southeast to the Middle Fork Payette River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: Idaho Douglasia (*Douglasia idahoensis*) a sensitive plant species occurs in the roadless area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use is low, with hunting and horseback riding as the primary recreation uses.

Timber: The roadless area has 109,500 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 218,000 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 12,500 (92 percent) of the Stony Meadows Roadless Area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 3,800 acres are considered to have low productivity; 8,500 acres, moderate productivity; and 1,000 acres, high productivity.

Range: This roadless area receives no domestic livestock grazing use. There are no capable rangelands in the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 200 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are few mining claims in the area. This roadless area contains 13,600 acres of high geothermal potential.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as moderate. Prehistoric sites have been identified adjacent to the area.

Landownership and Special Features: There is no private or state land within the roadless area. There is one outfitter-guide permit for horse trail rides and hunting.

Roads and Trails: There are two motorized trails within the roadless area totaling about 5.2 miles.

Disturbances: There have been no acreages burned by wildfire since 1960. Approximately 700 acres have been burned with prescribed fire in the Curtis Creek area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Stony Meadows Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	6,400	6,400
Backcountry	13,600	7,200	7,200
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**13,600**	**13,600**	**13,600**

Ten Mile/Black Warrior #013

118,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Ten Mile/Black Warrior Roadless Area is within the Idaho City and Lowman Ranger Districts. The area lies between the Middle Fork Boise River and the South Fork Payette River, and adjoins the Sawtooth Wilderness. The Black Warrior portion of this roadless area is accessed from the Middle Fork Boise River Road (Forest Road 268), the central portion from the Pikes Fork-Graham Road (Forest Road 312), and the northern portion from State Highway 21.

The area is also accessed by several forest trails, including the North Fork Boise River Trail from Johnson Creek Campground to the Deer Park Campground; and the Horse Heaven (050), Johnson Creek (059), Ten Mile Ridge (157), Blue Jay (149), Black Warrior (053), and Wapiti Creek (160) trails. The interior of the area is accessed from the road along Crooked River and Big Silver Creek that accesses the Graham administrative site (Forest Road 312). This road and the facilities at the administrative site have been excluded from the roadless area.

Elevations range from 4,700 feet along the Middle Fork Boise River near Deer Park to 8,930 feet at West Warrior Peak. Lands include strongly dissected stream-cut lands, steep canyon lands, and glaciated trough lands. Vegetation varies from scattered to dense stands of ponderosa pine or Douglas-fir, to dense and open stands of lodgepole pine and subalpine fir interrupted by avalanche paths. Overall, the Ten Mile/Black Warrior Roadless Area includes moderately steep forested areas that give way to rocky glaciated terrain at higher elevations. Prominent features include Picket Mountain (8,218 feet) and Wolf Mountain (8,785 feet). Goat Mountain, West and East Warrior Peaks, and Swanholm Peak are other notable landforms in the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Generally the natural integrity and appearance of the Ten Mile/Black Warrior is intact. There are some specific isolated areas where man's imprint is noticeable. There is evidence of early mining activities in the Graham area, and a four-wheel drive trail up Black Warrior Creek to the Overlook Mine is still evident. There is an additional 2 miles of primitive road along Eagle Creek.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are good because the Ten Mile/Black Warrior Roadless Area is a large rugged area, and contains a variety of vegetation and terrain. The opportunities are further enhanced when the area is considered in conjunction with the adjacent Sawtooth Wilderness.

Special Features: The roadless area contains segments of the North and Middle Fork Boise River that are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. There are an estimated 11 river miles and 4,200 acres of eligible corridor within the roadless area. There are scattered high-elevation lakes in the area. The steep-walled canyon of the North Fork Boise River east of Deer Park is a unique and scenic geologic feature.

Manageability: The cherry-stem exclusion of the road accessing the Graham administrative site creates a very irregular boundary. A logical topographic boundary on the north end would be the ridgeline between Ten Mile Creek and the South Fork Payette River. Some minor adjustments of some of the other irregular boundaries would also help create a more definable, locatable boundary for wilderness management.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The creeks and streams of this roadless area can generally be separated into those that flow predominantly northerly to the South Fork Payette River and those that flow southerly to the major drainages of the North Fork and Middle Fork Boise River watersheds.

South Fork Payette Watersheds - These drainages encompass the northern portion of the roadless area and include Tenmile, Wapiti, Chapman, Wolf Creek, and other small streams. These streams are within

the Upper South Fork Payette River bull trout key watershed (State of Idaho 1996). In addition all of Tenmile Creek is designated as a bull trout priority watershed. Tenmile is suspected to have a strong population of bull trout and therefore is designated as adjunct and nodal habitat for its entire length. Wapiti Creek supports a strong bull trout population and is designated nodal for its entire length. Chapman Creek contains a small isolated population of bull trout that are bounded by a blown-out, virtually uninhabitable section of stream below a steep narrow section of stream above. This patch of habitat is less than 0.5 mile in length. Tenmile and Wapiti Creeks both provide extensive spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow trout. MacDonald Creek provides limited spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow near its confluence with the South Fork Payette River. Blue Jay and Wolf Creeks and the rest of the small streams that originate in this roadless area are too small and steep to provide spawning and rearing habitat.

Middle and North Fork Boise River Watersheds - This area encompasses the central and southern portion of the roadless area. Major streams in this portion are the upper sections of Bear, Rocky, Hunter, Taylor, Lodgepole, Johnson, and Black Warrior creeks. This portion also contains upper reaches of the Middle Fork Boise River, North Fork Boise River, Bear River, and Crooked River. Most of the drainages within this area are bull trout priority watersheds and are producing high quality spawning and rearing habitat. Due to the relatively isolated nature of the area, most of these streams still contain bull trout and are extremely important to the viability and persistence of fish in this area. The rivers are providing nodal (wintering and migration) habitat and connectivity between the lower-elevation nodal habitats in Arrowrock Reservoir and the upriver spawning and rearing areas. The rivers and streams also contain thriving populations of redband rainbow trout and some smaller numbers of cutthroat and brook trout. About 60,600 acres (51 percent) of the roadless area is considered bull trout spawning and rearing habitat. There are 72.5 miles of streams with bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Gray wolves have been recorded in this area. Potential habitat for lynx, wolverine, and fisher occurs, however their presence in the area is unknown. Approximately 32 percent of the area is potential lynx habitat. The roadless area provides relatively secluded habitat important to these species and considerable potential wolverine denning habitat has also been identified in the area. Boreal owl, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, white-headed woodpecker, and the three-toed woodpecker are known to occur or could potentially occur within the roadless area. The area has a number of small marshy lakes that provide suitable habitat for western toads, long-toed salamanders, and spotted frogs. Bald eagles winter along the North Fork Boise River. Moose occur along the North Fork Boise River in the Graham area. The area provides summer and fall habitat for elk and mule deer. Mountain goats are present in the Wolf Mountain and Goat Mountain areas.

Water: This large area has numerous perennial streams and headwaters of major rivers. There is a complex drainage pattern with drainages to numerous individual watersheds. In the northern portion of the area, Ten Mile Creek and associated streams flow northerly to the South Fork Payette River. Bear River, Crooked River, Johnson Creek, and the North Fork Boise River with numerous associated perennials occur in the central portion of the unit. Perennial streams in the southern portion of the area flow southerly to the Middle Fork Boise River. There is a spring box water development that serves as a domestic water source for the adjacent Graham Guard Station. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: Idaho Douglasia (*Douglasia idahoensis*) a sensitive plant species occurs in the roadless area. An estimated 9 acres have St. Johnswort, a noxious weed.

Recreation: The area receives typical backcountry fall big-game hunting use concentrated mostly in the areas adjacent to the trails and roads. The area provides access to the west side of the Sawtooth Mountains. Hiking, backpacking, and camping are dispersed recreation activities that take place in the area, and some of the high-elevation lakes, such as Jenny Lake, are popular backpacking destinations. The area accommodates motorized and non-motorized trail use; a trail network that traverses the area is a popular motorcycle route and the Bear River Trail is a popular equestrian use trail.

Timber: The area has an estimated 402,000 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 803,000 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 57,300 acres (48 percent) of the roadless area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 46,100 acres are considered to have low productivity; 24,300 acres, moderate productivity; and 4,900 acres, high productivity.

Range: Approximately 80 percent of the area is within a sheep allotment that has no improvements within the roadless area. There are approximately 15,100 acres of capable sheep rangelands.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 300 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are almost 2,000 mining claims in the area. A portion of the roadless area is estimated to have a low level of interest for mineral development. The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel. This roadless area contains 118,800 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state-owned lands within the roadless area. One outfitter-guide service provides deer, elk, bear and cougar hunting trips, summer pack trips, and llama pack services in the area, while another outfitter-guide provides guided horse rides in the Swanholm/Graham area.

Roads and Trails: There is an extensive trail system, with 14 different trails totaling about 77 miles. There are six non-motorized trails totaling about 39.3 miles and eight motorized trails totaling 37.8 miles.

Heritage: The area has moderate cultural resource site sensitivity. There are historic and prehistoric sites in the vicinity and within the area.

Disturbances: There have been 36 recorded wildfire ignitions or occurrences in the area. An estimated 43,600 acres have burned in wildfire since 1960, most of it associated with the 1994 Rabbit Creek fire. The Taylor Creek and Upper Johnson Creek drainages have experienced some significant amounts of soil movement and soil erosion.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Ten Mile/Black Warrior Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	76,500	76,500
Primitive	0	37,000	37,000
Backcountry	118,800	0	0
GFRG	0	1,100	1,100
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	4,200	4,200
Total Acres	**118,800**	**118,800**	**118,800**

Tennessee #033

1,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Tennessee Roadless Area, on the Lowman Ranger District, is a "residual" area not included when the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness was created in 1980. This area adjoins the southwestern portion of the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness, and is accessed by the Warm Lake/Stanley Road (Forest Road 579) via State Highways 21 or 55.

Elevations range from about 6,400 feet along Bear Valley Creek to nearly 8,000 feet. The area is underlain by Cretaceous granitics of the Idaho Batholith, with small areas of Tertiary volcanics and Quaternary alluvium. Lands vary from flat, wet grassy meadows with scattered stands of lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce to moderately steep slopes with moderate to dense stands of lodgepole pine. Generally, the Tennessee Roadless Area displays moderate to steep forested slopes. A prominent feature is Tennessee Creek.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural appearance and integrity of this area are intact.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude are limited by the area's small size. When considered as part of the adjacent Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are plentiful.

Special Features: The southern boundary lies adjacent to Elk Creek, an eligible Wild and Scenic River. An estimated 100 acres of the river corridor occur within the roadless area.

Manageability: The eastern boundary of the area adjoins the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness. Some minor boundary adjustments could make more logical, manageable boundaries if the area were to be designated wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This roadless area contains most of the lower third of Tennessee Creek, which flows into the roadless area from the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness, and flows out of the roadless area into Elk Creek. Tennessee Creek does not provide spawning habitat for listed Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon or Snake River Basin steelhead, but may provide rearing habitat in the lower portion within the roadless area. The entire Bear Valley basin, including this roadless area, has been designated as critical habitat for salmon. Tennessee Creek has not been surveyed, but is unlikely to provide spawning and rearing habitat for listed bull trout. This portion of Elk Creek serves as nodal or migratory habitat for bull trout. There are an estimated 4.4 miles of streams with bull trout spawning and rearing habitat in the roadless area.

Wildlife: Boreal owl, great gray owl, northern goshawk, three-toed woodpecker, and spotted frog are sensitive species known to occur or could potentially occur within the roadless area. Gray wolves are known to occur within this area. The Tennessee Roadless Area is part of a larger complex of wet meadows and adjacent forest cover that provide key calving and summer range for elk. While Tennessee's small size and closeness to the Warm Lake -Stanley Road limit its suitability for denning and rendezvous sites, the area contributes to maintaining large, relatively undisturbed habitat for wolves and ungulates. Potential habitat for wide-ranging lynx, wolverine, and fisher occurs; however, their presence in the area is unknown. The mature forest habitats within the roadless area currently provide important cover and travel areas for these three species. An estimated 62 percent of the roadless area has been identified as potential lynx habitat. Most of these species occupy mid- to late-seral forested habitats. The importance of these late-successional habitats within Tennessee Roadless Area has likely increased due to the large fire-created seral area occurring to the north of the roadless area. The area provides summer and fall habitat for elk and mule deer.

Water: The area has a few perennials that flow southerly to Elk Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: There have been few plant surveys conducted in the area. No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area.

Recreation: The roadless area receives typical backcountry fall big-game hunting use, and some snowmobile use in the open areas and meadows.

Timber: The roadless area has an estimated 5,500 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 11,100 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 900 acres (89 percent) of the Tennessee Roadless Area contain tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 600 acres are considered to have low timber productivity and 400 acres are considered moderate productivity

Range: There are no grazing allotments in the area. There are about 50 acres of capable cattle rangelands in the roadless area.

Minerals: There are no known mining claims in the area. The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel. This roadless area contains 1,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state-owned lands within the roadless area. One outfitter-guide provides bear and cougar hunting trips in the area, and another provides deer and elk hunting trips, summer pack trips, and trail rides.

Roads and Trails: There are no recreation trails in the area.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as moderate. Prehistoric sites have been identified adjacent the area. The roadless area has not been surveyed, but it is expected that sites exist within the area.

Disturbances: The 1987 Deadwood fire burned an estimated 700 acres of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Tennessee Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	1,000	900	900
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	100	100
Total Acres	**1,000**	**1,000**	**1,000**

Whiskey #031

5,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Whiskey Roadless Area, on the Cascade Ranger District, adjoins the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness along the wilderness area's western boundary. The Whiskey Roadless Area includes the headwaters of Whiskey Creek, a drainage of Johnson Creek, and lies about 6 miles south of Landmark. The area is accessed from Landmark by Whiskey Creek Road via the Warm Lake-Stanley Road (Forest Road 579). The area is also accessed by Sulphur Creek Trail (083).

Elevations range from 6,800 feet to 8,777 feet. The roadless area is generally vegetated with lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce. Overall, the Whiskey Roadless Area is marked by low, rolling timbered hills.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and appearance of this roadless area are generally intact.

Opportunities for Experience: When considered alone the Whiskey Roadless Area has limited opportunities for solitude, challenge, and primitive recreation due to the area's small size. When considered as an addition to the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness, the area would compliment the current extensive opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness. Opportunities for solitude are limited in the western appendage.

Special Features: There are no identified special features in the area.

Manageability: A portion of the area's boundaries is shared with the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness. No boundary adjustment would be needed to make this a manageable addition.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Sand Creek historically supported Chinook spawning, and likely provides Chinook and steelhead rearing habitat. Whiskey Creek likely also provides rearing habitat for Chinook and steelhead. These streams are tributaries to Johnson Creek, which provides Chinook and steelhead spawning and rearing habitat outside the roadless area. The entire roadless area is within an area designated as critical habitat for spring/summer Chinook salmon. The roadless area contains an estimated 3.1 miles of streams with Chinook or steelhead spawning and rearing habitat.

Wildlife: Confirmed gray wolf activity has occurred in this roadless area, with increasing activity occurring since the augmentation program in the 1990s. An estimated 88 percent of this roadless area is potential lynx habitat. Wolverine, boreal owl, great gray owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, and spotted frog are Region 4 sensitive species either known or highly likely to occur in this roadless area. The roadless area provides relatively undisturbed, largely inaccessible habitat that is very valuable for these species.

Water: The area has a few perennial streams that flow west to Johnson Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish, wildlife and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. There have been few plant surveys conducted in the area.

Recreation: There are two trails within the roadless area, of which 1.5 miles are motorized and 2.1 miles are non-motorized.

Timber: The roadless area has an estimated 37,400 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 75,100 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 4,700 acres (95 percent) of the roadless area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 3,200 acres are considered to have low productivity; 1,600 acres are considered moderate productivity.

Range: There is a portion of one allotment encompassing about 95 percent of the roadless area that is grazed by cattle and managed under a rest-rotation system. There are approximately 200 acres of capable cattle rangeland in the roadless area. The portion of the allotment within the roadless area receives moderate use and contains fences used for stock management.

Minerals: There are no known mining claims in the area. The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel. This roadless area contains 5,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state lands within the roadless area. There is one outfitter-guide permit for big-game hunting.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as low. Prehistoric sites have been identified in the vicinity.

Disturbances: There have been no major disturbances in the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Whiskey Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	5,000	5,000	5,000
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**5,000**	**5,000**	**5,000**

Whiskey Jack #009

6,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Whiskey Jack Roadless Area, in the Mountain Home Ranger District, lies within the Trinity Creek drainage about 4 miles northwest of Featherville. This roadless area is bordered on the north and west by Trinity Ridge Road from Phifer Creek, and is accessed by this road or by Trinity Creek Road from Featherville. The area is also accessed by Cross Cut Trail and Elk Springs Trail.

Elevations in this area range from 4,950 feet to nearly 7,200 feet. Lower elevations are marked by strongly dissected, stream-cut lands vegetated with scattered to dense stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. At higher elevations, steep slopes are vegetated with scattered to dense stands of lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and subalpine fir. Overall, timbered, well-dissected steep or rolling hills characterize the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and appearance of this roadless area are relatively intact because few activities have taken place within the area itself. There are short segments of four different forest roads within the roadless area totaling 0.5 mile.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude, remoteness and primitive recreation are limited by the relatively small size of the area. The overall width of the area inmost locations is little more than a mile wide. The opportunities for challenge and remoteness would accordingly be limited.

Special Features: There are no identified special features in the area.

Manageability: Because this roadless area is narrow, the only wilderness boundary that would warrant consideration would be the roads and harvest units that currently bound the roadless area. Distinct topographic features for a boundary are lacking.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Streams in this area are Whiskey Jack and the upper ends of Spring Creek and Bear Creek. Whiskey Jack Creek contains a healthy population of small redband rainbow trout. The streams do not contain bull trout at this time as the culvert at Forest Road FDR 172 is blocking any upstream migration offish into Whiskey Jack Creek and likely has contributed to the reduction of bull tout numbers in this drainage. Whiskey Jack is in the Trinity Creek watershed and the entire drainage is a priority watershed for bull trout. The streams of this drainage are adjunct (unoccupied) habitat at this time, but are high priority for re-introduction of bull trout.

Wildlife: The area occurs within the range of the gray wolf, although there is no known denning or rendezvous activity reported in the area. An estimated 55 percent of the area is potential lynx habitat. Wolverine and fisher habitat occurs in the area. Potential habitat occurs for northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, and white-headed woodpecker. Potential habitat occurs for spotted bat, Townsend's bigeared bat, and spotted frog. Potential habitat occurs for mountain quail. The roadless area provides security for big game.

Water: Perennials flow southeasterly to Feather River and the South Fork Boise River. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: Idaho bitterroot (*Lewisia kelloggii*) is a Region 4 proposed sensitive species that has been located in the area. A minor amount of noxious weeds occur in the roadless area.

Recreation: Recreational activities are backpacking, big-game hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and trail bike riding.

Timber: The roadless area has 28,400 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 56,200 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 4,800 acres (73 percent) of the roadless area contains tentatively

suited timberlands. An estimated 2,800 acres are considered to have low productivity; 1,200 acres, moderate productivity; and 1,800 acres, high productivity.

Range: The entire area is covered with portions of three sheep allotments. None of the allotments have any improvements. There are approximately 1,300 acres are capable sheep rangelands.

Minerals: There are currently 56 mining claims in the area. This roadless area contains 6,600 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There is no private or state land within the roadless area. One outfitter-guide provides cougar and bear hunting opportunities.

Roads and Trails: There are three motorized trails in the area totaling an estimated 3.7 miles.

Heritage: This area is included in the South Boise Historic Mining District. Prehistoric and historic sites are located within and adjacent to the area. The site sensitivity is moderate.

Disturbances: Approximately 650 acres of this roadless area have burned in wildfires since 1960. Douglas-fir bark beetle populations continue to be active at above endemic levels and are most pronounced where defoliation occurred by the Douglas-fir tussock moth in the early 1990s. A complex of other bark beetle activity exists at various levels throughout the roadless area and adjacent areas. Tree mortality is most pronounced on north aspect Douglas-fir stands and where subalpine fir is dominant.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Whiskey Jack Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	6,600	6,600
Backcountry	6,600	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**6,600**	**6,600**	**6,600**

Whitehawk Mountain #021

9,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Whitehawk Mountain Roadless Area, in the Lowman Ranger District, includes the ridge area between the Deadwood and Bear Valley Creek drainages, and extends from the Boise County line to the head of the South Fork Deer Creek. This roadless area is accessed from the Clear Creek-Bear Valley Road (Forest Road 582) via State Highway 21. Access is provided on the west by the Deadwood Ridge Trail (019).

While the area encompasses most of Whitehawk Mountain, the Whitehawk Mountain Lookout and access road are excluded from the roadless area. Elevations range from 6,800 feet to 8,100 feet atop Whitehawk Mountain. Lower elevations are marked by steep slopes vegetated with lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and subalpine fir. At higher elevations, glaciated lands are vegetated with dense to open stands of lodgepole pine and subalpine fir. Overall, the Whitehawk Mountain Roadless Area is marked by steep, forested slopes with rocky outcrops at higher elevations. Whitehawk Mountain is a prominent feature.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and apparent naturalness of the Whitehawk area is relatively intact. There are a number of very short, forest road segments that are within the boundary of the roadless area. Seven different segments total an estimated 0.7 mile.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are somewhat limited by the relatively small size and a very irregular and fractured shape. The presence of the lookout and the access road on the single dominant landform of the area also limits the sense of remoteness and solitude.

Special Features: There are no identified special features within the area.

Manageability: The area has a very irregular shape due to the exclusion of surrounding roads and timber harvest units. Identification of its boundaries and administration as a wilderness would be difficult with the current irregular boundaries. It would not be possible to refine more logical boundaries with a less fractured shape without losing significant acreage of the roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The streams draining the Whitehawk Roadless Area are within the Upper South Fork Payette River bull trout key watershed (State of Idaho 1996). In addition much of the area drains into a bull trout priority watershed. The remaining portion drains into Bear Valley, which has been designated critical salmon habitat.

Middle Fork and East Fork Warm Springs Creek harbor strong but isolated focal populations of bull trout. Middle Fork Warm Springs Creek is entirely within this roadless area while only about 20 percent of the East Fork Warm Springs flows through this roadless area. These populations may potentially serve as sources of bull trout colonizers for other nearby, but somewhat isolated, patches of suitable bull trout habitat. Bearskin Creek originates within this roadless area and flows into Bear Valley. Bearskin Creek contains a strong focal population of bull trout. The lower section of Bearskin Creek, which is outside of this roadless area, may currently provide rearing habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead. Redband rainbow and westslope cutthroat trout may use this stream (including the portions with this roadless area) for spawning and rearing. Redband rainbow trout spawn and rear in a small portion of the sections of Warm Springs and Middle Fork Warm Springs Creek that flow through this roadless area.

Wildlife: Gray wolves are known to occur within this area. Potential habitat for lynx, wolverine, and fisher occurs, however their presence in the area is unknown. The roadless area provides relatively secluded habitat important to these species. Most of the Whitehawk Roadless Area has been identified as potential lynx habitat (72 percent). Boreal owl, great gray owl, northern goshawk, flammulated owl,

three-toed woodpecker, and spotted frog are sensitive species known to occur or could potentially occur within the roadless area. The area provides summer and fall habitat for elk and mule deer. The roadless area is important for providing security areas for elk and deer during hunting seasons and for maintaining the snag component of forested habitats across large areas.

Water: Perennial streams in the area flow southwest to the Deadwood River and easterly to Bear Valley Creek and Elk Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses on the forest.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area. Rush skeletonweed, a noxious weed, has infested less than 1 acre of the roadless area.

Recreation: The roadless area receives typical backcountry fall big-game hunting use, concentrated mostly in the areas adjacent to trails and roads.

Timber: The roadless area includes an estimated 69,500 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 137,500 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 8,000 acres (89 percent) of the roadless area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 4,900 acres are considered to have low productivity; 2,900 acres, moderate productivity; and 700 acres, high productivity.

Range: Approximately 60 percent of the area is within a vacant sheep allotment. There are no range improvements in the area. There are 300 acres of capable cattle grazing land and 300 acres of capable sheep grazing land in the roadless area.

Minerals: The area has few mining claims. The area has a portion that is considered a fair to poor permissive area for silt, sand and gravel. This roadless area contains 9,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state-owned lands within the roadless area. One outfitter-guide provides bear and cougar hunting trips in the area, while another provides deer and elk hunting trips, summer pack trips, and trail rides.

Roads and Trails: There are no recreation trails in the area.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated low.

Disturbances: The 1992 Cub Creek fire burned an estimated 500 acres in the area, much of it at high intensity. A high level of Douglas-fir beetle infestation has occurred in the Middle Fork Warm Springs drainage.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Whitehawk Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	9,000	8,900	8,900
GFRG	0	100	100
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**9,000**	**9,000**	**9,000**

Wilson Peak #040

7,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Wilson Peak Roadless Area is a recently delineated roadless area identified during the 1999 roadless area inventory update for the Forest Plan Revision. The Wilson Peak Roadless Area, on the Idaho City Ranger District, lies east of Pioneerville and west of Pilot Peak Lookout. The area is accessed from Forest Road 380 north of Mores Creek Summit and Forest Road 314 from State Highway 21.

Elevations range from about 5,000 feet in the southwestern extent of the area to 7,837 at Wilson Peak. The area has some complex drainage patterns formed by the headwaters of numerous drainages flowing to the north, south, east, and west. The North and East Forks of Elk Creek are the primary drainages in the south, while to the north drainages flow to Clear Creek and Grimes Creek. Wilson Peak is the dominant landform. Moderate to dense mixed conifer stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir occur throughout the area. Subalpine fir commonly occurs at the highest elevations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Generally, the area retains its natural integrity and natural appearance. A primitive road approaches Wilson Peak from the south. This forest road segment extends into the roadless area for a distance of 1.4 miles. The area has had some scattered, light salvage harvesting in response to Douglas-fir beetle activity; as a result there may be a subtle change in the natural integrity of the area. The natural appearance is also altered at the locations of the individual tree patches that were harvested.

Opportunities for Experience: There are opportunities for solitude and remoteness. The rugged terrain provides some opportunities for challenging recreation experiences. The complex terrain and vegetative screening provides opportunities for isolation and solitude. The irregular and disjointed shape affects the continuity of the area and limits the sense of remoteness and the available challenge of backcountry travel, with some areas being less than a mile in width.

Special Features: There are no special features identified in the area.

Manageability and Boundaries: The area has some fairly irregular and complex boundaries. Creating more logical or simplified boundaries would reduce the size of the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are two small fish-bearing streams in this roadless area. Grimes Creek, a small stream inhabited by many brook trout and a smaller population of redband, lies in the northern portion and meanders through lush meadows. Elk Creek is in the southern portion of the area and contains a small population of redband trout. Neither stream supports bull trout or is within a priority bull trout watershed.

Wildlife: The roadless area is an important security area for big game (deer and elk) and is largely surrounded by highly roaded areas. The area forms an important link between high-elevation areas to the east (Pilot Peak, Sunset Mountain) and the Boise Ridge/Shafer Butte area to the southwest. Species such as gray wolf, wolverine, and perhaps lynx may use this area as a travel way between these areas. An estimated 70 percent of the area contains potential lynx habitat. Habitats for fisher, northern goshawk, great gray owl, flammulated owl, white-headed woodpecker, and northern three-toed woodpecker occur in the area.

Water: There are a number of perennial streams in the area that flow to Clear Creek, Grimes Creek, and Elk Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish and wildlife habitat and other uses on the forest. An estimated 950 acres are within a municipal watershed of Idaho City.

Botanical: Idaho bitterroot (*Lewisia kelloggii*) is a Region 4 proposed sensitive species that has been located in the area. A minor amount of noxious weeds occur in the roadless area.

Recreation: The area has low recreation use, although there is some fall big-game hunting.

Timber: The roadless area has 42,500 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to about 83,600 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 5,300 acres (67 percent) of the Wilson Peak Roadless Area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 600 acres are considered to have low productivity; 6,000 acres, moderate productivity; and 600 acres, high productivity.

Range: This roadless area contains portions of four different allotments that cover approximately 70 percent of the area. There are 700 acres of capable sheep rangeland in this roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,300 acres of WUI.

Minerals: Historic mining has occurred within and around the roadless area. There are over 500 mining claims in the area. A portion of the area is considered to have an estimated moderate level of interest for mineral development. This roadless area contains 7,900 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private or state lands within the roadless area. There are no special uses in the area.

Roads and Trails: There is an estimated 2.5 miles of motorized trail (Forest Trail 163) approaching Wilson Peak from the north.

Heritage: The area has moderate cultural resource sensitivity. There are historic sites in the area or in the immediate vicinity. Part of the area is within the Boise Historic Mining District.

Disturbances: There has been an estimated 10 acres that have burned by wildfire since 1960.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Wilson Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	7,900	7,900
Backcountry	7,900	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	7,900	7,900	7,900

Bear Creek #615

21,000 Acres Caribou
97,600 Acres Targhee
118,600 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Bear Creek Roadless Area is located in Bonneville County, 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 Road on the east. Approximately 118,600 acres of the roadless area is on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, of which 21,000 acres is managed under the Caribou Forest Plan and 97,600 acres are managed under the Revised Targhee Forest Plan.

The topography is moderately steep, characterized by parallel ridges. Elevations range from 6,000 feet above sea level to 9,400 feet above sea level. Vegetation includes large open areas of grass and brush interspersed with aspen stands. Conifer stands include scattered patches of Douglas -fir and lodgepole pine.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate to low; human activities are very evident, including unimproved roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as moderate, due to the roadless area's size and existing road intrusions. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered moderate due to size and road intrusions.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include good elk habitat. About 900 acres of the Caribou Mountain Special Area are located in this roadless area. About 4,900 acres are in an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor for the South Fork of the Snake River.

Manageability: Manageability of the area would be fair, due to road intrusions.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has high fish habitat; however, no threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish are present.

Wildlife: Grizzly bear, a threatened species, and wolverine and northern goshawk, R4 sensitive species occur in this roadless area. The area has high wildlife habitat. Elk habitat is present.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: In the summer, most of the area is managed for Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized experiences. In the winter, the area is managed as motorized. Recreation use includes horseback riding and deer hunting. The Targhee portion of Bear Creek Roadless Area is managed for motorized recreation, on designated routes.

Timber: No recent timber management activities have occurred in this roadless area. Most of the area is grass and shrub cover.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. The area has patented claims and past mining activity on the southern boundary. This roadless area contains 23,700 acres of high and 94,900 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Special use authorizations within the area include outfitting and guiding for big game and a communication tower. No State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: No forest roads occur in this roadless area; there is one mile of motorized trail.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Bear Creek Management Theme Caribou	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	14,700	14,700
Backcountry	21,000	2,700	2,700
GFRG	0	2,700	2,700
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	900	900
Total Acres	21,000	21,000	21,000

Bear Creek Management Theme Targhee	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	97,600	33,900	33,900
GFRG	0	58,800	58,800
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	4,900	4,900
Total Acres	97,600	97,600	97,600

Bear Creek Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	14,700	14,700
Backcountry	118,600	36,600	36,600
GFRG	0	61,500	61,500
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	5,800	5,800
Total Acres	118,600	118,600	118,600

Bonneville Peak #154

32,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Bonneville Peak Roadless Area is in Bannock and Caribou Counties on the Westside Ranger District. The area lies four miles east of Inkom, Idaho. Major road access includes the Pebble Creek Road, Green Canyon Road, Inman Creek Road and Bell Canyon Road. Lands within the area were once Shoshone-Bannock Indian lands and are now subject to Indian Treaty Rights.

The topography of the roadless area is typical for southeast Idaho. Terrain varies from very steep rocky ledges to moderately sloping valleys and basins. Bonneville Peak is 9,260 feet above sea level. The lowest elevation is 5,500 feet above sea level. Vegetation includes brush and grass-covered slopes with some aspen. Narrow stands of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine are found on high north facing slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered high, with evidence of some human activities such as unimproved roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as moderate, because of minimal screening of valley developments. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered moderate due to the area's limited size and road intrusions.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include a popular back-country skiing area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to road intrusions. Locating boundaries on natural features and eliminating road corridors could achieve a core area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has moderate values for fish habitat. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species occur in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wolverine, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: This roadless area contains 10,900 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: The area has the Boundary National Recreation Trail, popular with horseback riders and off highway vehicle users. Big Springs Campground and Pebble Creek Ski Area are on the west and south boundaries respectively. Portions of the area are very popular with back-country skiers and snowmobilers. About 900 acres are in a special use authorization area (Management Prescription 4.2).

Timber: The area does not have recent timber sales; past timber harvest is evident along roads.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 15,700 acres of WUI.

Range: Cattle are authorized to graze most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 32,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: This roadless area has two special use authorizations: one for outfitting and guiding, one for a slurry pipeline. Approximately 1,480 acres of State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, but there are thirty-seven miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use, Pebble Creek Ski Area, and a slurry pipeline.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Bonneville Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	32,300	23,700	23,700
GFRG	0	7,700	7,700
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	900	900
Total Acres	**32,300**	**32,300**	**32,300**

Caribou City #161

81,500 Acres Caribou
11,800 Acres Targhee
93,300 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Caribou City Roadless Area is in Bonneville County on the Soda Springs Ranger District and the Palisades Ranger District on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. About 81,500 acres are managed under the Caribou Forest Plan, and 11,800 acres are managed under the Targhee Forest Plan. The area lies one mile east of the Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge, and .25 miles southwest of the Palisades Reservoir. In the 1870s Caribou City was once the center of a brisk gold boom, but is now a ghost town and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Patented and unpatented mining claims are found on Caribou Mountain and McCoy Creek. On the southern portion of the area, McCoy Creek, Caribou City, and Bald Mountain roads provide access to the area. Deep Creek, Jackknife Creek and Cabin Creek roads are on the eastern boundary. The Tincup Highway, State Highway 34, runs along the southern border. The Tincup Road lies on the southwest side. The Morgan Meadows, North Fork of Eagle Creek, and Barnes Creek roads are on the western boundary.

The topography and geography of the roadless area are diverse. Flat benches and basins to steep mountain ridges and side slopes are all represented. Elevations range from 9,803 feet at Caribou Mountain to 6,000 feet above sea level near the Palisades Reservoir. Vegetation includes lodgepole pine, Douglas -fir, sagebrush, mountain brush and aspen.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered high, with evidence of some human activities such as unimproved roads and historic and current mining activity.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as high, because of the area's large size. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered high due to large, contiguous acreage.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include good wildlife habitat, primitive non-motorized recreation, and historic mining areas. About 14,600 acres are in the Caribou Mountain Special Emphasis Area (Management Prescription 2.1.4.). About 1,400 acres are in Management Prescription 2.1.2(b) Visual Quality Maintenance. This prescription is located along major travel corridors.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered fair along roadless boundaries, due to road intrusions. A large core area could be achieved by locating boundaries on natural features, such as watershed or topographic ridges.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species occur in the roadless area.

Wildlife: Great grey owl and fringed myotis, Region 4 sensitive species occur in the roadless area. The area has high values for wildlife.

Water: The area contains no municipal water use.

Botanical: Payson's bladderpod *(Lesquerella paysonii)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area

Recreation: The primary recreation attraction is deer, elk and moose hunting. The core area of the roadless area offers the only primitive recreation experience on the forest. The northwest portion of the roadless area is popular for recreational gold panning.

Timber: No recent timber activity has occurred in the area. Soils are unstable and slumpy.

Range: Livestock are authorized to graze most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 13,500 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. Patented and unpatented mining claims exist in the area. This roadless area contains 8,500 acres of high and 84,900 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Special use authorizations include a buried fiber optic line and an above ground powerline along the Tincup Highway. Approximately 280 acres of State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, but there are nine miles of motorized trail.

Heritage: The area includes a historic management area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Caribou City Management Theme Caribou	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	28,900	28,900
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	81,500	17,800	17,800
GFRG	0	18,600	18,600
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	16,200	16,200
Total Acres	**81,500**	**81,500**	**81,500**

Caribou City Management Theme Targhee	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	11,800	11,800	11,800
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**11,800**	**11,800**	**11,800**

Caribou City Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	28,900	28,900
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	93,300	29,600	29,600
GFRG	0	18,600	18,600
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	16,200	16,200
Total Acres	**93,300**	**93,300**	**93,300**

Clarkston Mountain #159

15, 500 Acres (Caribou – Idaho)
6,600 Acres (Caribou – Utah)
22,100 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Clarkston Mountain Roadless Area is in Oneida County, Idaho and Box Elder and Cache counties in Utah on the Westside Ranger District. The area extends from two miles southeast of Malad, Idaho to 1.5 miles north of Plymouth, Utah. Approximately 6,600 acres of the area are in Utah. The area is eighteen miles long and averages about two miles in width. Road access to the area includes the Two Mile Canyon Road along the north border, the Skyline, Left Fork of Dry Canyon, Steel Canyon, and Black Canyon roads from the east, the Water Canyon Road from the south, and the Gardner Canyon, Burnett Canyon, and Four Mile Canyon roads from the west. The Willow Spring Road (pre-1978) bisects the area.

The area's topography is steep and rocky with sagebrush, grass, juniper and mountain brush. Small patches of Douglas -fir and aspen occur on some northern slopes. Elevations range from 4,800 feet near Cherry Creek to 8,224 feet at Gunsight Peak.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate, with evidence of some human activities, such as unimproved roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as low, because of minimal natural screening and the area's small size. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to area's small size.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include areas of good deer habitat.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to narrow width of the area and private in holdings.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive terrestrial species are present. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: The entire roadless area is managed for a Semi-Primitive Motorized setting in summer. A small campground is adjacent to the east boundary. The area is popular for horse and trail bike riding, snowmobiling, and deer hunting.

Timber: No recent timber activity has occurred in this roadless area.

Range: Livestock are authorized to graze entire area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 11,400 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: No current oil or gas leases occur in the roadless area. This roadless area contains 15,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The roadless area has one groomed snowmobile trail and one special use authorization for outfitting and guiding big game. Approximately 560 acres of State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads, but there are twenty-one miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use and waterlines.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Clarkston Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	15,500	5,600	5,600
GFRG	0	9,900	9,900
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**15,500**	**15,500**	**15,500**

Deep Creek #158

7,100 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Deep Creek Roadless Area is within Oneida County, Idaho on the Westside Ranger District within the Caribou portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It lies approximately .5 miles east of Malad, Idaho. Access routes to the area include the Deep Creek and Weston Canyon roads along the north and east, Two Mile Canyon and Trail Hollow roads along the southern border, and the Little Valley Road on the western boundary. Interstate 15 is .5 miles away and runs parallel to the western boundary of the roadless area.

Moderate slopes characterized the area, and brush and grass are the predominant vegetation. The area exhibits less topographic relief than is typical for other nearby roadless areas.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate. The general appearance of the area is natural due to the steep, inaccessible west-facing slopes that dominate the area. Livestock grazing, unimproved roads and off highway vehicle use are evident.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as low, because of the area's small size and minimal natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to area's size.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include areas of good deer habitat.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to the area's small size and road intrusions.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive terrestrial species are present. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation includes horseback and motorized trail use, snowmobiling and deer hunting. Visitors are attracted to the area, because of its close proximity to the community of Malad. The Deep Creek Reservoir near the eastern border of the area attracts many anglers and campers.

Timber: No recent timber activity has occurred in this roadless area.

Range: Livestock are authorized to graze entire area. Range improvements are present.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 7,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: No current oil or gas leases occur in the roadless area. The area has a low locatable mineral potential. This roadless area contains 7,100 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Special use authorizations within the roadless area include outfitting and guiding big game; two water transmission systems, an area under cultivation, and a pasture. No State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, but there are fourteen miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use and waterlines.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Deep Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	7,100	2,000	2,000
GFRG	0	4,900	4,900
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	200	200
Total Acres	**7,100**	**7,100**	**7,100**

Dry Ridge #164

23,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Dry Ridge Roadless Area is within Caribou and Bear Lake counties, Idaho on the Soda Springs and Montpelier Ranger Districts on the Caribou portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It lies approximately fourteen miles east of Soda Springs, Idaho. The major access roads to the area are Diamond Creek Road on the northeast, the Georgetown Canyon Road along the southeast, and the Slug Creek Road on the western boundary. Other roads into the area include the Left Fork of the Georgetown Canyon Road on the southwest, and the Dry Canyon Road on the west. The area is rich in phosphate ore and is extensively leased.

The area's topography includes the high, rather uniform, Dry Ridge at about 8,000 feet, although fifty percent of the area gently slopes down to about 6,500 feet. The vegetative cover includes wet and dry meadows, sagebrush, grass, mountain brush, aspen, and conifer stands on north and east-facing slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered low to moderate, because some human activities are evident including past timber harvest units, unimproved or closed roads, livestock grazing, and extensive evidence of phosphate mining. The general appearance of the area is natural, due to the steep, inaccessible west-facing slopes that dominate the area.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as low, because of the area's size and minimal natural screening from adjacent mining activity. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to area's small size.

Special Features: No special features have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered very poor, due to the area's size and numerous human intrusions.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles and great gray owls a Region 4 sensitive species occurs occur in this roadless area.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: A small campground is located adjacent to the southwest boundary. Dry Ridge Roadless Area receives moderate use for big game hunting, off highway vehicle use, and dispersed camping. Visitors are attracted to the area by the loop road from Georgetown Canyon into Diamond Creek and the driving for pleasure opportunities it affords.

Timber: No recent timber activity has occurred in the roadless area, but there is evidence of past timber harvest.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 6,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. Phosphate leases cover much of the Dry Ridge Roadless Area. Considerable phosphate exploration work is evident within and adjacent to the area. Active mining is underway north of the area in Maybe Canyon and the Mountain Fuel Mine occurs along the west boundary. Patented mining claims border the area on the south. About 1,400 acres of

phosphate deposits are under lease, and 800 acres of known deposits are not leased. This roadless area contains 23,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The roadless area has special use authorizations for outfitting and guiding big game, a railroad spur and a slurry pipeline. No State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, but there are eleven miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use, a slurry line, and phosphate leases.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Dry Ridge Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	23,500	14,000	14,000
GFRG	0	9,500	9,500
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**23,500**	**23,500**	**23,500**

Elkhorn Mountain #156

41,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Elkhorn Mountain Roadless Area is within Bannock and Oneida counties, Idaho on the Westside Ranger District on the Caribou portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The center of the area is about twelve air miles north of Malad, Idaho. The Wright's Creek National Recreation Trail bisects the southern portion of the roadless area. The Elkhorn Mountain Roadless Area is bordered by the Wright's Creek Road to the northwest and Mill Canyon Road to the east. Other roads to the area include Heath Canyon, Limekiln Canyon, and Secret Springs roads on the south; Elkhorn Creek, Bill Morgan Canyon, Indian-Mill Creek, and the Tom Perry Canyon roads on the west; and the South Fork of Hawkins Creek Road on the north.

The topography of the area is typical for the mountain ranges in this part of Southeast Idaho. The elevation varies from 9,095 feet at Elkhorn Peak to about 5,500 feet near the east and south boundaries. The terrain is generally steep, and the vegetative cover types include sagebrush, grass, mountain brush, and scattered stands of aspen and mountain maple. Narrow stands of Douglas -fir are found on the area's north slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered high; human intrusion is evident as a result of firewood cutting, grazing use, and unimproved roads. A perlite mine is operating on the northwestern border and is visible from the roadless area.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as low, because of the size and minimal screening from valley developments. Opportunities for primitive recreation are considered moderate due to limited size, but rated as low for challenging experiences due to size and lack of challenging terrain.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include areas of good deer habitat.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor along the inventoried boundaries, but a core area could be achieved by locating a boundary on natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Townsend's big eared bat a Region 4 sensitive species occur in this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Activities include hunting, camping, off highway vehicle and snowmobile use. Summit Campground is located just east of the roadless area. Horseback riding, off highway vehicle use, and hiking are popular on the Wright's Creek National Recreational Trail. The area is also used for cross-country skiing.

Timber: No recent timber activity has occurred in the roadless area.

Range: Most of the area is authorized for livestock grazing.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 24,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: No current oil or gas leases occur within this roadless area. This roadless area contains 41,800 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The roadless area has special use authorizations, including outfitting and guiding big game and a power line. Approximately 190 acres of State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, but there are sixty-eight miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use and a powerline.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Elkhorn Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	41,800	13,300	13,300
GFRG	0	28,500	28,500
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**41,800**	**41,800**	**41,800**

Gannett-Spring Creek #111

20,400 Acres Caribou (Idaho)
45,100 Acres Bridger-Teton (Wyoming)
65,500 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Gannett Spring Creek Roadless Area lies within the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming (45,100 acres) and the Caribou-Targhee National Forest (20,400 acres) in Idaho. The Gannett Spring Creek Roadless Area (Idaho portion) is within Caribou County, Idaho on the Montpelier Ranger District on the Caribou portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. During the 1985 Forest planning effort, the Wyoming Wilderness Act was passed by Congress and signed into law on October 30, 1984. This occurred after the Forest's Draft EIS and proposed Forest Plan had been released to the public for review. The Wyoming Wilderness Act either designated areas as wilderness or wilderness study areas, or released the remaining areas to multiple uses other than wilderness. The Wyoming portion of this area was released. As a result, it was no longer required to evaluate the entire area as one unit. The Idaho portion of the roadless area is approximately ten miles southwest of Afton, Wyoming. The forest boundary forms the north and east border. Access to the area from the south is by Elk Valley Road and Ephraim Valley Road. The Crow Creek Road forms much of the western boundary.

Elevations range from approximately 6,000 feet near Crow Creek to 8,000 feet along mountain ridges near the center of the area. Most of the area is comprised of moderate to gently rolling hills, with steep drainages, typical of the topography of this part of Southeast Idaho. Vegetation includes grasses and sagebrush with stands of Douglas -fir on northern slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate, because of past vegetation treatments, livestock improvements, and adjacent oil and gas drilling activity.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as low, because of the size and minimal screening from valley developments. Opportunities for primitive recreation are considered moderate due to roads and other uses; opportunity for challenging experiences is low due to the rolling terrain.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include the Crow Creek Road, which is a popular recreation access road and is located on the old pioneer travel route. Other early pioneer wagon roads exist in the area. Elk Valley Marsh is a unique high elevation wetland. A 200-acre parcel was found to be eligible for further study under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor along inventoried boundaries, but a core area could be achieved by locating a boundary on natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagle, a threatened species occur in this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Recreation use includes big-game hunting, fishing, off highway vehicle use, and camping.

Timber: No recent timber activity has occurred in the area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized for most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,900 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. Exploration wells have been drilled adjacent to the boundary in Elk Valley and to the south on Red Mountain. This roadless area contains 2,900 acres of high and 17,500 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: No special use authorizations for the roadless area. Approximately 655 acres of State or private lands occur within the area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, but there are twelve miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Gannett-Spring Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	4,500	4,500
Backcountry	20,400	7,800	7,800
GFRG	0	7,900	7,900
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	200	200
Total Acres	**20,400**	**20,400**	**20,400**

Gibson #181

8,300 Acres Caribou (Idaho)
5,300 Acres Wasatch-Cache (Utah)
13,600 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Gibson Roadless Area lies in Franklin County, Idaho, and Cache County, Utah. All of the roadless area is on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The Idaho portion (8,300 acres) of the roadless area is administered by the Montpelier Ranger District on the Caribou portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, and the Utah portion (5,300 acres) of the roadless area is administered by the Logan Ranger District of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The area straddles the Utah-Idaho border and is located about eight miles west of Bear Lake. Access on the north is provided by the Egan Basin Road and on the east by the Beaver Creek Road. The west boundary is formed by Logan River Road. The Gibson Basin Road makes a corridor into the northern edge of the area.

The average elevation of the area is around 8,500 feet above sea level. The topography is quite gentle with a few steep and rocky slopes. Vegetation cover types include mountain brush, maple, aspen, sagebrush, and grass at lower elevations. Douglas -fir, lodgepole pine, spruce, and subalpine fir occur along northern slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate, because portions of the area have been affected by timber harvest, unimproved roads, recreation use, and grazing. Roads penetrate the area to Horse Lake and Sink Hollow.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as moderate, due to road intrusions. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low, due to terrain.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include Gibson Lakes.

Manageability: Manageability is considered fair, due to existing intrusions.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occur in this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: Lemhi penstemon (*Penstemon compactus*) a sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: The primarily recreation pursuits are snowmobiling, hunting, and camping. A small, low-standard campground exists on the east boundary. The Highline National Recreation Trail is popular with off highway vehicle users, equestrians, and day hikers. Portions of the area are popular for back-country skiing.

Timber: Most of the conifer stands in the area have been selectively logged in the past. The Franklin Basin timber sale (1996) was just south of the Danish Pass Road and just east of the Franklin Basin Road.

Range: Most of the area is authorized for livestock grazing.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 8,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: No recreation special use authorizations exist in the roadless area nor are there any State or private lands within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, but there are eleven miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Gibson Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	8,300	7,400	7,400
GFRG	0	900	900
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**8,300**	**8,300**	**8,300**

Hell Hole #168

4,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Hell Hole Roadless Area is in Bear Lake County, Idaho on the Montpelier Ranger District on the Caribou portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It lies about four miles east of Montpelier, Idaho. The Sheep Creek Road is south of the area, and the Bear Hollow Road cuts a corridor into the southern boundary.

The topography of the area is moderately steep and characterized by sagebrush and grass-covered slopes, with pockets of Douglas -fir on north and east aspects. Riparian vegetation covers the low areas along Montpelier Creek and Willow Spring. The average elevation of the area is 6,900 feet.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate, because human activities are evident, including unimproved roads and livestock grazing.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as low, due to small size of area, and agricultural activities are visible from most of the area. Opportunities for primitive and challenging experiences are rated as low, due to the area's small size.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include areas of deer winter range.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to the area's road intrusions. A core area could be achieved by placing boundaries on natural features, but the core area would be smaller than 5,000 acres.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occurs in this roadless area. The area has low to moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Most of the area is managed for semi-primitive motorized experiences year-round. Activities include snowmobiling and deer hunting.

Timber: No recent timber activity has occurred in the area.

Range: The area has no current oil or gas leases. Phosphate leases are adjacent to area. Most of the area is authorized for livestock grazing.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 2,500 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 4,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no special use authorizations within the roadless area. There is a Forest Service radio repeater within the roadless area. No State or private land in-holdings are located within this roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads, but there are eleven miles of motorized trails.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Hell Hole Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	4,700	0	0
GFRG	0	4,200	4,200
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	500	500
Total Acres	**4,700**	**4,700**	**4,700**

Huckleberry Basin #165

20,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Huckleberry Basin Roadless Area is in Bear Lake and Caribou counties, Idaho on the Soda Springs Ranger District. The area lies six miles east of Soda Springs. Johnson Creek and Patters on Canyon roads provide access form the north. The Slug Creek Road forms the eastern boundary. The Left Fork of the Georgetown Canyon Road and the Red Pine Canyon Road provide access from the south. Big Canyon, Rattlesnake Canyon, Ninemile Creek, Fossil Canyon, Dry Canyon and Sulphur Canyon roads are found along the western boundary.

Topography of the area ranges from gentle to very steep. Elevation ranges from 8,302 feet at Sulphur Peak to about 6,000 feet near U.S. Highway 30. Vegetation includes sagebrush, grass, mountain brush, aspen, and patches of Douglas -fir and lodgepole pine on north and east facing slopes. Narrow stands of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine are found on high, north-facing slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered low, with evidence of unimproved roads, timber harvest activities, and mining.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude rate as low, because of development. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered very low due to roads and timber harvest.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to road intrusions and timber harvest activities.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles and northern goshawk, a Region 4 sensitive species occur in this roadless area. The area has low to moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation use includes firewood gathering and hunting.

Timber: Recent timber harvest activities are very evident in the area.

Range: Livestock are authorized to graze most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 5,900 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. About 3,200 acres of phosphate deposits is under lease; and 1,400 acres of known phosphate deposits are not leased. This roadless area contains 20,200 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has one special use authorization for outfitting and guiding big game. Approximately 156 acres of State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, but there are twenty-one miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use and firewood gathering.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Huckleberry Basin Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	20,200	2,500	2,500
GFRG	0	17,700	17,700
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**20,200**	**20,200**	**20,200**

Liberty Creek #175

15,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Liberty Creek Roadless Area is in Bear Lake and Franklin Counties, Idaho on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but is administered by the Montpelier Ranger District on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The area is twelve miles west of Montpelier, Idaho. Access to the unit is from State Highway 36 on the northwest, the Copenhagen Canyon Road and the Power Line Road. Eastern access is from the Green Basin Road.

The area's topography is moderate with vegetation of mountain brush, aspen, lodgepole pine and Douglas -fir. The average elevation is 7,700 feet above sea level.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered low, with evidence of some human activities, such as unimproved roads and timber harvest.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as low, due to the area's small size and road intrusions. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to the area's small size and road intrusions.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor along roadless boundaries, due to road intrusions.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occur in this roadless area. The area has low to moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Snowmobiling, off highway vehicle use, hunting and skiing are popular in the area.

Timber: Several timber sales have occurred in this area.

Range: Livestock are authorized to graze most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 2,300 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. There is low potential for phosphate and locatable minerals. This roadless area contains 15,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Two special use authorizations exist in the area: a water transmission ditch and a power line along Copenhagen Canyon. No State or private lands occur within this roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, but there are nineteen miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use, a water line and a powerline.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Liberty Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	15,000	12,500	12,500
GFRG	0	2,200	2,200
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	300	300
Total Acres	**15,000**	**15,000**	**15,000**

Meade Peak #167

44,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Meade Peak Roadless Area is in Caribou and Bear Lake counties, Idaho on the Montpelier Ranger District. The center of this area is about twenty miles southwest of Afton, Wyoming. Road access to the area includes Georgetown Creek and Wells Canyon roads. The South Fork of the Deer Creek Road forms a corridor into the northern boundary. The eastern boundary is formed by the Crow Creek Road, and the southern boundary is the Montpelier Canyon Highway. The Home Canyon Road cuts a deep corridor into the southwestern edge. Bennington Canyon, Pine Canyon, and Little Threemile Canyon roads are found along the western edge of the area.

The area's topography varies from gently sloping foothills to high, steep, subalpine mountains. Meade Peak is the highest point on the Forest at 9,953 feet above sea level. Conifer stands include Douglas -fir, lodgepole pine, and alpine fir; aspen occurs on all slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated as moderate, because of the evidence of some human activities, such as unimproved roads and timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude rate as moderate, because of road intrusions into the area. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered moderate due to area's size, but there are many road intrusions.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include good wildlife and fish habitat. The roadless area contains Meade Peak, the highest point on the forest, a 300 acre Research Natural Area, and 400 acres in Management Prescription 2.1.2(b) Visual Quality Maintenance. This prescription is located along major travel corridors.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to road intrusions into the area. A core area, with boundaries along natural features, could be achieved.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles and Townsends big eared bat, a Region 4 sensitive species occur in this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: The area is popular for big game hunting, fishing, and camping.

Timber: Recent timber harvest activities have occurred in the area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 11,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. About 500 acres of phosphate deposits are currently lease and another 2,500 acres of known deposits are unleased. This roadless area contains 44,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has no existing special use authorizations. Approximately 1,267 acres of State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads, but there are fifty-two miles of motorized trails.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Meade Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	5,000	5,000
Backcountry	44,700	7,900	7,900
GFRG	0	31,100	31,100
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	700	700
Total Acres	**44,700**	**44,700**	**44,700**

Mink Creek #176

16,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Mink Creek Roadless Area is in Bear Lake and Franklin counties, Idaho on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but is administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. It is located approximately twenty miles northeast of Preston, Idaho. Access from the north is on State Highway 36 and Mill Hollow Road. Dry Basin Road and the Horseshoe Basin Road form the eastern boundary. Birch Creek and Paris Canyon roads form the southern boundary.

Topography in the area is quite steep and rocky. Elevations range from 8,000 feet to 5,500 feet above sea level. Vegetation includes mountain maple, aspen, mahogany, Douglas -fir, sagebrush, and grass.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated as very high, even though livestock facilities and unimproved roads are present in the area.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered moderate because of the area's size and minimal natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated as moderate, the area is small in size, but does have some steep, rocky terrain.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified for this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to the area's small size and road intrusions. A core area could be achieved by locating the boundaries on natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occur in this roadless area. The area has low to moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area supports a water diversion under special use authorization.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation activities include motorized trail use, snowmobiling, and deer hunting.

Timber: Recent timber sale activities have occurred in this area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 6,600 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. The roadless area has low locatable mineral potential. This roadless area contains 16,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has special use authorizations including a power line and a water diversion.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads, but there are twenty-five miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use, a waterline and a powerline.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Mink Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	16,300	13,400	13,400
GFRG	0	2,500	2,500
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	400	400
Total Acres	**16,300**	**16,300**	**16,300**

Mount Naomi #758

28,500 Acres Caribou (Idaho)
45,100 Acres Wasatch-Cache (Utah)
73,600 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Idaho portion of the Mount Naomi Roadless Area is in Franklin County, Idaho on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but is administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. The area lies about four miles east of Franklin, Idaho. The Mt. Naomi Roadless Area originally included a total acreage of 94,100 acres within the states of Idaho and Utah. In 1984, Utah Wilderness legislation designated 44,350 acres of Mt. Naomi Roadless Area in Utah for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System. The public was notified that the remaining Idaho portion would be evaluated as part of the 1985 Caribou National Forest Plan. The major access roads to the area include Cub River Road on the north, Hillyard Canyon and Logan River roads on the east, and Sugar and Maple Creek roads on the west.

The roadless area's topography includes rolling hills on the east and steep, rocky slopes near the interior of the area. Elevations vary from 6,000 feet to two peaks that exceed 9,000 feet. About fifty percent of the area gently slopes down to about 6,500 feet. Much of the higher elevations are exposed rock outcrops. Vegetation includes conifer stands on the north and east-facing slopes, with some aspen, mountain brush, and maple. Drainage bottoms also include maple and scattered conifer.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered very high, although some evidence of human activities is present.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as high, because of the area's large size. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered high.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include a large area for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor along the roadless area boundaries. A substantial core area would be achieved if boundaries were adjusted to exclude popular motorized trails and lower elevations.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has high values for fish habitat. The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, great gray owl, northern goshawk, and ringneck snake, Region 4 sensitive species occur in this roadless area.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: Lemhi penstemon (*Penstemon compactus*) a sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation includes snowmobiling, off highway vehicle use, and semi-primitive non-motorized summer use within the interior of the area.

Timber: Recent timber sales have occurred on the eastern boundary.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized over most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 28,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has one special use authorization for a water transmission line. About forty acres of State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads, but there are thirteen miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Mt. Naomi Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	13,200	13,200
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	28,500	13,100	13,100
GFRG	0	2,200	2,200
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**28,500**	**28,500**	**28,500**

North Pebble #155

5,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The North Pebble Roadless Area is in Caribou County, Idaho on the Westside Ranger District. It is located nine miles northwest of Bancroft, Idaho. The Pebble Creek Road and the Wood Gulch Road form the eastern boundary of the North Pebble Roadless Area. The Hornet Canyon, King Creek and Gooding Canyon roads also provide access to the area.

The area's topography is dominated by gently sloping terrain, making it non-typical of other forest roadless areas. The elevation varies from about 6,000 feet to 7,500 feet. Vegetation cover types include grass, forbs, and mountain brush, with a few scattered stands of aspen and conifer on north slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated as moderate, because the evidence of unimproved roads and timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered low, because of the area's small size and minimal natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated as low due to area's small size.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified for this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered good along inventoried boundaries.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species occur in this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: This roadless area contains 2,100 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Activities include hiking, hunting, camping, and snowmobile use. The area receives heavy recreation use of all kinds.

Timber: There has been recent timber harvest within the area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on much of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 5,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has one special use authorization for outfitting and guiding big game. A powerline and phosphate slurry line is located along the area's perimeter.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads, but there is a half-mile of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes a slurry line and a powerline.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

North Pebble Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	5,500	3,900	3,900
GFRG	0	1,600	1,600
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**5,500**	**5,500**	**5,500**

Oxford Mountain #157

40,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Oxford Mountain Roadless Area is in Bannock, Franklin and Oneida counties, Idaho on the Westside District on the Caribou portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It includes the mountain range south of Downey, Idaho between U.S. Highway 91 and Interstate 15. Access includes the Deep Creek-Weston Canyon Road along the southwest border and the Cherry Creek Road. Other roads leading to the area include Rockslide Canyon, Clifton Basin, Fivemile Creek roads on the east; and First, Second, Third and Dry Creeks and New Canyon roads on the west.

Elevations in the roadless area range from approximately 5,500 feet, rising to 9,282 feet at Oxford Peak. The area's topography is typical of the region with steep sagebrush and grass slopes with patches of aspen and mountain maple. Narrow stands of Douglas -fir are found on northern slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment rates as moderate, because of the presence of unimproved roads and livestock grazing.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude rate low, due to the area's size and minimal natural screening from valley developments. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to area's small size.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified for this roadless area. About 400 acres are in Management Prescription 2.1.2(b) Visual Quality Maintenance. This prescription is located along major travel corridors.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor along inventoried boundaries, but a core area could be achieved by locating a boundary on natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occur in this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Recreation uses include off highway vehicle use, camping, and snowmobiling.

Timber: No recent timber activity has occurred in the area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 31,600 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 40,800 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: One special use authorization exists for outfitting and guiding. No State or private lands occur within the area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, but there are fifty-nine miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes high motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Oxford Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	40,800	9,300	9,300
GFRG	0	31,100	31,100
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	400	400
Total Acres	**40,800**	**40,800**	**40,800**

Paris Peak #177

8,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Paris Peak Roadless Area lies in Bear Lake County, Idaho on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but is administered by the Montpelier Ranger District on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It is located six miles west of Bloomington, Idaho. Access on the north is by the Paris Canyon Road. The Bloomington Canyon and Middle Fork roads form the southern and western boundary. Harry's Hollow, Bloomington Canyon North Fork, and the Paris Flat Roads also provide access to the area.

The lower reaches of the area are gently sloping, but Paris Peak rises sharply to 9,587 feet above sea level. The dominant vegetation cover is lodgepole pine and Douglas -fir. Aspen, mountain brush, sagebrush, and grass are found in the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated high, but portions of the area have been affected by timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered low, due to area's small size and road intrusions. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated low due to area's small size and road intrusions.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified for this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability is considered poor, due to existing road intrusions. A small core area could be achieved if boundaries followed natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occur in this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has a special use authorization for a water diversion for the town of Paris.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: The primary recreation pursuits are snowmobiling, off highway vehicle use, skiing, hunting, and camping.

Minerals: The area has no current oil or gas leases.

Timber: Most of the conifer stands have been selectively logged in the past.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 800 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 8,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Special use authorizations for the area include a water diversion, a winter yurt, a powerline, and a communication site on Paris Peak. No State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, but there are three miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes a communication site, a water line, and a power line.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Paris Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	8,500	7,300	7,300
GFRG	0	1,200	1,200
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**8,500**	**8,500**	**8,500**

Pole Creek #160

3,500 Acres Caribou
2,600 Acres Targhee
6,100 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Pole Creek Roadless Area is in Bonneville County, Idaho on the Soda Springs Ranger District and the Palisades Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. Each portion is managed under the respective forest plans; the Caribou Forest Plan and the Targhee Forest Plan. The area is located about twelve miles north of Wayan, Idaho. Road access to the area is by the Brockman Creek Road, the McCoy Creek Road, and the Brockman Ridge Road.

The area's topography is comprised of rolling hills with a few moderately steep slopes. The average elevation is 7,000 feet above sea level. Vegetation types include aspen and mountain brush with small stands of Douglas -fir and lodgepole pine on north and east-facing slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated low, because human activities are evident, including unimproved roads and timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude rate low, due to the area's small size. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated low due to small size and road intrusions.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to the area's small size and motorized route.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species occur in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occur in this roadless area. The area has low values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Most of the area is managed for semi-primitive motorized experiences. Activities include snowmobiling and hunting.

Timber: The 1989 Brockman timber sale occurs along the eastern boundary.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 4,600 acres of high and 1,500 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has one special use authorization for outfitting and guiding. No State or private lands occur within the area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, but there are six miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Pole Creek Management Theme Caribou	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	3,500	3,200	3,200
GFRG	0	300	300
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**3,500**	**3,500**	**3,500**

Pole Creek Management Theme Targhee	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	2,600	2,600	2,600
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**2,600**	**2,600**	**2,600**

Pole Creek Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	6,100	5,800	5,800
GFRG	0	300	300
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**6,100**	**6,100**	**6,100**

Red Mountain #170

13,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Red Mountain Roadless Area is in Bear Lake County, Idaho on the Montpelier Ranger District. The area lies four miles northwest of Geneva, Idaho and one mile west of the Idaho-Wyoming border. Access to the area is by the Elk Valley Road on the north, the Boulevard Road on the east, and the Crow Creek Road on the west.

The area's topography is comprised of gently sloping hills covered with sagebrush, grass, and mountain brush, rising to barren red rock cliffs near the summit of Red Mountain. Elevation ranges from 8,727 feet at Red Mountain to about 6,300 feet near Geneva. Small patches of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine are found on north and east-facing slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated very high, but evidence is present of grazing and unimproved roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered low, because of the area's size and lack of natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated low due to area's small size and lack of screening.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include barren, red rock cliffs near the summit of Red Mountain.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered fair; although an improved exploration road bisects the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occur in this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation use includes off highway vehicle use, snowmobiling, and camping.

Timber: No recent timber harvest activity has occurred in this area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 200 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 5,900 acres of high and 7,800 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has no special use authorizations. No State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads, but there are fourteen miles of motorized trails.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Red Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	6,600	6,600
Backcountry	13,600	1,900	1,900
GFRG	0	5,100	5,100
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**13,600**	**13,600**	**13,600**

Sage Creek #166

12,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Sage Creek Roadless Area is in Caribou County, Idaho and administered by the Montpelier Ranger District and the Soda Springs Ranger District. This area is located ten miles southwest of Afton, Wyoming. The Timber Creek and Smoky Canyon roads access the area from the north. Pole Canyon, Sage Creek and Crow Creek roads approach the area from the east. Wells Canyon Road access the area from the southwest border. The Diamond Creek and Freeman Pass roads parallel the west border.

Elevations in the roadless area range from 8,643 feet to 6,700 feet near Crow Creek. Vegetation on the north slopes includes Douglas -fir and lodgepole pine with aspen, mountain brush, sagebrush, and grass on west and south-facing slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered low, with evidence of mining and timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated low, due to the area's small size, road intrusions, and mining activities. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to the area's small size and road intrusions.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified for this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered fair along roadless boundaries. Road intrusions are present and adjacent mining activities are visible from the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has high values for fish habitat. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species occur in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles occur in this roadless area. The hairy woodpecker, northern flicker, three-toed woodpecker, and flammulated owl, Region 4 sensitive species also occur in this roadless area.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Off-highway vehicle use and hunting are popular in the area.

Timber: Several timber sales have occurred in this area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. About 2,700 of phosphate deposits are currently under lease and another 1,700 acres of known deposits are unleased. This roadless area contains 10,800 acres of high and 1,900 of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has various phosphate activities, a phosphate slurry line and a powerline under special use authorization. No State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads, but there are twenty-five miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use, a slurry line, and a communication site.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Sage Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	12,800	2,100	2,100
GFRG	0	10,700	10,700
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**12,800**	**12,800**	**12,800**

Schmid Peak #163

6,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Schmid Peak Roadless Area is in Caribou County, Idaho on the Soda Springs Ranger District on the Caribou portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The area is about seventeen miles northeast of Soda Springs, Idaho. Road access from the north includes Mill Canyon, Mills Spring, Diamond Creek and Kendall Canyon roads. The Stewart Canyon Road parallels the south and west boundary. The Maybe Canyon Road provides access from the west.

The area's topography is moderately steep. Elevations range from 8,500 feet to 6,500 feet above sea level. West and south-facing slopes are covered with sagebrush, grass, mountain brush, and aspen. The north and east slopes support conifer stands.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated low to moderate, with evidence of some unimproved roads, timber harvest, and mining activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered low, because of road and mining intrusions. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated low with road intrusions and mining activities.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified for this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered very poor, due to road intrusions and the narrow width of area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species occur in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occur in this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: The area is popular for camping, hiking, off highway vehicle use, and snowmobile use.

Timber: Recent timber harvesting activities have occurred in the area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. About 40 acres of phosphate deposits are under lease and another 20 acres of known deposits are unleased. This roadless area contains 6,900 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has three existing special use authorizations: one outfitter and guide, one powerline, and the phosphate slurry line. No State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads, but there are three miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Schmid Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	6,900	6,500	6,500
GFRG	0	400	400
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**6,900**	**6,900**	**6,900**

Scout Mountain #152

24,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Scout Mountain Roadless Area is in Bannock County, Idaho, and is administered by the Westside Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It is located approximately thirteen miles southeast of Pocatello, Idaho. Access roads include Mink Creek, South Fork, and East Fork roads. Other lower standard access roads include Indian Creek, Goodenough Creek, Kinney Creek, Lead Draw, Camp Tedoy, and Scout Mountain roads.

Topography in the area is quite steep with brush and grass covered slopes. Aspen stands are common, and small stringers of Douglas -fir are found on north-facing slopes. Elevations range from 4,600 feet to 8,710 feet above sea level at Scout Mountain.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate, because unimproved roads and timber harvest activities are evident in the area.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered low, because of the area's size and minimal natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered moderate.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in this roadless area. About 200 acres are in Management Prescription 2.1.2(b) Visual Quality Maintenance. This prescription is located along major travel corridors.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to the area's small size and road intrusions. A substantial core area could be achieved by locating the boundaries on natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species occur in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occurs in this roadless area. Great grey owls and flammulated owls, Region 4 sensitive species occur in this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area supports a water diversion under a special use authorization.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Dispersed recreational activities include motorized trail use, snowmobiling, and camping.

Timber: Recent timber activity has occurred in the area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 11,400 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 24,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Special use authorizations within the area include an outfitter and guide and an electronic site.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, but there are twenty-six miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use, a communication site, and developed and dispersed recreation management.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Scout Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	24,500	21,800	21,800
GFRG	0	2,500	2,500
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	2000	0
Total Acres	**24,500**	**24,500**	**24,500**

Sherman Peak #172

7,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Sherman Peak Roadless Area is in Bear Lake County, Idaho on the Cache National Forest, administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. The area lies twelve miles south of Soda Springs, Idaho. Eightmile Creek Road provides access to the area from the northwest. The Skinner Canyon Road provides access from the east.

The area's topography varies from moderate to quite steep. Most of the area is covered in lodgepole pine, but some aspen, mountain brush, sagebrush, and grass occur in the area. Sherman Peak rises 9,686 feet above sea level; the area's low point is near Eightmile Creek at 6,500 feet above sea level.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate, because human activities are evident in unimproved roads and past timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated as low, because of the area's small size and lack of natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to area's small size and lack of topographic and vegetative screening.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered fair along the roadless area boundaries.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has high values for fish habitat. The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occurs in this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation includes snowmobiling, off highway vehicle use, back-country skiing, and semi-primitive non-motorized summer use in the area's interior.

Timber: Timber harvesting activity has occurred in the roadless area in the late 1980s.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 7,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has one communication site and a back-country yurt for avalanche forecasting under special use authorizations. No State or private lands occur within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads, but there are eight miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use, a yurt, and a communication site.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Sherman Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	7,700	6,200	6,200
GFRG	0	1,500	1,500
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**7,700**	**7,700**	**7,700**

Soda Point #171

23,100 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Soda Point Roadless Area is in Caribou and Bear Lake Counties, Idaho on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but is administered by the Montpelier District. It lies seven miles south of Soda Springs, Idaho. The Nelson Canyon Road provides access from the north, and the Eightmile Road provides access from the east. Cheatbeck and Cow Creek roads provide access to the area from the northwest. North Ant Canyon Road is on the southern boundary.

The area forms the northern tip of the Wasatch Range. The elevation varies from 8,921 feet at Soda Point to 6,600 feet near the Bear River. Southwest slopes are steep and rocky with juniper, sagebrush, and mountain mahogany. North and east slopes are gentle with lodgepole pine, Douglas -fir, aspen and mountain brush.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated as moderate, because the area contains evidence of unimproved roads and timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered moderate, because of the area's moderate size and natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to lack of screening.

Special Features: Special features include a 1,000 acre Research Natural Area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor along inventoried boundaries. A core area could be achieved if boundaries were placed on natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has moderate values for fish habitat. The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occurs in this roadless area.. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area supports one municipal water use for the town of Grace.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Activities include hiking, hunting, off highway vehicle use, and snowmobiling.

Timber: One recent timber sale has occurred in the area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 8,900 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 23,100 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has one special use authorization for a communication site.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads, but there are forty-one miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use and a communication site.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Soda Point Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	23,100	14,300	14,300
GFRG	0	7,800	7,800
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,000	1,000
Total Acres	**23,100**	**23,100**	**23,100**

Station Creek #178

9,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Station Creek Roadless Area is in Franklin County, Idaho on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but is administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. It is eleven miles northeast of Preston, Idaho. Access roads include Birch Creek Road on the north and east, and Cub River Road on the south. The Worm Creek and South Canyon Roads cherry-stem into the roadless area on the west.

The area is on the west slope of the Wasatch Range. Slopes are quite steep, but large benches and basins occur at upper elevations. Elevations average about 7,000 feet above sea level. Dominant vegetation includes sagebrush, grass, mountain brush, aspen, maple and some stringers of conifer on the north slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered high, but the area has been affected by unimproved roads and livestock grazing.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated low, due to the area's size and minimal natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to area's small size.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered very poor along inventoried boundaries; the distance between roads rarely exceeds two miles.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occurs in this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Recreation uses are high and include off highway vehicle use, snowmobiling, and hunting.

Timber: Recent timber sales have occurred in this area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 5,800 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 9,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: One special use authorization exists for a power line. No State or private lands occur within the area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, but there are sixteen miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use and a powerline.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Station Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	9,500	3,400	3,400
GFRG	0	6,100	6,100
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**9,500**	**9,500**	**9,500**

Stauffer Creek #173

6,100 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Stauffer Creek Roadless Area is in Bear Lake County, on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but is administered by the Montpelier Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The area is 7 miles west of Georgetown, Idaho. Road access includes the Skinner Canyon Road, the South Stauffer Creek Road, the Mill Hollow Road, and the Meadow Creek Road.

Topography of the roadless area is moderately sloping and vegetation cover is predominately lodgepole pine. The average elevation is 7,500 feet above sea level.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered low; the area has been affected by roads and timber harvest.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated low, due to the area's size and minimal natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered low due to area's small size and road intrusions.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered fair along inventoried boundaries; boundary adjustments would be limited within the small area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has high values for fish habitat. The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occurs in this roadless area. Northern goshawk, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: The area is popular for hunting, off highway vehicle use and snowmobiling.

Timber: The area has recent timber sales and past timber harvest is evident along the boundaries of the area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 2,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 6,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no special use authorizations within the area. No State or private land occur within the area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, but there are thirty-seven miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Stauffer Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	6,100	6,000	6,100
GFRG	0	100	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**6,100**	**6,100**	**6,100**

Stump Creek #162

96,800 Acres Caribou (Idaho)
700 Acres Caribou (Wyoming)
97,500 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Stump Creek Roadless Area is in Caribou County, Idaho and Lincoln County, Wyoming on the Soda Springs Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It is located twenty miles northeast of Soda Springs, Idaho and ten miles northwest of Afton, Wyoming. The Tincup Highway is the northern boundary of the area. Eastern access is on the Stump Creek Road. From the northeast side, Deer Creek, Limekiln Creek, and Water Canyon roads provide access to the area. The Smoky Canyon Road forms the southern boundary. Cabin Creek, Timothy Creek, Bacon Creek, and Brown Creek roads provide access to the area from the west.

Stump Creek is the largest roadless area on the Forest. Most of the acres are in Idaho. Only about 700 acres are in Wyoming. The area is located in the Caribou and Webster Mountain Ranges. The highest point in the roadless area is Drainy Peak at 9,131 feet above sea level. The low point is around 6,000 feet above sea level near Star Valley, Wyoming. The area has moderately sloping hills covered with sagebrush, grass, and mountain brush with aspen and conifer at higher elevations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated as high. Unimproved roads, livestock grazing, and recreation impacts are evident in some portions of the area.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered very high, due to the area's large size and low development. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated high, due to the remoteness of portions of the area.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include 1,600 acres in the Historic Lander Trail, a large expanse of land for semi-primitive recreation, and a 600 acre Research Natural Area. In addition, about 1,400 acres are in Management Prescription 2.1.2(b) Visual Quality Maintenance. This prescription is located along major travel corridors.

Manageability: Manageability is considered fair. A large core area could b e achieved if boundaries followed natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has high values for fish habitat. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species occur in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occurs in this roadless area. Great gray owl, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area. The area has high values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water uses.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: The primary recreation pursuits are snowmobiling, off highway vehicle use, hunting, and camping.

Timber: Recent timber sales have occurred in the area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 24,500 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. About 160 acres of phosphate deposits are under leased and another 120 acres of deposits are not leased. This roadless area contains 16,500 acres of high and 80,300 of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Special use authorizations include a power line and outfitting and guiding. No State or private land occurs within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads, but there are one hundred and sixteen miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes high motorized trail use and powerlines.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Stump Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	6,300	6,300
Backcountry	96,800	76,600	76,600
GFRG	0	10,300	10,300
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	3,600	3,600
Total Acres	**96,800**	**96,800**	**96,800**

Swan Creek #180

7,100 Acres Caribou (Idaho)
9,400 Acres Wasatch-Cache (Utah)
16,500 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Swan Creek Roadless Area straddles the Idaho and Utah border about three miles west of Bear Lake. About 7,100 acres is located in Idaho. Management direction is provided by the Caribou Forest Plan. About 9,400 acres is located in Utah. Management direction is provided by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

The Idaho portion of the roadless area is in Bear Lake and Franklin Counties, Idaho. The area is located about three miles west of Fish Haven, Idaho. Road access from the north and east is on the Fish Haven and Logan Canyon roads respectively. Access from the west is on the Beaver Creek Road. The Old Logan Road is the western boundary.

The area's topography is quite steep, but more rolling and gentle slopes appear at higher elevations. The average elevation is about 8,000 feet above sea level. Vegetation types include sagebrush, grass, mahogany, and maple on lower slopes, with aspen and fir types occurring at higher elevations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate, because human activities are evident, including unimproved roads and timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated moderate, due to the area's size and some natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered moderate due to area's size.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to the area's small size and road intrusions.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occurs in this roadless area. The area has low values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Most of the area is managed for semi-primitive motorized experiences. Activities include snowmobiling and hunting.

Timber: Recent timber sale activity has occurred in this area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 2,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 7,100 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has no special use authorizations.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, but there are eight miles of motorized trails.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Swan Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	7,100	7,100	7,100
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**7,100**	**7,100**	**7,100**

Telephone Draw #169

4,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Telephone Draw Roadless Area is in Bear Lake County, Idaho administered by the Montpelier Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. This area is located approximately seven miles east of Montpelier, Idaho. The northern boundary of the area is formed by Snowslide Canyon Road. U.S. Highway 89 forms the southern boundary. The area is accessible from the Montpelier Reservoir and the Crow Creek Road on the west.

The area's topography is comprised primarily of steep terrain. Average elevation is 7,000 feet above sea level. Sagebrush, grass, mountain brush, and aspen make up the vegetation cover in the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered high, with evidence of some unimproved roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated low due to the area's small size. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are also rated low due to area's small size and lack of screening.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor due to the area's small size.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occurs in this roadless area. The area has low values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: off highway vehicle use and snowmobiling are popular recreation activities in the area.

Timber: No timber harvest activities have occurred in this area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized for most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 3,900 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 4,900 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has no special use authorizations.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads, but there are four miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Telephone Draw Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	4,900	3,400	3,400
GFRG	0	1,400	1,400
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	100	100
Total Acres	**4,900**	**4,900**	**4,900**

Toponce #153

18,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Toponce Roadless Area is in Bannock and Caribou Counties, Idaho on the Westside Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The area is located about twelve miles east of Pocatello, Idaho. Road access from the south includes Inman Creek and Toponce Creek roads.

The area's topography consists of gently sloping terrain and open valleys of grasses and forbs. Mountain slopes have brush and aspen cover with lodgepole pine and Douglas -fir on the north aspects. Elevations range from 8,000 feet to 5,500 feet above sea level.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered high, even though the area displays evidence of human development, including several unimproved roads and old mining activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated low because of area's small size and lower valley development is visible from most of the area. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are considered moderate, and back-country skiing in the area can be challenging.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include back-country ski experiences.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered good, due to the lack of development on surrounding lands.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species occur in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occurs in this roadless area. The area has high values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: The area is popular for hiking, skiing, and snowmobile use.

Timber: No recent timber activity has occurred in the area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 3,900 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 18,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Special use authorizations include one outfitter and guide, several back-country yurts and a phosphate slurry line. No State or private land occurs within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads, but there are two miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes a slurry line and a yurt system.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Toponce Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	7,300	7,300
Backcountry	18,300	1,200	1,200
GFRG	0	9,800	9,800
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**18,300**	**18,300**	**18,300**

West Mink #151

19,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The West Mink Roadless Area is in Bannock and Power Counties, Idaho and is administered by the Westside Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It is located approximately six miles south of Pocatello, Idaho. Access roads include the Mink Creek Road (Bannock Highway), which borders the area along the southeast. The area is also bordered on the west by the Fort Hall Indian Reservation and on the southwest by Bureau of Land Management administered lands.

The area's topography is steep with grass and brush covered slopes. Some patches of aspen and stringers of Douglas -fir occur on the north slopes. Elevations range from 5,000 feet to 7,000 feet above sea level.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated as moderate, because unimproved roads and timber harvest activities are evident in the area.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered low, because of the area's size, road intrusions, and minimal natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated as moderate, and back-country skiing in the area can be challenging.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include areas for non-motorized recreation use, and two Research Natural Areas that cover 3,000 acres. In addition, about 700 acres are in Management Prescription 2.1.2(b) Visual Quality Maintenance. This prescription is located along major travel corridors.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor, due to the area's small size and road intrusions. A substantial core area could be achieved by locating the boundaries on natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species occur in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occurs in this roadless area. Ringneck snake and flammulated owl, Region 4 sensitive species occur in this roadless area. The area has moderate values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area supports a non-culinary water line for the City of Pocatello under a special use authorization.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Dispersed recreational activities include off highway vehicle use, hiking, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing.

Timber: Recent timber sales have occurred in the area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 11,300 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 19,600 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Special use authorizations within the area include a powerline, a waterline, and outfitting and guiding.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, but there are twenty-seven miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use, a powerline, and a waterline.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

West Mink Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	19,600	15,600	15,600
GFRG	0	300	300
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	3,700	3,700
Total Acres	**19,600**	**19,600**	**19,600**

Williams Creek #174

9,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Williams Creek Roadless Area is in Franklin and Bear Lake Counties, Idaho on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but is administered by the Montpelier Ranger District. The area is about fifteen miles west of Montpelier, Idaho. The south boundary is State Highway 36. The eastern edge is deeply penetrated by Squirrel Hollow Road. The Williams Canyon Road forms the southwest boundary. The Post Hollow Road makes a deep corridor into the western boundary.

The topography of the area is moderately steep. Major vegetation cover includes maple, sagebrush, grass, and juniper with aspen and conifer on northern slopes. The average elevation is 7,400 feet above sea level.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is considered moderate, even though human activities are present, including unimproved roads and timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are rated low, because of the area's small size and lack of natural screening. Opportunity for primitive recreation and challenging experiences is rated low due to area's small size.

Special Features: No special features or attractions have been identified in the roadless area. About 600 acres are in Management Prescription 2.1.2(b) Visual Quality Maintenance. This prescription is located along major travel corridors.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered very poor on the roadless area boundaries, due to road intrusions and the area's narrow width.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has low values for fish habitat. The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occurs in this roadless area. The area has low values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation includes snowmobiling, off highway vehicle use, and camping.

Timber: Several recent timber sales have occurred in the area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 9,800 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has two power lines under special use authorization. No State or private land occurs within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area has no forest roads, but there are fourteen miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use and powerlines.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Williams Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	9,800	4,400	4,400
GFRG	0	4,800	4,800
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	600	600
Total Acres	**9,800**	**9,800**	**9,800**

Worm Creek #179

41,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Worm Creek Roadless Area is in Franklin and Bear Lake Counties, Idaho on the Cache portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, but is administered by the Montpelier District. It is eight miles west of St. Charles, Idaho. The Bloomington Canyon and Paris Flat roads provide access to the area on the north, and Dry Creek, Worm Creek, Dry Canyon, and St. Charles Canyon roads provide access from the east.

The area includes flat to gentle-sloping hills to high elevation basins and steep, rocky mountain peaks. Glacial land types are evident. The elevation varies from 9,000 feet to 6,600 feet above sea level. Much of the higher elevations are exposed rock outcrops. Vegetation consists of large stands of Douglas -fir and lodgepole pine with meadow type vegetation in the high basins. Stands of aspen and maple add dramatic color in the fall.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Naturalness of the environment is rated very high, even though some evidence of unimproved roads and timber harvest activities exist.

Opportunities for Experience: Remoteness and solitude are considered moderate, because of the moderate size of the area and natural screening. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are rated as high due to rocky, steep terrain at higher elevations.

Special Features: Special features or attractions include Bloomington Lake Special Area (200 acres) and its non-motorized recreation setting in the summer, a 400 acre Research Natural Area, and 1,200 acres of eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: Manageability of the area is considered poor along inventoried boundaries. A core area could be achieved if boundaries were placed on natural features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area has moderate to high values for fish habitat. The Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Bald eagles, a threatened species occurs in this roadless area. Townsend's big eared bat, a Region 4 sensitive species occur in this roadless area. The area has moderate to high values for wildlife habitat.

Water: The area has no municipal water use.

Botanical: Lemhi penstemon (*Penstemon compactus*) a sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Activities include hiking, hunting, off highway vehicle, and snowmobile use.

Timber: There have been recent timber sales in the area.

Range: Livestock grazing is authorized on most of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 4,100 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has no current oil or gas leases. This roadless area contains 41,900 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area has no special use authorizations.

Roads and Trails: There are no forest roads, but there are thirty-seven miles of motorized trail.

Disturbances: The area includes motorized trail use and recreation management at Bloomington Lake.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Worm Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	41,900	33,700	33,700
GFRG	0	6,400	6,400
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,800	1,800
Total Acres	**41,900**	**41,900**	**41,900**

Blue Bunch #923

6,100 Acres Challis
4,900 Acres Boise
11,000 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Boise portion of the Blue Bunch Roadless Area is 4,900 acres; the Challis portion is 6,100 acres, with the entire Blue Bunch Roadless Area totaling 11,000 acres. The Challis National Forest is the lead forest for evaluation of the entire shared roadless area.

The Blue Bunch Roadless Area, on the Lowman Ranger District, lies east of Fir Creek, south of Bear Valley Creek, and adjacent to the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness. On the Boise National Forest side the area is accessed by the graveled Warm Lake-Stanley road west of State Highway 21. The area is also accessed by the Bear Valley Creek (No. 012) and the Lola Creek (No. 014) trails. On the Challis portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest the roadless area is accessed by the graveled Cape Horn-Fir Creek road off State Highway #21.

Elevations range from about 6,400 feet near Bear Valley Creek to 9,500 feet at Capehorn Mountain. The area is underlain by Cretaceous granitics of the Idaho Batholith. At the lower elevations, slopes are moist and steep with scattered to dense stands of lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir. Engelmann spruce thrive in the wetter bog areas. In higher areas, glacial troughlands are vegetated with dense to open stands of lodgepole pine and subalpine fir.

Overall, the Blue Bunch Roadless Area includes forested slopes and meadows, and rocky glaciated areas. Capehorn Mountain, a massive, glaciated peak, is the area's prominent feature. One small lake lies on the mountain's northwestern flank.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural appearance and integrity of the area is intact.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for primitive recreation are moderate. Because few trails exist within the area and due to the rugged terrain, cross-country travel is challenging. When considered as a potential addition to the existing adjacent Frank-Church River of No Return Wilderness there are considerable opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Special Features: Along the northern boundary the roadless area contains portions of Bear Valley Creek, a 4,000 acre river segment eligible for wild classification in the Wild and Scenic River System.

Manageability: The area could be managed as a part of the adjoining Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Blue Bunch Roadless Area borders a short section of Bear Valley, and Fir Creek. A significant tributary of Fir Creek originates within this roadless area. Bear Valley Creek provides critical spawning and rearing habitat for Snake River spring/summer Chinook and Snake River Basin steelhead. Bull trout may use this section of Bear Valley as a migratory corridor, over wintering habitat, and occasional summer habitat. The mouth and lower portion of Fir Creek may have historically provided spawning habitat for Snake River Chinook and steelhead, however currently Fir Creek is probably only used by these fish for rearing (1 mile for Chinook and 4 miles for steelhead). Fir Creek provides 4 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for redband rainbow, westslope cutthroat, and bull trout.

Wildlife: Potential habitat for lynx, wolverine, and fisher occurs. Wolverine and fisher have been documented within or nearby this roadless area within the last ten years. These species are vulnerable to trapping which increases with human access. The roadless area provides relatively secluded habitat important to these species. Boreal owl, great gray owl, northern goshawk, three-toed woodpecker, and

spotted frog are sensitive species which are known to occur or could potentially occur within the roadless area.

Elk, mule deer, red-backed vole, meadow vole, pileated woodpecker, mountain chickadee, and yellow warbler are management indicator species and are present within the roadless area. The area provides summer and fall habitat for elk and mule deer. This roadless area is important for providing security areas for elk and deer during hunting seasons and for maintaining the snag component of forested habitats across large areas. Higher elevations within this roadless area have been identified as mountain goat habitat.

Water: There are a few perennial streams that flow northerly to Bear Valley Creek. Water in the area contributes to recreation, fish wildlife and other uses on the Forest.

Botanical: There is potential habitat for Idaho Douglasia in conjunction with high elevation ridge tops. Few plant surveys have been conducted in the area. No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: The roadless area receives typical backcountry fall big game hunting use, concentrated mostly in the areas adjacent to trails and the Landmark-Stanley road. There are portions of 2 non-motorized trails in the area totaling about 4.5 miles. These trails access the adjacent Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness and this area receives some backcountry use from those accessing the wilderness on these routes. Inventoried Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes within the roadless area are 75 percent Semi-Primitive Motorized and 25 percent Roaded Natural.

Timber: The roadless area contains about 3,500 acres of forest considered tentatively suited for timber management. These acres are considered low to moderate in productivity.

Range: Over 3,000 acres are grassland and coniferous timber land suitable for livestock grazing. The entire area is within a vacant sheep allotment not current being grazed.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 11,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or State owned lands within the roadless area.

Heritage: Cultural resource site sensitivity is rated as low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Blue Bunch Management Theme Challis	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	6,100	6,100	6,100
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**6,100**	**6,100**	**6,100**

Blue Bunch Management Theme Boise	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	4,900	4,500	4,500
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	400	400
Total Acres	**4,900**	**4,900**	**4,900**

Blue Bunch Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	11,000	9,600	9,600
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	400	400
Total Acres	**11,000**	**11,000**	**11,000**

Borah Peak #012

130,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Borah Peak Roadless Area lies 34 miles south of Challis, east of Highway 93, on the Challis and Lost River Ranger District. Its boundaries can be easily reached by the Double Springs Pass Road, Pass Creek road, and other roads and trails leading off Highway 93 and the Pahsimeroi Road. This is a sizeable roadless area and includes approximately 130,500 acres of National Forest System lands.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Intrusions into the area include Coal Creek, Warren Mountain, Mahogany Gulch, Lower Cedar Creek, Pete Creek, East and West Forks of the Pahsimeroi, Cedar Creek, Crow's Nest Canyon, Double Springs Pass, Lone Cedar, and Sawmill Gulch. Most intrusions into Borah Peak do not detract from the natural integrity of the area. Boundaries could be modified to exclude these intrusions with little impact to overall wilderness values.

Centrally located in the Lost River Range, this roadless area of land is characterized by high peaks, large cirque basins, steep slopes and generally narrow canyon bottoms below cirque basins, leading to alluvial fans. The area is very rugged, with outstanding geologic features due to repeated glaciation. One of the most outstanding features is Borah Peak, the highest mountain in Idaho, reaching 12,655 feet in elevation.

The steep slopes and high mountain tops and ridges provide a scenic backdrop to the valley ranches and communities. The surrounding valleys include irrigated hayfields and pastures, and riparian willow/cottonwood plant communities.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is excellent. Challenging experience include technical and non-technical climbing and cross-country travel.

Special Features: The major scenic attractions of national significance include Mount Borah, seen from the Big Lost River Valley, and "Little Switzerland" in the upper reaches of the Pahsimeroi. The area contains several unique features such as Idaho's highest peak, true alpine vegetation, geologic formations, and a glacier.

Other special features include two Research Natural Areas, totaling 4,200 acres. The Mahogany Creek Research Natural Area includes approximately 3,600 acres. Its special features are examples of mountain mahogany, Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, whitebark and limber pine and high mountain and alpine grasslands. The Merriam Lake Basin Research Natural Area covers 800 acres. Its special features are various alpine plants, including vegetation typical of tundra 2,400 miles to the north, true alpine lakes, and numerous rare plant species.

A large exposed earthquake fault and other earthquake damage from the October 1983 Idaho earthquake are contained in this roadless area.

Manageability: The roadless area boundaries generally follow the forest boundary and roads. They do not coincide with topographical features. There is opportunity to change the boundaries to eliminate these intrusions without losing large acreages of the roadless area. However, the boundary would not follow topographic features and would be difficult to manage. The Bureau of Land Management Burnt Creek Wilderness Study Area adjoins the north border and the Bureau of Land Management Borah Peak Wilderness Study Areas adjoins the south border of this roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are several small high mountain lakes, most of which contain fisheries. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The back country nature and diversity of vegetation types provide habitat for elk, mule deer, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, and a multitude of other game and non-game

animal species. Historically, mountain goat occupied the range, but today, none exist. Pygmy rabbit, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Water: The roadless area produces high quality water for agriculture and fishery purposes.

Botanical: The diversity of vegetation produces a broad spectrum of life zones ranging from semi-arid shrublands to alpine rock/scree. Several vegetation types are present, including sagebrush/grass, mountain mahogany, spruce, subalpine fir, whitebark pine, and Douglas-fir. Lost River milkvetch *(Astragalus amnis-amissi),* Douglas' wavewing *(Cymopterus douglasii)* and Marsh's bluegrass *(Poa abbreviate ssp. marshii)* are three sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: The Borah Peak Roadless Area is currently producing 13,000 recreation visitor days annually. Most of this use is associated with fishing, hunting, camping, and cross-country skiing. Current big game populations are below the carrying capacity of the habitat, but are increasing under current habitat management and harvest practices.

Timber: There are approximately 103.1 million board feet of growing stock and a harvestable annual sustained yield of 200 million board feet. The primary value of the timber lies in watershed, wildlife, and scenic qualities. Most of the timber is old growth and there is a potential for insect and disease infestations.

Range: The current grazing use is approximately 6,800 animal unit months (AUMs) annually. The potential of increase is limited largely by other resource considerations, and is estimated to be 700 AUMs. Less than 25 percent of the sheep and cattle range is extensively developed. Limited fences and water developments are in the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 8,500 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The roadless area is on the western edge of the overthrust belt. Over 90 percent of the area has been under oil and gas lease applications, but these applications have expired. Barite has recently been discovered on the west side of Leatherman Peak. This roadless area contains 115,300 acres of high and 15,200 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Preliminary studies by Bonneville Power Administration have identified the possibility of future requests for a utility corridor.

Heritage: Cultural resources are largely unknown. Inventories have not been conducted largely because most of the area is recommended for wilderness. There is a potential for discovery of prehistoric sites.

Disturbances: From 1970 to 1979, there were two lightning-caused fires and one man-caused fire (average size less than one-half acre). The fuels of this area are generally sparse, and with the numerous fuel breaks caused by the broken topography, the chance of having large fires is small. There is great potential for improving range and wildlife habitat through the use of prescribed fire.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Borah Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	108,500	109,200
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	130,500	17,600	16,900
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	4,400	4,400
Total Acres	**130,500**	**130,500**	**130,500**

Challis Creek #004

44,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Challis Creek Roadless Area lies 10 miles west of Challis, Idaho. It is contiguous with the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness on the north, and runs from Estes Mountain northeast to Twin Peaks. The Challis Creek Road and Custer Motorway access the roadless area. Both of these roads are adjacent to the area. They are well traveled and maintained for two-wheel drive use. Access to the interior of the area is by four-wheel drive and Forest trails.

Steep slopes, bench lands, high rocky peaks and ledges, V-shaped valleys and glacial cirque basins characterize this roadless area. Elevation ranges from 6,000 to over 10,000 feet. Vegetation varies by elevation and aspect with open sagebrush and grass areas, heavy stands of Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, sub-alpine meadows and riparian communities around lakes, springs, and streams. Timber productivity is relatively low. The area is classified in the western spruce-fir forest ecosystem. Uses in the area include mineral exploration, timber harvest, grazing, roaded and primitive recreation, hunting and fishing. The area has a natural appearance and is surrounded by forest areas, which generally contribute to a feeling of being in the backcountry.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Uses in the area include mineral exploration, timber harvest, grazing, roaded and primitive recreation, hunting and fishing. The area has a natural appearance and is surrounded by forest areas that also generally contribute to a feeling of being in the backcountry.

Forest management activities have been conducted which created intrusions on the roadless nature of the area. These include the Twin Creek firewood harvest area with roads, and a timber sale near Mosquito Flat Reservoir. There are two existing intrusions. These include the Estes Mountain road, built for mineral exploration and development, as well as the Challis Creek Lakes Reservoir and road. The existing Challis Creek Lakes were raised through construction of a retention dam and inter-connecting channel.

Water from the reservoir is used for irrigation of private land near Mosquito Flat Reservoir. A special use permit to the irrigation user regulates the dam. The road was constructed to allow development and maintenance of the dam. It is accessible by four-wheel drive vehicles. The road effectively divided the roadless area. Most of the intrusions are in the northeast part of the area.

There are a few four-wheel drive roads outside of the exclusions shown.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is good. Challenging experience include cross-country travel.

Special Features: Mountain lakes and peaks.

Manageability: The roadless area boundaries follow drainage divides and roaded areas. It could be managed with the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness. It would be difficult to manage the areas adjacent to the Challis Creek Road and Custer Motorway because of the amount of traffic and traditional recreation, firewood harvest, trail bike uses, etc., presently occurring.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Challis Creek Lakes, Twin Creek Lakes, and several streams provide a popular cold-water resident fishery resource. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon and steelhead have been identified as present in this roadless area. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: The area receives heavy hunting use due to its good summer habitat for deer and elk. Herds have moderate potential for increasing and are expected to do so under present management and harvest activities. Bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and black bear also inhabit the area.

The endangered gray wolf may use this area, and the area has potential for recovery of this species. This area could serve as a buffer zone or travel corridor for colonizing wolves inhabiting the adjacent Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness. Three toed woodpecker, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Timber: There are approximately 25,000 acres of potentially harvestable timber with a standing volume estimated at 125 million board feet. This would support a sustained yield of 890 thousand board feet annually, if all stands were accessed and managed for maximum production. Actual harvest would be significantly less because of other resource management objectives and management costs.

Range: The area includes portions of two cattle grazing allotments.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 1,400 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Part of the area has been identified as having good or high mineral potential. Exploration and mining activities in adjacent area support this analysis. There are no known oil or gas values. This roadless area contains 42,200 acres of high and 2,100 of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Outfitters and guides use a large portion of the area, specifically during big game hunting season. The dam and road at Challis Lakes are authorized by special use permit for irrigation storage.

Roads and Trails: There are several system trails in the area. Many of these need better maintenance. A large portion of the area is used by outfitters and guides, specifically during the big game hunting season.

Heritage: The cultural resources of the area are largely unknown. It is an area of historic mining, trapping and grazing activity. Prehistoric sites probably exist. More information is needed to determine the value and significance of the archeological resource in the area.

Disturbances: There have been few man-caused fires or lightening-caused fires during the last decade. The fuels and large acreages of overmature timber for provide potential for large wildfires. There is potential for using prescribed fire to improve livestock range and wildlife habitat.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Challis Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	44,300	44,300	44,300
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**44,300**	**44,300**	**44,300**

Cold Springs #026

8,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Cold Springs Roadless Area is located approximately 35 road miles south of Mackay, 20 road miles west of Arco and is on the Lost River Ranger District. The area is bordered by roads, some of which parallel the roadless area boundary or provide access into the roadless area.

The one intrusion since 1979 is some extension of activity by one of the mining operations in the area.

The area is characterized by rolling ridges, benches, and deep rocky canyons. Sagebrush-grass is the predominant vegetation community, interspersed with timber stands of Douglas-fir and Engelmann spruce. The spruce occurs on north slopes, flat benches, and stream bottoms. The area is classified as a sagebrush steppe ecosystem. The moderate vegetation diversity supports habitat for mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural integrity is low because of mining, range, improvements, and roading.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation is limited and solitude is also limited because of motorized recreation. Challenging experience includes winter sports.

Manageability: This relatively small roadless area can be reached on all sides by dirt and gravel roads. Along with this easy means of access to the area by vehicle, the area is defined by a boundary that doesn't follow any natural topographical features. These two conditions would make management of this area as a wilderness difficult.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish in this area.

Wildlife: There are no threatened, endangered, or sensitive animals in this area. There are deer and elk populations in the roadless area and a current habitat capability that exceeds existing use.

Botanical: There are no threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants in this area.

Recreation: Recreation use in this roadless area consists mainly of late fall hunting and snowmobiling in the winter.

Timber: There is commercial timber in the area, some of which is overmature. Access would be difficult and costly.

Range: Cattle and sheep graze the roadless area, but there isn't much potential for increase.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 3,400 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has one active mine and has a history of hardrock mineral exploration. This roadless area contains 4,200 acres of high and 4,700 of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no special land use authorizations in the area. There are no private lands in the roadless area.

Heritage: No formal archeological surveys have been conducted, making it difficult to determine the cultural resource significance of the roadless area.

Disturbances: The incidence of wildfire in the area has been very light and the roadless area is not expected to be a significant fire hazard area in the future. Timber stands have infestations of dwarf mistletoe, spruce budworm, and mountain pine beetle. The degree of infestation varies from year to year.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Cold Springs Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	8,900	8,900	8,900
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**8,900**	**8,900**	**8,900**

Copper Basin #019

10,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Copper Basin Roadless Area is located on the Lost River Ranger District, 15 miles southwest of Mackay, Idaho. It is surrounded by seasonal roads. Although none enter the roadless area, there are several vehicle tracks that cut across.

The topography of the area is characterized by rolling sagebrush grasslands with some small, scattered patches of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine along the western and southwestern edge.

This area is a sagebrush steppe ecosystem. The vegetative diversity supports habitat for pronghorn antelope and sage grouse. There are some glacial potholes in the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural integrity of the area is low due to grazing and proximity of roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is very limited. Challenging experience includes winter sports.

Special Features: Special features include glacial potholes.

Manageability: None of the area boundary coincides with topographic features; instead, it is defined by three roads intersecting to form a loop. The small size and easy accessibility simplifies traversing the area for management purposes.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish in this area.

Wildlife: The vegetative diversity of the roadless area supports habitat for populations of sage grouse and pronghorn antelope. The pot holes in this roadless area also provide habitat for waterfowl breeding, although there are some conflicts with livestock grazing.

Botanical: There are no threatened, endangered or sensitive plants or animals in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use in this roadless area consists primarily of gamebird and pronghorn antelope hunting, and snowmobiling.

Timber: There is no commercial timber in this roadless area.

Range: The Copper Basin cattle allotment occurs in the roadless area. The area has been intensively developed with range improvements and is being grazed at capacity.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area has some claims filed in the Copper Basin Flat area. There is also a small area of activity in the southeastern corner, but the balance of the area has no known potential for either hardrock related minerals. This roadless area contains 10,900 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no special land use authorizations in the area. There are no private lands in the roadless area.

Heritage: There are some prehistoric archeological sites in the roadless area, but no formal surveys have been conducted, making cultural resource significance hard to determine.

Disturbances: There have been very few man-caused wildfires in this roadless area. The roadless area is not expected to be a fire hazard area in the future. No intrusions are planned in this area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Copper Basin Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	10,900	0
Backcountry	10,900	0	10,900
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**10,900**	**10,900**	**10,900**

Diamond Peak #601

78,700 Acres Challis
88,400 Acres Targhee
167,100 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Diamond Peak Roadless Area is located on the Challis portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest and on the Targhee portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The area on the Challis portion consists of the west slope of the south half of the Lemhi Range. It extends from the Warm Springs Road to East Canyon. Access to the area is via numerous low standard dirt roads originating from State Highway #22, a paved road. Several of these roads extend into the roadless area. The Targhee portion of this roadless area consists of the east slope of the south half of the Lemhi Mountains. Access to this eastern portion is via Idaho State Highway 28. The Bureau of Land Management Black Canyon Wilderness Study Area adjoins the south border of the roadless area.

There are six intrusions along the western boundary. They are very short sections of roads which are part of the Forest transportation system. They are located at "Y" Springs, Black Creek, Cedar Run Canyon, Fowler Springs, Camp Creek, and South Creek. Primitive roads extend for short distances into the roadless area in many of the major drainages along the eastern boundary. Davis Canyon, Mammoth Canyon, Meadow Canyon, North Fork of Pass Creek, Surrett Canyon, Tyler Canyon, Bartel Canyon, Deer Canyon, Cedar Canyon, and the South Fork of Kyle Canyon all contain primitive roads which penetrate a short distance into the roadless area. Trails are limited. The only established trail extends from Birch Creek to the Little Lost River through Pass Creek. A primitive trail also exists in Rocky Canyon.

The Lemhi Range is a long narrow range of mountains that are much more typical of the Great Basin Ranges than they are of the Northern Rocky Mountains with which they are associated. Elevation of the area ranges from about 6,000 feet to 12,197 feet at the summit of Diamond Peak, which is the third highest peak in Idaho. Eastern slopes rise sharply from the Birch Creek Valley, eventually giving away to barren rock and talus slopes. Numerous canyons with rugged, steep rocky slopes dissect the mountain range. The western half drains into the Little Lost River. Some of the outstanding geologic features include a large cave at the head of Bunting Canyon, a well developed rock glacier on Diamond Peak, and several small arches in East and Middle Canyon.

The area has much barren rock and is sparsely vegetated. The lower south-facing slopes are covered with mountain mahogany, sagebrush, and patches or stringers of Douglas-fir, with scattered lodgepole pine. Vegetation is very sparse in the higher elevations. The two major ecosystems on the area are the sagebrush-steppe and the spruce fir forest.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: There are opportunities to improve both the natural integrity and apparent naturalness through boundary modification to remove evidence of vegetative manipulation and range improvement. Influences on natural integrity by physical developments are low; influences on apparent naturalness is very low. Few developments exist. Primitive roads penetrate only short distances into the area, maintaining natural integrity and naturalness.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is very good. Challenging experience include technical and non-technical climbing and cross-country travel. The high country is barren; canyons and associated vegetation help screen State Highway 28. Many peaks (especially Bell, Tyler, Diamond and Saddle) require technical climbing skills during fall, winter and spring. Cover and water are absent.

Special Features: Special features include high peaks, rock glacier caves, arches, and rock formations. The Meadow Creek Research Natural Area (300 acres) and the Middle Canyon Research Natural Area (2,300 acres) can be found in this roadless area. About 300 acres of the Bloomington Lake Special Area may also be found here.

Manageability: Management needs to be coordinated with the Bureau of Land Management. Boundaries are fairly well defined. The large size of the area enhances wilderness characteristics. Continuity with the Lemhi Roadless area range increases its size.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Fish are present in Squaw Creek and Pass Lake. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Mule deer populations declined in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Previously, they were plentiful along this slope. Antelope are the most numerous wild ungulate, but they are usually on the valley floor. A few elk are resident in the area. Bighorn sheep were released in the area in 1983 in cooperation with the Idaho Fish and Game Department. Mountain goats are present. Black bear and elk prefer the wetter west side of the range. The area provides habitat for numerous small birds and mammals. Peregrine falcon, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Water: The only perennial stream on the east side of this roadless area is Pass Creek. On the west slope Squaw, Warm Meadow, Bell Mountain, Deep Badger, Uncle Ike, North, and South Creeks drain into the Little Lost River. Several springs and small streams exist in other canyons, but none flow much beyond the immediate source or the forest boundary. A dam at the outlet of Pass Creek Lake impounds a lake of about four acres. Stock watering troughs are scattered throughout the roadless area.

Botanical: Mingan moonwort (*Botrychium minganense*), Lost River milkvetch *(Astragalus amnis-amissi)* and Marsh's bluegrass *(Poa abbreviate spp. marshii)* are three sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area. There is a fairly high ecological diversity in the area due to elevation and moisture variations.

Recreation: Recreation use is connected with big game hunting; rock hounding, backpacking, horseback riding, trail biking, rock climbing, and use of four-wheel drive vehicles. Most use occurs during the big game hunting seasons. This area is one of the first high mountains to lose snowpack in the spring and provide early season recreation opportunities.

Timber: The timber types consist of Douglas-fir, with small amounts of subalpine fir and limber pine at the higher elevations. A minor amount of lodgepole pine can be found in the northern end of the roadless area. The timber occurs primarily in patches and narrow stringers and has a low site quality. It is removed from the timber base because of steepness of slope, low site quality and economics. The 9,000 acres of timber lands in the western half have a potential to yield one-half million board feet annually.

Range: The eastern side contains seven allotments (four cattle and three sheep). Some sheep allotments are useable only when snow is available as a water source. The western side contains seven allotments (6 cattle and 1 sheep). (The allotments are, from north to south: Meadow Creek, Bell Mountain, Williams Creek, Horse Creek, Eastside, Uncle Ike, and South Creek.) The foothill ranges grazed by cattle have been combined with Bureau of Land Management allotments and put under extensive management systems. There is little or no potential to increase cattle grazing. Small increases in sheep grazing could be allowed if more water could be developed. The area provides about 2,400 AUMs of grazing; use is almost evenly divided between cattle and sheep. There are 20 stock troughs and 15 miles of fence.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 3,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There are no active mines or drilling activities. Most of the area was under lease for oil and gas exploration at one time, but the leases have expired. There are no producing mines or fields. About 2,200 acres have existing claims for silver, lead and copper. The area is in the overthrust belt and has structures similar to the producing overthrust oil and gas fields in southwestern Wyoming and northeastern Utah. However, no discoveries have been made to date. This roadless area contains 167,100 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are less than 100 acres of private land within this roadless area.

Heritage: There are some fossils found in the limestone formations and some limestone caves on the south end. There is evidence of prehistoric man's use of the area. Cultural resources consist of remnants of prehistoric man and early mining activities. Remnants of mining activity include the Birch Creek charcoal kilns which are on the National Register of Historic Places. The Kyle Springs archaeological complex is recommended for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Disturbances: The potential for large fires is low due to the sparse sage-grass cover, scattered patches of timber, and a very low occurrence of ignitions. Nearly 57,000 acres are within the High Country fire Management Plan, which allows for some wildfires to burn under certain prescribed conditions.

The timber stands have generally light infestations of dwarf mistletoe, spruce budworm, and mountain pine beetle. The degree of infestation varies from year to year. The situation is aggravated by the large amount of overmature timber in this roadless area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Diamond Peak Management Theme Challis	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	78,700	76,100	76,100
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	2,600	2,600
Total Acres	**78,700**	**78,700**	**78,700**

Diamond Peak Management Theme Targhee	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	29,500	29,500
Primitive	0	8,900	8,900
Backcountry	88,400	19,000	19,000
GFRG	0	27,000	27,000
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	4,000	4,000
Total Acres	**88,400**	**88,400**	**88,400**

Diamond Peak Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	29,500	29,500
Primitive	0	85,000	8,900
Backcountry	167,100	19,000	95,100
GFRG	0	27,000	27,000
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	6,600	6,600
Total Acres	**167,100**	**167,100**	**167,100**

Greylock #007

11,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Greylock Roadless Area is on the Yankee Fork Ranger District, approximately 48 miles southwest of Challis, Idaho, and just north of the old mining town of Custer. It can be easily reached off Highway 93 from maintained Forest roads in Yankee Fork and Mill Creek.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: This roadless area in the Yankee Fork drainage is characterized by 9,800 foot peaks, steep slopes, and narrow canyon bottoms below small cirque basins. The area is very rugged, with outstanding geologic features created by past volcanic activity. The lower portions of the roadless area provide a panoramic view from the Yankee Fork and Jordan Creek Roads, and the Bonanza-Custer recreation complex.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is fairly good. Challenging experience include non-technical climbing.

Special Features: The area contains no major scenic attractions or unique features.

Manageability: The roadless area boundary follows roads on all sides. Management and enforcement as wilderness would not be difficult. There is little opportunity to change borders without eliminating large acreages of an already small area. The intrusions are the result of recent mining activities, or were overlooked in previous inventory processes.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no fisheries within the roadless area, but bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The backcountry nature and diversity of vegetation types provide habitat for small populations of elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, black bear, and other game and non-game animal species. There are no threatened or endangered species of animals in the area.

Water: The watershed is contributing some sediment to anadromous stream reaches in the Yankee Fork. The volcanic soils are highly erosive and very sensitive to mechanical disturbance.

Botanical: There is a diversity of vegetation, ranging from scattered timberlands to subalpine. Several vegetative types are present, including sagebrush/grass, whitebark pine, and dense Douglas-fir forests. Volcanic tuffs and slumps are common throughout the area. The area is a grand fir/Douglas-fir forest ecosystem. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants have been identified in the area.

Recreation: Current primary uses include hunting. The Greylock Roadless Area currently receives approximately 300 dispersed recreation visitor days annually, mostly as fall hunting. Existing big game populations are below the current carrying capacity, and are expected to continue to increase under current habitat management practices. Although big game populations and hunting opportunities may increase, dispersed recreation is not expected to increase substantially because of the extreme ruggedness and access limitations.

Timber: Approximately 20 percent of the timber stands are classified as commercial timber. Low volume per acre, poor quality, and the steep terrain limits the economical harvest to a few acres. There are approximately 30,000 board feet of growing stock timber scattered throughout this area. Because of the natural topographical features, the possibility of chronic insect and disease attack is minimal.

Range: Livestock graze on a small part of the area. Approximately 22 AUMs of livestock grazing occurs in the northern canyons, but the majority of use is recreation livestock.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 2,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Current primary uses include minerals exploration. The potential for hardrock mining is high because the area is highly mineralized. Within the periphery of the area, mining and exploration activities have occurred in the past and continue today. Most of the human impacts on the surrounding area result from hardrock mining activity. The potential for oil and gas discovery is low. This roadless area contains 11,800 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: Preliminary studies by Bonneville Power Administration have identified the possibility of future requests for a utility corridor that may be proposed to cross part of this roadless area.

Heritage: Cultural resources are largely unknown. Sites identified in adjacent areas have been related to early mining activities. With current information, it is not possible to determine the archaeological significance of this roadless area.

Disturbances: Intrusions into the area include a jeep road in Swift Creek and a mining road in the northwest corner. From 1970 to 1979, only one man-caused fire was reported. The potential for large fires is minimal because of the scattered fuels and topographical fuel breaks found throughout this roadless area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Greylock Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	11,800	11,800	11,800
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**11,800**	**11,800**	**11,800**

Grouse Peak #010

9,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Grouse Peak Roadless Area is located five miles northeast of Challis, Idaho, on the Challis Ranger District. It is accessed by jeep roads and moderately maintained forest roads along the Salmon River and county roads in the Pahsimeroi River Valley. Current uses include hunting, rock collecting, grazing, and mineral exploration.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is characterized by gentle rolling hills with steep canyons covered with sagebrush/grass, mountain mahogany, and scattered patches of Douglas-fir. Elevations vary between 5,500 and 8,500 feet. The primary ecosystem represented is the western spruce-fir type. The surrounding area includes Bureau of Land Management sagebrush/grasslands, private pastures, and irrigated fields. The Grouse Peak Unit provides a scenic backdrop to the Valley ranches and the community of Challis.

There are several intrusions into the Grouse Peak Roadless Area. Most of these occur off the Leaton Gulch jeep trail, Dodge Basin, and Grouse Peak.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is very low due to motorized recreation. Challenging experiences are few, if any.

Special Features: There are no major scenic attractions, at least of national significance, in the roadless area.

Manageability: This area is relatively small. The roadless area boundaries generally follow the forest boundary and do not follow natural topographical features. Management and enforcement as wilderness would be difficult. There is little opportunity to change the boundaries to coincide with topographical features without eliminating large acreages within the roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no fisheries in this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area provides summer range for mule deer and pronghorn antelope, and key winter range for elk and mule deer. A wide variety of other game and non-game species are indigenous to this spruce-fir ecosystem. Gray wolves are not known to occur in this roadless area. Records indicate the existence of historical peregrine falcon eyries near McNabb's Point on Bureau of Land Management land below Grouse Peak.

Water: There are no perennial streams, and few springs or seeps.

Botanical: The primary ecosystem represented is the western spruce-fir type. No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: One of the primary uses of this area is recreation. Recreation is currently producing 300 recreation visitor days annually. Most of this activity is tied to motorized use. Recreation outputs are expected to increase as the community of Challis grows, and big game populations increase.

Timber: Approximately 21,000 board feet of commercial timber grow within the roadless area. The harvestable annual sustained yield is estimated at less than 300 board feet. Topography and roading costs make accessing and logging this timber uneconomical; therefore, no logging has been scheduled. The probability of insect and disease infestations is low because of stand isolation.

Range: The area is part of an extensive grazing system, providing approximately 1,200 AUMs annually. There is a potential for increasing the grazing capacity by approximately 200 additional AUMs, depending upon other resource considerations.

Minerals and Energy: The potential for locating hardrock minerals is low; moderate probability of oil and gas discovery exists. This roadless area contains 9,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: Cultural resources are largely unknown. Prehistoric hunting pits have been found in the north fork of Lawson Creek, and there is a high potential for other prehistoric sites throughout the area.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is extremely low. Between 1970 and 1979, only one man-caused fire was reported. Because of the low occurrence and sparse fuel loading, the probability of large fires is minimal.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Grouse Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	9,000	9,000	9,000
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**9,000**	**9,000**	**9,000**

Jumpoff Mountain #014

14,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Jumpoff Mountain Roadless Area is located about 10 air miles northeast of Arco, Idaho and is on the Lost River Ranger District.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The topography of the area is generally steep and rough. It has deeply etched canyons and numerous limestone formations. Most canyon bottoms are relatively flat with mild gradients at the lower elevations, but rise abruptly a short distance above the mouth as a result of past faulting. The higher elevations are characterized by gentler sagebrush/grass slopes interspersed with stringers of Douglas-fir and whitebark pine. This area is classified as a sagebrush steppe ecosystem.

Opportunities for Experience: There are numerous old wagon roads, now used by 4-wheel drives, which originated as wood roads for firewood and cabin logs. These roads access the area from the Little Lost and Big Lost River Valleys. Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is limited. Challenging experience include few, if any.

Special Features: The area is generally dry and does not have significant scenic attractions.

Manageability: The Jumpoff Peak Road intrudes into the area. Only a small part of the area boundary coincides with topographic features. Most of it follows the forest boundary and would be difficult to manage as a wilderness boundary. There is little opportunity to change the boundaries to improve manageability.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no fisheries in the area, but bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area has moderate diversity of wildlife habitat that supports small populations of mule deer and good populations of sage grouse and pronghorn antelope. There is potential for increasing populations of mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and sage grouse. Structural development of watering sources for wildlife use is needed to assist this growth. There are no sensitive, threatened, or endangered animal species known in the area.

Water: The area receives a heavy snowpack. Runoff is very light due to the porosity of the limestone soils.

Botanical: There are no sensitive, threatened, or endangered plant species known in the area.

Recreation: The area and adjacent lands are arid in appearance and do not attract much recreation use. Recreation use is light, consisting primarily of big game and bird hunting, and off-road vehicle use. The area does not attract significant recreation use outside of hunting.

Timber: The area has no significant timber resource except for minor amounts of firewood, if stands were made accessible to the public. Some of the timber in the area is infected with dwarf mistletoe and spruce budworm. The scattered nature and small size of the timber stands reduce potential for contributing to epidemic populations of disease or pests.

Range: There are approximately 600 AUMs of grazing use permitted in the area. The north half is currently undergoing intensive development for cattle grazing, fence, water, and revegetation projects, which will detract from wilderness values.

Minerals and Energy: The potential for mineral development is believed to be very low. Much of the area is covered with oil and gas leases or lease applications. This roadless area contains 14,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private lands in this roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are numerous old wagon roads, now used by 4-wheel drives which originated as wood roads for firewood and cabin logs. These roads access the area from the Little Lost and Big Lost River Valleys.

Heritage: There are no sites identified for historic or scientific study. The area was believed to have had a high concentration of prehistoric hunting camps. There is good potential for identifying these sites, rock shelters, pictographs, etc. There is insufficient information, at present, available to evaluate and determine the overall significance of the historical and archaeological resources of this area.

Disturbances: The area has had a low incidence of fire, either man-caused or lightning-caused. Fuels are such that there is little potential for large wildfires. There is potential for using prescribed fire for improving range forage and wildlife habitat. Preliminary studies by Bonneville Power Administration have identified the possibility of future requests for a utility corridor that may be proposed to cross part of this roadless area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Jumpoff Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	14,400	0
Backcountry	14,400	0	14,400
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**14,400**	**14,400**	**14,400**

King Mountain #013

87,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The King Mountain Roadless Area is 11 miles east of Mackay, Idaho, on the Lost River Ranger District. It covers 87,200 acres of National Forest System lands. The area is accessed by roads and trails from the Little Lost and Big Lost River Valleys. The terrain is very rough in the central portions of the area, but grades into mild slopes on the northwestern and southwestern ends. Long, winding canyons are lined with limestone ledges with numerous caves. The area is rich in past Indian cultures and activities.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is classified as part of the western spruce-fir ecosystem in the Rocky Mountain Region. There are several roads which intrude into the area. These are in Elbow Canyon, North Fork of Deer Creek, Briggs Canyon, Cedarville Canyon, and Buck and Bird Canyons. There is an electronic site near Sunset Peak and private and state-owned inholdings near Ramshorn Canyon.

Opportunities for Experience: There are large acreages of rugged back country. This may appeal to individuals favoring large wildernesses.

Special Features: The second largest natural bridge in Idaho is in this roadless area.

Manageability: This large area is delineated mostly by the forest boundary which does not follow topographic features. The intrusions could be eliminated by modifying the roadless area boundary. Some of these could be delineated along topographic features if areas larger than the impacted sites were excluded. Present roadless area boundaries would be difficult to menace as wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no fisheries resources or water-oriented recreational potential. There is no potential for developing a fisheries resource.

Wildlife: The roadless area provides habitat for mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, sage grouse and numerous other species of birds and mammals. There are no known sensitive, threatened or endangered animals inhabiting the area. There is good potential for increases in populations of deer, elk, and bighorn sheep. There is habitat for mountain goats if populations were introduced.

Water: Although the area receives a heavy annual snowpack, the canyons are extremely dry and hold very few perennial water sources due to the high porosity of the limestone soils. There is a demand on adjacent private lands for additional irrigation water.

Botanical: Vegetative types include sagebrush-grass and mountain mahogany at the lower elevations with an abrupt transition from Douglas-fir to whitebark pine at high elevations. A few drainages hold minor amounts of commercial timber, but quality is poor. There are no known threatened or endangered plants in the area.

Recreation: Recreation use is light and consists mainly of hunting use. Recreation use amounts to about 1,400 recreation visitor days annually. There are about 4,000 recreation visitor days in the area, mostly hunting. Current use is well below potential.

Timber: Timber in the area has infestations of spruce budworm, dwarf mistletoe, and pine beetle. The overmature nature of the stands foster spread of the pests.

Range: Over 4,000 AUMs of grazing use is permitted in this area annually. Some of the range resource has been highly developed. There is potential for small increases through additional development (i.e., stock water sources). The major use in the area is sheep and cattle grazing.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 8,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area is believed to have little or no mineral potential. The geology of the area indicates moderate potential for oil and gas exploration. Lease applications were filed on the majority of the roadless area, but have since expired. This roadless area contains 87,200 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are about 120 acres of private land in the roadless area. Preliminary studies by Bonneville Power Administration have identified the possibility of future requests for a utility corridor that may be proposed to cross part of this roadless area. There are a few special use permits in the area for Bureau of Land Management livestock management fences, roads, etc.

Heritage: The area contains old sawmill sites and pictographs. Several prehistoric archeological sites have been identified in the roadless area. These include pictographs and hunting camps. Historic use of the area was limited to grazing, wood harvest and hunting. No specific sites with historical value have been evaluated. Generally, the historic and cultural values in this roadless area have not been identified.

Disturbances: Between 1970 and 1979 there were three man-caused fires and six lightning-caused fires. These were small in size. The timber stands are mostly overmature with fuels sufficient to carry fire. The location and size of the stands do not promote large fires. Prescribed fire could be used to improve fuel conditions, improve big game habitat, and improve livestock forage conditions.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

King Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	87,200	87,200	87,200
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**87,200**	**87,200**	**87,200**

Loon Creek #908

106,400 Acres Challis
3,200 Acres Sawtooth
109,600 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Loon Creek Roadless Area is located southwest of Challis on the Challis and Yankee Fork Ranger Districts, and is bordered on the east by the Yankee Fork road, on the south by the Salmon River and Sawtooth National Recreation Area (NRA), and on the west by Cape Horn Lakes. The portion within the Sawtooth NRA is located eight miles northwest of Stanley along the northern boundary of the NRA. The area can be accessed to its periphery on the east, south and west sides, but cannot be reached on the northern end by road. With the exception of access into its interior on the west by the Basin Butte and Asher Creek Roads, the interior of this area is unroaded.

The area varies from flat meadow lands in upper Stanley to steep, rocky breaks along the west side of Yankee Fork to scenic alpine lakes in the central portion. Elevations vary from 6,200 feet to 10,000 feet with many lakes and streams scattered through the area. The major vegetation components are rock scree, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, spruce, and sagebrush-grass communities. The area belongs in the Rocky Mountain Province made up of two ecosystems: grand fir/Douglas-fir forest and western spruce-fir forest. The vegetative diversity of this area supports many resource uses.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural integrity of this area is moderate.

Opportunities for Experience: There is some opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude. Challenging experiences includes non-technical climbing, cross-country travel.

Special Features: Special features include rock formations, mountain lakes, and peaks.

Manageability: The manageability of the area is not only affected by limited access, but also by boundaries that do not follow topographical features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: A significant portion of the forest's anadromous fish habitat occurs in this roadless area. The current fishery generates 5,300 recreation visitor days with good potential for large increases. This area supports an anadromous as well as a resident fishery, and has potential for growth. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: The area is a principal summer range for elk, black bear, mule deer, mountain lion, mountain goats, and bighorn sheep. The gray wolf, a federally listed endangered species, may use this area. The vegetation diversity of the area supports wildlife habitat for elk, black bear, mountain lion, mule deer, mountain goat, and bighorn sheep. Wolverine, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: A National Recreation Trail runs from Loon Creek Guard Station to Knapp Creek Road. Recreation activity includes hiking, motorcycle riding, snowmobiling, hunting, and fishing. The current recreation visitor use is 12,200 recreation visitor days with potential to increase to 28,000 recreation visitor days with greater management emphasis and investment. Current recreation use associated with wildlife in the area totals 3,100 user days with potential to increase significantly.

Timber: There are commercial timber stands throughout the area with the exception of the higher lake basins. The majority of the proposed timber activity is in the southeast portion of the area with the exception of commercial firewood, post and pole, and some small timber sales in the Cape Horn area. The area has a standing timber volume of approximately 215 million board feet. The area could potentially produce an annual sustained yield of 1.5 million board feet, if not modified by the management objectives

of other resource needs, such as visual, wildlife habitat, watershed, etc. This potential output would be further reduced because of the cost of harvesting timber on steep slopes, the marginal quality of the sawtimber, and the high cost of access.

Range: Livestock operations in the area produce 600 AUMs with little potential for increase. The area is currently used by sheep and cattle, but only a small portion of the area is considered suitable range. The majority of the range forage is only suitable for pack and saddle stock. There has been limited improvement work done in fencing, water developments, and revegetation projects.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 12,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The mineral potential of the area runs from none to very high. The National Recreation Area portion has been withdrawn from mineral entry. The area has always generated interest and varying levels of activity. There is no known potential for production of energy minerals. This roadless area contains 109,600 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are a few minor special use permits in the area. There are no private lands in the area. Preliminary studies by Bonneville Power Administration have identified the possibility of future requests for a utility corridor that may be proposed to cross part of this roadless area.

Heritage: There are some areas of cultural significance associated with mining and Native Americans. There are four prehistoric sites in the area and potential for further site discovery related to early day prospecting and trapping. No formal archaeological studies have been conducted, making it difficult to determine the cultural resource significance of this area.

Disturbances: The area experienced three man-caused and eleven lightning-caused fires between 1970 and 1975. Understory fuels and decadent stands of lodgepole pine are sufficient to provide the potential for large wildfires. Timber stands have infestations of dwarf mistletoe, spruce budworm, and mountain pine beetle. The degree of infestation varies from year to year, and is aggravated by overmature timber in the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Loon Creek Management Theme Challis	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	106,400	106,400	106,400
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**106,400**	**106,400**	**106,400**

Loon Creek Management Theme Sawtooth	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	3,200	3,200	3,200
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**3,200**	**3,200**	**3,200**

Loon Creek Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	109,600	109,600	109,600
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**109,600**	**109,600**	**109,600**

Pahsimeroi Mountain #011

73,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Pahsimeroi Mountains Roadless Area lies 11 miles southeast of Challis, Idaho, on the Challis and Lost River Ranger District. It is reached by jeep roads and moderately maintained forest roads along U.S. Highway 93 and county roads in the Pahsimeroi River Valley. Red Hill (027) and the Pahsimeroi Mountains (011) were originally considered to be one roadless area -- RARE II No. 4-209. Upon review, it was determined that the road from Lime Creek to Table Mountain has been, and will be, maintained for public use and administration. This road now separates the two roadless areas.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: This sizeable roadless area includes 73,400 acres of National Forest System lands. The borders on the east and west generally follow the old Challis National Forest boundary. There are several intrusions into the Pahsimeroi Mountain area, such as the Rock Spring Canyon road, Grouse Creek Lake/Wino Basin Road, Grouse Creek/Mill Creek Road, Christian Gulch Road, and Crane Basin Road. Also, there are several livestock developments within these intrusions.

Located in the Lost River Range, this roadless area of land varies from rolling sagebrush-grass hills on the north end to high peaks, large cirque basins, steep slopes, generally narrow canyon bottoms below cirque basins, and alluvial fans on the south end. Some of the area is very rugged, with outstanding geologic features caused by repeated glaciation. The rugged slopes and 10,000 foot mountain tops and ridges provide a scenic backdrop to the valley ranches in the Lost River, Pahsimeroi Valley, and the community of Challis. The surrounding valleys contain irrigated hay fields, pasture lands, and a mosaic of willow/cottonwood riparian, and sagebrush communities.

The diversity of vegetation produces a broad spectrum of life zones, ranging from semi-arid shrublands to alpine rock and scree. Numerous vegetative types are present including sagebrush-grass, mountain mahogany, spruce, subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, whitebark pine, and lodgepole pine. The area belongs to the western spruce-fir forest ecosystem in the Rocky Mountain Forest ecoregion.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is good. Challenging experiences include technical and non-technical climbing and cross-country travel.

Special Features: A large exposed fault scarp and other earthquake effects from the October 1983 Idaho earthquake are contained in this roadless area.

Manageability: The area boundaries on the east and west do not follow natural topographical features, and would be difficult to manage and enforce as wilderness boundaries. The border on the north follows the Table Mountain/Wino Basin Road and Lime Creek/Grouse Lake Road. The southern boundary primarily follows the Double Springs Pass Road. Because of the intrusions, the boundaries are not geographically distinct, and manageability would be difficult. There is very little opportunity to change boundary lines to coincide with topographical features without eliminating large portions from the roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area includes three small lakes, one containing a fishery. Bull trout, inland redband trout, and western cutthroat trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The back country nature, in combination with the diversity of vegetation, provides habitat for elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, and small game and non-game species. There are no known threatened species in the area. Big game populations are well below the existing habitat capacity.

Water: The watersheds located within the roadless area are contributing to gravity fed irrigation systems in Mill Creek in the Pahsimeroi.

Botanical: The boundaries of this roadless area intersect an area that is being considered for a botanical area. It is an area that has a known concentration of lower elevation endemic and disjunct plant species.

Recreation: Currently this roadless area produces 400 recreation visitor days annually of dispersed recreation. Most of this use takes place in the form of hunting and fishing. The area has the capability of handling much higher levels of recreation use. As big game populations increase, and if the community of Challis grows, recreation use will undoubtedly increase.

Timber: There are approximately 4,700 acres of marginal commercial timber that could potentially produce 150,000 board feet of timber annually if not constrained by other resource needs. However, the majority of the timber is located in inaccessible areas, where its value is greater for wildlife, watershed, and scenic than it is for commercial timber. Over ninety percent of the timber stands are considered old growth, with the potential for insect and disease infestations.

Range: Currently, livestock grazing is the primary use of this roadless area, providing 1,200 AUMs annually. There is a potential for increasing the AUMs by approximately 150 units, depending upon other resource considerations. Lime Creek and Crane Basin are part of an extensive grazing system, and the recently adopted "Stewardship Ranch Plan."

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 2,600 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The roadless area has moderate potential for oil and gas discovery, with Christian Gulch being one of the areas proposed for a test drilling site. There is also low potential for locatable hardrock minerals. This roadless area contains 29,800 acres of high and 43,600 of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Preliminary studies by Bonneville Power Administration have identified the possibility of future requests for a utility corridor.

Heritage: Cultural resource values are relatively unknown, but it is highly probable that prehistoric sites exist.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence in the Pahsimeroi Mountains Roadless area is low. Between the 1970 and 1979, only one man-caused fire and two lightning-caused ignited fires were reported. Historical fire patterns depict that small fires (300-500 acres) burned frequently before the turn of the century, igniting in the sagebrush and grass of the lower valley floors and spreading up to the mountain slopes.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Pahsimeroi Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	73,400	73,400	73,400
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**73,400**	**73,400**	**73,400**

Prophyry Peak #017

46,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Porphyry Peak Roadless Area is approximately 16 air miles west of Mackay, Idaho on the Lost River Ranger District. It can be reached from U.S. Highway 93 by using the Trail Creek and East Fork of the Big Lost River roads, and also via the Burma Road over Corral Creek Summit. Access to the interior is by Forest Service trails or cross-country travel.

In the original roadless area evaluation, the Porphyry Peak and Lehman Peak Roadless Areas were treated as separate roadless areas. They were determined to be managed as non-wilderness through the Pioneer Land Use Plan and were not considered in RARE II. In the roadless area review for the Challis Forest Plan, the intrusions that separated these two areas (the intrusions are in the East Fork of Big Boone Creek) were not considered significant. The two areas have been combined and are treated as one roadless area.

There are numerous intrusions into this roadless area. There are two electronic sites in this area. One is located at the head of Wildcat Canyon in the western portion and the second is located at the head of Rock Creek near Porphyry Peak. Other intrusions include jeep roads, stock ponds, pipelines, fences, and tractor trails. Most of these are found in the West Fork of Lehman Creek and tributaries to Big Boone Creek and Horse Wallow Creek.

Topographic characteristics vary from rolling ridges and benches to deep rocky canyons. The area features 7,100 to 9,400 foot rolling hills and peaks, covered with sagebrush and grass with scattered patches of Douglas-fir, aspen and willow along riparian corridors. This roadless area is part of White Knob Mountain Range. It has been classified as a sagebrush-steppe ecosystem (Kuchler 1966).

Volcanic tuffs and slumps are common. Soils are volcanic in origin. The climate is semi-arid; precipitation averages fifteen inches a year. Current uses include grazing, hunting, off-highway vehicle recreation and mineral exploration. Hunting for mule deer and elk is heavy in the fall.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural integrity of the roadless area is low.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is low due to motorized recreation. Challenging experiences include off-highway vehicle travel.

Special Features: The area provides the background view as seen from the main travel roads; U.S. Highway 93, the Trail Creek Road, and the East Fork of the Big Lost River Road. There are few major scenic landmark attractions in the roadless area.

Manageability: The roadless area boundaries do not follow topographic features. Altering the boundaries to coincide with the topography would be difficult and would eliminate a large part of the roadless area from potential wilderness classification. Since the borders do not follow distinct geographic or topographic features, it would be difficult to manage as an isolated unit of wilderness. The area is of sufficient size to be suitable for wilderness classification. Its relative location to the Lost River Ranger District office and accessibility would make it easy to administer if good boundary delineation were possible.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish in this area.

Wildlife: The diversity of vegetation and topographic landforms produce a broad spectrum of wildlife habitats. The area supports mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, black bear, sage grouse, a wide variety of small game and non-game wildlife species. The area has good wildlife habitat diversity. The area

currently sustains moderate mule deer and high elk populations. No threatened or endangered animals are known in this area. Peregrine falcon, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Botanical: There are no known sensitive, threatened, or endangered plants in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation activities include big game and upland bird hunting. It also includes off-road vehicle activities. Total recreation in the roadless area is approximately 500 recreation visitor days annually. Motorized vehicles are often used in the area during the hunting season.

Timber: There is very little timber in the area. The timber stands are very small and of poor quality. This roadless area has approximately 100 acres of commercial timber, producing less than 100 thousand board feet of timber. It is doubtful that timber will ever be harvested in this roadless area, using current logging techniques. Because of the low volume of timber, and the scattered nature of the stands, the probability of insect and disease infestations is minimal.

Range: A large part of the area is suitable livestock range and is part of extensively developed livestock allotments. Fences, water developments and revegetation projects are scattered through the area. The structural improvements are generally visible and detract from a wilderness scene.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 4,100 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The locatable mineral potential of the area is very low. There are no known deposits of mineralized prospects. If there are mineral deposits, they are hidden beneath a thick volcanic and allavial cover. There have been lease applications for gas and oil exploration and development in the roadless area, but they have all expired. This roadless area contains 46,600 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are two existing electronic sites in the area. There are no other significant land use authorizations. There are no private lands in this roadless area.

Heritage: Prehistoric archeological sites have been identified and more are likely to be found in the area. More information is needed to determine the areas archeological and historical resource values.

Disturbances: There was one small lightning-caused fire in the area between 1970 and 1979. The sagebrush/grass fuels are not conducive to large fires. Prescribed fires can be successfully used to improve wildlife habitat and livestock forage.

Insects and disease in the area's timber stands are not significant, largely due to the minor amount of timber, small patches, and isolated nature of the stands.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Prophyry Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	29,400	0
Backcountry	46,600	17,200	46,600
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**46,600**	**46,600**	**46,600**

Red Hill #027

15,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Red Hill Roadless Area lies five miles east of Challis off Highway 93. Its boundaries can be easily reached through numerous jeep trails off the Table Mountain, Leaton Gulch, Camp Creek, Hole-in-the-Rock Creek, and Lime Creek Roads. Most of these intrusions were missed in the initial RARE II process. The Pahsimeroi Mountains and Red Hill were originally considered one roadless area. Upon review, it was determined that the road from Lime Creek to Table Mountain has been, and will be, maintained for public use and administration. This road now separates the two roadless areas. There are many range developments and associated vehicular tracks.

Located in the Lost River Range, this roadless area is characterized by rocky, sagebrush-grass covered slopes, scattered patches of mahogany, and steep hillsides with narrow canyon bottoms. There are numerous volcanic tuffs exposed on the hillsides, lending to its name "Red Hill". There are a few scattered trees in the upper reaches of some of the drainages, mainly from conifer invasion on the east slopes of Trail Creek and White Hill. The elevation of this roadless area ranges between 6,000 - 8,200 feet. The potential natural vegetation type is western spruce-fir forest.

The surrounding area includes Bureau of Land Management sagebrush and grasslands, private pastures, and irrigated fields. The Red Hill Roadless Area provides a scenic backdrop to the valley ranches and the community of Challis.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Special Features: There are no major scenic attractions of national significance in the roadless area. A ridge between Table Mountain and Hole-in-the-Rock Creek characteristically displays a snow-covered "7" in the spring. Local residents use this landmark as the "time to plant the garden".

Manageability: This area is relatively small, totaling 15,000 acres of National Forest System Lands. The roadless area border generally follows the forest boundary on the south side from Leaton Gulch to Lime Creek. The northern boundary follows the Leaton Gulch and Table Mountain Roads. The south boundary follows Lime Creek to the Table Mountain Road. Because the forest boundary does not follow topographical features, management and enforcement as wilderness would be somewhat difficult. There is little opportunity to change the boundaries to coincide with topographical features and intrusions without eliminating large acreages within the roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The habitat of the area is currently producing winter range for mule deer and elk, and pronghorn antelope summer range. Historically, bighorn sheep wintered in the area. As the elk herds increase in the Lost River Range and the East Fork of the Salmon, elk use within the winter range will increase. There is a wide variety of other game and non-game species in the Red Hill Roadless Area which are indigenous to the components of the sagebrush/grass community.

Botanical: Challis crazyweed *(Oxytropis besseyi var. salmonensis)* and Wavy-leaf thelypody *(Thelypodium repandum)* are two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation produces approximately 400 recreation visitor days annually. Most of this use is hunting and off-road vehicle travel. As big game populations increase, dispersed motorized recreation will probably also increase. Approximately 100 recreation visitor days are generated through rock hunting activities.

Timber: There are no commercial timber stands within the roadless area.

Range: The primary use of this area is grazing. Currently the range is providing approximately 2,000 AUMs annually. The area is part of an extensive grazing system and a Stewardship Ranch Plan.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 600 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The potential for locatable hardrock minerals is low. There is moderate potential for oil and gas discovery. This roadless area contains 1,100 acres of high and 13,900 of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: A communication site in this roadless area is under special use permit.

Roads and Trails: The area has many vehicular tracks across the sagebrush which lowers the natural integrity of the roadless area. Continued use of these tracks could result in the area being considered roaded in the future.

Heritage: Several cultural resource sites have been discovered in the area. Most sites identified have not been inventoried to determine their significance.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is extremely low. Only one small lightning caused fire was reported between 1970 and 1979. Because of the low ignition occurrence and sparse fuel loading, the probability of large fires is minimal.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Red Hill Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	15,000	15,000	15,000
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**15,000**	**15,000**	**15,000**

Seafoam #009

31,100 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Seafoam Roadless Area is located approximately 26 road miles northwest of Stanley, on the Yankee Fork Ranger District. The area is accessed by roads constructed for mining exploration and development activities. The area is surrounded by the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness, but was left out primarily because of the mineral potential and evidence of man's past activities. Several road intrusions have occurred since or were not identified in the 1979 RARE II EISs: Vanity Creek, Bear Creek, and Baldwin Creek.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Elevations range from 6,000 to 9,300 feet with steep slopes, high rocky peaks, deep valleys, and glaciated cirque basins characterizing the area. Vegetative cover ranges from grass slopes to heavy timber. The western border fringes on high mountain lakes that offer good scenic quality. The area belongs in the Rocky Mountain Province in a grand fir/Douglas-fir forest ecosystem.

Special Features: There are no special scenic landmarks.

Manageability: The relatively easy access provided by the roads in the area aids management. However, illegal entry by motorized vehicles would also be easy due to the large number of roads around the area. The eastern boundary is defined by a road and the rest follows the boundary of the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There is an anadromous fishery in the Rapid River drainage portion of this area. Although this area does not have the highest production potential of the anadromous fisheries on the forest, it does contribute to downstream anadromous fisheries that are of higher quality. The area is currently below potential capacity and is not being adversely impacted by other resource activities in the area. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The vegetative diversity of the area is considered low and doesn't lend itself to any unusual or large populations of wildlife. Wildlife values are moderate. There are many species of wildlife occupying the area: deer, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, bear, and cougar. Sightings of the gray wolf have been documented for this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation use of the area is all dispersed, accounting for 2,400 recreation visitor days of hunting, fishing, and backpacking. The Josephus Lake trailhead is located on the western border of the area and is one of the primary access routes into the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness.

Timber: This roadless area does have commercial timber stands.

Range: There are no livestock allotments in the area. Recreation stock associated with outfitter hunting parties graze the roadless area.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock minerals potential of this area ranges from low to very high. This roadless area contains 31,100 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private lands within the roadless area, but there are some significant patented mining claims in the corridor areas.

Heritage: In 1978 there was a formal archaeological survey along the road corridors, but there have not been any formal studies conducted on the balance of the roadless area, making it difficult to determine the cultural resource significance of the roadless area.

Disturbances: The area experienced two man-caused and six lightning-caused fires between 1970 and 1979, and has the potential for large fires in the future. Understory fuels and decadent stands of timber are sufficient to provide the potential for large wildfires.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Seafoam Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	31,100	31,100	31,100
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**31,100**	**31,100**	**31,100**

Spring Basin #006

5,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Spring Basin Roadless Area is on the Yankee Fork Ranger District, 25 miles southwest of Challis, Idaho. It is easily accessed via a few jeep roads and moderately maintained forest roads along U.S. Highway 93. Primary uses include grazing, dispersed recreation (hunting), and mineral exploration.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Located in the Salmon River Range, this roadless area is composed of steep, narrow canyons, and sagebrush-covered benches and ridges. The elevation varies between 6,000 and 7,000 feet. The vegetation is primarily semi-arid shrublands. Community types present are sagebrush/grass, mountain mahogany, aspen and willow stringers, and small riparian areas, and scattered Douglas-fir. The area is a grand fir/Douglas-fir forest ecosystem, located on a steep canyon hillside, dissected by small creeks.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is very limited. No challenging experiences exist.

Special Features: There are no major attractions.

Manageability: The roadless area boundary does not follow distinct topographical features. The boundary primarily follows intrusions within the watershed. Management and enforcement as wilderness boundaries would be difficult. There is little opportunity to change borders without eliminating large acreages of an already small roadless area.

There have been several intrusions in the Spring Basin Roadless Area. There has been mineral exploration in First Creek, timber sales in Cabin and Coal Creek, a jeep road in Cash Creek, and a mining road in Transfer Creek. There are numerous fences and several watering ponds, troughs, and pipelines. Cattle and motorbike trails are evident throughout, which detract from the natural integrity of the area. Most of these intrusions are either a result of recent mining activity, or were overlooked in the original RARE II process.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no fisheries within the roadless area, but the watershed contributes to a small fishery in Squaw Creek and Kinnikinic Creek. The watershed is currently contributing sediment to critical stream reaches in Squaw Creek.

Wildlife: Habitat within this roadless area supports a fair population of antelope, elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep. Mountain goats occasionally frequent the area, which may serve as winter range as populations increase. There are no threatened, endangered, or sensitive terrestrial species in this roadless area.

Botanical: There are no threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species in this roadless area.

Recreation: The Spring Basin Roadless Area receives approximately 100 recreation visitor days of dispersed recreation use annually. The majority of the activity occurs during the hunting season. The estimated potential is 600 recreation visitor days per year. As big game populations increase and hunting opportunities are enhanced, dispersed recreation is also expected to increase.

Timber: There are approximately 10 million board feet of commercial timber which would produce an annual sustained yield of 71 thousand board feet annually. Annual timber production would be reduced by management objectives of other resource needs, such as visuals, wildlife habitat, watershed, etc. Topography and roading costs make logging most of the timber in this area difficult and uneconomical using current techniques. Logging has been done in Kinnikinic and Squaw Creek outside of the roadless area. Most of the timber is considered overmature, and there is potential for insect and disease problems.

Much of the Douglas-fir stands have mistletoe infestations, and the spruce budworm infestations vary from year to year.

Range: Livestock graze on a small part of the area. Current grazing is approximately 600 AUMs annually. There is little potential for increase. The area is currently under an extensive grazing system.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 600 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Some of this area has high mineral potential. Within the fringes of the area, mining and exploration activities have occurred in the past and continue today. Most of the human impacts on the surrounding area result from hardrock mining activity. The potential for oil and gas discovery is low. This roadless area contains 5,200 acres of high geothermal potential.

Heritage: Cultural resources are largely unknown. Within the past few years, most of the cultural resource that has been discovered has been related to early mining activity during the early 1900s. With the current available data, it is not possible to determine the archeological significance of this roadless area.

Disturbance: From 1970-1979, there was one lightning-caused fire and no man-caused fires within the roadless area. Understory fuels are generally light and the potential for large fires is minimal. There is some potential for improving livestock range and wildlife habitat through the use of prescribed fire.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Spring Basin Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	5,200	5,200	5,200
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**5,200**	**5,200**	**5,200**

Squaw Creek #005

99,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Squaw Creek Roadless Area is 10 miles southwest of Challis on the Challis and Yankee Fork Ranger Districts. The area is bordered on the west and northwest by the Yankee Fork drainage, on the north by Mill Creek, and on the east and south by Bureau of Land Management lands and the Salmon River. It is readily accessible by trails, jeep roads, and numerous constructed and maintained roads. These roads can be reached from Highway 93 along the Salmon River and forest roads in the Garden Creek drainage.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area contains 10,000 foot peaks, cirque basins, steep rocky slopes, and generally narrow canyon bottoms and broad benches. The scattered timber slopes have many openings of sage/grass and wet meadows. The major vegetation components are lodgepole, Douglas-fir, spruce, and sagebrush communities. The area has western spruce-fir forest and grand fir/Douglas-fir ecosystems.

The area is not visible from U.S. Highway 93 except for the southernmost portion from Thompson Creek west to Sunbeam and Yankee Fork. The surrounding areas include irrigated pastures and riparian/willow plant communities. Due to the topographical boundaries of this roadless area, it provides little scenic backdrop to the valley ranches and communities, because of the steepness of the main Salmon River drainage.

Special Features: There are no major scenic attractions, at least of national significance.

Manageability: This is a large area of approximately 99,600 acres of National Forest System lands. The roadless area boundary does not follow distinct natural topographic features, and it would be difficult to manage and enforce as a wilderness boundary. There is very little opportunity to change the boundaries to coincide with distinctive landmarks without eliminating large acreages of the roadless area.

There are numerous intrusions in the Squaw Creek Roadless Area. Mining roads exist in Buckskin/Pat Hughes Creek, Bruno Creek, Bayhorse/Juliette Creek, Crealy Creek, Silver Creek, and timber roads in Thompson/Basin Creek, Cinnabar Creek, Transfer Creek and Big Hill Gulch. These intrusions detract from the natural integrity of the area. Most are a result of recent mining activity, or were not identified in the original RARE II process.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Most streams and lakes capable of producing a fishery are stocked or are self-sustaining under natural reproduction.

Wildlife: Existing big game populations are 50 percent below current carrying capacity. Populations are presently viewed as increasing under current habitat management and harvest practices. A good population of elk, mountain goat, bighorn sheep and mule deer graze the area during the summer months. The area also provides habitat for a multitude of small game and non-game species. There are no threatened or endangered Species in the area. Wolverine, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Water: The watersheds within this roadless area are contributing sediment to critical anadromous stream reaches in Squaw Creek and the Yankee Fork of the Salmon River. This roadless area contains 4,900 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: The Squaw Creek Roadless Area receives approximately 3,000 recreation visitor days of dispersed recreation use annually. The area has the capacity for more than double this amount, depending on future development of trails and campsites. The greatest portion of dispersed use occurs

with hunting and fishing. As big game population's increase and hunting opportunities are enhanced, dispersed recreation is expected to increase substantially.

Timber: There are approximately 200 million board feet of commercial timber volume in the roadless area. A harvestable annual sustained yield is estimated at less than 1.1 million board feet. Topography and roading costs make harvesting most of the timber in this area difficult and uneconomical using current techniques. Actual timber available for harvest would be modified by the management objectives of other resource needs, such as visuals, wildlife habitat, watershed, recreation, etc.

Range: Current grazing use is approximately 2,100 AUMs with the potential to increase an estimated 100 AUMs.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 11,800 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Part of this roadless area has high mineral potential. Within the fringes of the area, mining and exploration activities have occurred in the past and continue today. Most of the human impacts already inflicted upon the area are a result of hardrock mining activity. The potential for oil and gas development is low. This roadless area contains 99,600 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: Preliminary studies by Bonneville Power Administration have identified the possibility of future requests for a utility corridor that may be proposed to cross part of this roadless area.

Heritage: Cultural resources are largely unknown. Within the past few years, most of the cultural resources that have been discovered have been related to mining activities during the early 1900's. With current available data, it is not possible to determine the archaeological significance of this roadless area.

Disturbances: Between 1970 and 1979, there were 25 fires in the Squaw Creek roadless area. Fifteen were lightning-caused and 10 were man-caused (average size about one-half acre). Understory fuels were generally light to medium, and there is a potential for large fires. There are some possibilities for improving livestock and wildlife habitat through the use of prescribed fires. Most of the timber is overmature and there is potential for insect and disease problems. Many of the Douglas-fir stands have mistletoe infestations, and the spruce budworm infestations vary from year to year.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Squaw Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	99,600	99,600	99,600
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**99,600**	**99,600**	**99,600**

Warm Creek #024

6,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Warm Creek Roadless Area lies about 66 air miles southeast of Challis, Idaho, on the Lost River Ranger District. It is located on the west slope of the Lemhi Mountain Range in the Little Lost River drainage, and is accessible via dirt roads and jeep trails from State Highway 22.

This roadless area is separated from the Diamond Peak Roadless Area 601 by mining access roads and areas of mineral exploration. Slopes are relatively gentle in the lower elevations and become steeper at higher elevations. Upper reaches are very rocky with small pockets of vegetation. Soils in the lower elevations are derived from quartzite parent materials. At higher elevations, the parent materials are dolomites and limestones. The predominant vegetation is sagebrush-grass. On mid-to upper-slopes, this is mixed with stands of curl-leaf mountain mahogany, mountain brush, and small patches and stringers of timber, mainly Douglas-fir. Two major ecosystems represented are the sagebrush/steppe and western spruce-fir forest. The major uses in this area are livestock grazing, mineral exploration, and hunting.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Impacts on natural integrity and appearance result from mineral exploration and assessment work on the numerous claims in the area and livestock grazing.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is very little. Challenging experiences include few, if any.

Special Features: There are no significant scenic landmarks in the area.

Manageability: The roadless area boundaries do not follow topographic features. There is little opportunity to relocate boundaries to do so. The access from roads around the area as well as boundary definition would make enforcement of wilderness restrictions very difficult.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: There is a diversity of vegetation and topography that provides good wildlife habitat for mule deer, elk, black bear, and small game and non-game birds and mammals.

Water: The area has a generally arid appearance. There are few springs and no significant streams.

Botanical: There are no known sensitive, threatened or endangered species in this roadless area.

Recreation: Total recreation use is about 100 recreation visitor days annually, which is well below the present capacity.

Timber: The area could potentially produce an annual sustained yield of seven thousand board feet if not constrained by other resource needs, such as visuals, wildlife habitat, watershed, etc.

Range: The area is part of a large livestock grazing allotment. It is partially developed, and has the potential to produce increased livestock forage and red meat yield, if development is continued.

Minerals and Energy: There are numerous mineral lode claims in the area and ground-disturbing activities are very evident on many of these claims. The area has numerous lode mineral claims, oil and gas leases and lease applications. These indicate potential for continued mineral exploration and future development. Activities associated with mining exploration, claim assessment work and claim development, are authorized through current Notice of Intent and Operating Plans. This roadless area contains 6,600 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no private lands within this roadless area. Preliminary studies by Bonneville Power Administration have identified the possibility of future requests for a utility corridor that may be proposed to cross part of this roadless area.

Heritage: Several prehistoric archeological sites and historic sites associated with mining have been identified and more are likely to be found in the roadless area. More information is needed to determine the significance of the archeological resource in the area.

Disturbances: The potential for large fires is low due to the sparse sagebrush cover, scattered patches of timber, and a very low occurrence of ignitions. The timber stands have generally light infestations of dwarf mistletoe, spruce budworm, and mountain pine beetle. The degree of infestation varies from year to year.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Warm Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	6,600	6,600	6,600
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**6,600**	**6,600**	**6,600**

White Knob #025

65,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The White Knob Roadless Area is located on the Lost River Ranger District. The boundary of this roadless area can be reached by several local roads, but few reach into the interior. On the east side, the boundary is approximately seven miles southwest of Mackay. The Bureau of Land Management White Knob Wilderness Study Area adjoins the southeast border of this roadless area.

This area includes the White Knob Mountain range which has elevations reaching 11,280 feet. The topography includes narrow mountain canyons with steep walls, to broad expanses of sagebrush flats at lower elevations. At higher elevations, there are cirque headwalls with vertical rock cliffs and large talus slopes, and under some of the granite peaks, there are cirque basins with small lakes and meadows. Sagebrush/grass with scattered stands of Douglas-fir and Engelmann spruce occupy the lower elevations, while vegetation occurs mostly in and around the cirque basins at higher elevations. Trees are generally subalpine fir or whitebark pine. This roadless area is located in the Rocky Mountain Forest ecosystem and the western spruce-fir forest ecosystem. The vegetation diversity of the area is good.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: There are several intrusions into the area from roads. Most of the intrusions are in the northern portion of the area on the east side of the White Knobs, and are not visible from the western side of the mountain range.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation is fairly good and solitude is available at higher elevations. Challenging experiences include non-technical climbing and winter sports.

Special Features: There are no scenic landmarks within the area. The White Knob Mountains provide scenic beauty to this roadless area.

Manageability: Although the size of the roadless area is large enough to provide good wilderness experiences, the boundaries do not follow topographical features, making administrative management difficult.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The resident fisheries habitat has moderate to high potential for providing good fishing in the area.

Wildlife: Wildlife in the area includes elk, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope. The vegetation diversity of this roadless area provides habitat for elk, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope. There is good potential to increase elk and mule deer populations. There are also four head of wild horses that use the southern and eastern portions of the area for grazing.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation is primarily limited to hunting and some snowmobiling.

Timber: Small amounts of timber harvesting exist. There is commercial timber in the roadless area scattered throughout the canyons. The cost of access and low harvest volumes will keep use of this area at a very low level.

Range: Livestock use of the area is limited to cattle. There has been extensive work done in fencing, revegetation, and water development projects that have created the potential for increased distribution.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 3,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Mineral exploration and mining. Parts of this roadless area have experienced high mineral activity, particularly in the northern section. Hardrock mineral interest will continue. This roadless area contains 65,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no special land use authorizations. There is one section of State land in the eastern part of the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: Intrusions into the area include the following roads: West Fork Navarre Creek, Mammoth Canyon, Stewart Canyon, Sawmill Canyon, Cabin Creek, Burnt Hollow, Middle Fork Cherry Creek, and Richardson Canyon.

Heritage: Because of the mining activity in parts of this roadless area, archaeological surveys to identify historic significance need to be conducted. There is also some potential for the existence of prehistoric hunting camps.

Disturbances: There has been no recent history of man-caused fires and only four lightning-caused fires. The area is not expected to be a major fire concern in the future. Timber stands have infestations of dwarf mistletoe, spruce budworm, and mountain pine beetle. The degree of infestation varies from year to year.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

White Knob Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	17,600	0
Backcountry	65,700	48,100	65,700
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**65,700**	**65,700**	**65,700**

Wood Canyon #028

7,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Wood Canyon Roadless Area located on the Lost River Ranger District and is 7,800 acres in size. It is located about nine air miles northeast of Arco, Idaho. The area was reviewed as part of Jumpoff Mountain Roadless Area during the RARE II process. The proposed deletion of the Wood Canyon Road, not included in the 1979 RARE II analysis, separates the current area. This road now separates the Wood Canyon Roadless Area from the Jumpoff Peak Roadless Area.

The topography of the area is generally steep and rough. It has deeply etched canyons and numerous limestone formations. Most canyon bottoms are relatively flat with mild gradients at the lower elevations, but they rise abruptly a short distance above the mount as a result of past faulting. The higher elevations are characterized by gentler sagebrush/grass slopes interspersed with stringers of Douglas-fir and whitebark pine. The area is classified as a sagebrush-steppe ecosystem.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural integrity of the roadless area is low because of jeep tracks and grazing.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for primitive recreation and solitude is little due to the proximity of roads. There are no challenging experiences.

Special Features: The area has an arid appearance and does not have significant scenic attractions.

Manageability: Only a small part of the area boundary coincides with topographic features. Most of it follows the forest boundary and would be difficult to manage as wilderness boundary. There is little opportunity to change the boundaries to improve manageability. The area is over 5,000 acres in size, but is relatively small compared to other areas on the forest.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no fisheries in the area.

Wildlife: A moderate diversity of wildlife habitat supports small populations of mule deer and good populations of sage grouse and pronghorn antelope. Populations of deer, antelope, and sage grouse could be increased with structural development of watering sources for wildlife use.

Water: The area receives a heavy snowpack. Runoff is very light due to the porosity of the limestone soils; there is no potential for increasing water yield.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation use is light, consisting primarily of big game hunting and off-road vehicle use. There are numerous old wagon roads, now used by 4-wheel drive vehicles, which originated as wood roads for firewood and cabin logs. These roads access the area from the Little Lost and Big Lost River Valleys, and the Arco Desert. Current recreation use is less than 600 recreation visitor days annually. The area does not attract significant recreation use outside of hunting.

Timber: The area has no significant timber resources, except for a few accessible firewood stands. There is no potential for commercial timber harvest in the area. Some of the timber in the area is infected with dwarf mistletoe and spruce budworm. The scattered nature and small size of the timber stands reduce potential for contributing to epidemic populations of disease or pests.

Range: The major current use is livestock grazing, both sheep and cattle. There are approximately 300 AUMs of grazing use permitted in the area. Water is a limiting factor.

Minerals and Energy: The potential for mineral development is believed to be very low. Most of the area is covered with oil and gas leases or lease applications. This roadless area contains 7,800 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no land use authorizations which would detract from wilderness values. There are no private lands in this roadless area.

Heritage: The area was believed to have had a high concentration of prehistoric hunting camps. There is good potential for identifying these sites, rock shelters, pictographs, etc. There is insufficient information, at present, available to evaluate and determine the overall significance of the historic and archeological resources of this area.

Disturbances: This area has had a low incidence of fire, either man-caused or lightning caused. Fuels are such that there is little potential for large wildfires. There is potential for using prescribed fire for improving range forage and wildlife habitat.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Wood Canyon Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	7,800	0
Backcountry	7,800	0	7,800
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**7,800**	**7,800**	**7,800**

Bighorn-Weitas #306

254,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Bighorn-Weitas Roadless Area is the largest roadless area lying entirely within the boundary of the Clearwater National Forest. It is located approximately in the middle of the Forest. The west boundary is about 70 air miles east of Lewiston, Idaho, and the east boundary is approximately 50 air miles west of Missoula, Montana. Except for two major intrusions of roads and timber sales, the roadless area is relatively compact extending about 35 miles east-west and averaging about 14 miles wide.

Access is good. Along the north side, access is via the graveled Pierce-Superior Road #250 and the Kelly Creek Road #255. Access along the northeast and south side is from the low-standard, Toboggan Ridge Road #581 and the Lolo Motorway #500. These roads are open generally from July to early October. The Lean-to Ridge/Cook Mountain Road #555 is also a very low-standard, dirt road accessible only during good weather July through September.

Interior access is via upwards of 300 miles of low-standard, fire control and administrative trails. Many of these trails, because of low use and limited funding, receive only light, intermittent maintenance.

The area lies within two major drainages, Weitas Creek and Cayuse Creek, as well as a number of streams draining into the North Fork of the Clearwater River and Kelly Creek. Both major drainages have some sections of narrow but flat stream bottoms with some meandering sections in Cayuse Creek. Many of the smaller streams have steeper gradients, V bottoms, and extremely steep side slopes. The Cook Mountain area, lying between Weitas and Cayuse Creek consists of generally rolling upland landforms with wide ridges. Scenic views, while not necessarily outstanding, are pleasing.

Elevations are midrange varying from 7,100 feet at Rock Garden to an average of 5,500 feet for most other peaks. Stream bottom elevations range from 2,400 feet at the mouth of Weitas, but generally average about 3,200 to 4,000 feet in elevation.

The area is underlain by a coarse-grained quartz monzonite of the Cretaceous Idaho batholith. Included in the area are small isolated blocks of gneiss belonging to the Precambrian Wallace formation and smaller blocks of rhyolite and border zone gneiss. Mountain tops are rounded and deeply weathered with few exceptions such as Lunde Ridge. There are relatively few, large areas of exposed rocky and barren ground. Highly erosive soils are found in this area.

The area is dominantly cedar-hemlock-pine forest with a small interior section of western spruce-fir between Cook Mountain and Raspberry Butte. Vegetation varies from carex and beargrass on high elevation, south slopes to grand fir and western redcedar types at lower elevations. Large forest fires in the early 1900's had a major influence on the present vegetation with much of the area being covered with even-aged stands of lodgepole pine at higher elevations and mixed stands of other conifers at lower elevations. Large areas of brush fields and grass meadows still exist within the conifer stands. Many of the brush fields are below 4,000 feet elevation where they are used by big game as winter forage.

The area, in general, is thought of and used by people for dispersed recreation, primarily hunting and fishing. Elk is the predominant big game species. Fishing, especially for westslope cutthroat trout in the Cayuse drainage under a-catch-and-release regulation, is another major attraction. A verified sighting of the endangered gray wolf has attracted considerable attention in recent years.

The cultural history of the Lolo Trail, Lewis and Clark route and Lolo Motorway forming the southern boundary is a key attraction for history buffs.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: With a few exceptions, the natural integrity and appearance of the Bighorn-Weitas areas have not been altered. The Lean-to-Ridge Road separates the Hemlock Creek drainage from the rest of the area. The Cook Mountain reforestation area creates a major intrusion into the area. The Horseshoe

Lake fire in 1961 and subsequent timber salvage activity in 8,000 acres of Gravey Creek is the only other major intrusion.

Three, short, low-standard fire lookout roads penetrate the area from the Lolo Motorway. Of the five former lookout towers only three remain and only one of these is used on an intermittent basis. A second one, Weitas Butte, is rented to the public during the summer months.

Although there are hundreds of miles of trails in the area, most are such low standard that they are hardly noticeable. The impact of livestock grazing, past and present, is likewise virtually unnoticeable.

Opportunities for Experience: The size and rectangular shape of the area, tends to promote solitude. The two major drainages and six tributary systems and generally wide and rounded ridges isolate users effectively. Noise and detraction from logging activity is found only along the west boundary and then only for a short distance. There are numerous trails in creek bottoms and on ridges which tends to disperse people. Additional dispersion is gained because access to these trails is good from the many miles of road surrounding the area.

The great diversity of topography and extensive areas of dense vegetation of trees and shrubs further isolates visitors from each other. There are no lakes or single major attractions which tend to concentrate people. Once the visitor is a short distance from a heavily-used trail or an adjacent or intruding road, there is a definite feeling of being in a natural area.

Because of the moderate elevations in comparison to higher surrounding areas, outside viewing opportunities are very limited thereby minimizing visual disturbances from adjacent activities. The Cayuse airstrip (officially a backcountry emergency field) near the boundary accommodates fly-in fishermen and hunters during the summer and early fall resulting in noise and visual distraction up to a mile away.

Hiking, backpacking, primitive camping, photography, horseback riding, hunting, and stream fishing are the key dispersed recreation. Trails, even though many are low standard, provide the major means of access since cross-country travel is very difficult due to dense vegetation and rugged terrain. Several outfitters pack big-game hunters into the area each fall to hunt elk, deer, and bears.

Special Features: The Lolo Trail which is a registered National Historic Landmark and National Historic Trail is one of the most significant features. This trail was a major travel route between the Columbia Basin and the Montana country prehistorically and was heavily used. Lewis and Clark traveled over sections of the trail in journeys of 1805-06. They did, however, deviate from the traditional ridge trail with nearly ten miles of their route dipping into the vicinity of Gravey Creek and Moon Creek. Another famous traveler over the trail was Chief Joseph, a Nez Perce Indian Chief, who helped lead the non-treaty Nez Perce during the Nez Perce war of 1877. The trail was used to such an extent over the years that it was finally made into a road in the early 1930's. It remains as a very low-standard route used today by hunters, Forest Service employees, and others. Portions of a 400 acre Research Natural Area may be found in this roadless area.

The Cayuse Creek drainage is part of a-catch-and-release fishery area of the Kelly Creek drainage. This regulation, established in 1970 to protect and enhance the westslope cutthroat trout, has resulted in a local and regional reputation for a quality fishery. Twelve-to-sixteen-inch trout are not uncommon in the major streams.

Manageability: Except for the narrow Hemlock Creek area, the large size and rectangular shape contribute significantly to the wilderness qualities. The area is large enough to be virtually unaffected by exterior sights and sounds. The Pierce-Superior Road, Kelly Creek Road, Toboggan Ridge Road and Lolo Motorway would be logical wilderness boundaries. The Gravey Creek timber management area could easily be excluded with some minor adjustments along several major ridges.

The Cook Mountain Road and reforestation area could either be excluded which would pose boundary-location problems or included and the road closed. Because it is a low-standard, dirt road, it and the Cook Mountain area would revert back to a natural condition within five to ten years.

Moving the boundary to Weitas Creek from its mouth to the Weitas Work Center would eliminate several short creeks draining into Weitas Creek and the larger Hemlock Creek drainage and make a more logical wilderness boundary. Other possible adjustments to exclude moderate timber values would put the boundary along Weitas Creek from the Work Center upstream to Windy Creek, up Windy Creek to Young Creek, up Young Creek to Monroe Butte, along Windy Ridge to Lookout Peak, down trail #638 across Monroe Creek, up trail #593 to Raspberry Butte then east to Gravey Creek. The 760 acres of private land could also be excluded easily without detracting from the wilderness values.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Cayuse Creek drainage is part of a-catch-and-release fishery area of the Kelly Creek drainage. This regulation, established in 1970 to protect and enhance the westslope cutthroat trout, has resulted in a local and regional reputation for a quality fishery. Twelve-to-sixteen-inch trout are not uncommon in the major streams. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, steelhead, inland redband trout, westslope cutthroat, and pacific lamprey habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Elk, mule deer, and black bears are the most common large game animals found. Moose, mountain lions and other small game and nongame birds and animals common to the rest of the Forest are also found here. Approximately 8 percent of the area or 18,700 acres is within key big game winter range. The remainder is key summer range. Lynx, a threatened species, and wolverine, fisher, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat, Region 1 sensitive species occur in this roadless area.

Botanical: Light hookeria (*Hookeria lucens),* Constance's bittercress *(Cardamine constancei),* and Bank Monkeyflower *(Mimulus clivicola)* three sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Although there are numerous potential developed sites, the actual construction of such sites is dependent upon needs, funding, and road access. Current need is low and funding levels are almost nonexistent.

Timber: Approximately 92 percent or 239,000 acres is considered suitable for timber production. An estimated 2,546 million board feet of sawtimber is found. Timber stands are not uniformly distributed. Mainly because of the large wildfires during the early 1900's, entire drainages, such as Fourth of July Creek, have few, if any trees. Because of the widespread destruction of timber during these fires, adequate seed sources are few-and-far-between. Loss of topsoil on many of these areas may also inhibit regeneration from taking place.

Range: The area has eight designated grazing allotments: three cattle and five horse and mule. The cattle allotments are on transitory range averaging 190 head for approximately 500 animal unit months (AUMs). Although there is considerably more potential, most of it would be transitory.

Minerals and Energy: Potential for minerals, oil and gas is low. A small amount of prospecting and exploration can be expected in the extreme western section. This roadless area contains 254,800 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Each fall several commercial outfitters take hunters to hunt big game, primarily elk.

Heritage: In addition to the previously mentioned Lolo Trail and Lewis and Clark routes, the area has a rich heritage of other cultural resource. Nine prehistoric sites have been located. As mentioned earlier, in extensive portion of the Lolo Trail forms the southern boundary.

Trappers and the Forest Service personnel became users of the area by the late 1890's. During the 20th century many peaks, meadows and creek bottoms have served as lookouts, ranger stations or crew

camps. A total of 57 historic sites are recorded. Included among these sites are 13 Forest Service lookout sites, 18 cabins or cabin remains, four Forest Service Ranger Stations locations, four hunter camps, one Economic Recovery Act camp, two BRC Camps, four Lewis and Clark Expedition camp sites, one Euro-American grave site, and evidence of a sheep driveway.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Bighorn-Weitas Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	5,200	0
Backcountry	254,800	241,800	246,900
GFRG	0	7,400	0
SAHTS	0	0	7,500
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	400	400
Total Acres	**254,800**	**254,800**	**254,800**

Eldorado Creek #312

6,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Eldorado Creek Roadless Area is centered in the headwaters of the Eldorado Creek drainage approximately 50 miles from Orofino, Idaho. The area is accessible by numerous, mostly graveled Forest roads. The interior is accessed by about eight miles of low-standard trails. The area is about five miles long and one-half to two miles wide.

Rolling uplands are mainly within Eldorado Creek, but also encompasses the heads of six other lesser streams. The area is totally underlain by a coarse-grained quartz monzonite of the Idaho batholith. The Miocene Columbia River basalt occurs as a cap over the quartz monzonite producing a stable landscape.

Eldorado is in a cedar-hemlock-pine ecosystem. This ecosystem has a dense stand of trees consisting mainly of western redcedar, western white pine, grand fir, Douglas-fir, Englemann spruce, and lesser amounts of subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, larch, ponderosa pine, and mountain hemlock. With relatively dense stands of large timber and rolling land, the visitor can see only short distances. There are virtually no viewing points.

Surrounding areas are intensively managed for timber except for a roadless strip of land in Fish Creek (North Lochsa Slope Roadless Area) adjacent to the Lolo Motorway which forms the east boundary.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Even though the area is small, the natural appearance has not been altered. The integrity may be somewhat compromised because of the small size. The trail system within the area is not apparent unless one is on a trail.

Opportunities for Experience: Solitude is virtually nonexistent because of adjacent timber harvesting activities and other motorized traffic. Because of this lack of solitude and other characteristic values associated with wilderness, experiences are also very limited.

Special Features: The Lolo Trail/Lewis and Clark Trail traverses the area along the east side parallel to the Lolo Motorway.

Manageability: The small size and irregular narrow shape of the Eldorado Creek Roadless Area effectively negates any wilderness attributes. The only identifiable boundary is the Lolo Motorway. There is virtually no logical way the rest of the boundaries could be adjusted to end up with a manageable wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No fisheries are located within this area, although Chinook summer salmon, inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area contains habitat for elk, mule deer, white-tail deer, moose, and black bears. It provides the summer range for elk which winter in the adjacent Pete King drainage. There is no winter range. Wolverine, northern flicker, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad, Region 1 sensitive species occur in this roadless area.

Botanical: Mingan moonwort *(Botrychium minganense)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Big game hunters and huckleberry pickers are the most prominent users.

Timber: All 6,800 acres of the Eldorado Roadless Area are highly suitable for timber production. The area contains a standing sawtimber volume of about 130 million board feet of timber.

Range: There are no allotments within this area.

Minerals and Energy: Placer gold and thorium occur. Mining claims for both minerals exist on Eldorado Creek. Most of this area is rated high for placer gold and thorium. This roadless area contains 6,800 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: The inventoried cultural resource lists two lookout sites, two cabins or cabin remains, one mining site, and two prehistoric hunting areas. Three Nez Perce Indian trials existed in this area as well.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Eldorado Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	6,800	0	5,900
GFRG	0	6,800	0
SAHTS	0	0	900
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**6,800**	**6,800**	**6,800**

Hoodoo #301

153,900 Acres Clearwater (Idaho)
98,100 Acres Lolo (Montana)
Total 252,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Hoodoo Roadless Area is located on the Idaho-Montana border, about 30 air miles west of Missoula, Montana. The Idaho portion is in parts of Clearwater, Idaho, and Shoshone Counties in the Clearwater National Forest. In Montana, the area is in the Lolo National Forest within portions of Missoula and Mineral Counties.

The area may be accessed by vehicle from numerous forest roads paralleling the boundaries or from dead-end roads. The northeast corner-boundary is within four miles of a major Federal highway, Interstate 90. The graveled Pierce-Superior Road #250 forms a boundary along the northwest side which also joins with the main divide trail at Hoodoo Pass. The Toboggan Ridge Road #581, a dirt road, is also a thruway and is the southwest boundary providing numerous access points to the area. The Granite Creek, White Mountain, Schlez Mountain, Quartz Creek, Clearwater Crossing, Lake Creek, and Goose Creek roads and Kelly Creek Work Center all provide trail heads for interior trail access.

From an aerial perspective, the Hoodoo area is viewed as a long, high mountainous hydrologic divide running north-south about 40 miles. From the divide on both sides emanate large and small fast-moving streams draining into the Clearwater River system in Idaho and into the Clark Fork River system in Montana.

Topography is varied with elevations as low as 3,200 feet at the mouth of Moose Creek to 7,930 feet at the top of Rhodes Peak. Except for the saddles (where two drainages start), much of the divide is above 6,500 feet with the prominent peaks especially in the southern half, ranging from 7,300 to 7,400 feet.

Although little detailed geologic mapping has been done, extrapolation from other studies and field reconnaissance indicate that most of the area is underlain by the Wallace formation, a unit in the Precambrian Belt supergroup. The major lithologies associated with the Wallace formation include limestones, dolomites, and carbonaceous argillites. The extreme southeastern portion contains granite rocks of the Cretaceous Age, Idaho Batholith, and volcanic rhyolites.

While this "high divide country" portion of the area is not considered true alpine, it exhibits relatively few trees, grassy mountain meadows, considerable barren land with numerous rocky outcrops, cliffs, and jagged peaks. Mountain heather and other alpine-type species are found intermingled where the thin soils have enough moisture to support plant growth.

Annual precipitation ranges from 30 inches near the eastern border to near 100 inches along the Idaho-Montana divide. Snow depths of 10 to 14 feet are not uncommon in the higher country lasting well into the summer and providing water to the Clearwater and Clark Fork River systems.

The name "Great Burn" has been attached to the area by several groups and stems from the large and devastating wildfires which denuded much of the area during the early 1900's, primarily on the Idaho-side. Except for upper Moose, Pollack, and Swamp Creeks, much of the area north of Kelly Creek is still primarily covered with shrubs with scattered individual and small groups of trees. The area south of Kelly Creek has regenerated largely to lodgepole pine. Most of the drainages In Montana capable of supporting vegetation are tree covered.

Three ecosystems are found within the area, 1) cedar-hemlock-pine, 2) western spruce-fir, and 3) alpine meadows and barren. The cedar-hemlock-pine group represents the lower elevations. Where trees are found, it is represented primarily by western redcedar, grand fir, Douglas-fir, and larch with very small amounts of western white pine on the Idaho-side. Ponderosa pine is found at the lower and drier elevations. The spruce-fir system is represented on the Montana-side by Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir,

mountain hemlock, and the seral lodgepole pine on the burned over areas. Very small amounts of whitebark pine are found above 6,500 feet.

The outstanding scenery, the variety and abundance of wildlife species (elk, black bears, mountain goats and moose), and the high quality westslope cutthroat trout fishery in Idaho are major attractions. Although slim, there is a chance of seeing an endangered wildlife species, the gray wolf. The 33 mountain lakes, most of which are located near the Idaho-Montana divide, and the variety of vegetative types interspersed with the numerous streams and barren, subalpine rocky peaks contribute to the visitor's enjoyment. As the area becomes known, more people visit it every year.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: With exceptions, the area retains a high degree of natural integrity and appearance. Human activities have resulted in relatively minor and isolated impacts from several minor hardrock mining sites, pack trails, stock driveways, and fire control trails during the early 1900's. Most of these impacts have rehabilitated naturally as the activities ceased.

Concentrated use around some of the larger, more popular lakes, such as Fish Lake and Heart Lake, and overuse on several of the main trails are the only real detractions from the natural integrity and appearance of the area.

About 115 acres of actual mining sites exist. At Greenwood Cabins are 40 acres of fixed sites of mostly patented mining claims. About 3 miles of a very primitive, closed mining road as well as the hardrock mining site is noticeable near Kid Lake. Evidence of other early mining is very minor.

Opportunities for Experience: The vastness of the area, covering approximately 252,000 total acres (153,000 acres in Idaho) along with its rectangular shape extending approximately 40 miles north-south provides excellent opportunity for solitude. The 40-plus streams dissect the area, effectively isolating visitors from each other. The trees and shrubs plus the varied mountainous terrain further screen visitors from each other.

External influences of sight and sound are minimal. The only regular motorized use adjacent to the area is over the Pierce-Superior Road (FS #250). Sounds from logging activity and other occasional motorized, public use near the periphery can be heard up to a mile inside the roadless area in only a few places.

Hunters, fishermen, horseback riders, and hikers congregating at the larger lakes such as Fish, Heart, Pearl, Goat, Williams, and Siamese Lakes would tend to reduce opportunities for solitude at certain times. However, groups using the area have not generally been very large. An exception to this is at Fish Lake on opening day of fishing season when up to 100 people have been known to congregate.

Solitude may be somewhat affected from certain viewpoints along the divide or on steep slopes above developments. Timber harvest units and associated roads on both the Idaho and Montana sides may be viewed in several areas although usually these detractions are in the far distant or background viewing area. The size and diversity of the area, the variety of vegetative types and land forms, the abundance of wildlife, streams and lakes all contribute to virtually unlimited primitive setting for recreation. Primary activities are hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, lake fishing, big-game hunting, primitive camping, outdoor photography and sightseeing.

Some excellent opportunities exist for fishing in the major streams of Kelly, Fish, and Cache Creeks. Some limited mountain climbing opportunities are available along the divide.

Special Features: The Hoodoo contains several features which set it apart from other roadless lands. Foremost is the name, the "Great Burn", which denotes the catastrophic fire in 1910. The sheer force of the fire is evidenced by the long span of time to restore tree cover.

Many pointed rocky formations are located along the higher ridges, especially in the vicinity from William's Peak to Shale Mountain. The rocky formations are thin and irregular. Local people often refer to these formations as "dinosaur rocks" because they resemble the back of some prehistoric animals.

Rocky pinnacles are also in abundance along these ridges. The area is used extensively by commercial outfitters primarily for elk hunting. Six outfitters currently operate in the Idaho portion.

A study done several years ago indicated that prior to the arrival of the white man, Indians used various natural animal crossings on the divide to wait for animals to migrate or be driven. To date, over 40 of these sites have been recorded within the area.

Kelly Creek (including all its tributaries) has been a catch-and-release-stream since 1970. The purpose of this Department of Idaho Fish and Game regulation was to enhance the westslope cutthroat trout fishery since the completion of Dworshak Dam in 1970 blocked migration of steelhead trout. This fishery has improved to the point that the stream is nationally known. Fishermen from all over the country come to catch and release 12 to 15 inch or larger trout.

Steep Lakes encompasses one of the only two lakes in the Clearwater National Forest that support a viable, although limited, population of California golden trout. This brightly colored trout normally found above 7,000 feet in the mountain lakes in California was stocked here in 1962. A limited fishing season has been allowed for many years providing a unique attraction for fishermen each summer.

Based on numerous reports over the years, along with two verified sightings (with photographs) in recent years, the Kelly Creek drainage is regarded as important habitat for the endangered gray wolf. The management of an adequate prey base, mainly elk, and restrictions on motorized road use are two major components of protecting and enhancing this species.

Manageability: At its narrowest point, the Hoodoo is nine air miles across: otherwise, the area averages between 15 and 20 air miles wide and over 40 air miles long. Except for some background viewing of several timber harvest and road activities, the potential wilderness values and attributes of the area are virtually unaffected by external influences. The Hoodoo area is a compact roadless area. Most of the boundaries are fairly well defined on major terrain or other recognized features. In a few locations however, terrain features are less prominent, and boundaries are difficult to locate on the ground. It is fairly remote and free of external influences. In Montana small portions of mostly undeveloped private land exist within the boundaries in the northeast corner.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Most of the larger streams and lakes support fishable cutthroat and rainbow trout populations. Chinook salmon, inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Although population numbers are not known, elk, mule deer, and black bears are considered to be the most abundant. It is estimated that 20 to 50 mountain goats inhabit the high country along the divide. Mountain lions and moose, along with many species of furbearers and small game are also found here. Summer range is a key feature. With most elevations above 4,000 feet, only 4,150 acres of key big-game winter range exist within the area, with about 1,400 acres on the Idaho side. More than ten unconfirmed sightings of the threatened grizzly bear have been made over the past thirty years. Additional studies are planned to determine whether, in fact, all or part of this area could qualify as essential habitat. Lynx, a threatened species, and several Region 1 sensitive species, including harlequin duck, wolverine, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad have habitat that overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: Mingan moonwort *(Botrychium minganense)*, Clustered ladyslipper *(Cypripedium fasciculatum),* Idaho strawberry *(Waldsteinia idahoensis),* and Bank monkeyflower *(Mimulus clivicola)* four sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Over 200 miles of trails are within the area. The main creek and ridge trails are maintained. Because of inadequate funding, many of the other side trails are not maintained on a regular basis and are difficult to use at times.

Timber: The Idaho portion of the Hoodoo Roadless Area has about 89,000 acres of land suitable for timber production. Potential yields vary greatly because of the wide range of elevations and climatic and

soil conditions. Standing volumes of sawtimber total 1.0 million board feet of timber. Large stands of young unmerchantable and merchantable lodgepole pine currently are of relatively low market value because of remoteness and substandard travel routes.

Range: No cattle or sheep allotment have been used since the 1960's. One active horse and mule allotment is on the Idaho side for 24 AUM.

Minerals and Energy: Overall, potential for minerals ranges from low to medium. A total of 13,387 acres of high potential has been identified in the Montana section. A total of 296 mining claims are located within the area. A great majority of them are concentrated in Irish Basin. Other mining claims are clustered in the northern portion in Montana. Most of the production associated with these claims has come from placer gold and fluorite; although iron, molybdenum, and barite have also been found.

Potential for oil and gas is low. All past lease applications for oil and gas have expired. There still remains a great deal of speculative interest for oil and gas. This roadless area contains 153,900 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Commercial outfitters and guides using pack and riding stock are the single largest land users. Six outfitters are currently licensed to operate in Idaho.

Heritage: The current known cultural resources located within the Hoodoo roadless area includes five Forest Service lookout sites: 14 cabins or cabin remains; five Forest Service Ranger Station locations: 24 Native American sites including camp areas, a vision quest site, lithic workshops, and game traps; two mining sites; one Lewis and Clark expedition campsite; and two Euro-American grave locations. In addition, at least four Indian trails existed including the Lolo Trail along the southern boundary: the current state-line trail; and a possible trail through Hanson Meadows. Another trail, the historic "Tin Can Trail," was an important early access route to the Moose City gold mining area from Superior, Montana.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Hoodoo Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	111,300	152,300
Primitive	0	100	0
Backcountry	153,900	26,400	0
GFRG	0	16,100	0
SAHTS	0	0	1,600
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**153,900**	**153,900**	**153,900**

Lochsa Face #311

76,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Lochsa Face Roadless Area is located on the south side of the Lochsa River drainage approximately 77 miles east of Orofino, Idaho, and 60 miles west of Missoula, Montana, via U.S. Highway 12. It is located entirely within the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho County, Idaho. The area's northern boundary is the Lochsa River. U.S. Highway 12 is located immediately north of the Lochsa River and parallels the area's northern boundary for most of its length. The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness forms the southern and western boundaries. The eastern boundary parallels the Tom Beal Park Road.

Access is limited along the northern boundary to foot/horse trails connected to U.S. Highway 12 by three pack bridges and one bridge suitable for motorized travel. Access to the eastern portion is provided by the Tom Beal Peak Road, a low-standard, dirt road. Access from the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is provided by foot/horse trails. A total of 12 Forest Service system trails cross the interior and enter the Wilderness.

The western two-thirds of the Lochsa Face are characterized by steep, stream breakland dissected by relatively steep side-drainages. There are also a limited number of alluvial terraces along the Lochsa River. Above 5,000 feet in this section, rolling upland mountain landforms dominate. In the Stanley Creek drainage, there are also some scoured clique basin, glaciated landforms.

In the eastern one-third of the roadless area, from the Warm Springs Creek drainage to the area's eastern boundary, more alluvial terraces along the river can be found. The breaklands along the river become less pronounced and are not as steep as in the western portion. The gradient of the side-drainages also become gentler, and the rolling mountain upland landforms become more dominant. The Robin, Jay, and Cliff Creek drainages, located near the area's eastern boundary, consist of glacial-scoured and glacial-trough bottom landforms.

The area is mostly underlain by a coarse-grained quartz monzonite of the Cretaceous Idaho Batholiths. Smaller localized blocks of border zone gneiss, granite, and rhyolite occur. Weathered rock and soil from the quartz monzonite bedrock is highly erosive and unstable especially on the steep slopes.

Although the topography is rugged throughout the area, no unique or sharply defined features exist that would classify the area as being visually outstanding except that area adjacent to the Lochsa River. Here steep cliffs, rocky outcrops, and steep gradient streams, 1n conjunction with the River, create some very scenic views. Elevations range from near 2,000 feet on the Lochsa River to 7.500 feet at Tom Beal Peak.

Except for a narrow band of western spruce-fir ecosystem along the main ridge and a lower section from Cliff-Cooperation Creek to the Tom Beal Road, most of the area is within the cedar-hemlock-pine ecosystem. Existing vegetation patterns are mainly a result of large fires that burned in the early 1900's. The steep breaklands west of Warm Springs are characterized by large brush fields with scattered stringers of various sized trees. The higher elevation, mountain-upland and scoured glaciated landforms have scattered stands of lodgepole pine, Englemann spruce, subalpine fir, and whitebark pine. Scattered meadows along stream courses also occur at the higher elevations.

The gentler stream-breaklands and mountain-upland landtypes located in and east of the Warm Springs Creek drainage contain stands of mature sawtimber of larch, white pine, Douglas-fir, grand fir, ponderosa pine, and western redcedar. Because of the fire history, these stands of mature sawtimber are scattered in a mosaic of fully stocked stands of sapling/pole-sized trees of the same species.

Remnants of large, mature western redcedar stands are located on the alluvial flats south of the Lochsa River. These are also more prevalent along the river from Warm Springs Creek east to the area's eastern boundary.

Daubenmire habitat types represented include western redcedar/lady fern, western redcedar/pachistima, grand fir/pachistima, subalpine fir/pachistima, subalpine fir/menzeisia, subalpine fir/beargrass, and subalpine fir/grouse whortleberry.

Because of its proximity to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, many people think of the area as "defacto wilderness." The area is, however, not used as wilderness, but merely as access to the Selway-Bitterroot. Big game hunters probably use the area the most by using the river corridor as their base. Some use is made also by day hikers in the vicinity of the bridges crossing the Lochsa River. Most use is passive, i.e., scenic viewing of the River and the immediate foreground by motorists on the highway.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Because of its inaccessibility, the area has been lightly impacted by past human activity. Overall it appears undisturbed and natural. The majority of trails were constructed in the early 1900's by the Forest Service to provide access for wildfire control. In addition to the three previously mentioned pack bridges, there is another such bridge in the Warm Springs Creek drainage. Two fire lookouts are located at Bear Mountain and Jay Point. The Bear Mountain Lookout is still manned during the summer months. The Jay Point Lookout has been condemned and will likely be replaced. A number of outfitter camps are located throughout the area but do not contain any permanent improvements so evidence is minor.

Opportunities for Experience: The major side-drainages and higher elevation, mountain-upland landforms in the western portion provides visitors with relatively high solitude. Existing trails in this area follow main ridges. The side-drainages are screened from activities and noise coming from the U.S. Highway 12/Lochsa River corridor. The view looking out of these areas is towards the undeveloped North Lochsa Face Roadless Area located immediately north of U.S. Highway 12. The more exposed ridges and faces on the steeper breaklands in the western part of the area have lower solitude due to the lack of vegetation and views of U.S. Highway 12.

Located east of the Warm Springs Creek drainage, solitude is relatively high because of dense vegetation, gentler sloped stream bottoms, and larger proportion of mountain-upland and scoured glacial landforms. Noise from heavy truck traffic on U.S. 12 is noticeable along the steep breaklands south of the Lochsa River in the western portion of the roadless area. Because of the narrow canyon, this noise can be heard up to 1 to 2 miles from the highway on exposed faces and ridges. This distance is significantly reduced in the side drainages. Those areas of stream breaklands located east of Warm Springs are not affected as greatly by highway noise as these steeper areas because of gentler topography and the denser timber cover.

Those areas previously discussed that have high solitude also provide a high degree of challenge for visitors wishing to be isolated from development and human activity. The majority of the side drainages, with the exception of Warm Springs Creek, currently receive extremely light use because of their isolation and difficult access. The mountain-upland landforms receive more use than these areas and provide better visitor dispersion because of more favorable vegetation, topography, and access.

The area by itself does not give an impression of vastness, but in association with the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, it does. The visitor does not usually separate the two areas as it appears as one very large roadless area.

Special Features: Jerry Johnson Hot Springs is located in the Warm Springs Creek drainage about 1 1/2-miles from U.S. Highway 12. A pack bridge and wilderness provide access to the site. The hot springs receives the heaviest concentration of recreation of any individual dispersed recreational site on the Clearwater National Forest. This use is year-around.

The Middle Fork-Lochsa Recreation River corridor extends the full length of the roadless area ending at Powell Ranger Station. Nearly 7,800 acres of the corridor are within the area. The boundary line is

indefinite. The direction for management is provided by a recreation river management plan. About 200 acres of the Dutch Creek Research Natural Area are located within the roadless area.

Manageability: The current boundaries would lend themselves to a logical and manageable wilderness. The boundary could be readjusted to exclude the timber stands in Cliff-Cooperation Creek east of Warm Spring Creek.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area contains 13 major creeks that drain into the southern face of the Lochsa River. The streams provide high quality water and rearing and spawning habitat for a large portion of the cutthroat and rainbow trout populations in the Lochsa River drainage. In addition, five of the creeks have been identified as containing steelhead and chinook summer salmon rearing and spawning habitat. Chinook, inland redband trout, pacific lamprey and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Habitat exists for the following big game species: elk, moose, mule deer, white-tailed deer, mountain goats, mountain lions, and black bears. Elk are the most hunted big game animals. The area currently provides high quality, elk summer range. Elk winter range is concentrated at the lower elevations along the Lochsa River and its tributaries located west of Warm Springs Creek. There are about 8,300 acres of key big game winter range. A large moose population is located east of the Warm Springs Creek drainage in the Elk Summit area. This area has been identified as being of particular importance in the production and maintenance of this population. Lynx, a threatened species, and several Region 1 sensitive species including harlequin duck, wolverine, fisher, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad occur in this roadless area.

Botanical: Mingan moonwort *(Botrychium minganense)*, Clustered ladyslipper *(Cypripedium fasciculatum),* Idaho strawberry *(Waldsteinia idahoensis),* and Evergreen kittentail *(Synthyris platycarpa)* four sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: The main dispersed recreation includes big-game hunting, camping, hiking, horseback riding, and fishing. Only two small unnamed lakes are located in the area. Trails are the only permanent recreational facilities.

Most potential developed recreational sites are located along the Lochsa River. Current availability exceeds the demand. Current and anticipated funding for developing sites is low. In most cases additional access would need to be provided across the river to construct additional sites.

Timber: The Lochsa Face has approximately 62,000 acres of land suitable for timber production. Standing volume is approximately 871 million board feet of sawtimber located throughout the area. The heaviest concentration is east of Mocus Creek. The Cliff-Cooperation area has the largest stands of reasonably accessible timber.

Range: One grazing allotment for stock used by an outfitter is currently in use. It is located in the Indian and Gold Meadows Area and annually provides five animal-unit-months of grazing. The allotment does not contain any structural improvements such as fences. The greatest use is by domestic livestock for private recreation; most of this comes in the fall during hunting season.

Minerals and Energy: Potential for valuable minerals is low. Known occurrences of placer gold exist along the Lochsa River; however, there are no known mining claims or operations. Although several small hot springs occur within the area, they are not extensive enough to provide geothermal power generation. This roadless area contains 75,900 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Two outfitters provide big-game hunting services during the spring and fall, and guide school and pack trips during the summer. Seven camp locations have been assigned to them through outfitter and guide special use permits. The campsites do not contain permanent improvements. Both outfitters also provide the same services in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Heritage: Current known cultural resource sites include seven Forest Service lookout locations, one hunting camp, six prehistoric sites, one cabin or cabin remains, and several Nez Perce Indian trails.

Disturbances: Although large fires occurred during the early 1900's, the current fire occurrence is low. Lightning strikes are the predominant forms of ignition.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Lochsa Face Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	
Primitive	0	27,400	27,400
Backcountry	76,000	40,500	40,500
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	8,100	8,100
Total Acres	**76,000**	**76,000**	**76,000**

Lolo Creek #805

100 Acres Clearwater National Forest (Idaho)
600 Acres Bitterroot National Forest (Montana)
16,800 Acres Lolo National Forest (Montana)
17,500 Total Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

This roadless area lies 15 miles southwest of Missoula, 17 miles northwest of Stevensville, and 6 miles west of Lolo. Montana. U.S. Highway 12 parallels the northern border at a distance of about two miles. From it, logging roads along Mill Creek, Cedar Creek and Dick Creek approach the northern and western boundaries. A road up Mormon Creek provides vehicle access to the eastern edge. Four system trails totaling 12 miles extend into and across the area.

Because of the small acreages in the Clearwater (100 acres) and Bitterroot (600 acres) National Forests, most of the discussion that follows is concerned with the Lolo National Forest.

The Lolo Creek Roadless Area is situated immediately north of Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The most prominent feature is the lower valley of the South Fork of Lolo Creek which rises on the east to the summit of Lolo Peak, a difference of about 4,500 vertical feet. Most of the streams flow to the north into Lola Creek, and the slopes are heavily timbered. Lolo Peak and Rocky Point peaks are not timbered because of rocky, shallow soils. Most of the area is in the subalpine fir habitat series with a variety of understories. There are also small amounts of the Douglas-fir habitat types. These occur between 4,500 and 7,000 feet elevation. Most of this area is classified as commercial timberland.

The area lies within the border zone between the Precambrian Belt Supergroup and the granitics of the Idaho Batholith. Granite, mica schists, and gneisses are exposed over most of the area. To the north, altered Belt Group rocks are found.

The Lolo Creek Roadless Area provides habitat for a variety of game and nongame wildlife species commonly found in western Montana including pileated woodpecker, pine marten, mountain goat, hoary marmot, and other fur bearers. Visitors can often view deer and elk herds on summer range.

Currently, popular activities include hiking and trail biking, horseback riding, fishing, big-game hunting; and in winter, cross-country skiing and winter mountaineering sports activities.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Ecological processes and the natural landscape in parts of the area have been disrupted to a certain extent by past and present domestic grazing. Basically, vegetative communities in the unlit are similar to those found in surrounding areas outside the roadless boundary. Air and water quality in the area are considered good.

While most of the animal species, native to the area, are found in the Lolo Creek Roadless Area, none are particularly dependent on wilderness for survival. Animals on summer range can be susceptible to human activity, and the area contains summer range. The area also contains a significant fishery.

The Lolo Creek Roadless Area is significant because of its proximity to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Possible conflicts include a proposed ski area, potential for electronic site development, and possible mineral development. The Ward Lode Mine is located to the west with several of the claims staked in the Roadless Area. An irrigation dam is located on Carlton Lake, and the Carlton Ridge Primitive Road provides access to the dam.

There is not an outstanding opportunity for solitude due to moderate to heavy visitation, frequent air traffic, and noise from highways. A small ski run has been cut out by users along a portion of Lola Peak Trail No. 1312. Several clearcuts and logging roads and the towns of Missoula, Lolo, and Florence, Montana can be seen from within the area. Portions of Highways 93 South and U.S. 12, the Ward Lode

Mine, lookouts, a 500 KV twin powerline, and ranch buildings also impact the appearance of the area. Fort Fizzle National Historic Site is located about three to four miles to the north near Lolo Creek.

Opportunities for Experience: Other than small scale mountain climbing opportunities, the area is limited in potential wilderness recreation because of the existing and potential conflicts.

Special Features: Most of the area is classified as commercial timberland and has 4,400 acres rated high to very high potential for minerals. Significant features include the site for a potential ski area in the Lolo Peak/Carlton Ridge Area. (See Management Area 6 description in the Lolo Forest Plan.) On the southern boundary, Lolo Peak provides a prominent viewpoint to the north. It receives moderate to heavy visitation year round. This area is popular with cross-country skiers and is used for mountaineering.

The roadless area provides 35 percent Semi-Primitive Motorized and 65 percent Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Recreational settings. Main activities are four-wheeling on Carlton Ridge, trail biking, hiking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, and environmental educational activities. Fishing and big-game hunting are also popular.

Manageability: The relatively small size and narrow shape of the area severely limits its potential wilderness attributes. There are 1,500 acres of private land on the north end which would either have to be excluded or exchanged. As currently drawn, the southern boundary follows the existing line of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Most of the western side follows drainage divides and would be easily marked and identified on the ground. However, the entire northern border is arbitrarily drawn to follow property lines which are not well marked or easily identified.

The natural appearing landscape has been altered by the four-wheel drive trail along Carlton Ridge, several miners' cabins, and the foundation of an old lookout tower.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Fisheries exist in the South Fork of Lola, Mill, and Johnny Creeks.

Wildlife: The area provides habitat for a wide variety of game and non-game wildlife species. There are 1,311 acres of elk summer habitat and 530 riparian acres. Grizzly bears occupied the area in the historic past, but no bears have been sighted in many years. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Recreation: Primitive recreation is very good due to the steepness of terrain, rocky cliffs, and proximity to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Good terrain exists for "expert" skiers.

A portion of the roadless area was evaluated in a ski area feasibility study made by the Forest Service during the mid and late 1960's. Results of the study suggested the area had some potential for a ski area. Interest is expressed periodically by local citizens.

Timber: About 6,200 acres are considered suitable for timber management in the Lolo Forest Plan. The suitable lands presently support a standing timber inventory of 45.6 million board feet with a long-term sustained yield of 1.06 million board feet annually.

Range: Portions of the East Fork/South Fork range allotment fall within this roadless area. The allotment is active and is permitted for 215 cow/calf pairs for approximately 300 AUMs. Only about one-third of the Lola Creek Roadless Area is considered to be suitable for grazing. The remaining two-thirds of the area is too steep and rocky. A small portion of the Anderson-Miller allotment is included, but the suitable range acreage is not significant.

Minerals and Energy: Oil and gas leases at one time cover approximately 75 percent of the land, but the leases have expired. Ten mining claims associated with the Ward Lode Mine are located along the southwestern corner. These are in a zone of copper-lead-zinc-silver veins. Some gold values have also been found. The forest inventory lists 4,400 acres of high to very high potential for minerals. This roadless area contains 100 acres of medium geothermal potential in Idaho.

Landownership and Special Uses: All but the northeast corner of the 920 acre Carlton Ridge Research Natural Area is located within the roadless area. The principle feature of the area is an extensive grove of alpine larch on well-developed soils. In addition, alpine larch and western larch are found at the same elevation which is uncommon. Studies indicate that hybridization between the two species has occurred on this site; this is one of the few areas known where this occurs.

Heritage: The Lolo Creek does not contain significant cultural resources. A few old miners' cabins remain. There are old lookout remains on Lantern Ridge. No prehistoric sites have been identified.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Lolo Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	100	100	100
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**100**	**100**	**100**

Moose Mountain #305

22,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Moose Mountain Roadless Area is in the northeast portion of the Clearwater National Forest within Clearwater County. It lies between Kelly Creek and the North Fork of the Clearwater River and is readily accessed from either the Pierce-Superior Road #250 or the Kelly Creek-Deception Road #255. The roadless area is a very compact shaped triangle.

As the name implies, it is comprised of mountains. Moose Mountains (a series of peaks and ridges about 4 miles long) extends north-south across the west side of the area, and Moose Creek Buttes extends south-east from Moose Mountains. Elevations drop rapidly from the peaks of up to 6,700 feet to the North Fork and Kelly Creek averaging 2,800 feet within a horizontal distance of one to two miles.

The area is underlain by the metasediments of the Wallace and Revett formations. The dominant lithologies of the Belt Supergroup rocks are quartzites, argillites, dolomites, and limestones. These metamorphosed rocks have been sheared and faulted making them very susceptible to weathering.

Although the entire area falls within the cedar-hemlock-pine ecosystem, most of the land above 6,000 feet is barren rock or very sparsely covered with low vegetation, mostly shrubs and perennials. Most all of the southerly facing slopes, all the way to Kelly Creek, are covered with shrubs. Trees, many of them lodgepole pine, are found on the northeast side and on north-facing slopes in the Black Canyon area along the North Fork River. Here, also, are found Douglas-fir, grand fir, western redcedar, western white pine, larch and some Englemann spruce.

Wildlife, along with the rugged glaciated mountainous terrain, is the principal features which attract users. Most current users are big-game hunters, although there are some hikers that go into the area for one to two day hikes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Other than early day mineral prospecting which is largely unnoticed and some recent active mining near the boundary in Moose Creek, Moose Mountain has retained its natural integrity and appearance. Two fire control trails are low standard and access only a small portion.

Opportunities for Experience: The opportunity for solitude is fairly low because of the small size and the fact that it is surrounded on two sides by a road and on one side by extensive timber harvesting. Viewing of these developments, as well as the sounds of vehicles and timber harvesting activities, is possible throughout much of the area.

Special Features: One can view some outstanding mountainous scenery especially along the major ridges.

Manageability: Solitude is limited. Viewing detractions are numerous due to the small size of the area and elevations generally higher than adjacent lands. The area can easily be managed for wilderness with very little modification of existing boundaries. It is already well defined by the Pierce-Superior and Kelly Creek Deception Roads along the south and east boundary. A ridgetop boundary along the northeast side would be easy to locate, and this would also exclude much of the suitable timberland in the area. The existing and past mining activities could also be excluded without any effect on the wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout a threatened species, and Inland redband trout and west slope cutthroat trout, Region 1 sensitive species, have habitat that overlaps the roadless area.

Wildlife: Elk, mule deer, black bears, and a small number of Rocky Mountain goats are the principal large wildlife species. The area contains 2,600 acres of key big game winter range, primarily in shrub fields on the south facing slopes above Kelly Creek and Road #255. Unconfirmed sightings have been

made of the endangered gray wolf and of the threatened grizzly bear. Region 1 sensitive species, including the fisher, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad have habitat in this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Elk hunting, scenic viewing and photography are major recreational activities. A one or two-day trip would enable a hiker to cover most of the area. However, hiking is for those who are in good physical condition, because of the rugged terrain and lack of trails.

Timber: Only 29 percent or 6,400 acres is considered suitable for timber production. The suitable land currently supports an estimated 133 million board feet of sawtimber in the mature and immature classes. Much of the larger timber is located on the steep slopes draining into the North Fork of the Clearwater River while the younger timber, especially lodgepole pine, is located along the east side of the area.

Minerals and Energy: Potential for gold is high in the northeast corner, mostly within the Moose Creek drainage. The remaining area has low potential for all known minerals. Upper Moose Creek has several active mining claims. This roadless area contains 22,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: Current cultural resource sites include seven cabins or cabin remains, one historic hunter camp, one prehistoric campsite, and four mining sites, most of which are near the periphery of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Moose Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	16,800	0
Backcountry	22,000	1,500	22,000
GFRG	0	3,700	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**22,000**	**22,000**	**22,000**

North Fork Spruce–White Sand #309

35,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The North Fork Spruce-White Sand Roadless Area is located in the Bitterroot Mountain range adjacent to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in Idaho County. The nearest access point is via the Beaver Meadows Road #368 which is approximately 60 miles southwest of Missoula, Montana, and approximately 130 miles east of Orofino, Idaho, via U.S. Highway 12.

In addition to the Beaver Meadows Road, the area is also accessed by the Elk Summit and Colt Creek Roads #360 and #359, parts of which are old dirt Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) roads. A portion of the Elk Summit Road and a six-mile section of a newly constructed dead-end road have been graveled. Interior access is by a well-dispersed trail system of approximately 30 miles.

The roadless area is a band of land approximately 14 miles long varying from l/4 mile to 5 l/2 miles in width, and bounded on the east side by the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. It encompasses highly diverse land types ranging from colluvial and frost churned uplands to steep rocky stream breaklands and alpine glacial cirque basins. The main drainage is White Sand Creek which has its source in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Elevations range from 3,500 feet in White Sand Creek to 7,370 feet at Beaver Ridge Lookout on the boundary. Except for the stream bottoms, most lands are above 5,500 feet.

The area is mostly underlain by a coarse-grained quarts monzonite of the Cretaceous Idaho batholith. Other rock types found in the area as localized blocks include a talc-silicate gneiss belonging to the Wallace formation and outliers of granite and granodiorite. Weathered rock and soil in this area is highly erosive, and much of the land is unstable and located on steep slopes.

The roadless area is entirely within the western spruce-fir forest ecosystem except for a small section of cedar-hemlock-pine forest in the lower White Sand Creek. Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, western larch, and lodgepole pine are the most common tree types, although grand fir and western redcedar habitats occur at elevations generally below 5,000 feet. Most of the area supports a mixed stand of trees and shrubs. Menzeisia (false huckleberry) and beargrass are common shrubs.

Because of the configuration of the area, recreation patterns vary greatly. A few hikers and some fishermen fish the five small lakes in the Beaver Ridge area while stream fishermen are attracted to White Sand Creek. The remainder of the area is used primarily by hunters. The areas immediately adjacent to the roads are probably used the most by campers and people just traveling the roads.

The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is contiguous to the east boundary, and the Sneakfoot Meadows roadless area is adjacent on the west side of Elk Summit Road. Except for the Beaver Ridge section, this area was once part of the Elk Summit Roadless Area.

A key attraction to visitors especially in conjunction with the access roads is the concentration of moose. The other major attraction is the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Visitors pass over the trails in this area to reach portions of the Wilderness.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The new Elk Summit Road #111 and the Colt Creek Road #359 are the two major intrusions affecting the natural integrity. The constructed trails are less distracting although they are evident and do create unnatural disturbances in some cases. Minor evidence of an old lookout at Savage Ridge may still be seen if one passes the site, otherwise the overall natural integrity and appearance are well intact.

Opportunities for Experience: Disruption of solitude within the area is minimal, generally confined to concentrations of people near the major lakes and streams that are accessible by trails. Logging activities in the Beaver Creek drainage are the major current disturbance to solitude. Vehicles traveling over the Elk Summit and Colt Creek roads and the associated recreation result in some minor noise and visual

disturbance. It is minimal because of heavy vegetative screening near the roads and the fact that use is relatively light except for a few weeks during the fall hunting season.

Big game hunting, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing (lake and stream), scenic viewing, and photography (especially in the vicinity from Beaver Ridge Lookout) are the major dispersed activities available. Except in the vicinity of the lakes east of Beaver Ridge Lookout, cross-country travel by foot is very difficult because of dense vegetation and many steep stream breaklands.

Special Features: The moose population is well known throughout the State of Idaho and is considered to be one of the largest concentrations in the state. They are easily viewed by visitors traveling the access roads or using the trails during the summer months. Special studies have been and are still in progress to determine behavior patterns and habitat needs.

Manageability: Being contiguous to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness negates any effect of size and shape on wilderness attributes with two exceptions: the extension of the new Elk Summit Road #111 has created an isolated unit of land of about 3,500 acres that does not lend itself to wilderness. And the other exception is the narrow stringer of land that extends north of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and lies between private land and developed land on the Lolo National Forest.

With some adjustments, much of the existing area would be easily managed as wilderness. The east boundary contiguous to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness would, of course, be no longer valid since the area would just become a part of the existing wilderness.

The existing low-standard, Elk Summit Road from Hoodoo Lake north to Colt Creek campground would be a logical boundary. The south side of the Colt Creek Road would also be a logical boundary up to the Colt Creek cabin. The semi-enclosed area created by the new dead-end Elk Summit Road #111 could easily be excluded. A feasible and identifiable boundary from Colt Creek cabin north would be White Sand Creek, to its junction with trail #47. Trail #47, which follows the ridge between White Sand Creek and Beaver Creek, would also make a logical and identifiable boundary.

The boundaries of this roadless area, except for a section along the Beaver Ridge road, are undefinable since they are located either along private land lines or timber sale activity.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The streams are highly valuable, not only for the production of a resident trout fishery, but as a spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous fish and their contribution to the Lochsa-Middle Fork system. Chinook, inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: In addition to the moose, moderate numbers of elk, black bears, and deer inhabit the area. Because most of the area is timbered in elevations above 5,000 feet, key winter range is limited to 300 acres. Key moose and elk summer range are the main features. Fisher, wolverine, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat, all Region 1 sensitive species, overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Future need and potential for developed recreational sites could easily be met in conjunction with the existing roads and would not require sites within the area. Existing facilities would supply current and anticipated need for a number of years.

Timber: The North Fork Spruce-White Sand area has 32,100 acres of land suitable for the production of timber. An estimated 330 million board feet of sawtimber has been inventoried.

Minerals and Energy: With one exception, the area is rated low for potential minerals. The exception is in the vicinity of Hoodoo Lake and Elk Summit where a titanium-find has raised the potential for that mineral, as well as gold, to a moderate rating. The titanium prospect has not been activated. This roadless area contains 35,800 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: Current known sites include two lookout sites, five cabins or cabin remains, one Ranger Station, one hunter camp and one CCC camp. Early day trappers frequented this area, and it is possible that the area was utilized by Native Americans.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

North Fork Spruce–White Sand Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	9,500	9,500
Primitive	0	3,100	5,800
Backcountry	35,800	18,400	20,500
GFRG	0	4,800	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**35,800**	**35,800**	**35,800**

North Lochsa Slope #307

117,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The North Lochsa Slope Roadless Area is located in the Lochsa River drainage approximately 70 air miles east of Lewiston, Idaho. It is located entirely within the boundary of the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho County. Access is provided by U.S. Highway 12, an all-weather highway on the south. The Lolo Motorway and two other low-standard, dirt surfaced roads provide access on the northwest sides of the roadless area. The Indian Graves Road #107, a low-standard, graveled road parallels the area near its eastern boundary and provides a north-south connection with the Lolo Motorway. A sparse network of trails maintained at minimal standards crosses the roadless area. Most trails are suitable for both foot/stock use. Some are suitable for foot traffic only.

Two major types of drainages flow through this area: The large (53,900 acre) Fish Creek drainage and a series of relatively short (one to six mile long) streams draining directly into the Lochsa River. The southwest and northeast portions are characterized by steep, stream breaklands dissected by steep side drainages. The central portion in the Upper Bimerick and Fish Creek drainages have a more broken topography consisting of moderate relief uplands and low relief hills dissected by meandering streams with relatively low gradients and flat bottoms. The southern portions of these drainages are also located on steeper breaklands.

Almost all the area is underlain by a gray, coarse-grained quarts monzonite of the Cretaceous Idaho batholith. Isolated blocks of rhyolite, border zone gneiss and schist, and gneiss of the Wallace formation of the Belt series also occur in the area. Elevations range from near 1,500 feet along the Lochsa River to 6,600 feet at Castle Butte. Large areas of bare rocky outcroppings are visible from U.S. Highway 12 in those portions of the steep breaklands located east of Sherman Creek.

Vegetation ranges from western redcedar and grand fir on north slopes, and large brush fields on south and west slopes, to lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and bear grass at higher elevations. Other tree species include western white pine, Douglas-fir, Engelmann spruce, larch, ponderosa pine, and mountain hemlock.

Large forest fires in the early 1900's had a major influence on the existing vegetation creating a mosaic of large brush fields with scattered concentrations of various sizes of trees. Trees are beginning to re-establish themselves in brush fields, especially on north slopes.

Although generally surrounded by roads, the adjacent areas to the south and north are also roadless. Areas to the west and east are developed for timber harvest.

Key attractions within the area include the anadromous fishery (steelhead trout and chinook summer salmon) in the Fish Creek drainage and elk. Big game hunting for elk, deer, and bears is probably the most popular current use. Most of the use from the south side off of U.S. Highway 12 is day use while many of those hunting from the Lolo Motorway or the roads around the Fish Creek drainage prefer to use stock or off-road vehicles to get further away from the roads.

The cultural history of the Lolo Trail and the Lolo Motorway forming the northern boundary, as well as a roadless portion of the Lewis and Clark route, appeals to history buffs.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Even though physical evidences of man's activities are obvious, their impacts are considered relatively minor to the overall natural integrity of the area. Most of the land as viewed from both within and from the boundary and intruding roads offers a diversity of vegetative types and openings that appear natural.

The majority of the trails were constructed in the early 1900's by the Forest Service to provide access for wildfire control. Two currently unoccupied fire lookouts are at Castle Butte and Fish Butte; both were

built during this period. Roads from Frenchman Butte to Fish Butte Lookout and from Middle Butte to Bimerick Meadows and Van Camp Lookout Site were constructed in the 1930's by the Forest Service. They were built primarily for wildfire control and reforestation work on areas burned by the large fires of this period. These reforestation efforts were centered in McLendon Butte, Bimerick Meadows, and Boundary Peak. Success was limited. The Van Camp Road which originally provided access from U.S. Highway 12 was closed and restored to a trail-status in the 1970's. Still evident is a road built into Fish Creek from Fish Butte Saddle in the 1960's to access some cedar products burned during a fire in 1959.

Timber harvest activities have been confined to three areas adjacent to existing roads: the extreme northwest part of the Fish Creek drainage, the Pete Forks area along the Boundary Peak Road, and the East Deadman Creek area along the Bimerick Meadows Road. The first area was logged during the 1960's.

Large areas of the brush fields located within big game winter range have been broadcast burned to improve both forage quantity and quality. Evidence of these burns is only minor.

Several fish habitat improvement projects to remove debris utilized chain saws and chain saw winches in the Fish Creek and Sherman Creek drainages in the late 1970's. Cut ends of logs are about the only remaining evidence. One cattle grazing allotment is active although there are no improvements which detract from the naturalness of the area. A hardrock, underground, exploratory mine is operating in the extreme southwest corner of the area. It is located near the mouth of Canyon Creek and is accessible via a short existing road from U.S. Highway 12. A small Forest Service structure called Obia cabin is located at the mouth of Hungery Creek.

Opportunities for Experience: Solitude varies within the North Lochsa Slope Roadless Area. The 60,000 acre Fish Creek drainage provides the best opportunity for solitude. Its broken topography, relatively flat-bottomed streams, and diverse vegetation effectively screen out the sights and sounds of man's activities. Within l/2-mile of the existing access roads, a person has a feeling of being in a relatively large area that has had very little development. It also provides excellent opportunities for visitor dispersion. Concentrations of people currently occur along existing access roads to the north and western portions of the area primarily during the fall big-game hunting season. Timber harvest areas to the west are not visible. Looking out of the drainage to the east and southeast, the higher ridges of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness are visible.

The southwest portion centered in the McLendon Butte/Bimerick area does not offer high solitude. Large timber clearcuts to the southwest are clearly visible, and some timber harvest noise is noticeable during most of the year.

The steep breaklands on the southern portion of the roadless area do offer views of the undeveloped Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and other roadless areas to the southwest. However, U.S. Highway 12 is a major visual focal point from these areas, and traffic noise from the highway also detracts from giving one a feeling of solitude.

Trails are the only recreation-related facilities in the interior of the area.

Special Features: The Lolo Trail, which is registered National Historic Landmark and National Historic Trail, is one of the most significant features. This trail was a major travel route between the Columbia Basin and the Montana country prehistorically. Lewis and Clark traveled over sections of the trail in journeys of 1805-06. The area has the unique distinction of possessing the longest remaining undisturbed section of the Lewis and Clark Trail in the country. Some 17 miles of trail in the Hungery Creek drainage remain much as Lewis and Clark found them. Another famous traveler over the Lolo Trail was Chief Joseph a Nez Perce Indian Chief who helped lead the non-treaty Nez Perce during the Nez Perce War of 1811. The trail was used to such an extent over the years that it was finally made into a road in the early 1930's. It remains as a very low-standard route used today by hunters, Forest Service employees, and others.

The area also contains the 1,300 acre Lochsa Research Natural Area established by the Chief of the Forest Service in 1977. The Research Natural Area was established to protect and study the unique Pacific coast vegetation (coastal disjunct species) that occurs within its boundaries. Flowering dogwood and 14 other plant species that are not normally found west of the Cascades Mountains or further east in the Continental U.S. grow in the Research Natural Area.

An approximated l/4 mile wide corridor within the Middle Fork-Lochsa Recreation River established under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1969 runs the full length of the roadless area north of Highway 12. This 4,500 acre corridor is managed under a Special River Management plan which emphasizes the scenic values of the river environment.

Manageability: Although the area is large (117,700 acres), the narrow and irregular shape of all lands draining directly into the Lochsa River severely detracts from many wilderness attributes, principally solitude (sight and sound). The Fish Creek drainage on the other hand, is an enclosed landscape where most wilderness attributes are unaffected.

Because of the irregular shape and narrow stringers of roadless land along the Lochsa River from Rye Patch Creek to the mouth of Fish Creek, a more logical boundary would exclude that area from wilderness. The same would be true from Skookum Creek northeast. The boundaries of the remaining area, i.e., Fish Creek and the Lochsa Face from Fish Creek to Skookum Creek, would result in a manageable wilderness, although the wilderness qualities on the face are questionable, as noted previously. The Boundary Peak Road #485 could be left as a road or closed. Either way would have little effect on wilderness values.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Fish Creek drainage and several of the other drainages contain some of the best spawning and rearing habitat in the Lochsa River drainage for steelhead trout and chinook summer salmon. A limited amount of habitat improvements may be needed to fully utilize anadromous fish spawning and rearing habitat in the future. The streams within the roadless area also contain stable resident cutthroat and rainbow trout populations. Inland redband trout and pacific lamprey habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Big game wildlife species found are elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, moose, mountain goats, mountain lions, and black bears. The area contains nearly 18,700 acres of big game winter range. The remaining area, especially in the Fish Creek drainage, is key elk summer range. Nongame wildlife species such as fisher, pine marten, wolverine, and lynx also are found. Region 1 sensitive bird species include the northern flicker, pileated woodpecker, red-naped sapsucker, and flammulated owl occurs in this roadless area. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat also overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: Clustered ladyslipper *(Cypripedium fasciculatum),* Evergreen kittentail *(Synthyris platycarpa),* Constance's bittercress *(Cardamine constancei),* Broad-fruit mariposa *(Calochortus nitidus)*, Light hookeria *(Hookeria lucens),* and Bank monkeyflower *(Mimulus clivicola)* all sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Stream fishing, hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding in the main Fish Creek and Hungery Creek drainages are becoming more popular each year. A key attraction is natural beauty of Fish Creek; with a parallel trail along side it. Most developed recreation is in conjunction with the existing roads and boundaries. Over 90 percent of developed recreation is concentrated along the U.S. Highway 12.

Timber: A total of 111,800 acres are suitable for timber production. The estimated volume of standing sawtimber is 1,256 board feet of timber. It is located generally in three areas: steep breaklands in the southwestern corner of the area, Deadman Creek drainage, and upper end of Fish and Hungery Creek.

Range: A cattle grazing allotment is located in Bimerick Meadows. It consists of primarily transitory range and provides 50 head of cattle with 2.5 months of grazing (125 animal-unit-months). No physical range improvements are located on the allotment.

Minerals and Energy: Minerals exploration has been limited to the extreme southwest corner of the roadless area in the Rye Patch and Canyon Creek drainages. There are mining claims in this area with one active exploratory operation in Canyon Creek. As such, potential minerals in these areas would be rated as moderate. Minerals include gold, silver, antimony, and mercury. There are no known mining claims in the remainder of the roadless area. The mineral potential in the majority of the area is rated low with a small area in the southwestern corner rated moderate. Potential for oil and gas is rated low. This roadless area contains 117,700 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Outfitter and guides currently run a spring and fall big-game hunting operation. One has an assigned campsite in the Willow Creek drainage; the other has an assigned campsite in the Holly Creek drainage. A radio relay station on Castle Butte Lookout is under permit to the State of Idaho and Idaho County.

A highway maintenance station near Bald Mountain Creek, located adjacent to U.S. Highway 12 is also under permit to the State of Idaho. The Federal Energy Commission recently granted a license to a private corporation to analyze the possibility of developing a low head hydro power plant with associated diversion and powerline facilities.

Heritage: As mentioned previously, the Lolo Trail, Lewis and Clark route, and Lolo Motorway are all significant cultural resources recognized regionally and even nationally. In addition to these features, a total of 45 cultural sites have been inventoried. The majority of these are connected with Forest Service fire control activities of the early 1900's. Nine of the sites are associated with the Lewis and Clark Expedition; four are prehistoric sites. An exceptional site is a World War II Japanese/American Internment Camp near U.S. Highway 12 in the southern portion of the roadless area. A number of Nez Perce Native American trails also existed.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

North Lochsa Slope Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	29,800	27,300
Backcountry	117,700	75,500	70,800
GFRG	0	6,600	0
SAHTS	0	0	13,800
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	5,800	5,800
Total Acres	**117,700**	**117,700**	**117,700**

Pot Mountain #304

51,100 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Pot Mountain Roadless Area is located about 36 air miles northeast of Orofino, Idaho along the North Fork of the Clearwater River. Graveled roads bordering the area include Beaver-North Fork Road #247 and the Pierce-Superior Road #250 along the North Fork of the Clearwater River connected by the Mush Saddle Road #711. Interior access is by trail. About 40 miles of Pot Mountain trail #144 along Pot Mountain ridge bisect the area from north to south.

Pot Mountain is a very compact, almost round-shaped roadless area of land laying like a huge inverted bowl on the landscape with the North Fork of the Clearwater River at the bottom edge of the bowl. Numerous first-and second-order streams, starting at the higher ridges and dropping very rapidly into the river, give the "bowl" a fluted effect. The most prominent topographic feature is Pot Mountain ridge angling southwest-northwest across the area. Seven major peaks dot the center of the area ranging from Cave Point at 5,600 feet to Pot Mountain at 7,139. The river elevation along the boundary drops down to 1,830 at the mouth of Quartz Creek. The four mountain lakes found are all less than 10 acres.

The area is underlain by coarse-grained to porphyritic light gray granite of the Cretaceous Bungalow pluton associated with the Idaho Batholith. The major ecosystems are two-thirds cedar-hemlock-pine forest and one-third western spruce-fir mainly along Pot Mountain ridge. Where trees are found, a wide variety of species exists typical of much of the forest. The higher elevations support dense stands of mountain hemlock as well as the subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce. The lower elevations are western redcedar, Douglas-fir, and grand fir habitat types. Most of the timber is young.

Large forest fires in the early 1900's had a major influence on the area burning large stands of timber. As a result, vast brush fields with scattered tree seedlings and saplings are found on the steep mostly southern-facing slopes from Bar Creek to past Cave Creek.

The high mountain scenery, along with relatively easy access from the northeast side, and the system of interior trails make this a locally popular area for hiking, hunting, some lake fishing, primitive camping, and sightseeing in general. The area is also well known locally for spring black bear hunting.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Except for several old lookout sites and minor trail and campsite use, there is very minor disturbance to the natural integrity and appearance of the area.

Opportunities for Experience: The shape of the area along with the size (50,000 acres) and the dissected topography and vegetation contribute to a relatively high degree of solitude. Users are well screened from each other except at campsites and along main trails. Sights and especially motorized sounds within one mile of the boundaries are evident to a moderate degree. The sight of logging and road building activity especially to the north and west as viewed from the higher ridges and trails tends to affect the solitude, although most views are middle and background landscapes.

Hunting (mainly elk, deer, and bear), hiking, backpacking, photography, primitive camping, lake fishing, and horseback riding are the key recreation available. Cross-country travel by foot is extremely difficult because of the steep terrain and dense undergrowth.

Special Features: A potential research natural area for a waterfall and the related aquatic ecosystem exists near the mouth of Chateau Creek. This 60 foot waterfall is easily accessible by trail from the river and provides a popular viewing attraction for many visitors. A number of cultural resource sites are located along the North Fork of the Clearwater River.

Manageability: The relatively large size of the area buffers many external distractions. However, the shape of the area, such as the high mountainous ridges dropping off rapidly on three sides to the Clearwater River, provides the visitor with numerous views of logging and other motorized activities on

adjacent landscapes. Except for some possible minor adjustments along the northeast side to provide a more identifiable boundary, the 51,000-acre size and compact shape are very manageable. The main #250 Road along the North Fork bordering almost three-fourths of the area provides a natural boundary. The small section of private land adjacent to the main #250 Road would provide no management problems whether it was excluded or developed.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Several of the larger lakes support a moderate cutthroat trout population.

Wildlife: The area supports a good population of elk, mule deer, black bears, and a small herd of Rocky Mountain goats as well as other species of wildlife common to the rest of the forest. The Pot Mountain area contains 16,000 acres of key big game winter range. There have been six recorded but unconfirmed sightings of the endangered grizzly bear. Additional studies are planned to determine whether the area or parts of it might be essential habitat. Lynx, wolverine, fisher, harlequin duck, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: Deer-fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Clustered ladyslipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*), Evergreen kittentail (*Synthyris platycarpa),* Constance's bittercress (*Cardamine constancei*), Light hookeria (*Hookeria lucens*), Spacious monkeyflower (*Mimulus ampliatus*), and Bank monkeyflower (*Mimulus clivicola*) all sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Because of current lack of need for developed recreation as well as limited funding, it is unlikely that potential sites would even be accessed unless it was through timber harvest activities. Chateau Rock, Buckingham Lake, and Jacknife Meadows are the most promising potential sites if access were to be provided.

Timber: The Pot Mountain area has 47,100 acres suitable for timber production. Most of the existing merchantable sawtimber amounting to 638 million board feet is found from Pot Mountain ridge north and west.

Minerals and Energy: The potential for mineral and oil and gas development is low. This roadless area contains 51,100 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: Current cultural resource sites include six Forest Service lookout sites, four cabins or cabin remains, two Forest Service Ranger Station locations, five hunter or outfitter camps, one Civilian Conservation Core campsite, one WPA campsite, one Economic Recovery Act campsite, three Native American campsites, one vision quest site, one mining site, two old bridge sites, one Euro-American grave site, one Chinese inscribed directional tree location, and one trapping site. In addition, a major Native American trail and early day miner's trail existed along the current Pot Mountain trail location.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Pot Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	200	0
Backcountry	51,100	50,700	50,900
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	200	200
Total Acres	**51,100**	**51,100**	**51,100**

Rawhide #313

6,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Rawhide Roadless Area is situated in the Rawhide and Long Creek drainages of the Upper North Fork Clearwater River within Clearwater and Shoshone Counties. The area is bounded by and accessed from the Pierce-Superior Road #250. It is approximately 22 miles from Superior, Montana, and 100 miles from Orofino, Idaho, via the Pierce-Superior road.

The west boundary is the original Rawhide Road which provided the early access over Hoodoo Pass from Montana into Idaho. This road was eventually replaced by the graveled Pierce-Superior Road in the early 1950's. The original road is usable as a trail. There are no other trills in the interior.

Rawhide is a small, compact, one and one-half mile wide roadless area comprised of steep glacial lands near the state line to narrow flat creek bottoms in the Rawhide and Long Creek drainages. Elevations range from 6,000 feet at Hoodoo Pass to 4,200 feet at the mouth of Rawhide Creek. The area is underlain by fairly stable Belt rocks of the Wallace formation. The major lithologies are limestones, quartzites, dolomites, and argillites.

Although much land was burned in the early 1900's, the land suitable for trees has regenerated. Vegetation varies from the higher elevation, mountain meadows and low shrubs typical of an alpine-barren ecosystem to lodgepole pine, subalpine fir and Douglas-fir representing the lower elevation western spruce-fir ecosystem.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: A one-half mile section of logging road extends into the area from the original Rawhide Road, accessing a section of private land which is scheduled for a near future timber harvest. The remainder has no visible evidence of activity or disturbance.

Opportunities for Experience: External influences of sight and sound negate any opportunities for solitude. The Pierce-Superior Road can be viewed from most places, and the sounds of traffic can be heard throughout the area. Cross-country foot travel and hunting are the two major and possibly only real dispersed recreation available.

Special Features: None noted.

Manageability: The small size and narrow shape effectively detracts from most wilderness attributes. However, the Rawhide Road, which is now nothing much more than a trail, separates this area from the 40,700 acre Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork Roadless Area, so in effect the two could actually be considered as one large roadless area. The east boundary which is the Pierce-Superior Road #250 is a logical boundary. Even if the area were larger, the 900 acres of private land in the south end would be in conflict in considering wilderness for the area. Because of the deteriorating Rawhide Road along the west side, it would be logical to include this area 10 conjunction with the Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork area if wilderness designation was being considered.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout, Inland redband trout,, and western cutthroat trout habitat occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Elk, deer, and black bears are the major big game species present. Because of the elevations there is no big game winter range. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current major use is by big-game hunters in the fall.

Timber: The Rawhide Area has 3.300 acres of land suitable for timber production with an estimated standing volume of 36 million board feet of sawtimber. The area contains a sizeable amount of lodgepole pine especially at the higher elevations.

Minerals and Energy: Except for a small section of land in lower Rawhide Creek which has a moderate mineral potential for gold and silver, the majority of the area has a low potential for minerals. The potential for oil and gas is also low. There is currently a pending oil and gas lease application. This roadless area contains 6,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Rawhide Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	6,000	5,100	6,000
GFRG	0	900	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**6,000**	**6,000**	**6,000**

Siwash #303

9,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Siwash Roadless Area is located approximately 60 road miles northeast of Orofino, Idaho in the drainage of the North Fork of the Clearwater River. It is easily accessible by Roads #249, #640, and #677, although one must cross the North Fork of the Clearwater River to gain access to the east side of the roadless area. A foot trail crosses the southwest portion of the roadless area, extending from the site of the old Bungalow Ranger Station to Clarke Mountain and on through to Elk Mountain just outside the area. A jeep road accesses the Clarke Mountain Lookout near the edge of the area. A trail from Elk Mountain to the river follows the ridge along the northwest boundary.

Siwash is a typical Clearwater National Forest steep, streambank landscape. There are two second-and third-order streams, all others are first-order draining directly into the river or other larger streams to the south and eventually into Orogrande Creek.

The area is underlain by coarse-grained to porphyritic light gray granite of the Cretaceous Bungalow pluton associated with the Idaho batholith. Elevations vary from 2,200 feet along the North Fork of the Clearwater River rising rapidly to 5,285 feet on Clarke Mountain. Because of the relatively low elevations, only one vegetative ecosystem is found, the cedar-hemlock-pine forest. Western redcedar, western white pine, grand fir, Douglas-fir, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine are the most common tree species.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Other than the Jeep trail to Clarke Mountain and the lookout itself, which is currently inactive, the area has no unnatural or adverse impacts to integrity or appearance.

Opportunities for Experience: Solitude is at a minimum, because of the small size of Siwash, traffic on the main river road, and logging activity on two sides. Views of activity outside the area also detract from opportunities for solitude. Big-game hunting is not considered unique to wilderness nor is the limited hiking opportunities.

Special Features: There are no known special features.

Manageability: The small size of the area surrounded by roads and timber management activities significantly affects the wilderness attributes. Two sides of this triangular-shaped roadless area are well defined by a river and a main ridge. The south side following property lines is undefinable. Moving the boundary north to follow the Clarke Mountain trail #601 would be more logical. It would also reduce the size of the area to about 7,000 acres. A 160-acre block of private land would have to be acquired, or the forest would have to allow access if desired by the owner.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout, Inland redband trout, and western cutthroat trout habitat occurs in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Elk, mule deer, and black bears are the most common big game species. The area contains 3,300 acres of key elk winter range, most of it in need of rehabilitation through tree removal and browse burning. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: Constance's bittercress *(Cardamine constancei)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Except for scenic values associated with the North Fork River and the river face, elk hunting is the major use. All other uses are minimal or absent.

Timber: The Siwash area has 7,500 acres of land tentatively suitable for timber production. Current sawtimber volumes average about 31 thousand board feet per acre for a total of 148 million board feet of timber. Except for the ridges along the higher boundaries, road access would be very difficult.

Minerals and Energy: Potential for minerals is low to moderate. Some future prospecting and exploration is likely near some known mineral occurrences in the southern part of the area. This roadless area contains 9,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Siwash Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	9,000	4,000	9,000
GFRG	0	5,000	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**9,000**	**9,000**	**9,000**

Sneakfoot Meadows #314

23,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Sneakfoot Meadows Roadless Area is located just west of the Bitterroot Mountain range near the southeast corner of the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho County. It is nearly 25 miles east from Orofino, Idaho, via the Elk Summit Road #360 and U.S. Highway 12. It is also approximately 60 miles southwest of Missoula, Montana, via the same road and highway.

It is bounded and accessed by the low-standard, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Elk Summit Road #360 on the east and another low-standard, CCC Road #362, (the Tom Beal Road) along the northwest side. The interior is accessed by five separate trails, most of which are low-standard, fire control trails. The west side is bounded by the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, and the north side by private land. A primitive road intrudes about 1 1/2 miles off the Elk Summit Road toward Kooskooskia Meadows. At one time it extended all the way to the meadows but since has been blocked and is now used as a trail.

Except for the private land at the north end, the area is surrounded by other roadless land. To the west is the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, to the east is the North Fork Spruce-White Sand Roadless Area, and to the northwest is the Lochsa Face Roadless Area.

The Sneakfoot Meadows Roadless Area is a complex landscape with a dominance of gentle, rolling terrain with high water tables, wet meadows, and meandering streams. Also it has high elevations generally above 6,000 feet, glacial rocky slopes and peaks with several large cirque basins, enclosed lakes, and fast moving crystal clear streams. Peaks average above 7,000 feet with a top elevation of 7,900 feet.

The area is underlain by a coarse-grained quartz monzonite of the Cretaceous Idaho Batholith. In the northern portion the area is underlain by highly metamorphosed rocks of the Precambrian Wallace formation consisting of calc-silicate gneiss and schist. Glacial till material was deposited over much of the area by Pleistocene Alpine glaciation resulting in poor drainage.

All but one of the major creeks drains into White Sand Creek. Walton Creek, at the north-end, drains directly into the Lochsa River. Five lakes are contain within this area; the two largest are Walton Lakes.

Ninety percent of the area is within the western spruce-fir ecosystem. The major habitat type is subalpine fir with some grand fir and possibly some western redcedar in lower Walton Creek. Major species include subalpine fir, Englemann spruce, and lodgepole pine. Shrub areas are dense with menzeisia, alder and willow; the latter two occurring in wetter areas. Major attractions are: the scenery, such as, meadows (Sneakfoot, Marion, and Kooskooskia); the wildlife, especially moose particularly near the Elk Summit Road; and the streams and lakes. Probably the most significant attraction is the access to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: With the exception of the primitive Kooskooskia Meadows Road, the area has very low impairments to natural integrity and appearance. Several of the trails, notably the trail from the Tom Beal Road to Walton Lakes, are very evident on the landscape. There is also some evidence of overuse around Walton Lakes, but overall the effects are insignificant. The area resembles the adjacent Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, as the boundaries between the two areas are indistinguishable.

Opportunities for Experience: Noise from traffic on the Tom Beal and Elk Summit Roads is probably the only external disturbance and is limited to less than 1/2 mile because of terrain and vegetation. Visually, there is virtually no disturbance from vehicles or activity along either road, at the Colt Creek Campground, or at any of the undeveloped campsites along the roads. Within the area, potential disturbance is even less than from without, although brief encounters with hikers or horseback riders on the trails or at the lakes are possible.

The Tom Beal Road is the only area from which some activity outside the area may be viewed, and all of it is distant views. Hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, scenic and wildlife viewing and photography, hunting, and lake and stream fishing are the major primitive recreation. Cross-country travel by foot or horseback is very difficult at best with the result that much of the interior area receives very little use.

Trails #6 and #79 are closed to motorized use. The other trails are generally impassible to trail bikes so in essence, the entire area is closed to motorized use, mainly for the protection of the contiguous Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. For all practical purposes then, the area is currently being managed and used as a "defacto wilderness."

Special Features: Within the Sneakfoot Meadows Roadless Area is the 2,000 acre Sneakfoot Meadows Research Natural Area. The aquatic ecosystems, as well as the surrounding subalpine fir habitat, with a dense stand of old-aged Engelmann spruce are the key features.

The Elk Summit moose herd is probably the largest concentrated moose population in northern Idaho. Because so little is known of the habitat-requirements for this unique animal, studies are being conducted through tagging, radio collaring, and observing animal behavior during different seasons of the year. They are readily observed during the summer months throughout the area, especially near the meadow areas and along the roads.

The area has a history of early day trappers. Muleshoe Creek camp along the Elk Summit Road has been the base for outfitter and guide services for many years.

Manageability: Since the area is contiguous to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, the size and shape are sufficient. Being contiguous to an existing wilderness, surrounded on two slides by well defined but low-standard roads, and having no private land or other conflicting uses makes the area easily manageable as part of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness with very little change. Potential timber harvesting on the private land along the northern boundary would better define that boundary, and yet pose no conflict with use within the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area's streams are an important native fishery habitat, as well as providing high quality water to the larger White Sand Creek, a key steelhead trout and chinook summer salmon spawning and rearing stream. Habitat management may be needed to perpetuate free flowing and unobstructed streams for both resident and anadromous fishery. Chinook salmon, inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area. The two Walton Lakes support a fishable trout population and are a popular place because they are a short distance from the Tom Beal Road.

Wildlife: Other than the moose mentioned previously, elk, mule deer, and bears are also present. There is no elk winter range, only summer range. Other species common to the forest are also found here. Fisher, wolverine, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation is related closely to the major attractions; scenic viewing, hiking, camping (especially along the Elk Summit Road) big-game hunting, and stream and lake fishing. While there are potential developed recreational sites, the current and anticipated demands appear to be less than the existing facilities found along the Elk Summit Road and at the end of the road at Hoodoo Lake.

Timber: The Sneakfoot Meadows Roadless Area has 19,800 acres of land suitable for producing timber. There is an estimated 213 million board feet of standing sawtimber, much of it of questionable commercial value under current economic market conditions.

Much of the area has an early 1900 catastrophic fire history with the result that large acreages of slow growing, seral-type, lodgepole pine still occupy the sites. Regeneration is very slow in the high water tables and intermingled thin rocky soils.

Minerals and Energy: With the exception of a small section of moderate potential for gold and titanium around Elk Summit and Hoodoo Lake, overall potential for minerals is low. This roadless area contains 23,300 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: Cultural resource inventory lists a CCC camp, Rabbit Creek cabin, and the Frank Kube trapper cabin. A number of known Nez Perce Indian trails and early day trapper trails existed in the roadless area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Sneakfoot Meadows Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	9,600	9,600
Primitive	0	0	6,400
Backcountry	23,300	11,700	5,300
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	2,000	2,000
Total Acres	**23,300**	**23,300**	**23,300**

Weir–Post Office Creek #308

22,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Weir-Post Office Roadless Area is located in the south central part of the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho County. It can be accessed from the east via U.S. Highway 12 and is approximately 78 air miles from Missoula, Montana. It also can be accessed from the west via the same highway from Orofino, Idaho, about 100 miles away. The area is bounded on the south by U.S. Highway 12, the only paved road near the roadless area. Gravel roads border the rest of the area. The Lolo Motorway, which generally parallels the Lolo Trail, is the northern boundary. Access to the Lolo Motorway is provided by the Saddle Camp Road on the west side of the roadless area and the Squaw/Doe Creeks Road to the east. For all practical purposes, interior access is nonexistent with only two low standards, short trails.

The area consists of steep river breaklands extending from 2,800-3,000 feet along U.S. Highway 12 up to 7,000 feet along the Lolo Motorway. In addition to the two major streams, Weir Creek and Post Office Creek, numerous other smaller first-and second-order streams drain directly into the Lochsa River. A large cirque basin containing two lakes is located at the head of Post Office Creek. Almost all the area is underlain by a gray, coarse-grained quartz monzonite of the Cretaceous Idaho batholith. Isolated blocks of border zone gneiss and schist, gneiss and schists of the Wallace formation and outcrops of quartz diorite and granite occur in the area.

The lower half of the area, generally below 5,000 feet, is made up of the cedar-hemlock-pine ecosystem while the higher elevations are principally western spruce-fir forest. Large forest fires in the early 1900's had a major influence on the present vegetation. Much of the area, especially on south and west aspects, still consists of brush fields. Unburned areas and land that has regenerated are comprised of a wide variety of western redcedar and grand fir habitat types at the lower elevations and subalpine fir types at the higher elevations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: There is little physical detraction from natural integrity and appearance. Some minor evidence of dozer use on a l,000 acre fire near Ashpile Creek in 1960 is evident but in general, most of the burn has revegetated.

Opportunities for Experience: With limited access, use is minor except for a few anglers at Indian Post Office Lake; solitude within the area is high. Because of the rugged terrain and tree and shrub canopy over much of the area, viewing opportunities outside the area are very limited. Noise from vehicle use on U.S. 12 and logging activity along the east and west boundaries may be more evident than actual visual detractions. The relatively small size of the roadless area may be the most limiting factor from a solitude standpoint. Cross-country foot travel, big-game hunting, and lake fishing are the primary dispersed recreation available.

Special Features: The Lolo trail, which is a registered National Historic Landmark and National Historic trail, is one of the most significant features. This trail was a major travel route between the Columbia Basin and the Montana country prehistorically. Lewis and Clark traveled over sections of the trail in Journeys of 1805-06. Another famous traveler over the trail was Chief Joseph a Nez Perce Indian Chief who helped the Nez Perce during the Nez Perce War of 1877. The Trail was used to such an extent over the years that it was finally made into a road in the early 1930's. It remains as a very low-standard route used today by hunters, Forest Service employees, and others.

An approximate l/4 mile wide corridor within an unmarked boundary of the Middle Fork-Lochsa Recreation River established under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1969 runs the full length of the roadless area north of Highway 12. This 500 acre corridor is managed under a Special River Management Plan which emphasizes the scenic values of the river environment. A National Recreation Trail is also located within the corridor at Colgate Warm Springs salt lick.

Manageability: The relatively small size of the Weir-Post Office Roadless Area would have some effect on wilderness attributes. Disturbance from the noise of traffic on Highway 12 and from logging activity along the east and west boundaries could interfere with the feeling of solitude. Shape is not a factor since the area is almost square. Except for some deviations, the roads surrounding 90 percent of the area serve as logical boundaries of any recommended wilderness. The area is compact, extending about eight miles east to west and four and one-half miles north to south. There is no private land. Boundary modifications to exclude the high to moderate timber values would leave the remainder unsuitable for wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Chinook summer salmon, inland redband trout, pacific lamprey, westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Elk, deer, bears, and moose are the most common big game animals. Rocky Mountain goats were mentioned by Lewis and Clark in their Journals, and some still exist in the area near the upper end of the drainages. Gray wolf, wolverine, fisher, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Wildlife, principally elk, are the primary attractions for big-game hunters. Limited fishing occurs at Indian Post Office Lake. Weir Creek Hot Springs near the mouth of Weir Creek is used by bathers on a limited basis. Most other use is associated with the historic Lolo Motorway and Lolo Trail, and sites within the Lochsa Recreation River such as Colgate Hot Springs and Jerry Johnson Campground. An unusual rock formation known as the Devils Chair (located along the Lolo Motorway) is an attraction of local interest.

Timber: The Weir-Post Office area has 19,900 acres of land suitable for timber production. An estimated 298 million board feet of timber is distributed throughout the area but is denser at the lower elevations.

Minerals and Energy: Overall potential for minerals is low, and known mineral resources are limited. Columbium is found in the eastern portion. The several small hot springs located there are not extensive enough to provide geothermal power generation. This roadless area contains 22,100 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: In addition to the historic trails and associated sites, eight historic sites have been located. They include three Forest Service lookouts, two trapper cabins, an old road crew camp, a Euro-American grave, and a hunter camp. Given the rugged terrain and the lack of exploitable resources, the area has experienced only limited historic use.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Weir–Post Office Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	22,000	6,600	19,800
GFRG	0	14,900	0
SAHTS	0	0	1,700
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	500	500
Total Acres	**22,000**	**22,000**	**22,000**

Beetop #130

12,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Beetop Roadless Area is located 12 miles east of Sandpoint, Idaho, and 5 miles north of where the Clark Fork River enters into Lake Pend Oreille. It is within the Cabinet Mountain Range between Hope and Clark Fork, Idaho, in Bonners County on the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is accessible by several trails originating from well maintained gravel roads or from a paved road.

The area is rectangular in shape, averaging 5 miles long and 3 miles wide. The most prominent mountain peak is Beetop Mountain (elevation 6,060 feet). The lowest elevation is in the southernmost portion, which is 2,400 feet. This area includes one primary ridge which bas been Shaped by continental and alpine glaciation. The headwaters of numerous small streams are included within the area. Porcupine and Still Lakes are within this area.

The vegetation in this area is primarily high alpine forest type with interspersed rocky and grassy openings near the ridgetops. Forest types range from mixed conifer stands common to northern Idaho in the lower elevations to alpine fir, lodgepole pine, and an occasional whitebark pine and mountain hemlock in the higher elevations. Occasional beargrass meadows are also present.

Roundtop Trail 120 follows the entire length of the roadless area and offers splendid views of the forested slopes and beargrass meadows. Backdrops of Lake Pend Oreille to the southwest and the Scotchman Peak area to the east also add to the scenic quality. The portion of the area facing Lake Pend Oreille has high aesthetic value from the Lake Pend Oreille recreational boating public. Roundtop Trail 120 has been nominated for the National Recreational Trail System. Activities other than hiking include canoeing and fishing at Porcupine Lake, berry picking, and hunting. Wildlife species of most interest to visitors include elk, moose, black bear, grizzly bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, mountain goat, and grouse.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Impacts from human activity in this area have been relatively minor. In the past, some hardrock mining exploration occurred, but evidence of these diggings has been reduced substantially by weathering processes. Trails which are not maintained quickly become overgrown with trees and shrubs. Porcupine Lake, which is adjacent to the north boundary of this roadless area, receives substantial recreational use which has taken away from the natural integrity of this specific site. Since most of the area includes high mountain ridges overlooking the populated valley to the southwest, individuals visiting can generally view human activities. Logging and road development can also be viewed from much of the periphery of this area.

Undeveloped Character: The area itself is natural in appearance; views of activities outside the area appear unnatural.

Opportunities for Experience: The Beetop Roadless Area possesses very little opportunity for solitude because of its size and location with respect to developed areas. The topography is not unique to northern Idaho. It does possess diversity in vegetation because of the substantial differences in elevation. Distant viewing into the Cabinet Mountain Range to the east provides for unique views of high alpine, rugged, mountainous terrain.

The southwest boundary is only 2-1/2 miles from State Highway 200 and the shores of Pend Oreille Lake. The southeast boundary comes within 1/4 mile of Lightning Creek Road, which is a heavily used system road on the Sandpoint District. The southwest boundary adjoins private lands along its entire length, with one 90-acre tract included within the present roadless boundary. The north boundary generally falls adjacent to existing roads built for timber harvest activities. Sounds from logging and recreational activities have the potential of penetrating throughout this roadless area. Also, man's activities can be viewed from most areas within this roadless area.

This area offers only limited challenge to the visitor because of its size and lack of topographic diversity. Streams do not support catchable size fish. Porcupine Lake is a popular fishing area, but the trails and campsites around it show signs of over-use. This lake has road access almost to its shores. Although big game species frequent the area, it is not noted for an abundance of wildlife.

Special Features: Most of this roadless area was burned by the early 1900 fires. The result of this burn was a uniform coniferous forest which is approximately 70-80 years old. An occasional old-growth tree which survived these fires can be seen protruding above the primary forest canopy. There are also some pockets of old growth which apparently escaped the fire and are scattered throughout this roadless area. This area contains many steep, rocky sideslopes. It is considered by the locals as quite rugged terrain and is more typical of the Scotchman Peak area than the terrain to the north of this roadless area.

Manageability: Boundaries are not well defined by major terrain or other recognized features. Private lands dictated the location of the entire south boundary. Other boundaries had to contour the slope in a random manner in order to exclude existing roads and harvest areas. Only the interior core is fairly remote and free of most external influences. The adjoining private lands are high value due to their proximity to Pend Oreille Lake, State Highway 200, and the population centers of Clark Fork and East Hope. Much of this private land is already subdivided.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Porcupine Lake and a few of the larger creeks have catchable populations of trout. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife inhabitants include elk, moose, black bear, grizzly bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, mountain goat, and grouse. Elk winter range and grizzly bear habitat are present within this area. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 12,400 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Braun's sword-fern *(Polystichum braunii)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current recreational uses within this area include hiking, camping, and fishing. Roundtop Trail 120 is a popular hiking trail with scenic views of Lake Pend Oreille and the Scotchman Peak area. A Forest Service campground is located at Porcupine Lake, a popular canoeing and fishing area. Local residents also enjoy hunting opportunities.

Timber: Approximately 70 percent of the area within this roadless area is considered unsuitable for timber harvest because of poor growing sites and the inability to reforest these areas. Access to many of the suitable acres is considered very difficult due to the steep, rocky terrain and limited existing right-of-way easements across private land. Viewing constraints from Lake Pend Oreille make it difficult to place roads which will meet visual management constraints. There are timber harvest opportunities around the entire perimeter of this roadless area.

Range: Domestic sheep have grazed this area in past years. At this time, there are no, cattle or sheep using the Beetop area. This situation will probably not change.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 6,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There has been no detailed inventory of mineral potential within this roadless area. The potential is estimated to be medium to high. The Auxor Mine, a hard rock mine located in the headwaters of Wellington Creek, has been operating in recent years. This area contains 18 unpatented mining claims and is part of the Clark Fork Mining District. The potential for economic development is moderate. Oil and gas potential is low due to lack of information. All of the area is covered by lease applications. This roadless area contains 12,400 acres of low geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: An 80-acre private tract lies within the unit boundary along the southern edge. Boundary adjustment to exclude the private land is possible. It is doubtful that conflict with private land development could be avoided by purchase or trade from the private sector.

Roads and Trails: Trail 120 is a popular hiking trail and provides numerous opportunities to experience scenic views of the surrounding areas. Pend Oreille Lake and the Cabinet Mountain Range make up the most unique scenic viewsheds. Trail 120 is currently being used by backpackers, horseback riders, and motor bikers. Four other trails branch off from Trail 120 and access the periphery of the roadless area. Three of these trails have trailheads on private land with no Forest Service right-of-way access. At this time, Trail 120 has no Forest Service right-of-way access where it enters this roadless area in the Spring Creek drainage.

Heritage: This area has had no archeological review. Because of its proximity to Pend Oreille Lake and known Indian artifacts, the potential for finding evidence of Indian cultures may be high.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Beetop Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	10,100	0
Backcountry	12,400	2,300	12,400
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**12,400**	**12,400**	**12,400**

Big Creek #143

76,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Big Creek Roadless Area is located 26 air miles east of St. Maries, and four miles south of Wallace, Idaho. The area is in Shoshone County on the Avery and St. Maries Districts of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Approximately 1,480 acres of small private ownerships, 320 acres of State of Idaho ownership, and 2,160 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management are included. These lands are concentrated on the western end of the roadless area. Several of the low standard roads constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps or mining interests and a series of maintained trails provide access within the roadless area.

This irregularly-shaped area is characterized by narrow drainages separated by high, steep ridges. Prominent peaks include Bad Tom Mountain, Lemonade Peak, Spooky Butte, Mastodon Mountain, Foolhen Mountain, and Elsie Peak. Topography is steep and dissected by numerous small drainages with elevations ranging from 2,400 feet on Big and Slate Creeks to over 6,000 feet on the St. Joe-Coeur d'Alene Divide. With the exception of two small areas which drain northward into the Coeur d'Alene River system, the majority of the roadless area flows in a southerly direction via Big Creek, Slate Creek, and their tributaries into the St. Joe River. Numerous bedrock outcrops are typical, especially in the lower reaches of the major streams.

In 1910, fire consumed nearly the entire roadless area, with much of the area reburning between 1919 and 1929. The present vegetative pattern reflects this past fire history as exhibited by extensive brushfields on the southern aspects and seedling/sapling stands on the more cool northerly aspects. Remnants of plantations of ponderosa pine, eastern and western white pine, and spruce which followed the 1910 fire and escaped subsequent reburns also exist throughout the roadless area. Small patches of old-growth timber remain, with the largest concentration in the southeastern corner. Habitat-types vary with the Douglas-fir and grand fir occupying the drier and western hemlock and cedar the more moist lower sites, grading at higher elevations into the mountain hemlock or alpine fir series.

The two primary uses of the Big Creek Roadless Area revolve around big game hunting and fishing. Both Big Creek and Slate Creek support important recreational fisheries. Big Creek is a significant migratory spawning stream for the St. Joe River and Coeur d'Alene Lake.

Pleasure driving with motorbikes, four-wheel drive vehicles, and off-road vehicles has increased on the several trails and roads within the roadless area. Other common uses of the area include hiking/backpacking, horseback riding, and snowmobiling. The area is accessible from a large number of points from both poor quality roads and paved roads. Low standard roads access Mastodon Mountain, Cemetery Ridge, and Spooky Butte.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Developments in the area include cabins, adits, drifts, tailings, and other signs of mining activity; remnants of several lookouts, including Lemonade Peak, Mastodon Mountain, Bad Tom Mountain, Hill 36, Cemetery Ridge, and Elsie Peak; and a number of roads and trails. Salvage logging occurred through most of the roadless area following the 1910 fire, with several dams, chutes, and fumes in the Slate Creek drainage. The Big Creek Roadless Area was railroad logged following the 1910 fire. Attempts were made to reforest the area, but these plantations were destroyed by subsequent fires in the 1920s.

Undeveloped Character: Timber harvest areas and associated roads outside the roadless area are visible from some of the prominent peaks and ridges within the area. Past mining activities, cabins, and roads are obvious within the immediate vicinity of the developments and, in some instances, from a distance. Evidences of old railroad grades and early logging activities are essentially unnoticeable.

Opportunities for Experience: The Big Creek Roadless Area is approximately 76,300 acres in size. The area is 10.4 miles long north to south and 16 miles across. Topography and vegetation provide screening which separates users from one another in short distances over most of the area. Dense, continuous brushfields tend to concentrate use along the bottoms of major drainages. Noise from vehicles on roads which intrude into the area is obvious to non-motorized users. Sounds from logging activities outside the area can sometimes be heard from within the area. There are no developed recreation facilities within the area except for approximately 120 miles of trails. The area provides the opportunity to participate in such activities as fishing, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and camping.

Special Features: During the 1910 fires, 18 people perished on the West Fork of Big Creek in Deadman Gulch. Another 10 died on the Middle Fork near Bronson Meadows. Cultural sites related to these events may exist within this roadless area. The Big Creek National Recreational Trail System is located within the area. The system includes approximately 41 miles of trail. Trail 304 and Trail 30, which form a loop from Slate Creek to Mastodon Mountain and back to Slate Creek via Prospect Creek, has been designed and reconstructed as an off-road vehicle trail for motorized use. The off-road vehicle trail is approximately nine miles in length.

Manageability: The eastern boundary of the area is generally defined by Forest Road 225 which follows the Slate Creek drainage to the St. Joe-Coeur d'Alene Divide. Approximately 60 percent of the northern boundary follows the St. Joe-Coeur d'Alene Divide. These portions of the area are generally well defined. Boundaries of the remainder of the roadless area are located to avoid development activities or on property lines and are difficult to identify or locate on the ground in a manner that is readily apparent to the forest user.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Cutthroat trout are found in most streams in the area. Big Creek and Slate Creek are important spawning streams for Lake Coeur d'Alene and the St. Joe River. Cutthroat trout are found in most streams in the area. Big Creek and Slate Creek are important spawning streams for Lake Coeur d'Alene and the St. Joe River. There are no threatened or endangered species occupying the area.

Wildlife: Wildlife inhabitants include elk, black bear, and whitetail and mule deer, as well as a variety of small and non-game species. The area provides important elk summer and winter range as well as security area because of generally poor access. There are no threatened or endangered species occupying the area. Region 1 sensitive species Fisher, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 4,800 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Bank Monkeyflower *(Mimulus clivicola)* and Constance's bittercress *(Cardamine constancei)* two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area includes hiking, horseback and motorcycle riding, fishing, hunting, sightseeing, and berry picking 'from the various trails and roads which access the area. The Big Creek National Recreation Trail System is located in the western half of the unit. Big Creek, East Fork Big Creek, and Slate Creek are important recreational fisheries. The area receives considerable use by hunters during the fall elk and deer hunting seasons and during the spring bear hunting season.

Timber: Approximately 60,000 acres of the area are estimated as tentatively suitable for timber production. Much of the area was burned over by wildfires in 1910, 1919, and 1929. As a result, much of the area is dominated by brushfields.

Range: Cattle or sheep have not used the Big Creek area in recent years.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 16,900 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Mineral potential is categorized as low for hardrock minerals, oil, and gas. However, there has been minerals-related activity at various locations within the area in the past.

Bedrock geology of this area contains argillites and quartzites of the Revett, St. Regis, Wallace, and Striped Peak formations. These are metasediments of the Precambrian Age Belt rocks. Numerous northwest-trending faults and associated cross faults are present. This area lies directly south of and adjoins the Silver Belt, which includes the Crescent, Sunshine, Silver Summit, Coeur, and Galena Mines. These mines have been and are the most prolific silver producers in the world. This roadless area contains 43,600 acres of medium and 32,800 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred in the area in the past, the number and size of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Big Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	43,600	0
Backcountry	76,300	19,000	76,300
GFRG	0	13,700	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**76,300**	**76,300**	**76,300**

Blacktail Mountain #122

5,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Blacktail Mountain Roadless Area is located in Bonner County, Idaho, on the northwest side of Priest Lake. It is located entirely on the Priest Lake Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is accessed on the east by Forest Road 237, a paved road which forms the boundary of the area. The north is accessed by Forest Road 1341, the south by Forest Road 638. Both are native-surfaced roads.

This oval-shaped area faces, and is visible from, Priest Lake; the eastern boundary lies within 1/4 mile of the lake's shoreline. The area is steep mountainous timberland, with one portion in the northwest characterized by a very steep slope highly dissected with drainages in unstable soils. Elevations range from 2,600 feet near the lakeshore to 5,495 feet at the top of Blacktail Mountain. Drainages within the area include Bottle Creek, Tepee Creek, and tributaries of Beaver Creek and Tango Creek.

Vegetative cover is composed of mixed cedar, hemlock, Douglas-fir, grand fir, larch, and white pine. Habitat types are those most typically found elsewhere on the Priest Lake District--cedar or hemlock/pachistima. In addition, there is a virgin white pine plant community in the Tepee Creek area and a sphagnum bog in the Bottle Lake area.

There are two Research Natural Areas within the boundary. The Tepee Creek Research Natural Area encompasses the virgin white pine community, while the Bottle Lake Research Natural Area includes Bottle Lake and its unique wetland plant community. Other uses include light amounts of hiking, backpacking, hunting, and scenery viewing. Black Mountain Trail 292, which receives light annual maintenance, provides access for these activities. There are no concentrated areas of use. The area is visible from Priest Lake, a heavy recreational use area. In addition, timber harvest activities outside the roadless area may be visible and audible from within the boundary. The northwest third of the area possesses a moderate mineral potential, although there are no active mining operations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact from human activity has been related primarily to foot travel. There were some mining claims in the past, but there was little activity.

Undeveloped Character: A visitor to the area would feel that he or she is in a natural area away from ordinary human activities and development. Signs of human activity are visible as background only from the higher elevations of the area. Timber harvest areas and Forest roads are the primary activities visible outside the area. Plant communities in the area include old-growth white pine, cedar, and hemlock stands (Tepee Creek Research Natural Area), and a sphagnum bog and lake (Bottle Lake Research Natural Area). Several minor stream tributaries of Beaver Creek and Tango Creek flow in the area. The headwaters of Tepee Creek and Bottle Creek originate in the area.

Opportunities for Experience: The area varies from 2-1/2 to 4 miles wide and 1 to 2-1/2 miles north to south. It offers opportunities for solitude because of the differences in topography (2,800 to 5,400 feet in elevation) and vegetation. Other than the existing foot trail, there are no areas of concentrated public use. Logging activity outside the area (to the south) may be heard from the southernmost portion of the area.

The area offers opportunity for hiking, backpacking, big and small game hunting, and scenery viewing. The varied topography offers physical challenges related to mountainous terrain. Trails in the area receive low use. Blacktail Mountain Trail 292 receives some maintenance annually. The area is of a size that it experiences backpacking activities of 2-3 days duration but also offers day hike opportunities.

Special Features: The area has two Research Natural Areas that cover 800 acres: Bottle Lake and Tepee Creek. The Teepee Creek Research Natural Area, classified in 1935, is reserved for study of the old-growth stands of white pine, cedar, and hemlock. The trees have been determined to be over 300 years old. The Bottle Lake Research Natural Area, adjacent to the Tepee Creek Research Natural Area, was

classified in 1982. Open waters, muskeg islands, and a wet muskeg bog allow for the study of a unique aquatic environment.

Manageability: The eastern boundaries are easily defined, as they follow forest roads. The northwest, west, and southern boundaries follow minor ridges and topographic features and would be difficult to establish on the ground.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The gray wolf and grizzly bear occur in this roadless area. Most of the game and non-game animals common to northern Idaho are found in this area. Unusual species potentially present include bobcat, lynx, fisher, northern bog lemming, and wolverine. The three-toed woodpecker, common loon, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat also overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: Deer-fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Creeping snowberry (*Gaultheria hispidula*), Northen bog clubmoss (*Lycopodiella inundata*), Pod grass (*Scheuchzeria palustris*), Water clubrush (*Schoenoplectus subterminalis*), and Bog cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*) all sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current recreation use is primarily hiking along Trail 324.

Timber: The area contains approximately 3,300 acres considered suitable for timber management.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 300 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Uranium is the mineral of principal interest, but recent geologic models indicate a potential for porphyry-type deposits. Thirty-three percent of this area has moderate mineral potential; the rest has low potential. The moderate potential is located in the northwest part of the study area. There are no lease applications for oil and gas in the area and the potential is low. This roadless area contains 400 acres of medium and 4,600 of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: The number of recent fires has been small; however, the area has a past history of periodic large natural fires.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Blacktail Mountain #122 Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	5,000	1,300	4,200
GFRG	0	2,900	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	800	800
Total Acres	**5,000**	**5,000**	**5,000**

Blacktail Mountain #161

4,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Blacktail Mountain #161 Roadless Area is located eight miles south of Sandpoint, Idaho, and two miles east of Cocolalla Lake. The area is adjacent to Lake Pend Oreille, within Bonner County, and on the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is easily accessible from all sides away from the lake and is within reasonable walking distance of maintained County roads.

The area is approximately 3 miles long and 2 miles wide; 2-1/2 miles of the boundary follow along the Pend Oreille Lake shoreline. A small mountainous range is encompassed within this area. The two focal points of this small mountainous range are Butte Mountain and Blacktail Mountain. Steep cliffs face into the western shore of Lake Pend Oreille. A small wetland, Maiden Rock Lake, and Maiden Creek are the only aquatic habitats in this roadless area. Over 50 percent of the boundary of this area is bordered by private lands.

Almost the entire area is timbered, with stands averaging 70-80 years old. Forest types include mixed conifer stands common to the lower elevations in northern Idaho. Timber productivity is considered good to excellent. Natural openings occur on scattered areas with shallow soils and an occasional old-growth tree can be seen protruding above the primary forest canopy. Red alder, a remnant of ancient times, can be found along the lakeshore.

Forest Service Trail 117, the Bimetric Trail, is the only system trail within this roadless area. Scenic views of Lake Pend Oreille and rural settings to the north and west can be experienced along the trail. This trail is currently being used by backpackers, horseback riders, and motorbike riders. Because of the relatively open timber stands and low brush understory, cross-country travel is relatively easy throughout the area. Boat access, camping, and picnicking sites which are maintained by the Forest Service are located at Maiden Rock and Evans landing. This area is a popular hunting area for local residents.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: There is considerable impact from human activity in this area. Mineral potential for the area is very high; therefore, evidence of past exploration work is scattered throughout the roadless area. The area is easily accessible from all sides away from the lake and is relatively close to a rural population. It is within reasonable walking distance of maintained County roads; therefore, winter access is considered relatively easy. Foot trails, litter, mineral exploration holes, and tree stumps are evidence of the presence of man.

Undeveloped Character: The area is small and the topography such that people visiting the area feel they are not in a natural area away from ordinary human activities and development. Evidence within this roadless area indicates man's presence can be found throughout most of the area. Boats on Pend Oreille Lake can be seen from much of the area. Evidence of timber harvesting is easily seen; also, the rural housing development within the flatter lands along Highway 95 is a common backdrop setting viewed from the northern half of this roadless area.

Opportunities for Experience: The Talache area possesses very limited opportunities for solitude because of its size, shape, and location with respect to developed lands. It is less than two miles east of Highway 95. Over 50 percent of its current boundary is bordered by private lands. Many of these private lands are being subdivided for housing developments. This roadless area's location in relation to a rural setting and adjacent to a high-use recreational lake does not allow the visitor the opportunity to find areas which have solitude. Sounds from logging, boating, and other domestic activities have the potential of penetrating throughout this roadless area.

This area offers only limited challenge to the visitor because of its small size and gentle topography. Main Creek is the largest stream and it has no fishery values. Bimetric Trail 117 is a popular hiking trail which provides opportunities to experience scenic views of Pend Oreille Lake and rural settings to the north and

west. This trail is currently being used by backpackers, horseback riders, and motorbike riders. Because of the relatively open grown timber stands and low brush in the understory, cross-country travel off trails is relatively easy. This area is a popular hunting area for local residents.

Special Features: Almost the entire area was burned by fires in the early 1900s. The result of these burns was a uniform coniferous forest which is approximately 70-80 years old. An occasional old-growth tree which survived these fires can be seen protruding above the primary forest canopy. The lakeshore beaches within this area are popular recreational sites for the boating public. The Maiden Rod Cliffs are known as a landmark along Pend Oreille Lake. Red alder, a remnant of ancient times, can be found along the lakeshore within this roadless area.

Manageability: The boundaries are not well defined on major terrain or other recognized features. The location of the boundaries on recognizable features would further reduce the size of this roadless area. There are no private landholdings within this roadless area boundary. Because of private landholdings immediately adjacent to much of this area it would be difficult to adjust boundaries for the purpose of improving wilderness characteristics. Adjustment of boundaries to increase size would require inclusion of lands which have been modified by man's activities.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The roadless area has no large streams with fisheries value.

Wildlife: Townsend's big eared bat occurs in this roadless area. Wildlife inhabitants include black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, a few elk, and grouse. Osprey nest near the lake and a portion of this area may be habitat for the bald eagle. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 4,800 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Large Canadian St. Johns-wort *(Hypericum majus)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area occurs along Bimetric Trail 117 and along the shoreline of Lake Pend Oreille. Bimetric Trail 117 offers scenic views of Lake Pend Oreille and is currently being used for hiking, horseback riding, and motorbiking. Open timber stands and low brush understory also make this area good for cross-country travel. Boat access, camping, and picnicking sites which are maintained by the Forest Service are located at Maiden Rock and Evans landing. Hunting by local residents is heavy during the fall.

Timber: Almost all of the lands within this roadless area are considered suitable for timber production except for the steep face directly above the lake. Much of the area could be economically roaded to meet timber harvesting needs. Root rot diseases have been found throughout the stands in this roadless area. The visual resource as viewed from the lake would be significantly affected by intensive timber management.

Range: Cattle and sheep have not used the Talache area for many years.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 4,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This entire roadless area is rated as having very high mineral potential. Active exploration is ongoing and many prospects are in evidence. The entire Revett section is exposed down the center of the roadless area. The Revett has good potential for stratabound copper-gold deposits as mined by Asarco at their Troy deposits. There are 87 mining claims in the area. Oil and gas potential is low and all of the area is under lease application. This roadless area contains 4,800 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is now low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Blacktail #161 Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	4,800	3,700	4,800
GFRG	0	1,100	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**4,800**	**4,800**	**4,800**

Buckhorn Ridge #661

6,700 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)
22,000 Acres Kootenai (Montana)
28,700 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Buckhorn Ridge Roadless Area is located along the Idaho-Montana border, along the divide between the Moyle and Yaak Rivers, in the northwest corner of the Forest. Part of the area (about 6,700 acres), extends into the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The southern section is formed by Newton Ridge while the northern section is formed by the Spread Creek Road, which divides the area from the Northwest Peaks Roadless Area to the north. Access is available from several roads ending in trails off of the Yaak Road (No. 508), particularly Pine Creek, Fourth of July Creek, Meadow Creek, Hellroaring Creek, and Spread Creek.

The geography and topography are characterized by a high elevation ridgeline (6,500 feet elevation) with broad, open, grassy sideslopes and timbered basins divided by spur ridges. The area includes headwater areas for Pine, Meadow, Hellroaring, Red Top and Spread Creeks of the Kootenai, and Deer Creek of the Idaho Panhandle. The area is surrounded by some developments, especially roads and clearcuts.

The ridgetop hiking experience is another of the area's attractions. The area presently receives recreation use in the form of hunting, cross country skiing, hiking, snowmobiling and nature photography. Approximately 600 recreation visitor day's annually are associated with the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: There are many miles of recreation trails within the Kootenai portion of the area which constitutes the only significant manmade feature affecting the natural integrity and appearance. On the Idaho Panhandle side, however, signs of past fire and subsequent grazing and salvage harvest are visible. Numerous mining remains, tailings, adits, and cabins are also present.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude vary throughout the area. There are many places along the trails and within the ridge top meadows where roads and clearcuts are highly visible just outside the area boundary. These developed areas receive very little use however, so the loss of solitude is primarily just the visual impacts themselves. Most of the side draws and upper spruce basins remaining in the area are well-timbered, producing good solitude. Sounds along the Deer Creek road on the Idaho Panhandle side can be heard from the ridgetops. As one of the longer stretches of open grassy ridges on the forests, the Buckhorn Ridge Roadless Area provides many opportunities for primitive recreation. It now receives use from archery and rifle hunters, hikers, skiers, and photographers. The most unique challenge, Buckhorn Ridge, offers is its relatively great length in terms of hiking or skiing, hunting big game animals including bear, is also considered a challenge by many.

Special Features: Special features include grizzly bears and associated subalpine habitats. There is some historical evidence of old lookout stations on Newton and Red Top Mountains.

Manageability: The Buckhorn Ridge Roadless Area has a long boundary relative to its size, due to a long serpentine configuration. The manageability of its boundary is, therefore, less than ideal, although for the most part, the boundary consists of clearcuts and road edges which are identifiable and recognizable on the ground. There is little that could be done to improve this boundary that would not also appreciably affect the size of the roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The fish resource is supported by the headwaters of Hellroaring, Spread, North Fork Meadow, South Fork Meadow, and Red Top Creeks which are all tributaries to the Yaak River which supports rainbow, cutthroat, and brook trout. Pine Creek, a brook trout stream, has numerous tributaries within the area boundary. Hidden Lake, a cutthroat fishery, is also in this roadless area. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area contains grizzly habitat, mule deer and elk summer range, and some moose habitat. The area around Newton Ridge contains winter range. Region 1 sensitive species including the flammulated owl, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad have habitat that overlaps this roadless area.

Water: Mean annual precipitation for the area varies between 65 and 80 inches, depending on elevation. Runoff varies between 45-65 inches, varying by elevation, with most of this amount appearing as streamflow in April-June. The water quality is rated high, even during the peak runoff periods. This roadless area contains 3,100 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: About 9,450 recreation visitor days of wilderness recreation per year could be provided. The area around Hidden Lake, in the northern part of the area, receives some snowmobile use. Current use is estimated to be 600 recreation visitor days per year.

Timber: The area contains representatives of the cedar hemlock pine forest and western spruce fir forest ecosystems.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 2,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Mining claims are present on both the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle portions of the area although the potential is rated as moderate to low. The oil and gas potential is considered moderate. This roadless area contains 6,700 acres of low geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no special uses or private lands within this area.

Heritage: Cultural resource potential for prehistoric sites is considered low, based on surveys done in similar areas. Known historic sites include four former lookouts, a Forest Service work campsites, a guard station on Pine Creek, and several mining adits.

Disturbances: The area has had moderate fire occurrences. The fuels situation is predominately dense conifer with downed woody materials as ground fuels on the lower slopes and light ground fuels on the upper slopes and barren ridges. Except for some patches of mature lodgepole in the upper reaches of Meadow Creek and Red Top Creek, the insect and disease situation is stable with no activity presently occurring.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Buckhorn Ridge Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	6,700	6,700	6,700
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**6,700**	**6,700**	**6,700**

Continental Mountain #153

7,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Continental Mountain Roadless Area is located approximately 20 miles north of Nordman, Idaho, just south of the Canadian border. It lies within Boundary County and the Priest Lake and Bonners Ferry Ranger Districts of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The northwest and south boundaries are accessed by Roads 637 and 638, while the eastern boundary parallels Road 2546. Road 2546 and the portion of Road 637 east of Continental Creek are gated to prevent motorized vehicle access due to grizzly bear habitat. Road 538 was closed following the Continental Mountain timber sale.

This somewhat oval-shaped roadless area is largely mountainous timberland dominated by the most prominent feature--Continental Mountain (elevation 6,677 feet). Elevation ranges from the high on Continental Peak to a low of about 4,200 feet at the north end of the area. Drainage is provided by Spread, Continental, Rock Bog, Lime, and Blue Joe Creeks.

The area contains subalpine vegetative components in the vicinity of the summit of Continental Mountain. Old-growth spruce, fir, and pine are common to the higher elevations, with hemlock, cedar, Douglas-fir, and pine at the lower elevations.

Use of the area is not concentrated and consists primarily of hiking, backpacking, bunting, and scenery viewing. The summit of Continental Mountain affords scenic views of the Upper Priest River drainage (a steep, glacier-carved V-Shaped valley) and the Shedroof Divide. Access to the summit is provided by Trail 119 which originates from Forest Road 2546 on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District. This trail also provides access for the other activities mentioned. The roadless area is adjacent to the once active Continental Mine and there are 15 mining claims in the roadless area. About 19 percent of the roadless area has a high mineral potential.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact form human activity has been related primarily to foot trails. Mining activity has occurred in the past just outside the boundary.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers opportunities for solitude because of the differences in topography (4,400 to 6,600 feet in elevation) and vegetation. Use of the area is not concentrated in anyone area. The view from the higher elevations attracts visitors to the area. Continental Mountain is the main topographic feature in the area and is accessible only by trail. A forest road somewhat borders the western side of the area. The closest State highway is approximately 25 miles away. The area offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, big and small game hunting, and viewing scenery. The varied topography offers physical challenge related to mountainous terrain.

A visitor to the area would feel that they are in a natural area away from ordinary human activity. Signs of human activity inside the area give the appearance of a timber harvest area. Outside the area, remnants of past mining are visible. Forest roads and timber harvest areas can be seen from higher elevations. Continental Mountain is composed, to a great extent, of rock. Continental Creek, Bog Creek, Lime Creek, and Rock Creek are the major streams flowing through the area. Several minor tributaries can also be found throughout the area. The area provides habitat for grizzly bear and caribou, both listed as threatened and endangered species.

The area is of a size that offers backpacking opportunities of 2- to 3-day duration. Day hikes are also available. Trail 119 originates off Forest Road 2546 on the Bonners Ferry District. The trail leads over Continental Mountain and terminates outside the southwest end of the area on a Forest road. From the top of Continental Mountain the visitor can look north into Canada and south down a U-shaped valley formed by glacial activity. Mountaintops complete the view from east to west. Big game hunting is popular in the area. Protected wildlife in this area is the grizzly bear and caribou.

Manageability: The western and eastern boundaries are easily defined by forest roads. The northeast portion follows topographic features, while the southeastern portion follows the boundary of the Continental Mine and would be difficult to establish on the ground.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Grey wolf, grizzly bear, caribou, lynx, and wolverine occur in this roadless area. The most significant wildlife value is the critical habitat for grizzly and caribou--threatened and endangered species. Host animals found in northern Idaho are also found here.

Botanical: Lance-leaved moonwort *(Botrychium lanceolatum var. lanceolatum)* and Mingan moonwort *(Botrychium minganense)* two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current recreation use is very light.

Timber: The area has 2,900 acres with a standing volume of 36 million board feet of timber

Range: Neither cattle nor sheep have used the Continental Mountain area in the past. This situation will probably not change.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 2,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This area is adjacent to the Continental Mine on the southeast side, resulting in 19 percent of the area having a high mineral potential. The Continental Mine, although now idle, has been a major producer of silver, zinc, and some gold. The property presently has some low grade ore blocked out. There are 15 mining claims in the roadless area. The remaining 81 percent has a low mineral potential. This roadless area contains 1,300 acres of medium and 6,200 of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Continental Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	7,500	7,500	7,500
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**7,500**	**7,500**	**7,500**

East Cathedral Peak #131

22,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The East Cathedral Peak Roadless Area is located about 38 air miles northeast of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, along the Idaho-Montana border. It is within Shoshone County on the Wallace Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is accessible by dirt roads which form most of the boundary of the area.

A variety of vegetation and terrain elements characterize the area. The Coeur d'Alene River is the primary drainage; others include Deer and Alden Creeks. Attractive features include the river bottom and rock outcroppings along its course. Elevation ranges from 3,400 feet on the river to 5,400 feet on Whitetail Peak. This area is underlain by the Libby and Striped Peak formations of the Belt Supergroup. These argillites and quartzites compose the two upper members of the Belt rocks.

Large forest fires in 1910 and 1919 were major factors in vegetation development. Seral tree species, including Douglas-fir, western white pine, and western larch, dominate the landscape. Where fires did not burn, small pockets of old-growth hemlock, Douglas-fir, and grand fir are present. Mountain hemlock, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine forests are found on north slopes and high elevation ridges. Where fires were more severe, brushfields are found, especially on south facing slopes. Plantations started in the mid-1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps are found in the East Fork of Alden Creek and Sheep Run Creek. Species include Douglas-fir and western white pine. Plantation success is varied due to brush competition and blister rust mortality in the white pine.

The area is considered a high quality hunting area and receives heavy hunting use. All major streams provide important spawning and rearing habitat as well as low access, high quality fishing. The Coeur d'Alene River is managed under special regulations by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to provide quality cutthroat trout fishing. Three main trails provide access to the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact of human activity in this area has been minor. Civilian Conservation Corps plantations established in the 1930s were accessed by horse and pack trails.

Undeveloped Character: The area is large enough and the topography such that individuals visiting the area feel they are in a natural area away from ordinary human activities and development. Some timber harvest areas and their associated roads are visible outside the roadless area from roads that form much of its boundaries.

Opportunities for Experience: The area has high opportunities for solitude based on the size of the area and variety of topography and vegetation. Approximately 15 drainages are found within this roadless area. With the size and diversity found here, human activity will not be concentrated in anyone area. Access is primarily from the south and west. From the end of the paved Coeur d'Alene River Road (208) it is about 13 miles to the southwest corner of the area. The area is within five miles of a highway on the north via dirt roads. Sounds from vehicles along peripheral roads have potential of penetrating the roadless area.

Opportunities for primitive recreation are varied and include horseback riding, hiking, fishing, hunting, and camping. The area offers a variety of vegetation and terrain, from the Coeur d'Alene River and creek bottoms, to both forested and brush covered mid-Slopes and high points on Whitetail and Beaver Peaks. The Coeur d'Alene River Trail (20) passes through the area; it is a National Recreational Trail. Other major trails go from Deer Creek to Whitetail Peak and from Alden Creek to Jordan Springs near the Montana Divide. Other primitive pack trails which are not maintained exist in the area. No other facilities are available in the area.

Special Features: The East Cathedral Roadless Area shows the results of the large fires which swept portions of northern Idaho in the early 1900s. A mosaic of brushfields, pockets of old growth, large even-aged seral stands, and scattered remnant snags attest to the power and influence of fire in this area.

Manageability: The East Cathedral Roadless Area has roads which are peripheral to the area, forming most of the boundary. Small portions have the boundary along ridgelines which are less prominent and could make on-the-ground location more difficult.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: All major streams provide important spawning and rearing habitat as well as low access, high quality fishing. The Coeur d'Alene River is managed under special regulations by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to provide quality cutthroat trout fishing. Three main trails provide access to the area. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife inhabitants include elk, whitetail and mule deer, black beer, cougar, moose, bobcat, marten, beaver, coyote, river otter, pileated woodpecker, grouse, various hawks and owls, and numerous other non-game species. Nearly one-quarter of the area is designated critical elk winter range and the remaining acreage is considered regular summer range. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area is primarily hiking and horseback riding along the Coeur d'Alene River Trail. The area is also considered a high quality hunting area and receives heavy hunting use. Visitor use amounts to 3,000 recreation visitor days per year.

Timber: Approximately 20,300 acres are suitable for timber management.

Range: The area is not suited for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

Minerals and Energy: Mineral potential is rated low because historically the Libby and Striped Peak members have not contained many economic ore deposits. Exploration activity is low even though there are 26 mining claims in the unit. Potential for oil and gas in this area is unknown. This roadless area contains 22,300 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

East Cathedral Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	4,600	0
Backcountry	22,300	6,800	19,600
GFRG	0	8,600	400
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	2,300	2,300
Total Acres	**22,300**	**22,300**	**22,300**

East Fork Elk #678

100 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)
6,700 Acres Kootenai (Montana)
6,800 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The East Fork Elk Roadless Area is located on the Idaho-Montana divide, in the southwestern corner of the forest. The area encompasses the Lost Cab Gulch, Butter Creek, and Cascade Creek drainages, all flowing northeasterly. Access to the area is good from the Clark Fork Valley via the East Fork Elk Creek Road. There are no trails in the area. This roadless area is primarily located on the Kootenai National Forest in Montana, except 100 acres are located in Idaho on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The following description is for the entire area.

The area is primarily a ridgetop situation with a very rugged steep rocky east face. Butte and Cascade Creeks, Cab Gulch and several small unnamed tributaries originate within this area. Divide Peak (5,200) is the dominant feature in the area. The area is generally surrounded by existing or planned Forest developments such as roads or timber harvesting units. The represented ecosystems are cedar hemlock pine forest and western spruce fir forest. The hunting opportunities are the primary attractions in the area. Current use is primarily hunting in the fall.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and appearance of the area is rated high with no manmade intrusions.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude are also rated high in the deep canyons of Cascade and Butte Creeks. Opportunities are moderate in the remainder of the area because the area looks out onto adjacent lands that have been impacted in the past. Challenging hiking experience are provided by the steep canyon walls of Cascade and Butte Creeks.

Special Features: High quality elk hunting in a primitive setting is the area's primary recreation attraction and the resident elk herd is the areas' most special feature.

Manageability: The area has well-defined, easily managed boundaries consisting of existing roads and a ridgeline.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no significant fisheries but the area does contain tributaries to East Fork Elk Creek, a cutthroat trout fishery.

Wildlife: The area contains winter range management opportunities. Summer range for big game is approximately 4,700 acres, with winter range at 300 acres. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: Mean annual precipitation for the entire are is about 50 inches, varying between 40 and 80 inches depending on elevation. Runoff for the area averages about 23 inches per year, showing up as streamflow. Except for short periods during occasional midwinter runoff events, the water quality is usually considered excellent.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: The area is estimated to have a potential of providing about 1,600 recreation visitor days of wilderness recreation per year. Some snowmobile use occurs along the upper end of Cascade Creek, associated with the ridge divide. Current use is about 1,000 recreation visitor days a year.

Timber: There are 3,700 acres of tentatively suitable timberland capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet per acre per year. Over 90 percent of the total are has slopes greater than 55 percent. Road construction

would be difficult and costly and timber harvest would require a cable or aerial (helicopter) logging system.

Range: There are no livestock grazing allotments in the area and the grazing potential is considered all transitory.

Minerals and Energy: The mineral potential is low, there are no mining claims. Oil and gas potential is moderate. This roadless area contains 100 acres of low geothermal potential – in Idaho.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no special uses in the area.

Roads and Trails: Use is considered light (1,000 recreation visitor days) due to steepness of terrain and lack of trails.

Heritage: There is one historic site and no known prehistoric sites. Based on surveys done in similar areas, the probability of prehistoric sites occurring is considered low.

Disturbances: The area has had low fire occurrence (no fires in the last 10 years). The fuels situation is considered predominantly dense conifer with thick accumulations of woody ground fuels with sparse ground fuels on the higher ridgetops. There is a limited amount of high risk lodgepole pine but there is no insect and disease activity at present (1983).

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

East Fork Elk Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	100	100	0
GFRG	0	0	100
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**100**	**100**	**100**

Gilt Edge – Silver Creek #792

200 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)
11,200 Lolo (Montana)
11,400 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Gilt Edge-Silver Creek Roadless Area lies six miles welt of DeBorgia, Montana, and 20 miles west of St. Regis, Montana. It is an elongated roadless area extending between Interstate 90 and the Idaho border, a distance of six miles. It is about four miles wide. The Stateline Road (Road 391) provides southern and western access points. Forest roads along the West and Middle Forks of Big Creek extend into and form part of the eastern boundary. Access to the north comes from Interstate 90 and the Saltese Beacon Road. Portions of two trails totaling six miles cross the area. About 200 acres are in Idaho on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The remaining 11,200 acres are in Montana on the Lolo National Forest. The following discussion is for the entire roadless area.

The lower slopes support a mixed stand of western larch, Douglas-fir, spruce and lodgepole pine. Some areas in the vicinity of the Stateline are sparsely timbered. These are primarily rock and/or talus slopes or high elevation meadows dominated by beargrass, bunchgrass, and forbs. Nearly all of the Gilt Edge-Silver Creek Roadless Area is classified as commercial timberland.

A series of streams tributary to Big Creek head along the Stateline Divide and flow to the northeast. Consequently, several ridgelines extend off of the Divide and parallel the streams. On the western edge, tributaries of Silver Creek drain off to the north. Glacial cirques occur along the Stateline Divide and several contain small lakes.

Rocks of the Precambrian Age Wallace Formation and Ravalli Group are exposed in this roadless area. They are broken and sheared by the complex Silver Creek fault system which is oriented generally east to west. The Wishard Sill, a gabbroic intrusive, cuts through the Wallace and Ravalli strata and is in turn offset by the faults.

Currently, the moat popular activity in the area is big game hunting. The edges of the area are used by sightseers, bikers, berry pickers, and stream fishing recreationists.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Ecological processes and the natural landscape in parts of the area have been disrupted to a certain extent by past domestic grazing. Basically, vegetative communities in the roadless area are similar to those found in surrounding areas outside the roadless boundary. Major fires that occurred in the area in the 1920s are considered part of the natural process.

About 20 percent of the area is grand fir/beargrass and 20 percent is subalpine fir/beadlily. These occur in elevation s of 3,200 to 5,500 feet. Major species are Douglas-fir larch, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and white pine with understories of beargrass, huckleberry, pinegrass, beadlily, goldthread, bunchberry, and bedstraw. Forty-five percent of the area is evenly divided between grand fir/beadlily, western red cedar/beadlily, and subalpine fir beargrass. The remaining habitat types are subalpine fir/smooth woodrush and subalpine fir/menziesia, Douglas-fir/snowberry, and Douglas-fir/blue huckleberry, Douglas-fir/ninebark, and Douglas-fir/dwarf huckleberry, scree, and mountain grasslands.

The area includes a helispot, mineral development in the form of dozer trenches, mines, and tunnels, spoil piles, and tree plantations form the 1920 burn, and two unimproved roads.

Opportunities for Experience: There is remarkable scenery, severe topography, and abundant vegetative screening which provide medium to high opportunities for solitude even though there are many permanent off-site intrusions and perimeter roads. The area itself is intact with no major impacts. Interstate 90 is adjacent to the northern boundary.

Opportunities for primitive recreation are considered moderate because of the short distance from the perimeter to the core of the area; however, diverse opportunities do exist. Vegetation and steep side slopes reduce access to the area.

Manageability: For the most part, the boundaries of this roadless area follow topographic and man-made features; they would not be difficult to locate or monument on the ground. A road along Gilt Edge Creek (one quarter mile is improved and the balance is considered a trail) extends several miles into the interior of this area requiring that the eastern border be drawn around it. There are no private lands which would have to be excluded. Nonconforming activities include timber sales proposed along Big Sunday, Gilt Edge, and Big Middle Creek.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The roadless area has about 500 riparian acres. There are no known threatened or endangered fisheries species present.

Wildlife: The area provides habitat for a wide variety of game and nongame wildlife species commonly found in Western Montana. There are no known threatened or endangered wildlife species present. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: Air and water quality are considered excellent in the area.

Botanical: There are no known threatened or endangered plant species present. Nor is that area recognized as having unique vegetative communities to be used as benchmarks or unusual or scarce ecosystem representatives. Gene pools in the roadless area do not differ appreciable from the surrounding area.

Recreation: On the current Recreation Opportunity System map, the area is shown as 100 percent roaded-natural. Recreational use in the area is seasonal, generally limited to hunting seasons. No developed sites exist within or adjacent to the area.

Timber: The Gilt Edge-Silver Creek Roadless Area contains 9,400 acres of commercial timberland. The suitable lands presently support as standing timber inventory of 79.8 million board feet with a long-term sustained yield in the area of 2.05 thousand board feet annually.

Range: About 8,500 of the 20,700 acres of the Big Creek Range allotment are included in the area. The last permitted use was in 1983 for 29 cows for 75 animal unit months (AUMs). About 270 acres within the area are considered suitable range.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 100 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Four oil and gas leases have been issued which encompassed 100 percent of the roadless area; however, all leases have expired. The roadless area also contains 43 mining claims. A northwest to southeast trending aeromagnetic high (areas of dense rock often containing base metals) lie in this region, and a number of prospects and small mining ventures dot the countryside. The minerals being sought include copper, lead, zinc, and silver. The Lolo National Forest had identified 11,200 acres of high to very high mineral potential. This roadless area contains 200 acres of low geothermal potential.

Heritage: The area contains three old cabins and log flumes in Storm Creek and Gilt Edge Creek from turn-of-the-century logging activities. No prehistoric sites have been identified within the area. Some evidence of mining and logging activities can be considered historical, representative of Western Montana.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Gilt Edge-Silver Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	200	200	200
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**200**	**200**	**200**

Graham Coal #139

10,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Graham Coal Roadless Area is located about four miles north of Kellogg, Idaho, along the Coeur d'Alene River. It is within Shoshone County on the Wallace Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Access to the area is provided by the Graham Creek and Coal Creek Trails. Both of these trails originate at Forest Highway 9 on the Coeur d'Alene River.

Graham Peak, at 5,730 feet, is the most prominent feature. The southern aspect of this peak is visible from Interstate 90. The lowest elevation is about 2,400 feet at the mouth of Coal Creek. Major drainages include Graham Creek, Coal Creek, and Deceitful Gulch. Aspect is generally north. The Coal Creek drainages offer a pristine riparian area with many scenic waterfalls. Exposed in the study area are metasediments of the Precambrian Belt Supergroups. Although close to the Osburn Fault, few faults have been mapped in this area. The southern portion of this area is part of the Coeur d'Alene Mining District.

Vegetative cover consists primarily of white pine, western hemlock, western red cedar, Douglas-fir, and lodgepole pine. Most trees occurring below 4,000 feet are immature. However, 300 acres of old-growth timber have been identified in Graham Creek.

Annual recreation use in the Graham Coal area is approximately 2,000 visitor days annually. The area is commonly used as a non-roaded big game hunting area. The trail from Graham Ridge to Moon Saddle receives considerable motorcycle and equestrian use. Seventeen valid mining claims exist in the area. Past evidence of mineral exploration is apparent in the area. Little recent activity has taken place.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Other than historical activity (mining, homesteads), the effects of smelter kill, and current off-road vehicle use, the Graham Coal area has substantially retained the qualities formed solely by natural processes without human disruption.

Undeveloped Character: A visitor keeping to the lower elevations can maintain a landscape which appears natural. Travel to the higher elevations, however, can reveal landscapes that are undoubtedly the result of man's activities, such as the City of Kellogg and Interstate 90.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude would be most available in the Graham Creek and Coal Creek drainages. Recreation opportunities on the area would involve camping; backpacking; big game hunting, either on a daily basis or an extended trip; and fishing. The opportunity to experience a primitive visit to the area could be hampered by the existing off-road vehicle motorcycle use in the area.

Special Features: The Graham Mountain Lookout was constructed in the 1930, for fire protection. The lookout has since been dismantled and little evidence of its existence remains. During the 1910 fire a camp was established on the ridge between Cedar Creek and Graham Creek. In the early 1900s homesteaders in the area cut timber in the lower elevations. The Jackass Ridge Trail, which constitutes the southern boundary of the area, was constructed in the mid-1880s to facilitate travel to the Murray gold fields from the Kellogg area. About 100 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: The Graham Coal area is bounded on two sides by ridge lines--on the north side by an indistinguishable, meandering boundary and on the south side by a surveyed subdivision line. Private property is included in the area peripherally. Some State land is included. Boundary manipulation could remedy these inclusions. As the area is bordered on three sides by lands held in private ownership, unauthorized access would be difficult to control.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Graham Creek is listed as an important spawning and rearing stream for fisheries. West slope cutthroat trout occur in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife species present in the area include elk, whitetail and mule deer, black bear, cougar, bobcat, moose, coyote, wolverine, marten, great-horned owls, pileated woodpeckers, hawks, and beaver. Numerous other non-game species are also present. Most of the area is considered critical elk summer range. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 10,300 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: The area is commonly used as a non-roaded big game hunting area. The trail from Graham Ridge to Moon Saddle receives considerable motorcycle and equestrian use.

Timber: Vegetative cover consists primarily of white pine, western hemlock, western red cedar, Douglas-fir, and lodgepole pine. Most trees occurring below 4,000 feet are immature. However, in Graham Creek 300 acres of old-growth timber have been identified. Future development of the timber resource would involve the management of 10,000 acres within the area.

Range: The area is unsuitable for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 5,300 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Although there are no known prospects in this area and only 17 mining claims, approximately 50 percent of the Graham Coal Roadless Area is underlain by the Revett Formation. The Revett is presently being explored for stratabound copper and silver. This area is also partially within the Coeur d'Alene Mining District, which is located primarily to the south and east. This District is one of the largest silver producers in the world. The potential for oil and gas is low due to lack of information. This roadless area contains 10,300 acres of low geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Private property is included in the area peripherally. Some State land is included.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Graham Coal Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	10,300	1,700	10,200
GFRG	0	8,500	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	100	100
Total Acres	**10,300**	**10,300**	**10,300**

Grandmother Mountain #148

24,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Grandmother Mountain Roadless Area is located in Shoshone County, Idaho, approximately 30 miles southeast of St. Maries, Idaho. The area lies on the St. Maries and Avery Ranger Districts of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Several well maintained roads surround the area, allowing access at several points. The most popular entry points begin from Fishbook-Gold Center Road 301, Marble Creek Road 321, and the Little North Fork Road 760.

The amoeba-shaped roadless area includes a U-shaped ridge as its center, consisting of Grandfather Mountain, Grandmother Mountain, Marks Butte, Crater Peak, Widow Mountain, and Lookout Mountain. Several cirques, cirque lakes, and moraines along the ridge line remain as evidence of past glacial activity, especially in the area of Lookout Mountain. The headwaters of Marble Creek, a major tributary of the St. Joe River, flow northward from the ridgeline. Flowing to the east are the headwaters of the Little North Fork of the Clearwater Rivers. The southwest corner is drained by Placer Creek into the St. Maries River system. Elevations range from 6,800 feet at Widow Mountain to 3,400 feet at Marble Creek.

Vegetation patterns reflect the high elevation, glacial activity, and past fire history of the area. Nearly half of the roadless area consists of immature pole or sawtimber stands of mixed composition resulting from wildfires in 1910 and 1923. The remaining forested areas consist of mature or overmature stands largely composed of mountain hemlock, Engelmann spruce, and subalpine fir.

Much of the high elevation areas support relatively sparse subalpine vegetation and contain numerous rock or talus slopes. Habitat-types graduate from cedar/clintonia to either a mountain hemlock or subalpine fir series as elevation rises.

The Grandmother Mountain roadless area provides a variety of recreational pursuits. The current major uses of this area include big game hunting, backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, and fishing. The Freezeout area and the lakes contained in the eastern portion of the roadless area are popular recreational destinations. Snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and off-road vehicle motorized use continue to increase in popularity, especially on roads contiguous to the roadless area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Developments include remnants of early day logging, a lookout, and more than 30 miles of trails. Except for the remnants of some cabins, flumes, and splash dams, the logging which was done during the early twenties is essentially unnoticeable.

Undeveloped Character: Timber harvest areas and associated roads outside the roadless area are visible from most of the prominent peaks and from some portions of ridgeline trails within the roadless area. In the immediate vicinity of historical logging structure remnants it is obvious that there has been past human activity in the area.

Opportunities for Experience: The Grandmother Mountain area is approximately 24,400 acres in size. The area is 7.5 miles long north to south and 12.3 miles across. Topography and vegetation provide screening which separates visitors from one another in short distances. Opportunities for solitude are enhanced by the light visitor use the area receives. There are points of relatively concentrated use in the vicinity of Freezeout Saddle, on Trail 275 near the southern boundary of the area, and in the Lost Lake area near the eastern boundary. Sounds from logging activities adjacent to the area can, at times, be heard from within the area. There are no developed recreation facilities within the area except for trails. The area provides the opportunity to participate in such activities as fishing, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, camping, and viewing scenery.

Special Features: The Grandmother Mountain area contains elements of the proposed Marble Creek National Recreation Trail Systems. There are approximately 20 miles of National Recreation Trail within

the area; including the Marble Creek Trail, Delaney Creek Trail, and Lookout Mountain Trail. A 300 acre Research Natural Area is located within the roadless area. Approximately 2,300 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: The southern boundary of the area is well defined by a road which follows a major ridgeline. The remaining boundary will be difficult to locate on the ground because it generally does not follow any identifiable topographic features. These lines are generally located to avoid development activities or follow landownership lines.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Many of the streams contain cutthroat, and grayling are found in Crater Lake. There are no threatened or endangered species occupying the area. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife:. Wildlife inhabitants include elk, black bear, whitetail deer and mule deer, as well as a variety of small and non-game species. The area is important summer range for elk and important security area during the hunting seasons. Lynx, wolverine, fisher, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area is primarily hiking, horseback riding, and motorcycle riding on the various trails that dissect the area. A majority of the trails that comprise the Marble Creek National Recreation Trails system lie within the boundaries of the Grandmother Mountain Area. Lakes in the eastern portion of the area are popular for fishing. Some fall big game hunting occurs in the area.

Timber: Approximately 14,300 acres of the area is estimated as tentatively suitable for timber production.

Range: Cattle or sheep have not used the Grandmother Mountain area in recent years.

Minerals and Energy: Mineral potential in the area is categorized as low for hardrock minerals, oil, and gas. This roadless area contains 24,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Roads and Trails: A series of maintained trails access the interior.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Grandmother Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	6,800
Primitive	0	8,700	0
Backcountry	24,400	8,800	14,000
GFRG	0	3,300	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	3,600	3,600
Total Acres	**24,400**	**24,400**	**24,400**

Hammond Creek #145

17,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Hammond Creek Roadless Area is located on the west side of the North Fork of the St. Joe River drainage beginning approximately one mile north of Avery, Idaho. The area lies entirely within Shoshone County on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Primary access exists from the North Fork Road 456 on the east and Bonneville Power Administration roads on the northwest. The Cedar Mountain, Kyle Creek, and Hammond Creek trail systems provide access into the interior.

The Hammond Creek Roadless Area roughly resembles an inverted triangle with a long finger of excluded land penetrating from the east. Elevation changes from 2,600 feet in the North Fork drainage to 6,100 feet on Cedar Mountain and Marcus Cook Point along the Slate Creek-North Fork Divide, the dominant geographic feature. Glacial activity typifies the higher elevations, with Cedar Lake occupying a glacial cirque at the head of Kyle Creek. Slopes are generally steep with numerous rock outcrops, especially characterizing the stretch along the North Fork of the St. Joe River. The roadless area contains several major tributaries of the North Fork of the St. Joe and Slate Creek.

The 1910 fire burned the majority of the area, leaving only small, isolated, parcels of old-growth trees at scattered locations through the roadless area.

Recreational use occurring within the roadless area is concentrated on the existing trail system. Hiking, overnight camping, big game hunting, and berry picking are common activities. A special use permit bas been issued to an outfitter-guide.

The 1934 fire burned the southern half of the roadless area, generating large areas of non-stocked brushfields or seedling/sapling stands. Extensive stands of pure lodgepole pine or mixed species composition cover the remaining area. Mountain hemlock habitat types cover the high elevation areas, with western hemlock and cedar series occupying primarily the lower altitudes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact of past human activity in this area has been relatively minor even though those activities have been extensive. The existing trail system includes a well defined route which once served as a main transportation corridor between Avery and the County seat in Wallace, Idaho. The remainder of this system was constructed to provide access for fire control. Several fire lookouts had been constructed within this area. The Arid Peak lookout still exists and bas been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Undeveloped Character: The Hammond Creek Roadless Area is large enough and has topography such that persons visiting the area feel that they are in a natural area away from ordinary human activity and development. Some distant roads, timber activities, fire lookouts, and a Bonneville Power Administration power line which borders the western and northern edge of this area are visible from the higher points.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers moderate opportunities for solitude. The 17,400 acres included in the Hammond Creek Roadless Area occur in an irregular shape that is approximately eight miles long and five miles wide (at its widest point). The seven principal drainages (of which Hammond Creek is the largest) that make up this area contain deeply dissected topography and vegetative cover which may easily screen people from one another in short distances. Human use of the area is generally concentrated along the ridgetop trail system. Opportunities for primitive recreation experiences are generally limited. The size and shape of this area (1-3 miles from perimeter to core) provide few opportunities to actually be isolated from the evidence of man and his activities. With much of the area having similar topographic and vegetative features there is little diversity of recreation opportunities. Primitive recreation experiences are further limited by motorized use of the trail system. Opportunities do exist for big game bunting (elk, deer, bear, and mountain lion), horseback riding, hiking, and backpack camping.

Special Features: Most of the Hammond Creek Roadless Area was involved in the 1910 fire. Vegetative conditions which developed as a result of that fire have created habitat which is nearly ideal for big game species. There is a high level of public interest in roadless elk hunting as evidenced by the survival of a commercial outfitter guide operation in the area. The Milwaukee, Chicago, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad has abandoned its line running along the North Fork of the St. Joe River on the eastern edge of the Hammond Creek area. Even though trains no longer travel this route it is likely that many of the impacts associated with the railroad will continue, as serious consideration is being given to the use of the railroad grade as an arterial transportation route from Avery to Montana.

Manageability: Existing boundaries are reasonably well defined, with the exception of a portion of the western boundary between Storm Mountain and Binney Creek which does not follow topographic features. All of the land within the area is in National Forest ownership, with the only exception being part of the railroad right-of-way and a portion of a patented mining claim near the mouth of Mozier Creek. The long history of motorized trail use within the area would make enforcement of non-motorized wilderness regulations time consuming and costly, given the potential number of access points. Future hard rock mineral development seems unlikely at this time.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The important elk summer and winter range are the key wildlife values of this area. Most animals found in northern Idaho are also found here. Unusual species likely present are bobcat, lynx, and wolverine. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: Bank Monkeyflower *(Mimulus clivicola)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: The primary existing recreational use of this area is elk hunting. One outfitter and guide uses this area. Motorized use is extensive and occurs mostly during the hunting season. Roadless hunting experience is also the greatest future use of this area.

Timber: About 14,800 acres are classed as tentatively suitable for timber management. Timber stands are the result of the 1910 fire and consist of pole/small sawtimber-sized mixed species and pure lodgepole types. The lodgepole could become susceptible to serious mountain pine beetle epidemics in 10-20 years. Some of the suitable timberland is currently brushfield.

Range: Sheep grazing has occurred in the past but was discontinued about 1950. Future use is not expected.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 300 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Striped Peak is the major rock formation of the area; minor Wallace rocks outcrop near the North Fork of the St. Joe River. These formations belong to the Belt Supergroups of Precambrian Age. This area is rated mostly as having low potential except for about a 640 acre area in the northeast quarter which has a high rating. The area has 185 unpatented mining claims, about half of which are in the northeast quarter of the area. Oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 7,800 of medium and 9,600 acres of low geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: All of the land within the area is in National Forest System ownership, with the only exception being part of the railroad right-of-way and a portion of a patented mining claim near the mouth of Mozier Creek.

Roads and Trails: The existing trail system includes a well defined route which once served as a main transportation corridor between Avery and the County seat in Wallace, Idaho. The remainder of this system was constructed to provide access for fire control.

Heritage: The Arid Peak lookout still exists and has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Disturbances: Annual fire occurrence is moderate; periodic large fires have occurred.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Hammond Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	100	0
Backcountry	17,400	17,000	17,400
GFRG	0	300	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**17,400**	**17,400**	**17,400**

Hellroaring #128

2,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Hellroaring Roadless Area is located 12 miles northeast of Bonners Ferry, Idaho, within Boundary County. The area is within the Bonners Ferry Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is accessed by driving north from Bonners Ferry on U.S. 2 to Forest Road 2503 and then on Forest Road 211 to one of several trailheads along Forest Road 211. Several trails access the interior of the area. The area consists of a moderately high north-south ridge sloping rather sharply into the surrounding Moyie and Kootenai River Valleys. The slopes are rather rocky.

Vegetation ranges from larch, Douglas-fir, and white pine at lower elevations to higher elevation spruce-fir. The trees are about 100 years old. Current recreation use consists of hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. The trails are well used by local residents.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: For the most part, evidence of man's past activities in this area is fairly minimal. Exceptions to this are evidences of considerable mineral exploration near some of the ridgetops where bulldozers were used to excavate long, deep trenches with attendant high spoil banks, or shaft-type exploration with waste piles. Other evidence of man includes pack trails built for fire control access, old lookout sites, and structures for mining activities.

Undeveloped Character: U.S. Highway 95 skirts immediately adjacent to the northern boundary of this roadless area. The old Spokane International Railroad and a main County road parallel within one-quarter mile for some nine miles of the eastern border. The western perimeter is formed by logging roads. There is very little topographic screening from these human activity areas.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to the close proximity to developments and the steepness of the terrain, it is difficult to feel a sense of solitude in this area, particularly along the slopes above the Moyie River where the sights and sounds of human activity are present.

This area provides opportunity to hike, ride horses, hunt, fish, and pick berries. Limited camping exists at Queen Lake. The trails are among the most popular in the county for hiking and horseback riding. The other primitive recreation opportunities are very similar to those on surrounding roaded areas.

Special Features: There are no other outstanding features in this area.

Manageability: Private lands define the eastern boundary, while the western boundary irregularly follows past cutting units and logging roads. These factors would make boundary definition and maintenance relatively difficult. There are 53 existing mining claims in the area which could create conflicts with wilderness management. Oil and gas leases are presently being processed for this area and, if issued, could further complicate wilderness management.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Westslope cutthroat trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife species common to northern Idaho are found in the area; no habitat for threatened and endangered species exists in this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 200 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use is primarily hiking and horseback riding on the existing trail system.

Timber: About 2,000 acres are estimated to be tentatively suitable for timber management.

Range: None.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 700 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This area contains 53 unpatented mining claims and approximately 10 older prospects, of which 3 had past production. Ten miles northwest of the area a major mining company is conducting an exploration program which is in the same geologic environment as this area. Potential for oil and gas is low due to lack of information. This roadless area contains 2,000 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is low; however, northern Idaho has a history of periodic large fires.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Hellroaring Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	2,000	1,300	0
GFRG	0	700	2,000
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**2,000**	**2,000**	**2,000**

Katka Peak #157

10,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Katka Peak Roadless Area is located five miles southeast of Bonners Ferry. It is within Boundary County on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Access can be gained from U.S. 95 via the Trail Creek Road, a maintained, unsurfaced road. This roadless area is part of a northeast-southwest ridge and associated side drainages. Slopes to the northwest are very steep; southeast slopes are more moderate. Several southeast-bearing side ridges are also found. Most drainages are only partially within the roadless area.

Lower elevations support cedar, hemlock and white pine, with subalpine fir common at high elevations. The Katka Peak Roadless Area is quite visible from Bonners Ferry. Current recreation use is light; hikers use the trail to Katka Peak and hunters use the area in the fall.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Man's activities in this roadless area have been minor, limited primarily to pack trails constructed for fire control purposes.

Undeveloped Character: Much of this area has adequate topographic and/or vegetative screening to keep human activities from outside the area from impinging on the natural feeling of the area. The upper slopes of Clifty Mountain are so steep, however, that the Kootenai Valley with all its developments seems to be right at hand.

Opportunities for Experience: This area has moderate to high opportunities to find solitude. Approximately half of the boundary is formed by roads or timber harvest areas, and activities near here will generally be heard and seen. In other areas, though, the topography adequately screens out nearby activities. This area offers hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and berry picking. Clifty Mountain offers spectacular vistas, almost all of which include development and land use by man.

Special Features: Clifty Mountain is probably the single most prominent feature.

Manageability: Much of the boundary is mid-slope, defined only by where development has stopped. These boundaries would be hard to manage over time. In these cases, better defined and more manageable boundaries do not exist. Continued intensive management along these boundaries would interfere with the natural appearance and ability to find solitude in the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout, sturgeon, burbot, inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Besides the normal complement of animals found in northern Idaho, this area contains identified grizzly bear habitat. Part of this area may be used by a locally known elk herd. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 2,600 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Mingan moonwort (*Botrychium minganense*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Big game hunting and day hikes along the Clifty Mountain vistas are the major uses of this area. Current use is light the lack of major attractions indicates future use at about current levels.

Timber: About 9,100 acres have been classed as tentatively suitable. The presence of mature timber increases the near term value of this area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 3,400 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Bedrock geology consists of quartzites and argillites of the Prichard formation. Ten percent of the area has a high mineral potential and this is where most of the activity in the area is found. The remaining 90 percent has a moderate potential. There are 21 mining claims in the area. There has been a small amount of past production from veins associated with the sills to the north of the subject area, and mineral occurrences in the area appear to also be associated with these sills. The potential for oil and gas is rated low due to lack of information. This roadless area contains 10,300 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Annual fire occurrence is low however; northern Idaho ecosystems are subject to periodic large fires.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Katka Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	6,700	0
Backcountry	10,300	3,600	7,800
GFRG	0	0	2,500
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**10,300**	**10,300**	**10,300**

Kootenai Peak #126

5,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Kootenai Peak Roadless Area is located five miles west of Bonners Ferry in Boundary County on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is accessible from the Myrtle Creek/Snow Creek Road, which is maintained for automobile traffic. The Kootenai Peak Roadless Area encompasses both sides of a long ridge extending from Cooks Pass to the Kootenai River Valley. There are no lakes or outstanding topographic features in this area.

This ridge is generally covered by heavy timber on the Snow Creek side; the timber is young on the Myrtle Creek side, much, of the timber is very old and ranges from cedar-hemlock at lower elevations to spruce-fir at higher elevations.

A portion of the area facing east into the Kootenai River Valley is visible from the city of Bonners Ferry and at numerous points along U.S. Highway 95, as well as from secondary roads in the valley. The Myrtle Creek drainage, the domestic water source for the city of Bonners Ferry, is a State-designated game preserve.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Within this area the impacts of human activity are limited to an old cabin and a foot trail along the ridgetop. The trail may have established off-road vehicle use.

Undeveloped Character: This ridge is heavily timbered, but all locations along this ridge are within view of and in close proximity to roads and timber harvest activities.

Opportunities for Experience: At its widest point this roadless is two miles wide. There is little topographic screening, so timber stands are the only barriers to the impacts of roads and other activities nearby. This area provides opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and berry picking. Hunting and fishing opportunities are not available in Myrtle Creek because of the Game Preserve Status.

Special Features: The Myrtle Creek watershed has been designated a State Game Preserve, primarily to protect the water supply of the community of Bonners Ferry.

Manageability: Boundaries of this roadless area are not well defined. They cross slopes, follow private land boundaries, or parallel roads.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout, burbot, inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area contains habitat for the wide variety of animals found in northern Idaho; grizzly bear and mountain caribou habitat is also present. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 4,600 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use is very light due in part to the Myrtle Creek Game Preserve Status. This closure is intended to discourage recreation use to protect municipal water quality. The Snow Creek watershed does receive light hunting and berry picking.

Timber: About 5,600 acres of tentatively suitable timberland are present.

Range: None.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,300 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This area contains a uranium anomalous belt, as mapped by Bendix Corporation for the Department of Energy. The contact areas have the potential for vein-type sulfide deposits. No mining claims are known to be in the area. The potential for oil and gas is low. This roadless area contains 5,000 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: The number of fires occurring annually is low; however, northern Idaho has a history of periodic large fires.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Kootenai Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	5,000	4,500	0
GFRG	0	500	5,000
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**5,000**	**5,000**	**5,000**

Little Grass Mountain #121

3,900 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)
4,000 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Washington)
7,900 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Little Grass Mountain Roadless Area is located seven miles northwest of Nordman on the Priest Lake Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is somewhat oval-shaped, with a two mile long intrusion of a road at the southern end. One-half of the area is in Pend Oreille County, Washington; the remainder lies within Bonner County, Idaho. The area is accessed by the Nordman-Metaline Falls Road 302. This road forms the western boundary of the roadless area and is a well maintained gravel road suitable for automobile travel.

Although the area itself is natural appearing, signs of human activities such as timber harvest activities and roads are visible from within the area. Users of the area would be likely to hear the sound of these activities due to the small size of the area. Elevations range from 3,200 feet at the south end of the area to a high of 5,696 feet on Little Grass Mountain, the most prominent feature in the steep, mountainous timberland. The roadless area drains into the North Fork of Granite Creek and is comprised of Zero Creek, the West Fork of Packer Creek, associated tributaries to these streams, and other minor unnamed drainages.

Much of the area was burned in 1920 and includes considerable amounts of immature timber. Habitat types are generally those common to the Priest Lake Ranger District, primarily cedar or hemlock-boxwood and subalpine fir-beargrass or menziesia. In addition, Douglas-fir, larch, grand fir, and white pine are found throughout the canopy.

There is no concentrated use within the roadless area. Two separate trails that join together at the top of Little Grass Mountain provide access for these activities. Zero Creek Trail 256 originates from Forest Road 302 at the south end of the area; Roosevelt Trail 266 begins from the same road on the west side of the area. Eighteen percent of the study area has a high mineral potential; there are thirteen unpatented mining claims within the roadless area. There are two active exploration projects in similar geologic material two miles to the west of the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact from human activity has been related to foot trails and a fire lookout. There has been some mineral exploration in recent years but little evidence is apparent.

Undeveloped Character: A visitor to the area would feel that he or she is in a natural area away from human activities and development. Signs of human activates such as timber harvest areas and Forest roads are visible as background outside the area. Inside the area the remains of Little Grass Lookout (footings and miscellaneous articles) can be found. There may be some evidence of recent mineral explorations in the area. Two timber harvest areas are located on the southern and southeastern portions of the area.

Zero Creek and its minor tributaries flow through the area. Zero Creek is critical fisheries habitat. Due to fish blocks (waterfalls, etc.) In the upper reaches of the creek, no fish populations exist. The lower 1/4 mile has potential spawning and rearing habitat for cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden.

Opportunities for Experience: The area is relatively small but does offer opportunities for solitude due to differences in topography (3,200 to 5,600 feet in elevation) and vegetation. Visitors are likely to hear the sound of outside activities. Use of the area is not concentrated in any one area. Little Grass Mountain is the main topographic feature and it can only be reached by foot trail. The area offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, big and small game hunting, and viewing scenery.

The varied topography offers physical challenges related to hiking in mountainous terrain. These trails receive moderate use and are maintained annually. Overnight use (camping, etc.) occurs in the area.

There is also a campground just outside the western boundary. The bordering forest road makes other camping sites outside the area readily accessible. Big game hunting is popular in this area.

Manageability: The boundary on half of the area is a well defined road. The remaining boundary lies adjacent to timber sale areas, mid-slope contours, and along minor ridges or streams. Boundary adjustments along major terrain features are not practical. Management of the area, with its present boundary, would be difficult since large sections are indistinguishable.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Grizzly bear and lynx occur in this roadless area, as well as most big-game species.

Botanical: Bristle-stalked sedge *(Carex leptalea)* and Bog willow *(Salix pedicellaris)* two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Activities include light to moderate hiking, backpacking, overnight camping, big game hunting, and viewing scenery.

Timber: The area has 3,900 acres with medium to high timber production potential capable of 0.825 million board feet of annual harvest.

Range: Cattle and sheep have not used the Little Grass Mountain Roadless Area in the past.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 900 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Mineral potential is low to medium. There are 13 unpatented mining claims in the area. Two active exploration projects are located approximately two miles west of the area. Minerals under investigation include silver, lead, zinc, molybdenum, and tungsten. One project has an active drill program underway. Eighteen percent of the study area has a high mineral potential. Oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 3,900 acres of medium geothermal potential.

The Bonneville Power Administration has identified a potential east-west energy corridor that may cross a portion of this roadless area. Generally, the corridor is located a few miles south of the Canadian border, across Idaho.

Disturbances: Although large fires occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low. Fire management objectives under roadless management would be to maintain ecosystem diversity. This could include prescribed burning with unplanned (lightning) ignition.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Little Grass Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	3,900	2,800	3,900
GFRG	0	1,100	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	3,900	3,900	3,900

Lost Creek #137

11,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Lost Creek Roadless Area is located near the Idaho-Montana Divide approximately 17 miles north of Wallace, Idaho. The entire area is located in Shoshone County on the Wallace Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Elevations range from 5,860 feet at Bloom Peak to about 2,400 feet near the Coeur d'Alene River. Major drainages include Lost Creek and the East Fork of Lost Creek. The general aspect is southwest. Quartzites and argillites of the Precambrian Belt rocks are exposed in this study area. Two persistent faults are the only structures mapped in the area and they are parallel, striking north-northwest.

Vegetative cover is predominately Douglas-fir, western larch, western white pine, and grand fir. Most of Lost Creek was burned in 1910. The vegetation is mostly pole-size trees or brushfields. Burning to improve big game winter range has occurred on about 3,000 acres since 1970. Elk hunting is the predominant public use of the area. Other uses include deer and bear hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking. The area receives some 4,500 recreation visitor day's use annually. Three trails into the area provide access. The area is quite heavily staked with unpatented mining claims. Two tunnels, which were dug about the turn of the century, are known to exist, but no commercial production has occurred.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Mining activities have caused some modification of the Lost Creek area. For the most part, however, the area has retained qualities formed by nature without human disruption.

Undeveloped Character: The Lost Creek Roadless Area enables the visitor to feel he is within a natural area away from ordinary human activities and development. Views from the higher elevations may reveal distant roads and timber harvest units.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude are available for visitors in the Lost Creek area. Three trails into the area allow visitors to disperse, facilitating more opportunity for solitude. As the Lost Creek area has no developments other than trails for access, opportunities for primitive recreation are limited only by the size of the area. Types of primitive recreation that could be and are pursued would include, but are not limited to, backpacking, hunting, and fishing.

Special Features: Lost Creek Trail (No. 502) is very popular for elk hunting. The trail travels through several open brushy areas which provide impressive scenic views. Vegetation along the trail is both varied and interesting. In moist areas, mountain ash, Rocky Mountain maple, willows, trillium, violets, and honeysuckle can be found. In season, hikers can treat themselves to strawberries, thimbleberries, and huckleberries. About 1,900 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: The Lost Creek Roadless Area is bordered on three sides by roads. The southern boundary consists of a road and Trail 598. The Lost Creek area does not pose any substantial limitations in regard to management for wilderness, should it be so designated.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Both Lost Creek and the East Fork of Lost Creek support catchable size populations of trout.

Wildlife: Wildlife species include elk, deer, black bear, grouse, lynx and numerous non-game species. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has identified this area as one of 13 areas where retention of the roadless character is desirable. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Roadless elk hunting is the predominant recreation.

Timber: Approximately 8,600 acres are suitable for timber development.

Range: The area is unsuited for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential for the area is moderate. Mineral potential for oil and gas in this area is unknown. The western and eastern borders of this area contain exposures of the Revett formation, which currently is an exploration target for stratabound copper and silver mineralization. The 23 percent rated as having moderate potential are the acres in the Revett rocks. The low potential of the remaining 77 percent is due to lack of geologic criteria, but the area contains 194 mining claims. This roadless area contains 11,600 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Lost Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	7,100	0
Backcountry	11,600	2,400	9,700
GFRG	0	200	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,900	1,900
Total Acres	**11,600**	**11,600**	**11,600**

Magee #132

34,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Magee Roadless Area is located 32 air miles northeast of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. It is within Shoshone County and on the Fernan Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. It is paralleled by Trail 22, a National Recreational Trail. In addition, Trails 3, 56, 323, 404, 413, 416, and 418 complete access of the area.

The area consists of mountainous terrain with elevations ranging from 2,900 feet at the mouth of Independence Creek to 5,200 feet at Faset Peak. The study area is underlain by quartzites and argillities of the Precambrian Belt Supergroup. The lower members of the Belt--Prichard, Burke, Revett, and St. Regis--are present in limited amounts. The area is very highly faulted, with a general north-south trend apparent.

Large wildfires burned over most of the area in 1910 and 1926. Currently, second-growth coniferous vegetation dominates the north and east aspects, with grass and brush occupying most south and west slopes. Independence Creek-flows through the entire area and is characterized by a broad, flat valley bottom with many open grass parks along its lower reaches.

Semi-primitive motorized and nonmotorized recreation use, primarily in the form of dispersed camping, trail hiking, trail biking, hunting, and fishing in a natural setting along the open valley bottom and ridges, attracted an estimated 2,500 visitor days use in 1983. Access for recreation use is provided by road to top, bottom, and middle trailheads where camping and other activities disperse throughout the area over 36 miles of system trail.

The area supports big game populations of elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, and an occasional moose and cougar. The area does not provide habitat for any threatened or endangered species.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact from human activity in the area is moderate, consisting of 36 miles of system trail used by motorcycles, horse, and foot traffic.

Undeveloped Character: Topography of the area permits visitors engaged in activities at lower elevations of the drainage to feel they are in a natural setting away from human activities and development. Views of roads and logging activities can occasionally be seen from higher elevations of the area.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers moderate opportunities for solitude because of occasional sights and sounds of off- and on-site activities over roads bordering and trails within the area. The area is currently open to motorcycle use.

With the exception of access trails along Independence Creek and its tributaries, there are no facilities within the area for shelter or other conveniences. The area offers moderate opportunities to get away from man-influenced environments to experience such activities as camping, scenic viewing, hiking, big game hunting, and fishing.

Special Features: Approximately 3,900 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: The area encompasses portions of two larger watersheds. Boundaries are mostly well defined, being major roads or ridgetops; however, several system and non-system road intrusions into the area result in use of minor land features to designate the boundary in these areas, making it difficult to identify on the ground.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has established special fishing regulations for the upper Coeur d'Alene River to promote quality fishing. Independence Creek and its tributaries support a catchable resident cutthroat fishery. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife inhabitants include elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, and an occasional moose and cougar. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area includes backpacking, hiking, trail hiking, hunting, and fishing. No developed recreation facilities are planned.

Timber: The area has potential for timber resource development. Timber values present consist of 60 to 70 year age classes.

Range: The area is not suited for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential is low. Approximately 5 percent of this area has a very high mineral potential rating. This area is in the southwestern portions of the study area and is part of the Lakeview Mining District. Within this mining district are numerous old properties, several of which are still producing. The district supports one operating mill which used folation and vat leaching. The principal metal produced is silver. Fifty-five percent of the area has a medium mineral potential and the remaining 40 percent is low. Potential for the occurrence of oil and gas in the area is low due to lack of information. This roadless area contains 34,800 acres of low geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are approximately 50 acres of private ownership within the area.

Heritage: Remnants of an old wagon road, two rest stations associated with the wagon road, an old splash dam constructed at the turn of the century, and some hardrock mining exploration are contained in the area, but evidence of these few sites is historical and not readily evident.

Disturbances: The area has a low fire occurrence.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Magee Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	21,500	0
Backcountry	34,800	9,200	30,300
GFRG	0	200	600
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	3,900	3,900
Total Acres	**34,800**	**34,800**	**34,800**

Mallard - Larkins #300

129,400 Acres Idaho Panhandle
126,300 Acres Clearwater
255,700 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Mallard-Larkins Roadless Area extends west from the Bitterroot Mountain Range generally along the divide between the St. Joe River and the Clearwater River drainages. It is situated approximately 36 miles southeast of Avery, Idaho; 60 miles northeast of Orofino, Idaho; and 20 miles southwest of Superior, Montana. Mallard-Larkins is in Clearwater and Shoshone Counties on the Clearwater and Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

The area is generally accessible by moderate to low standard gravel and dirt roads. Access along the north side is provided from several dead-end roads extending south to and into the interior from the main St. Joe River Road and Road 320 from Red Ives Work Center east. Access to the east side is possible from the Pierce-Superior Road 250, the Fly Hill Road 720, and the Pot Mountain Ridge Road 715. Access to the south side is from numerous logging roads in the Cold Springs, Quartz, and Skull Creek drainages, and the North Fork Clearwater River Road 249. The southwest corner is accessed by the Dog Ridge Road 700.

Interior access, with some exceptions, is provided over a network of approximately 280 miles of low standard, fire control and administrative trails. Several trails into the more popular areas, such as the original Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area and along the upper St. Joe River, have been improved to some extent in recent years. The roadless area is large and complex, composed of generally steep, rocky ridges, and deep canyons. The taller major peaks include Mallard Peak (6,870 feet), Larkins Peak (6,661 feet), Crag Peak (6,879 feet), Heart Peak (6,870 feet), Black Mountain (7,077 feet), East Sister (7,043 feet), The Nub (6,924 feet), Cold Springs Peak (6,731 feet), and Five Lakes Butte (6,713 feet).

Flowing through the area are parts of three river systems and numerous large and small, fast moving but mostly crystal-clear streams. The three river systems include most of the headwaters of the St. Joe River, a large section of the Little North Fork of the Clearwater River, and the main North Fork of the Clearwater River. The North Fork passes through a small section above Dworshak Reservoir and borders several stretches of the area along the east and south sides. A major divide separates the Little North Fork and St. Joe Rivers from the land draining into the main North Fork of the Clearwater. Major streams draining into the Little North Fork include Sawtooth Creek, Canyon Creek, and Foehl Creek. Major streams draining into the main North Fork of the Clearwater include Isabella Creek, Collins Creek, Skull Creek, and Quartz Creek. There are 38 mountain lakes large enough to be named. Heart Lake, containing 35 acres, is the largest one.

Geologically, most of the area is underlain by metamorphosed rocks of the Precambrian Belt supergroup consisting of rocks from the Wallace Formation, Ravalli Group, and Prichard Formation. These units contain interbedded layers of quartzite, schists, and gneiss. The extreme southeastern portion contains some rocks of the Idaho batholith consisting mainly of granite. Much of the granite is rapidly decomposing (in geologic terms), resulting in very unstable landscapes with sensitive soil mantles. Exposed in the northwest one-third of the area are anthracites, gneisses, and schists which are older than the Belt supergroups.

Although there are numerous rock outcropings, talus slopes, and barren areas, a large proportion is heavily vegetated, ranging from mountain grasslands and meadows to dense mixtures of large varieties of trees and shrubs. Two vegetative ecosystems are present: a cedar-hemlock-pine forest at elevations generally below 6,000 feet and a western spruce-fir forest above 6,000 feet.

Approximately 80 percent of the land was burned over in 1910 and much of it again in 1919, 1920, and 1924. Where conditions are favorable, vast stands of lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, grand fir, Engelmann spruce, larch, western redcedar, western white pine, and mountain hemlock exist, some escaping the fires

but most regenerating afterwards. Where the soils are thin and conditions severe, such as on the higher ridges and steep south facing slopes, shrubs still dominate the sites. The lands above 6,000 feet are subalpine in character, supporting mountain hemlock, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine.

There are three major attractions: (1) the original Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area, which is a highly scenic area along the major divide between the Little North Fork and the main North Fork River systems. It contains a large concentration of high peaks and mountain lakes and is relatively accessible by a good trail system; (2) the Five Lakes Butte area along the upper northeast side of the roadless area bounded by the Fly Hill-Gospel Hill road. Its main attraction is the open mountain grasslands, barren ground, and a cluster of lakes within easy walking distance of each other; and (3) Elizabeth Lakes area in the southeast corner above the main North Fork of the Clearwater River. It also is composed of several mountain peaks and a cluster of eight small lakes, all within two miles of each other.

In addition to the above, fishing opportunities in the Little North Fork and Upper St. Joe Rivers are a major attraction. The St. Joe River is managed as a wild river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Wildlife, especially elk, deer, and mountain goats, attract numerous hunters each year. Miners are attracted to the area, especially in the St. Joe River drainage, as attested to by numerous current claims and past activity. Historic uses included mining, logging, and Forest Service administrative activities.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Visitors to the Mallard-Larkins area will probably not be aware of any improvements or alterations by man. Areas ranging from 5,000 to 20,000 acres exist which are undisturbed except by trails. However, the entire acreage does include a number of trails, roads, recreational facilities, special uses, historical sites, and mineral developments.

While there are large areas of undisturbed country, approximately 20 miles of road intrude into the area from six different locations. Except for a timber sale road in the Hidden-Fix Creek area, these roads are relatively primitive, accessing lookouts (some of which have since been removed) and mining claims. Timber harvesting activities past and present are found in many drainages adjacent to the area along the south and north boundaries.

Several developed recreational facilities and Forest Service lookouts can be found. A campground is maintained at Spruce Tree which has five campsites, a well, two outhouses, an information sign, and trailhead parking. Sawtooth Saddle has trailhead parking and an outhouse. Five lookouts which are still in usable condition sit on top of Snow Peak, Mallard Peak, Surveyor's Ridge, Black Mountain, and Hallow Mountain. The Mallard Peak Lookout has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The other lookouts are used by the Forest Service for fire suppression and communication purposes. In addition, abandoned lookout sites or evidence in the form of debris or concrete footings remain at many of these sites.

Two base camps and several historical cabins can also be found. St. Joe Lodge and Resort is operated seasonally by an outfitter-guide under a special use permit. The lodge is on the St. Joe River, five miles above the end of the road. Facilities include a cookhouse, bunkhouse, barn, outhouses, corrals, fences, and tent pads. Use occurs from July to November. Another outfitter-guide operation has a camp at Elk Prairie near Granite Peak. The only permanent improvements are a water tank and outhouse. The camp is in operation during the hunting season. Cabins and cabin-remains have been identified during archaeological examinations at Yankee Bar Creek, Neversweat Creek, California Creek, Broken Leg Creek, and Canyon Creek.

In the past, mining and mineral exploration have had some impact on the area's natural integrity. The most significant development is the garnet mine at Scat Creek Flat on the St. Joe River. Rusted mining equipment, a dredge pond, and old cabins have significantly altered the natural quality of the area. Hydraulic mining scars are found in the Mallard-Larkins area at California Creek, Yankee Bar Creek, and the North Fork of Bean Creek. A small, old sawmill with some associated logging was located near Bean

Creek. Mill operations were incidental to the mining activities early in the century. Almost all the evidence of the mill's existence is gone.

A claim in Marquette Creek was worked a number of years ago, with very little evidence remaining now. The open pit hardrock mining on Indian Henry Ridge is still very evident although it covers only a small area. In the past, grazing has taken place at many locations. Very little evidence of their use is noticeable. At present, a small number of stock are grazed by outfitters under special use permits. Screening, both by vegetation and topographic features, is very high. Overuse by visitors at some of the more popular lakes is evident.

Opportunities for Experience: Except for light traffic on the intruding roads and moderate to heavy traffic over the major adjacent roads, the area has a high degree of solitude. The varied terrain and the vastness of it enable the visitor to experience complete solitude in many areas. Concentrations of people around the lakes and along the major trails may tend to disrupt the solitude at certain times.

Viewing of activities outside the area, such as logging and roads, is possible from numerous high ridges along the northern and southern boundaries. Large scale logging activity is especially evident in the middle-ground-viewing area from the Black Mountain-Nub area and the Flat Mountain area. Most views, however, are background views and not overly distractive except at isolated points.

Noise may penetrate short distances in the vicinity of the two major roads bordering parts of the area: the Pierce-Superior Road (FS Road 250) and the Cedars-Red Ives Road (FS Roads 715 and 720). Noise from road building and logging activity could be evident near many fringe areas along all borders. Opportunities for solitude also vary by season. The access roads are blocked by snow from November to May, so use is extremely low. Hunting season brings many individuals to the area for a quality roadless hunt.

The Black Mountain Lookout is currently manned and serviced via helicopter, which detracts from the solitude in a small portion of the area. The lookout is approximately eight miles from the nearest road over a very steep trail.

Hiking, primitive camping, outdoor photography, lake and stream fishing, horseback riding, and to a very limited extent, mountain climbing opportunities are available. Except for the Five Lakes Butte area, cross-country travel is a definite challenge involving a certain degree of risk over the rugged terrain, steep narrow canyons, and densely vegetated slopes. There are no facilities to enhance comfort or convenience.

During high water runoff in May or June, there may be limited opportunities for rafting and kayaking on the Little North Fork, although access to the river is by trail and cross-country up to several miles. Also, once on the river, the user is committed for 12-15 miles until reaching the upper end of the Dworshak pool.

Special Features: The Mallard-Larkins Roadless Area supports one of the largest Rocky Mountain goat populations in northern Idaho. Mallard, Heart, Snow, and Isabella Peaks and Black Mountain offer unique viewing and photographing opportunities of these animals during the spring and summer months. The creatures will shy away at first but their curious nature brings them to inspect one's camp at close quarters once activities have ceased. The Snow Peak herd is used extensively for transplanting game by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. A limited number of goat-hunting permits are issued each year in several areas.

The historic past of this area is interesting. While little physical evidence remains, history buffs can retrace the steps of Indians, trappers, and early Forest Service employees over Pot Mountain Trail 169, along the North Fork of the Clearwater River, along the present Indian Henry Ridge Trail, and along the divide between the St. Joe and Clearwater River drainages. The overgrown scars of the early mining era are a tribute to the many hours of hand labor put in by the early settlers.

The Heritage Cedar Grove, which is a large stand of very large and old western cedar located near the junction of Elmer Creek and Jug Creek, is another attraction for visitors. Access is by trail two miles up Isabella Creek.

Existing special management areas have had a major influence on the protection and enhancement of this area. The Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area, which encompasses the Mallard-Larkins and Black Mountain-Nub Peak group of lakes and peaks, was designated by the Regional Forester in 1969 as a special administrative unit. The special area was set aside for its outstanding scenic, roadless, and primitive recreational qualities.

A 17 mile stretch of the St. Joe River is part of the National Wild and Scenic River system. The approximately 7,200 acres of river corridor within the Mallard-Larkins Roadless Area is designated as a wild river. Management of this area is directed by the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. An additional 3,900 acres have been identified as eligible for a Wild and Scenic River designation. A 300 acre Research Natural Areas exists in the Five Lakes Butte area and the Aquarius area on the North Fork of the Clearwater River.

Manageability: Although there are numerous intrusions mostly from dead-end logging, lookouts, and mining roads, the large size of the area effectively negates most of these effects. Present and expected future use over these roads is very low, further reducing potential effects. The roadless area boundary of Mallard-Larkins varies from major Forest roads to cross-county, undefinable lines. In general, it is bounded on the north and east sides by dirt roads, the west side by Forest boundaries, parts of the south and southeast side by relatively high use graveled roads and the rest by timber cutting boundaries and logging roads.

Of major consideration is the 14,460 acres of land belonging to Burlington Northern which lays in a checkerboard pattern running in a band diagonally northwest-southeast from the north boundary into the head of Collins Creek. The Forest Service has entered into a cooperative agreement with the land owners to coordinate and streamline all road building activity that crosses both Forest Service and private land.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Many of the 38 lakes contain fish, mostly cutthroat and rainbow trout. The rivers and larger streams support excellent trout fisheries. 'The Upper St. Joe River has been designated as a three-limit fishery, with a minimum length of 13 inches. This has tended to increase the size of the fish and provide a higher quality fishery. The lack of easy access has tended to perpetuate this type of quality fishery. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Elk and deer, primarily mule deer, are the most abundant big game animals. Other large animals include mountain goats (discussed previously), moose, black bears, and mountain lions. Region 1 sensitive species including fisher, wolverine, harlequin duck, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area. Approximately 41,300 acres of key big game (primarily elk) winter range have been identified.

Water: This roadless area contains 6,200 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Clustered ladyslipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*), Evergreen kittentail (*Synthyris platycarpa*), Deer-fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Constance's bittercress (*Cardamine constancei*), Sierra wood-fern (*Thelypteris nevadensis*), Light hookeria (*Hookeria lucens*), Chickweed monkeyflower (*Mimulus alsinoides*), and Bank monkeyflower (*Mimulus clivicola*) all sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Although there are numerous potential developed recreational sites, the actual construction of such sites is dependent on road access, funding, and need. Current and anticipated near future funding outlooks are very low in this respect.

Timber: Approximately 69 percent or 179,000 acres of the Mallard-Larkins Roadless Area is capable of producing timber. The potential yield of the area varies from low to high, considering the wide variety of

ecological factors that affect an area this large. The standing volume of sawtimber is estimated at 2,499,000 million board feet.

Range: With only about 3,600 acres of suitable livestock range, grazing is not a significant use. Most use is by outfitters and guides for horse and mule grazing during the summer and early fall.

Minerals and Energy: The mineral potential of the area ranges from low to moderate, with approximately 95 percent at the low end. The upper St. Joe River Valley was promising enough to attract many turn-of-the-century miners but no major developments resulted. Limited activity on the Clearwater side has likewise resulted in no current development. There are several copper occurrences near Granite Peak, and there is a potential aluminum deposit near Goat Mountain. Potential for oil and gas is low except for an estimated 69,000 acres of moderate potential in the St. Joe drainage. This roadless area contains 255,700 acres of high geothermal potential. The larger lakes within the original Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area and the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River Corridor are withdrawn from mineral entry.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area currently supports four separate outfitter and guide businesses. Most of the use is for big game hunters in the fall. The Burlington Northern Railroad Company owns intermingled land within the boundaries of this roadless area. Most of it occurs in a checkerboard pattern in the Canyon and Buck Creek drainages on the Idaho Panhandle Forests, with a minor amount of acres in the head of Collins Creek in the Clearwater Forest.

Heritage: Current known cultural resource sites includes 16 Forest Service lookout site locations, eight cabins or cabin remains, one hollowed-out cedar tree used for shelter, Pole Mountain Ranger Station location, six historic hunting/outfitter camps, two prehistoric usage areas, one mining site, and one trapping site.

Disturbances: Although there were a number of large fires in the early 1900s, current fire occurrence and size are low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Mallard Larkins Management Theme Idaho Panhandle	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	76,100	49,500
Primitive	0	4,000	0
Backcountry	129,400	36,600	46,200
GFRG	0	1,200	100
SAHTS	0	0	22,100
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	11,500	11,500
Total Acres	**129,400**	**129,400**	**129,400**

Mallard Larkins Management Theme Clearwater	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	65,800	59,400
Primitive	0	18,700	0
Backcountry	126,300	20,300	66,900
GFRG	0	21,500	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**126,300**	**126,300**	**126,300**

Mallard Larkins Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	141,900	108,900
Primitive	0	22,700	0
Backcountry	255,700	56,900	113,100
GFRG	0	22,700	100
SAHTS	0	0	22,100
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	11,500	11,500
Total Acres	**255,700**	**255,700**	**255,700**

Maple Peak #141

8,700 Acres Idaho Panhandle
6,500 Acres Lolo (Montana)
900 Acres Kootenai (Montana)
16,100 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Maple Peak Roadless Area is located about 10 miles north of Mullan, Idaho, in Shoshone County, Idaho, and Sanders County, Montana. This roadless area is shared by three National Forests: the Idaho Panhandle, Kootenai, and Lolo National Forests. Access to the Idaho side is gained by exiting 1-90 at Kingston, Idaho; traveling the paved Coeur d'Alene River Road to Prichard; then following Forest Highway 9 to the periphery of the area where access to the area is gained by trails. Access to the Montana side is gained by exiting State Highway 200 at the Thompson Pass road (maintained gravel road) which leads to trailhead access to the area.

Topographically, the area consists of an east-west ridge which crosses the drainages. Slopes are moderate, except near the State divide. Smaller drainages are wholly included. The boundary irregularly traverses ridges, streams, and cross slopes. Two small lakes are found within this area; neither is considered a significant fishery.

About 90 percent of the vegetation is a result of the 1910 fire which left large areas of brushfields and timber stands which are now pole-size lodgepole, Douglas-fir, larch, and white pine. Subalpine vegetation is found at the highest elevations.

Hunting big game during September and October is the current predominant use. The area also receives light use by berry pickers, hikers, and stream fishing enthusiasts. Most wildlife species found in northern Idaho also find habitat in this area. Unusual species include bobcat and lynx.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Impacts from human activity in the Maple Peak Roadless Area have resulted primarily from mining. This activity will probably continue into the future, further modifying the natural integrity.

Undeveloped Character: A person visiting this area would find it difficult to view any substantially large areas of natural appearing landscape.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude in the Maple Peak Roadless Area will be greatly influenced by the level of mining activity in the area on patented and unpatented claims. Private inholdings in the form of patented mining claims cover most of the lower elevations in Butte Gulch. The only opportunities for recreation associated with water are in Bear Gulch. An existing mining road accesses all of Bear Gulch, precluding any primitive recreation experience.

Opportunities for primitive recreation in the Maple Peak Roadless Area would primarily consist of hunting and hiking along the Idaho-Montana Divide, use of two alpine lakes, rock climbing, and cross-country travel. These opportunities are more prevalent in the Montana portion due to the absence of mining there.

Special Features: In 1904 the Idaho-Montana boundary was resurveyed. Rock cairns and chiseled rock mile markers can be found along the divide. In the 1930s the Maple Peak Lookout was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. This was removed in the mid-1950s. Some sources have suggested that much of the area is potentially suitable habitat for grizzly bear.

Manageability: Boundaries will be hard to manage, as they follow timber sale boundaries and roads.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Water from this area feeds into Big Beaver Creek, a well known fishery.

Wildlife: Most species found in northern Idaho are also found here. There is no habitat for threatened and endangered species. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 7,400 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use is light--mostly hunting. Light off-road vehicle use is present.

Timber: About 8,000 acres are tentatively suitable for timber management. Some of these suitable sites are now brushfields which may be costly to reforest.

Range: None.

Wildland Urban Interface. This roadless area contains 6,900 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential is high. There are several patented mining claims and 792 unpatented mining claims. Minerals have been and are currently being extracted. Most of the area is under oil and gas lease application. This roadless area contains 8,700 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: The number of fires occurring annually is small; the 1910 fire is an example of the potential for a periodic large fire.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Maple Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	8,700	4,500	8,700
GFRG	0	4,200	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**8,700**	**8,700**	**8,700**

Meadow Creek–Upper North Fork #302

6,000 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)
43,200 Acres Clearwater (Idaho)
7,200 Acres Lolo (Montana)
56,600 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork Roadless Area is situated on the Idaho-Montana border, approximately 40 air miles west of Missoula, Montana. The Idaho portion is located in parts of Clearwater and Shoshone Counties within the Clearwater and Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The Montana portion is in Mineral County within the Lolo National Forest.

Accessibility is provided from several directions. From the east, it is 16 miles from Superior, Montana, via Cedar Creek Road 320 or 24 miles via Pierce-Superior Road 250. From the northwest, it is 35 miles from Avery, Idaho, via St. Joe River Road 320. From the south, it is 100 miles from Orofino, Idaho, via Fly Hill Road 715 and Pot Mountain Ridge Road 720.

Interior access is provided over 54 miles of relatively low standard fire control and administrative trails. Because of funding and need, many trails are maintained intermittently and then just to keep them open. Cross-country travel is very difficult over most of the area because of rugged terrain and dense low vegetation. Access along the state line divide is easier over barren and sparse vegetation areas.

Topography changes from narrow, flat valley bottoms to very narrow, flat and U-shaped valleys at higher elevations. Sharp, rugged relief above 7,000 feet occurs along the Bitterroot Divide, which separates Idaho from Montana.

Several cirque basins containing four small lakes are also found near the divide. Two other small lakes are found at lower elevations. Topography becomes less steep in the North Fork of the Clearwater River drainage, dropping down to 3,800 feet in elevation where the river exits the area. Geologically, the area is composed of Belt Series bedrock which is made up of schists and gneiss. These rocks are generally more stable and less erosive than those within the batholith.

Two major river systems, the St. Joe and the North Fork of the Clearwater, start within the area. The streams in the Montana side drain into the Clark Fork River. Six lakes are found and all but one is within relatively short distance of the Bitterroot Divide.

The area contains three major vegetative ecosystems: (a) cedar-hemlock-pine forest encompassing the lower elevations in the North Fork of the Clearwater River and Meadow and Chamberlain Creeks, (b) western spruce-fir forest at the higher elevations up to 6,000 feet; and (c) alpine meadows and barren land in a band along the Bitterroot Divide above 6,000 feet.

Vegetation varies from carex and beargrass on high elevation south slopes to grand fir and western redcedar types at lower elevations. Large forest fires in the late 1800s and early 1900s had a major influence on the present vegetation, with much of the area being covered with even-aged stands of lodgepole pine averaging six to ten inches in diameter. Most of the area is reforested, with exception of south slopes having thin soils. Other species present include subalpine fir, western larch, mountain hemlock, grand fir, and some white bark pine.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Human activities have had a moderate impact, primarily in the St. Joe drainage, Upper Cedar Creek, and the head of the North Fork of the Clearwater River. Evidence remains of turn-of-the-century gold and silver placer and dredge mining activities. Rock tailing piles along streams, diversion ditches, cabins and remains of cabins, and access roads are the principal detractions, even though much of it has softened over the years through natural vegetation and erosion. Present day mining activities are more localized. A metal lookout tower is located on Illinois Peak. The majority of the rest of the area is

relatively free of human impacts; even the trails appear natural and some minor grazing up to 1970 may still by evident in the meadows around Chamberlain Basin.

Opportunities for Experience: The Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork Roadless Area provides a high opportunity for solitude because of its rectangular shape and large size encompassing over 49,000 acres. The area runs 14 miles north-south and 7 miles east-west. Screening because of broken and varied topography and dense vegetation is a big factor in reducing visual contact with others as well as minimizing noise levels and possibilities of observing discordant features outside the area. Encounters with visitors are most likely at the several larger accessible fishing lakes, the National Recreation Trail along the Bitterroot Divide, and within the St. Joe Wild River Corridor.

The boundary is nine miles from a major highway on the east side and is adjacent to the Pierce-Superior road on the south side. Sounds from logging activity near the periphery of the area have the potential of penetrating upwards to a mile into the roadless area. Sounds from mining activity inside the area also have the potential to be heard for a mile or so. Some very distant roads and timber harvest areas are visible in Montana and Idaho from the highest points along the Idaho-Montana Divide.

The opportunity for solitude also varies by season. Except for lower elevations in the North Fork, most land is inaccessible due to snow from November until July. Moderate to high use is experienced during elk hunting season in October. Because of the high degree of solitude, dispersed recreation occurring in primitive and semi-primitive settings are excellent. The only improvements are the access trails which provide opportunities for hiking and horseback riding.

Special Features: The evidence of early day mining activities and Native American use is a highlight in portions of the area. Approximately four miles (150 acres) of the headwaters of the St. Joe River have been classified a Wild River under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers act of 1968. Management of this corridor is directed by the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. Stateline Trail 730, which extends north from Hoodoo Pass along the Bitterroot Divide, has been designated as a National Recreational Trail. Because of the publicity these types of trails receive, visitors are increasing.

Manageability: Because of the relatively uniform rectangular shape of the area, external adverse effects are minimal. The isolated nature, as well as the relatively low standard roads and short season, also contribute to very low use, resulting in even less effect on the wilderness attributes. Existing roadless area boundaries follow low standard roads along the southern, western and northwestern sides and well defined ridges and creeks along most of the east side. Most of the boundary along the northeast boundary in Montana is poorly defined, following timber sale and other management activities.

Along the southern edge, a checkerboard pattern of Diamond International land occurs. Other ownerships are the result of patented mining claims in Caledonia and Niagra Creeks. The Rawhide Roadless Area, an area of 6,000 acres, is for all practical purposes contiguous to this area. The boundary between these two areas was established on the basis of the abandoned Rawhide Road, which provided the first road access to the Clearwater Forest over Hoodoo Pass. This road was replaced with the Pierce-Superior Road 250 in the early 1950s. Although evidence of the road remains in places, it is unusable except for a short stretch near the pass.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Most of the streams and lakes have a catchable size fish population, predominantly cutthroat and rainbow trout, with some mountain whitefish and brook trout. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife species include elk, lynx, moose, black bear, white-tail and mule deer, grouse, and numerous species of non-game birds and animals indigenous to conifer-covered mountains in north-central Idaho. Because of the elevations and heavy snowpack over much of the area during the winter, only a small percentage of the area is suitable for big game winter range.

Although sightings of the threatened grizzly bear have been reported a number of times over the years, no confirmed evidence have been presented. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Big game hunting, stream and lake fishing, hiking, backpacking, photography, scenic viewing, camping, prospecting, and horseback riding, all in primitive or undeveloped settings, are the primary attractions. Except in places along the Bitterroot Divide, cross-country travel is difficult because of dense vegetation.

Timber: About 36,000 acres, or 67 percent of the total net acreage, is considered suitable for the production of timber. The standing volume of sawtimber has been estimated at 579,900 million board feet. Much of the timber is immature, although there are pockets of larger old growth, especially in the North Fork Clearwater drainage.

Range: Livestock grazing potential is moderate, but limited primarily to small, open, mountain grasslands and meadows along some of the major creeks. Cattle were last grazed commercially in the early 1970s. Some commercial horse and mule grazing is permitted in conjunction with the one outfitter and guide operating in the area.

Minerals and Energy: Mining (placer and hardrock) has been an important use in the past and still continues to attract a lot of prospecting. The mineral potential, especially for silver and gold, is moderate in a large area encompassing Niagara, Vanderbilt, Chamberlain, and Meadow Creeks in the North Fork drainage and extending north into the upper St. Joe River basin and the Cedar Creek drainage in Montana. The remainder of the area has low potential. Oil and gas potential is considered low. This roadless area contains 6,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: With the exception of about 400 acres of patented mining claims in Niagara and Caledonia Creeks, approximately 4,300 acres of land in the lower North Fork is owned by Burlington Northern Company. Some logging has taken place within two of the sections within recent years and plans are to access and harvest timber in other sections. There is currently very little mining activity within the mining claims.

Heritage: Known cultural resources include three Forest Service lookout sites, five cabins or cabin remains, one Forest Service Ranger Station site, eight historic hunter or outfitter camps, one prehistoric camp and fishing site, three mining sites, and one Euro-American grave site. Indian trails existed along the present Pot Mountain Trail and several other areas. As noted previously, considerable early day mining has resulted in numerous sites and evidence of these activities. Historic evidence also indicates early Native Americans used selected sites along the Bitterroot Divide for killing game that crossed or were driven from one side to the other.

Disturbances: Fire history includes the large burns of 1889 and 1910. Advanced fire suppression has contributed to low numbers and acres of annual fires in recent years. Correspondingly, the volume of fire fuels is increasing especially in areas where insect and disease-killed timber is found.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork Management Theme Idaho Panhandle	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	100	0
Primitive	0	4,100	0
Backcountry	6,000	0	4,500
GFRG	0	300	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,500	1,500
Total Acres	**6,000**	**6,000**	**6,000**

Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork Management Theme Clearwater	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	43,200	42,800	43,200
GFRG	0	400	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**43,200**	**43,200**	**43,200**

Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork Management Theme Total - Idaho	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	100	0
Primitive	0	4,100	0
Backcountry	49,200	42,800	47,700
GFRG	0	700	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,500	1,500
Total Acres	**49,200**	**49,200**	**49,200**

Midget Peak #151

7,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Situated on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, the Midget Peak Roadless Area lies in Shoshone County approximately 22 air miles southeast of Avery. Idaho. A paved road, the St. Joe River Road, forms the eastern boundary and provides primary road access to the area. Several trails, including the Simmons Creek and Simmons Ridge systems, traverse the interior. A short quarter-mile road to the trailhead for the Simmons Creek Trail extends into the roadless area from the west.

Steep, rugged terrain with numerous rock outcrops, especially in the drainage bottoms, characterizes the topography of this triangular-shaped roadless area. Elevations range from 3,500 along the St. Joe River to over 6,000 feet along Simmons Ridge. Portions of several watersheds feed westward into the St. Joe River, with the most important being Simmons Creek.

The vegetation reflects past fire history. Fires in 1910, 1924, and 1931 burned most of the area leaving only scattered patches of older timber, with the largest component present in the Gold Creek drainage. In the burned portion, lodgepole pine predominates, with significant amounts of larch, Douglas-fir, grand fir, and subalpine fir intermixed in the canopy. Remnants of off-site ponderosa pine planted in 1939 occur at several locations along the St. Joe River corridor and Simmons Creek. Large acreages on the more exposed sites in the Simmons, Midget, and Slide Creek drainages still remain in a brushfield condition. Habitats through the area range from cedar series in the lower elevations to mountain hemlock or subalpine fir on the ridgelines.

Recreational use is concentrated along the eastern boundary of the area, which includes 800 acres of the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor. The Fly Flat Campground borders the Midget Peak Roadless Area along this stretch. Major use of the roadless area and trail system occurs seasonally during hunting season, with only sporadic use recorded by hikers, backpackers, packstock, and motorbike enthusiasts.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Impact from human activity in this area is low to moderate. Existing improvements include remains of a cabin and a lookout site (Pegleg Mountain) that have various debris associated with them. Eleven miles of Forest Service System Trails exist within the Midget Peak area. Several miles of temporary logging roads enter the area on the northeast side. These roads are revegetated but the roadcut is still evident. Approximately 350 acres of ponderosa pine, which is not natural to the area, were planted at several locations in the Midget Peak Roadless Area. The impact of this is extremely low since most visitors to the area would not recognize the tree as a non-native.

Undeveloped Character: The Midget Peak area is natural appearing due to a high level of visual screening by vegetation and topography. Logging activities outside the area can be seen occasionally.

Opportunities for Experience: The opportunity for solitude is moderate due to the small size of the area. Vegetation and topography provide screening from others, however, visitors from the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River Corridor may be encountered frequently and hunting season in October each year brings many people to the area. Hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and berry gathering are probably the main primitive recreation opportunities available in this area. No lakes, scenic views, or popular destination points exist that would strongly attract the camper or backpacker.

Special Features: Approximately 800 acres are within the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: The Midget Creek Roadless Area is bounded on the west side by the St. Joe River Road and on the north by Gold Ridge Road. The boundary on the east bas been drawn to exclude the existing activities and does not follow any identifiable topographic feature. This would be difficult to locate on the ground. There are approximately three miles of logging roads that intrude into the area. These roads access an existing cutting area below Pegleg Mountain.

There is also a small system of interconnected roads that access an old cutting area inside the north boundary. The boundaries could easily be adjusted to exclude these logged areas and roads. Other existing developments are all along the boundaries and include the developed campground at Fly Flat (outside the roadless area) and the cabin at Midget Creek used by the Idaho Fish and Game Department through a Special Use Permit. Since these uses are on the boundary they could be compatible with the roadless character of the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The St. Joe watershed through this area is managed under special regulations to promote quality fisheries, with Simmons Creek existing as an important spawning habitat. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Most animals found in northern Idaho are also found in this area; no habitat for threatened and endangered species exists. Elk, deer, moose, black bear, wolverine, fisher, and a variety of small mammals and birds inhabit the area. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has identified portions of the roadless area as quality elk habitat which the agency would prefer to remain roadless. Burning to promote habitat has occurred at several locations along the river corridor. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Horseback riding and fall elk hunting are the predominant recreation uses of this area. Current use is light due to the lack of attractions. Part of the area is managed under the St. Joe River Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. Recreation associated with the river corridor can be managed to protect the roadless character of the area.

Timber: The area suitable for timber management is 4,800 acres. The remaining area is unsuitable due to poor, rocky soils and other high elevation site factors. The timber is predominantly 6- to 10-inch lodgepole pine which occurs in contiguous even-aged stands. The trees were established after the wildfires in the area. Timber production potential is medium to high on the suitable acres. Potential for economical timber harvest is medium in today's market.

Minerals and Energy: Mineral potential for this area is low and no mining claims are known to exist. Oil and gas potential is low. Creeks in the area have potential for placer gold. This roadless area contains 7,200 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred in the area in the past, the number of fires occurring annually is low. Mountain pine beetle infestation in lodgepole pine stands is possible within the next 10 to 15 years.

ALTERNATIVES DESIGNATIONS

Midget Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	7,200	4,300	6,400
GFRG	0	2,100	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	800	800
Total Acres	**7,200**	**7,200**	**7,200**

Mosquito Fly #150

19,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Mosquito-Fly Roadless Area lies in Shoshone County approximately 20 air miles southeast of Avery, Idaho; on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area lies within the checkerboard landownership pattern, with Burlington Northern, Inc., owning the odd-numbered sections in the eastern two-thirds of the roadless area. Access to the roadless area is provided by the St. Joe River Road, a paved road which forms the eastern boundary, and the Beaver, Avery Timber Creek, and Junction Ridge Roads which form the remaining perimeter. A historical resource, the Old Montana Trail, follows the northwestern perimeter but lies abandoned along most of its route.

Steep, rugged terrain with sharp ridges dissected by several drainages marks the topography, with elevations rising sharply from 3,300 feet along the St. Joe River to over 6,500 feet along the ridgelines. Rock outcrops and shallow soils typify a large proportion of this roadless area. Three major tributaries--Mosquito, Fly, and Beaver Creeks--flow northeastward into the St. Joe River. Several major peaks, including Conrad Peak, Junction Peak, and Peggy Peak, are located within the area. Two small pond-like lakes--Twin Lakes--are situated along the western boundary at a major trailhead near Peggy Peak.

The 1910 fire burned a majority of the area, with a portion reburning in 1924. Scattered stands of old-growth timber are intermixed with partially stocked or non-stocked brushfields or immature stands of dominantly lodgepole pine, larch, or Douglas-fir. In 1940, portions of Beaver Creek were planted with ponderosa pine and cedar. Remnants of these plantations still exist. Habitats range greatly, with grand fir or Douglas-fir types on the more exposed slopes and cedar dominating the moister sites. Mountain hemlock and subalpine fir series dominate the higher elevations.

The eastern portion of the Mosquito-Fly Roadless Area, about 1,500 acres, is included within the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River Corridor under a recreational designation. Three improved campgrounds--Fly Flat, Conrad Crossing, and Beaver Creek--and several unimproved campsites border the roadless area in this section. Other unimproved campsites exist at other locations along the perimeter, with Twin Lakes being one of the more popular. A primitive road intrudes into the roadless area to access the eastern Twin Lake and nearby trailhead. The trail system is utilized by hikers, backpackers, horses, and motorbikes occasionally through the summer, with heavier use occurring during big game hunting season.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact from human activity in this area is extremely low. The only improvements are two lookout sites and one cabin that were used in the early part of the century. Little evidence remains of these features. Two heli-spots used for fire suppression have patches of timber cleared for safety. Thirty miles of National Forest System Trail provide the access within the Mosquito Fly area. These trails are primitive in character and do not adversely influence the area's natural integrity. Two minor developments exist along the area's perimeter. A recreation residence is located on private land on the Beaver Creek Road. An unimproved camping area and trailhead lies on the west side of the area at Twin Lakes. The only adverse impact of the camp area is 1/4 mile of primitive access road.

Undeveloped Character: Visitors to the area feel they are in a natural area. The topography is steep and dissected by many drainages, so screening by landforms is very high. The screening by vegetation is also high. Few outside activities would be visible from within the Mosquito Fly area.

Opportunities for Experience: The opportunity to experience solitude is high in the Mosquito Fly Roadless Area. Good visual screening by topography and vegetation is a factor in this, as well as the small amount of off-site intrusions. The further a visitor gets from the perimeter the greater the chance of solitude. Hunting season in October brings many people to the area, lowering the opportunity for solitude. Forest visitors can choose to hike or ride horseback on a wide selection of trails. Hunting, backpacking, nature study, scenery viewing, and fishing opportunities are also found in the area.

Manageability: The Mosquito Fly Roadless Area is bounded on the southwest by the Avery Tiber Creek Road. The northwest boundary partially follows a major ridge with a primitive road but skirts around existing roads and easements making this a difficult boundary to locate on the ground. The eastern boundary is the St. Joe River, with a road next to it. The southeast boundary follows the road along Beaver Creek. There are 5,700 acres of private land in a checkerboard pattern within this area. All 5,700 acres are owned by Burlington Northern Railroad Company. There are no patented mining claims within the area

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Mosquito, Fly, and Beaver Creeks contain important fisheries habitat. To promote a quality fisheries resource, the Idaho Fish and Game Department has adopted special regulations on the upper St. Joe River and its tributaries, including this area. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Big game, including elk, deer, moose, cougar, and black bear and a variety of other mammals and birds, make their homes in the area; however, it is the elk herd which draws public attention. Fisher, harlequin duck, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Fall elk hunting is the predominant recreation use.

Timber: The Mosquito Fly Roadless Area contains sites ranging from low to high in timber production potential, with the majority being rated medium. Roughly 35 percent of the area is considered unsuitable for commercial timber production due to high elevations and poorly developed soil. Mosquito Fly could sustain an annual average harvest of less than 1 million board feet.

Minerals and Energy: There are no mining claims located in this area and mineral potential is low. The oil and gas potential is low due to lack of information. This area contains about eight sections of private land. Creeks in the area have potential for placer gold. This roadless area contains 19,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are 5,700 acres of private land in a checkerboard pattern within this area. All 5,700 acres are owned by Burlington Northern Railroad Company.

Disturbances: Fire history includes the catastrophic burn of 1910. Advanced fire suppression has significantly reduced the number and acreage of annual fires over the years. Correspondingly, the amount of potential fire fuel is increasing annually. The lodgepole pine stands may be susceptible to a mountain pine beetle epidemic.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Mosquito Fly Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	19,400	12,400	17,900
GFRG	0	5,500	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,500	1,500
Total Acres	**19,400**	**19,400**	**19,400**

Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle

35,000 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)
23,400 Acres Kootenai (Idaho)
9,600 Acres Kootenai (Montana)
68,000 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle Roadless Area is located 13 miles northeast of Sandpoint, Idaho and nine miles southeast of Bonners Ferry, Idaho. The area is along the divide that separates the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The majority of this roadless area lies in the Bonner Ferry and Sandpoint Ranger Districts of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area runs north-south extending from North Creek in Boundary County to Benning Mountain in Bonner County. Of the 68,000 acres, approximately 58,400 acres are in Idaho. Access is provided by gravel roads in several drainages, particularly Raymond Creek, North Callahan Creek, Keeler Creek, Grouse Creek, and Boulder Creek, and high elevation access near Lunch Peak.

The Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle Roadless Area is long and narrow. It follows a ridge which is a watershed divide between the Pend Oreille and Kootenai River watersheds. Average width is four miles and length is approximately 14 miles. The highest peak is Mt. Pend Oreille, with an elevation of 6,755 feet. The lowest elevation within this roadless area is approximately 3,500 feet. The landtype was shaped by both continental and alpine glaciation. Six mountain lakes are included within this area. The disintegrating granitic rock and soil types found in this area make this area particularly prone to erosion and stream channel damage. Development along the boundaries has created irregular boundaries.

Most of this area is high alpine forest type with interspersed rocky and grassy openings near the ridgetops. Diversity of vegetative types is most pronounced near the high elevation ridgetops. Forest types include mixed conifer stands common to northern Idaho in the lower elevations and alpine fir, lodgepole pine, and an occasional whitebark pine in the highest elevations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Impacts from human activity in this area have been relatively minor. In the past, some hardrock mining exploration occurred, but evidence of these diggings has been reduced substantially by weathering processes. The Dougherty Mine is a well known mine located east of Mt. Pend Oreille and north of Lake Darling. Trails that are not maintained quickly become overgrown with trees and shrubs. The trails to existing lakes are maintained and receive use by backpackers and fishermen. This heavy use has caused some vegetative resource damage around the mountain lakes.

Opportunities for Experience: Since the area is narrow and encompasses a high ridge, people visiting can frequently view human activities and development near the periphery of this roadless area. Roads, timber harvest areas, and activities along Lake Pend Oreille are some of the activities viewed from this area.

The area possesses high opportunity for solitude because of its large size and diversity of topography. Some areas, such as the ridgetop trail, do offer views of man's activities. It possesses diversity in vegetation because of substantial difference in elevations. With the diversity in elevations, people are not normally concentrated in one area. The divide which is near the Montana-Idaho border attracts people because of its relatively high mountain peaks and vistas. The mountain lakes concentrate people because of the water attraction and fishery values. The periphery of this area can be accessed by numerous roads. The sounds from logging activity and roads near the periphery of the area have the potential of penetrating upwards to one mile inside the roadless area.

Special Features: The local population considers the roadless area as good bear country. The area contains grizzly bear habitat. There are patches of old-growth timber stands which have escaped the early 1900 forest fires. The 1,400 acre Hunt Girl Research Natural Area is located in the northwest quarter of this area. The hiking experience on a trail along a long, unbroken alpine ridge, with views of the Pend

Oreille Lake region, is the area's special feature. A 200 acre Special Interest Area is also located in this roadless area.

Manageability: This roadless area is a long, narrow roadless area. Boundaries are not well defined on major terrain or other features. Boundaries generally contour along steep hillsides to avoid roads and logging activities which are on the lower slopes. This roadless area has considerable variation in width along its long axis. The area becomes narrow at the headwaters of major drainages. Most of these drainages have road development or private lands up close to the main divide. Private lands are also incorporated within this roadless area boundary.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: A rare remnant population of pure strain native rainbow trout exists in the upper drainages of the Kootenai National Forest portion. Bull trout, sturgeon, burbot, inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Species include elk, moose, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer and grouse. This roadless are has a significant amount of habitat for the threatened grizzly bear. Wolverine, fisher, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: Water quality in the area is naturally susceptible to erosion. The disintegrating granitic rock and soil types found in this area make this area particularly prone to erosion and stream channel damage. The area contains five lakes with 50 acres of lake habitat. This roadless area contains 9,800 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Lance-leaved moonwort *(Botrychium lanceolatum var. lanceolatum)* and Mingan moonwort *(Botrychium mangenense)* two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: This area offers an opportunity for recreational activities around high mountain lakes. Topography within this roadless area is not unique to northern Idaho. Since this area is quite narrow it offers only limited challenges to the more experienced backpacker. Much of the terrain below the main divide has poor trail access. Hunting, fishing, camping, scenic viewing, hiking, and horseback riding are some of the recreational activities occurring within this roadless area.

Timber: The roadless area has about 27,000 acres of suitable timber with a standing volume of 537 million board feet. Suitable lands are along the lower elevations and in most cases, could be efficiently managed for timber. Portions of these suitable lands support old-growth, higher risk timber stands. Access to these stands can be gained by the extension of existing timber harvest roads in the immediate lower elevations.

Range: Sheep grazed this area prior to the 1960s; however, there are no sheep or cattle allotments at this time.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 6,500 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: All of the area has a medium mineral potential. There are several known mineral occurrences in the area, all of which are associated with the sills. Glacial deposits are fairly extensive in the area, making exploration difficult. There are presently 12 unpatented mining claims. The potential for oil and gas is low due to lack of information. This roadless area contains 35,000 acres of low geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are private lands incorporated within the roadless area boundary.

Heritage: The Idaho Panhandle National Forest has not been surveyed for cultural resources but surveys in similar areas on the Kootenai National Forest indicate low probabilities of discovery of cultural sites.

Disturbances: Although large fires occurred in the area in the early 1900s, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle Management Theme Idaho Panhandle	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	18,600	0
Backcountry	35,000	15,000	33,600
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,400	1,400
Total Acres	**35,000**	**35,000**	**35,000**

Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle Management Theme Kootenai	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	19,600	0
Backcountry	23,400	2,800	23,200
GFRG	0	800	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	200	200
Total Acres	**23,400**	**23,400**	**23,400**

Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	38,200	0
Backcountry	58,400	17,800	56,800
GFRG	0	800	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,600	1,600
Total Acres	**58,400**	**58,400**	**58,400**

North Fork #147

31,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The North Fork Roadless Area is located immediately northeast of Avery, Idaho, and 20 miles southeast of Wallace. Idaho. It lies entirely within Shoshone County on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Primary access includes the St. Joe River Road 218 and the North Fork Road 456. A poorly maintained secondary road constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps extends approximately three miles into the center of the roadless area at Shefoot Mountain. A network of trails, including the Nelson Ridge National Recreation Trail system, provides interior access.

The rectangular-shaped roadless area is an area of rugged, mountainous timberland. Elevations sharply rise from 2,800 feet on the North Fork and main St. Joe Rivers to 6,300 feet at Shefoot Mountain, the highest peak within the roadless area. Several major tributaries of the St. Joe, the North Fork, and Loop Creek drain the area, with the largest being Skookum Creek. Steep, incised draws typified by break land topography and numerous bedrock outcrops cover roughly half of the North Fork Roadless Area. Glacial topography is evidenced in the Shefoot Mountain area.

The 1910 fire and subsequent reburns created a patch-work of vegetative cover. A few islands of old growth which escaped the 1910 fire remain scattered throughout the roadless area, with the largest contained in the Skookum Creek drainage. A large portion of the southern one-third of the roadless area reburned in 1934 leaving large areas of non-stocked brushfields. Extensive stands of lodgepole pine occupy much of the remaining area as well as mixed stands of larch, Douglas-fir, and grand fir. Habitat types are Douglas-fir/ninebark, western hemlock/clintonia, and cedar/clintonia at the lower elevations, graduating to mountain hemlock/menziesia or beargrass at the higher elevations.

The area is best known for its prime elk habitat, having both key winter and summer ranges. It has been identified by the Department of Fish and Game as one of the five quality elk habitat areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest which they desire to have remain roadless for quality hunting experiences. A variety of other wildlife common to Northern Idaho also inhabit the roadless area. Other species of interest include goshawk, marten, bobcat, lynx, and pileated woodpecker.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact of past human activity in this area has been relatively minor even though those activities have been extensive. A system of existing roads nearly encircles the area. One road intrudes into the area for a distance of approximately three miles, providing access to Turkey Point and Shefoot Mountain. An extensive trail system, which includes 19 miles of the Nelson Ridge National Recreation Trail, provides access to most of the area. Much of this trail system has a long history of motorized use. One trail, between Shefoot Mountain and Big Dick Point, is actually a two-wheel track 4x4 road (such use is currently illegal but difficult to control). Several fire lookouts had been constructed within this area (Shefoot, Nelson, and Turner Peaks) but foundations are all that remain.

Undeveloped Character: The North Fork Roadless Area is large enough and the topography and vegetation are such that persons visiting the area feel that they are in a natural area away from ordinary human activity and development. Distant roads, timber harvest activities, and fire lookouts may be seen from the higher points within this area. The rugged cliffs and alpine meadows just north of Shefoot Mountain reinforce a feeling of naturalness.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers high opportunities for solitude. The 32,400 acres included occur in a slightly irregular shape that is approximately 8-1/2 miles long and 17 miles wide {at its widest point}. The eight principal drainages (of which Skookum Creek is the largest) that make up this area contain deeply dissected topography and vegetative cover which easily screen people from one another at short distances. Opportunities for primitive recreation experiences are moderately high. The size of this area, its relative diversity, and the absence of facilities contribute to the primitive character of the area. In

spite of the good access afforded by roads on the periphery and the trail system within the area, there are ample opportunities for big game hunting {elk, deer, bear, and mountain lion}, horseback riding, hiking, backpack camping, and scenic viewing.

Special Features: Approximately 900 acres on the southern boundary of the area are within the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River corridor. Two small campgrounds, Packsaddle and Turner Flat, are adjacent to the area on the river corridor.

Manageability: The North Fork Roadless Area is bounded on the west by the North Fork St. Joe Road No. 456, on the north by the Loop Creek Road No. 326, and on the south by the St. Joe River Road No. 218. These roads all follow prominent geographic features and are easy to locate on the ground. The east boundary follows various logging roads and trails in a meandering fashion, so it is somewhat difficult to locate on the ground. The road to Shefoot Mountain is primitive.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area's streams may provide spawning habitat for the St. Joe River, a portion of which is managed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game as quality trout water, including bull trout.

Wildlife: No threatened and endangered species habitat exists in this area. The high quality elk summer and winter range is the key wildlife value of this area. Extensive use of prescribed fire has improved big game winter range. Most animals found in northern Idaho are also found here. Harlequin duck, wolverine, fisher, flammulated owl, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: Mingan moonwort *(Botrychium mangenense),* Clustered lady'slipper *(Cypripedium fasciculatum)* and Bank monkeyflower *(Mimulus clivicola)* three sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: This area is heavily used in the fall by elk hunters and has the potential to provide for a significant portion of the demand for this type of recreation. Current use is limited by the number of developed sites along the periphery of the area.

Timber: About 25,000 acres of the area are classed as tentatively suitable; however, some of this land now supports brushfields. The existing stands are lodgepole or mixed species.

Range: Sheep grazing occurred prior to 1950; future use is not anticipated.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 400 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The principal bedrock is the metamorphic equivalent of the Wallace formation; the overlying Striped Peak formation is found only in the southwest quarter of the area. The northeast third of the area has moderate mineral potential; the remainder of the area has low potential. This roadless area contains 14,400 acres of medium and 17,000 of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Annual fire occurrence is low; periodic large fires have occurred.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

North Fork Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	11,700	0
Backcountry	31,400	18,500	30,500
GFRG	0	300	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	900	900
Total Acres	**31,400**	**31,400**	**31,400**

Packsaddle #155

19,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Packsaddle Roadless Area is located approximately 14 miles southeast of Sandpoint, Idaho, and seven miles southwest of Clark Fork, Idaho. It lies from two to four miles east of the southern end of Lake Pend Oreille. This area is within Bonner County and is on the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

This area is approximately 11 miles long and averages no more than two miles wide. The boundaries are irregular, with fingers of roaded and logged areas protruding towards the interior of it. This area includes Packsaddle Mountain (6,402 feet), a prominent peak within the area. Alpine glaciation occurred on Packsaddle Mountain, but the remaining roadless area's landform was shaped by continental glaciation. Topography changes from 2,600 feet to 6,400 feet. Major drainages include Branch North Gold Creek, Falls Creek, and Granite Creek. Numerous other smaller drainages originate within this area and eventually drain into Lake Pend Oreille. No mountain lakes are found within this roadless area.

Forest types include mixed conifer stands which are common in the lower elevations of northern Idaho. Only the highest elevations support alpine fir, lodgepole pine, and Englemann spruce. Dry southwest exposures on the lower elevations are winter range for deer and elk. Most of the timber stands average 70-90 years old. Boulder fields interspersed with subalpine fir forest, beargrass meadows, and huckleberry and menziesia openings form the landscape in the upper reaches of Packsaddle Mountain.

Roadless recreation use in a natural setting is the main value people associate with this area. Packsaddle, as well as many high ridges within the area, offer scenic views of Lake Pend Oreille. A number of foot trails can be found within this area. The diversity of terrain and vegetation also enhances the scenic quality of this area. Other recreational uses within this area include hunting, fishing, and berry picking.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: There bas been considerable impact from human activity in this area. Evidence relating to mineral exploration can be found scattered throughout much of this area. Horse trails were constructed into the area in the early 1930s to provide access primarily for fire control. Approximately 160 acres of private land are located within the roadless area in the headwaters of Canyon Creek.

Undeveloped Character: The irregular boundary with a number of developed area inclusions and the relatively gentle topography tend to make individuals visiting the area feel they are not in a natural area away from ordinary human activities and development. Lake Pend Oreille, with its many boating recreationists, is middle-ground viewing. Logging roads and timber harvesting areas are visible from most of the ridges within this roadless area.

Opportunities for Experience: The Packsaddle Roadless Area possesses very little opportunity for solitude because of its narrow width and location with respect to logged over areas. The topography is not unique to northern Idaho. The southwest boundary is near the small town of Lakeview and adjoins private lands. Sounds from logging and recreational activities have the potential of penetrating throughout most of this roadless area. This area offers only limited challenge to the visitor because of its size and lack of rugged topography. It is known in northern Idaho as a popular elk hunting area. The trails within this area are used occasionally by hikers and horseback riders. Visitors can experience views of Lake Pend Oreille Lake from many of the ridgetops.

Special Features: It is a relatively long travel distance by dirt road to reach the borders of this roadless area, contributing to this area receiving less use than other roadless areas on the Sandpoint District.

Manageability: Boundaries are not well defined on major terrain or other recognized features. Access to this area requires long travel on a dirt road.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The larger streams do support catchable size fish populations, including bull trout. Granite Creek and Gold Creek are considered important fish spawning areas for Lake Pend Oreille.

Wildlife: Wildlife inhabitants include elk, moose, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, and grouse. The area also includes portions of elk winter range habitat. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 19,300 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area is primarily hiking along a number of trails within this area. Trails leading to Packsaddle Mountain allow viewing of Lake Pend Oreille and the surrounding hillsides. Other recreation uses within this area include berry picking, fishing in the larger creeks, hunting, and primitive camping. Potential for additional developed recreation facilities is highly dependent on road access developed by timber harvest activities.

Timber: Approximately 11,500 acres of the timberlands within this area have high to medium timber production potential. About 50 percent of the timbered lands below 4,500 feet have evidence of root rot disease.

Range: Cattle and sheep have not used the Packsaddle Roadless Area in recent years.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 4,600 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Four percent and three percent of the area are rated very high and high mineral potential, respectively. The remaining 93 percent has a moderate rating. There are 130 mining claims within this roadless area. Exploration is always ongoing in this area. The geologic environment is the same as the Lakeview Mining District, which is immediately south of Packsaddle Mountain. The Lakeview Mining District is presently active, with a small open pit and underground silver mine and a float and cyanide leach mill. The Gold Creek quartzite is being presently evaluated for the production of high grade silica for manufacturing plate glass. The Lakeview Limestone was once a producer of cement grade limestone. Oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 19,300 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Packsaddle Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	19,300	9,400	19,300
GFRG	0	9,900	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**19,300**	**19,300**	**19,300**

Pinchot Butte #149

8,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Pinchot Butte Roadless Area is located approximately 36 miles southeast of St. Maries, Idaho. The area is in Shoshone County, Idaho, on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area lies along the south side of the divide between the North Fork of the Clearwater River and the St. Joe River. Pinchot Butte is the highest point in the area with an elevation of 5,995 feet. The lowest point in the area is approximately 3,400 feet in Floodwood Creek on the southern boundary. The entire area drains into the Little North Fork of the Clearwater River. Topography is characterized by narrow ridges which drop off into steep, narrow draws. Several areas of rock outcrops appear along the slopes of Pinchot Butte and the tops of ridges. This roadless area has very complex geology and structure. The area is highly folded and faulted with numerous intrusions of granitic igneous rock. Contact metamorphism from the igneous rocks has altered the surrounding sediments to schists, quartzites, and garnetiferous amphibolites.

Vegetation in the area is composed of overmature, scattered hemlock and alpine fir interspersed with brushfields. Northerly and easterly facing slopes include denser patches of timber. Vegetation in the area has been influenced by fires which burned over toe area in 1910 and again in 1923, Pinchot Marsh, a high elevation wetland, is a unique area characterized by wetlands vegetation.

The area receives little recreational use because of its relative remoteness from population centers and lack of access routes into the interior of the roadless area. Some fall big game hunting does occur and sightseers, hikers, and berry pickers utilize fringe areas from roads which form the north and west boundaries.

Wildlife species found in the area are those common to the region and include elk, whitetail deer, black bear, mule deer, grouse, and numerous species of non-game animals and birds. Streams in the area are marginal recreational fisheries, although some spawning may occur.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Developments in the area are few; however, a road was at one time constructed from Crater Peak along the northern boundary south to the vicinity of Pinchot Butte. A road was also constructed from the south toward Pinchot Butte. It was planned to connect these to provide fire control access. The road was never completed and has since been closed to traffic. Although the road was constructed to a low standard, it virtually bisects the roadless area.

Undeveloped Character: Timber harvest areas and associated roads outside the roadless area are visible from the high ridge that forms the northern boundary of the area. These timber activities are also visible from Pinchot Butte. The road which bisects the area is an obvious sign of past human activity; however, it only has an effect from immediately upon or adjacent to its location.

Opportunities for Experience: The area is approximately four miles long north to south and five miles across. Topography and vegetation provide screening which separates visitors from one another in short distances over most of the area. Some ridges are open. Opportunities for solitude are enhanced by the very light visitor use the area receives. Sounds from logging activity south and east of the area are, at times, obvious from within the area. There are no developed recreation facilities within the area. The area provided the opportunity to participate in such activities as fishing, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and camping.

Special Features: The area contains a large wet area known as Pinchot Marsh. The marsh is an outstanding high elevation wet meadow/sedge marsh/sphagnum bog area. The marsh has a number of interesting plant species, possibly including carex species that are rare in Idaho.

Manageability: The northern and western boundaries of the area are well defined by roads which generally follow major ridge lines. The remaining boundary is difficult to locate on the ground because it

generally does not follow any identifiable topographic features. These lines are generally located to avoid development activities.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Cutthroat trout may be found in the West Fork of Floodwood Creek. Fishing is limited because of a lack of any significant streams. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife inhabitants include elk, black bear, whitetail deer, and mule deer, as well as a variety of small and non-game species. The area provides important summer range for elk and is important security area during the hunting seasons. There are no threatened or endangered species occupying the area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area is low, limited primarily to some fall big game hunting. Sightseers and berry pickers utilize the roads adjacent to the area.

Timber: Approximately 5,900 acres of the area are estimated as tentatively suitable for timber production.

Range: Cattle or sheep have not used the Pinchot Butte area in recent years.

Minerals and Energy: Mineral potential in the area is categorized as low for hardrock minerals and oil and gas. This roadless area contains 8,500 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number and size of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Pinchot Butte Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	8,500	8,500	8,500
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**8,500**	**8,500**	**8,500**

Roland Point #146

6,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Roland Point Roadless Area is located on the south side of the Idaho Montana border about six air miles southeast of Mullan, Idaho, and 10 air miles north of Avery, Idaho. The area lies within Shoshone County on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The roughly triangle-shaped roadless area rises in elevation from 3,400 feet on the North Fork of the St. Joe River to over 6,500 feet on the Bitterroot Divide. Terrain is precipitous, with generally steep, rocky slopes. Streams flow southward into the St. Joe River system.

About 265 acres of patented mining claims are contained within the roadless area. Bonneville Power Administration tower access roads, and the Bullion Creek, Loop Creek, and Cliff Creek Roads provide motorized access to the western, eastern, and southern boundaries. Low standard mining roads, the State Line Trail, and Triangle Peak Trail offer interior access.

Existing vegetation resulted from the 1910 and successive fires which consumed the entire roadless area. Extensive non-stocked brushfields remain on the more exposed southern aspects, with immature sapling or small sawtimber stands of mixed composition on the cooler north aspects. Additionally, portions of the area were planted with off-site ponderosa pine or western white pine. Little old-growth timber remains anywhere within the roadless area. The Bitterroot Divide is characterized by open subalpine vegetation. Habitat varies from cedar/clintonia at the lower elevations to mountain hemlock or subalpine fir types on the higher slopes.

The roadless area receives only light recreational use, with primary activity throughout the roadless area centering on big game hunting. Pleasure driving with motorbikes and 4-wheel-drive vehicles also occurs on existing mining roads and maintained trails. Hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and other activities remain limited.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact of past human activity in this area is moderate. Mining activity first began in the early 1900s. Nearly 265 acres are patented and under private ownership. Several companies have leased a number of patents and some are currently carrying out exploratory operations. There are numerous unpatented claims scattered throughout the planning area. There is a road accessing the Lucky Swede Mine. An existing trial accesses Triangle Peak and the State Line. Existing roads completely encircle the area.

Undeveloped Character: The Roland Point Roadless Area does not lend itself to the solitude normally attributed to natural or wilderness areas because of the topography. The Bonneville Power Administration powerline and surrounding roads and activity become dominant features of the landscape. The Milwaukee Road Railroad, which is now abandoned, is visible.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers little opportunity for solitude because of its size and surrounding developments. There is little in terms of topographic or vegetative screening. The distance from its core to the perimeter is two miles from east to west and less than one and one-half miles from north to south. Frazier Creek is the only well defined creek which would screen any of the surrounding intrusions. Human use is concentrated along the surrounding road system. Opportunities for primitive recreation experiences are greatly limited. With much of the area having similar topographic and vegetative features, there is little diversity of recreation opportunities. Primitive recreation experiences are further limited by motorized use of the trail and road intruding into the area. Opportunities do exist for big game and hunting (elk, deer, bear, and mountain lion), while horseback riding, hiking, and backpacking experiences are limited.

Special Features: A high percentage of the Roland Point Roadless Area was influenced by the 1910 fire. Eight firefighters perished inside the Bullion Mine just outside the boundary of the roadless area where

they had taken refuge from the fire. They were eventually burled in the Wallace Cemetery. Vegetative conditions which developed as a result of that fire have created the sort of habitat which is ideal for big game species. There is a high level of public interest in roadless elk hunting, as evidenced by the survival of a commercial outfitter/guide operation in this general area.

Manageability: Existing boundaries are well defined. The southern, western, and eastern boundaries do not follow topographic features but, rather, are located so that roads and powerline corridors would not be incorporated within the boundaries. Approximately four percent of the area is in private ownership under patented mining claims. There is active exploration being carried out at three locations within the area boundary. The road accessing the Lucky Swede Mine is being used for this activity. Additional road construction will continue to be required for access to future drill sites.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The lower two-mile reach of Lucky Swede Creek is considered an important fisheries stream.

Wildlife: The area serves as big game summer and winter range for elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, and black bear. Other game and non-game species common to northern Idaho and western Montana also populate the roadless area. It is the elk herd existing in this general area which catches public attention. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Elk hunting and driving on old mining roads are the predominant recreation uses of this area. Current use is light.

Timber: The area contains 5,300 acres of suitable timberland supporting 44 million board feet of timber. The low volume reflects the fact that much of the suitable acreage is presently poorly stocked brushfield.

Range: Neither cattle nor sheep have used the area since the 1930s.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area is underlain primarily by argillites and quartzites of the Wallace Formation, a unit of the Precambrian Belt Supergroup. This roadless area contains 6,500 acres of low geothermal potential. One percent of the roadless area is rated as having very high mineral potential and the remaining percent as high. The area has 202 unpatented mining claims and 265 acres of patented mining claims. There are many prospects in the area and exploration is ongoing, with a current diamond drilling project underway. There are no gas and oil lease applications on file in the area.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Roland Point Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	6,500	1,300	6,500
GFRG	0	5,200	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**6,500**	**6,500**	**6,500**

Saddle Mountain #154

7,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Saddle Mountain Roadless Area is located in the northwest corner of the Bonners Ferry Ranger District on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest in Boundary County. The area is accessed by forest roads originating in the Smith Creek and Boundary Creek drainages. The interior may be accessed by traveling one of several trails which traverse this area.

The area is narrow and somewhat rectangular in shape, occupying the ridge between Grass and Cow Creeks. Prominent features are Saddle Mountain (6,983 feet) and Silver Mountain (6,555 feet). Three small lakes are found in this area. Slopes from the ridge to stream bottoms are moderate to steep. Approximately 3,000 acres were burned in 1967. The area is densely forested with cedar, spruce, hemlock, larch, white pine, and subalpine fir. Some old-growth timber is present. Recreation use of the area is light. Hunting is the major use.

One grazing allotment uses part of the transitory range created by the Trapper Peak fire. The area is habitat for grizzly bear and mountain caribou, an endangered species. The gray wolf may also be present. Most wildlife species found in northern Idaho are found in this area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The southern end and eastern third of this area were impacted by the Trapper Peak fire. Evidence of dozer fireline construction and salvage logging operations are plainly evident today. Roads and recently logged areas form the periphery of almost this entire roadless area. Evidence of human activity within the northern half of the area is limited to an old steel lookout tower.

Undeveloped Character: At its widest point this area is 2 1/2 miles wide; consequently, roads and clearcuts are visible from many locations in the area.

Opportunities for Experience: This is a long, narrow roadless area. Much of it is timbered, making one feel immersed in the forest. However, a sense of solitude may be difficult to achieve since there is not much topographic screening available and not much distance between user and activity. The area offers a long, high elevation ridge suitable for hiking, hunting, and berry picking. There are three small mountain lakes at the headwaters of the major streams draining the area that provide camping area.

Special Features: All of the area is in grizzly bear and mountain caribou habitat.

Manageability: Boundaries for this area are not well defined except where they fall on roads because, for the most part, the boundaries are mid-slope.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout, burbot, inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area is situated in habitat for the only endangered resident caribou in the lower 48 states and for the threatened grizzly bear. Use by grizzlies has recently been recorded, while caribou may have historically used the area. The area contains habitat to support a recovered population for both animals. Most animals found in northern Idaho are also found here. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: Krushea *(Streptopus streptopoides)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: The area use is now light; potential exists for hunting, day hikes, and overnight trips.

Timber: About 5,500 acres of this area are classed as tentatively suitable for timber management.

Range: One small allotment uses the transitory range created by the Trapper Peak fire.

Minerals and Energy: The entire area has a low mineral potential. There are no mining claims in the area. The Bonneville Power Administration has identified a potential east-west powerline corridor that may cross southern portions of this area. This roadless area contains 7,800 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Annual fire occurrence is low; periodic large fires have occurred in the past.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Saddle Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	7,800	7,800	7,800
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**7,800**	**7,800**	**7,800**

Salmo-Priest #981

20,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Salmo-Priest Roadless Area is located entirely within Boundary County, Idaho, in the immediate far northwest corner of the County and State. The area is approximately 45 miles north of Priest River, Idaho. Primary access is gained by traveling State Highway 57 north from Priest River until the pavement end, at Nordman. Travel continues on Forest Road 1013 which leads, to a number of trailheads. The interior is accessed via a number of veil maintained trails.

The Salmo-Priest Roadless Area consists of significant portions of the west slope of the Upper Priest River drainage. Terrain, for the most part, is very steep and faces east-southeast. Continental glaciation has shaped most of this area. The Upper Priest River and the upper portions of several tributaries are within the area. A small portion of the Salmo River is also included.

The area contains a wide variety of vegetation, ranging from near alpine on Snowy Top to lush old-growth cedar/hemlock along the river. Portions near Kaniksu Mountain were burned in 1967. A large mid-elevation meadow, Hughes Meadow, is also part of this variety. Avalanche activity maintains significant brushfields as well.

The river is considered significant spawning and rearing habitat for large cutthroat and Dolly Varden trout from the Priest Lakes; the river is closed to fishing to protect this habitat. Current recreation use is light to moderate and consists of summer hiking along the ridge trail or the river trail.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact of human activity in this area has been light and consists of trails, a lookout on Little Snowy Top, and off-site views into the surrounding area which has been roaded and logged. Most of the viewing is background and should not disturb most visitors. Noises from outside the area may be heard occasionally.

Undeveloped Character: The Salmo-Priest Roadless Area has had little internal disturbance and is large enough that outside disturbances do not detract from a natural appearance.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers a moderate to high degree of solitude. Primitive recreation opportunities are available due to the large size of this area. In addition to size, the heavy vegetation and the river valley screen the noises and sights of civilization. Opportunities exist for extended trips over rugged terrain with moderate challenge.

Special Features: This area contains a number of unique features. This is the only area within the continental U.S. where caribou are current residents. Grizzly bear also currently use this area. Hughes Meadow has long been noted as grizzly bear spring range. About 4,900 acres of the Upper Priest River are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor. Upper Priest Falls are found within this area. A 800 acre Research Natural Area representing alpine types is located on Snowy Top. Many streams provide habitat for adfluvial trout from the Priest Lakes.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Important trout rearing habitat is also present. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Gray wolf, grizzly bear, lynx, caribou, harlequin duck, wolverine, and fisher occur in this roadless area. In addition to many other species bobcat is likely to be present. Considerable old-growth habitat is available.

Botanical: Swamp willow-weed *(Epilobium palustre),* Krushea *(Streptopus streptopoides),* and Braun's sword-fern *(Polystichum braunii)* three sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area

Recreation: The primary current recreation use is hiking and backpacking in the summer. Capacity for more use exists but increasing use may be limited in order to limit disturbance to caribou and grizzly bear.

Timber: The area contains a significant existing volume of mature sawtimber. Site productivity is moderate to high on moist-well drained, productive soils. The suitable timberland of 14,400 acres has an estimated standing volume of 190 million board feet of timber.

Range: None.

Minerals and Energy: The mineral potential is low; oil and gas lease applications do not exist. This roadless area contains 19,200 of medium and 800 of low acres of high geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Annual fire occurrence is low; periods between catastrophic fires are long.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Salmo/Priest Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	13,500	14,300
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	20,000	800	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	5,700	5,700
Total Acres	**20,000**	**20,000**	**20,000**

Schafer Peak #160

5,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Schafer Peak Roadless Area is located 10 miles southeast of Sandpoint, Idaho, along the southern edge of Lake Pend Oreille. It is within Bonner County on the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle Rational Forests. The area is accessible on the north and east boundaries by boat and by the Johnson Creek Road along the southern ridge boundary. This long and narrow-shaped roadless area has about 10 miles of lakeshore.

From the waterfront, slopes rise sharply above the lake. Schafer Peak and Green Monarch Mountain are the dominant geographic features. Topography changes from 2,100 feet at the lake surface to 5,000 feet at the top of Schafer Peak. The roadless boundary follows just south of the main ridge overlooking Pend Oreille Lake. A dense timber canopy common to the lower elevations of northern Idaho covers almost all of the area. A few alpine fir and lodgepole pine can be found near the top of the highest mountains.

The area is known locally as the Green Monarchs and is considered a highly visually-sensitive area for the boating and fishing public using the lake. This area is also viewed from Highway 200 near Hope, Idaho. Activities primarily revolve around the use of Schafer Peak Trail 69 which follows along the top of the main ridge. This trail is a popular hiking and horseback riding trail which offers outstanding views of Lake Pend Oreille. Most of the beach frontage is rocky and unsuitable for development of boat docking and camping facilities. Approximately two miles of this shoreline in the Kilroy Bay area is privately owned. Other private lands within the interior of this area are located near Kilroy Lakes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact from human activity in most of this area has been very minor. Slopes from the top of the ridge down to the lake are generally very steep and support dense vegetation. Foot travel across these steep slopes without established trails is very difficult; therefore, evidence of man is quite limited. The Kilroy Bay area and the Kilroy Lakes area are on more gentle terrain and these areas possess evidence of man's activities. Some hardrock mining exploration occurred within this roadless areas evidence of these mining sites is found mostly on private lands. Some trails were constructed into and through the area in the 1930s to provide access primarily for fire control.

Undeveloped Character: This area is narrow so that individuals visiting the area feel that they are not in a natural area away from the ordinary human activities and development. Pend Oreille Lake and the associated recreational activities are an integral part of this lakeshore roadless area. The communities of Hope and East Hope, Highway 200, and housing developments around the lake are also within view.

Opportunities for Experience: The Schafer Peak Roadless Area provides very few opportunities for solitude because of its long, narrow shape and because of its integral part of a high-use recreational lake. Visitors to the area tend to be concentrated on the very few miles of foot trails. Topography is not highly dissected; therefore, people do not tend to be screened from one another in short distances. The heavily vegetated steep sideslopes over most of the area tend to congregate users along the flatter ridgetop near Kilroy Lakes and Kilroy Bay. This area offers very little variety of topography to challenge a visitor. Kilroy Creek is the only drainage of any significant size. Kilroy Lakes do not support fish but do offer unique boggy areas which support unusual plant species. A few scattered camping and picnicking areas which have access only by boat are located along the lakeshore. Schafer Peak Trail 68 is used by hikers and horseback riders. This roadless area is known locally as a security area for elk during hunting season. The cliffs between Kilroy Bay and Indian Point are habitat for mountain goats which are often observed by boating recreationists. Osprey and bald eagles can also be seen along this lakeshore.

Special Features: The early 1900 fires burned over a vast majority of this area which now supports a dense stand of mixed conifer species approximately 70-80 years old. An occasional old-growth tree which escaped these major fires can be seen protruding above the otherwise uniform stand canopy. Some steep

rock cliff formations can be observed adjacent to the lake. Many recreational boaters follow along the lakeshore 'to observe wildlife within the roadless area.

Manageability: This area is long and narrow, with its widest point being only 2-1/2 miles wide. The boundaries other than the lakeshore are not on well defined major terrain or other recognized features. The southern boundary could be placed along the main ridgetop, but this would make this roadless area even narrower.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The roadless area has no large streams with fisheries values.

Wildlife: Wildlife includes elk, moose, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, mountain goats, and grouse. Osprey nest are near the lake. Occasionally, a bald eagle can be seen along the lakeshore in the roadless area where they migrate to the area during November and feed on spawned out kokanee salmon and waterfowl. The area is a key security area for elk which are heavily hunted in the Lakeview area. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 5,900 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area is primarily hiking or horseback riding along the Schafer Peak trail on the ridge, viewing from Lake Pend Oreille, or biking near the Kilroy Lakes. A few scattered camping and picnicking areas which have access only by boat are located along the lakeshore.

Timber: About 3,900 acres of the area are estimated as tentatively suitable for timber production; however, the steep slopes facing directly into Lake Pend Oreille, the rugged nature of this terrain, and the visual constraints associated with viewing from the lake would make harvest costly and of concern to lake residents and recreationists.

Range: Cattle and sheep have not used the Schafer Peak area in recent years.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,900 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: All of this area has a moderate hardrock mineral potential. There are presently 66 unpatented mining claims located in this roadless area and several vein-type copper occurrences. These copper occurrences are in the Revett Formation and may be an indication of Troy-type stratabound deposits. Oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 5,900 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Large fires have occurred in the area, but the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Schafer Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	5,900	5,100	5,500
GFRG	0	800	400
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**5,900**	**5,900**	**5,900**

Scotchman Peaks #662

19,800 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)
600 Acres Kootenai (Idaho)
12,300 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Montana)
53,800 Acres Kootenai (Montana)
86,500 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Scotchman Peaks Roadless area is located in the southwest corner of the Kootenai National Forest in western Lincoln and Sanders Counties, Montana, and northeast Bonner County, Idaho, situated on the Idaho-Montana border between the Kootenai and Clark Fork Rivers. The majority of the roadless area is in Montana; however 20,400 acres are in Idaho, on both the Idaho Panhandle National Forest and a small piece on the Kootenai National Forest. Access to the area is provided by State Highways 200 and 56 leading to several trails, particularly the Ross Creek Trail in the mid-portion and onto Pellick Ridge in the southeast corner. Trails are also present in Star and Napoleon Gulches, leading to Squaw Peek on Pellick Ridge and in Spar and Cub Creeks on the northern tip. On the Idaho side, a few trails provide access into the area. The area is surrounded by forest developments such as roads and clearcuts, particularly in the northern portion and by private lands along State Highways 56 and 200.

Discussions of geography, topography, and vegetation invariably include descriptions of the area's rugged alpine scenery left by glaciers. Perhaps some of the most classic examples of glacial cirques found in the region dominate the upper reaches of Ross Creek. Other displays of the deep glaciation are particularly striking in the Savage Creek area. Major streams draining the Scotchman area are Ross, Spar and Blue Creeks. Spar Creek forms a deep canyon from Little Spar Lake to Spar Lake, Little Spar Lake is the only named water body in the area although several alpine potholes or ponds are scattered throughout the rocks along the main divide.

Lightning Creek drains much of the west side, in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, including the north face of Scotchman Peak. Steep, timbered breaks characterize this stretch of Lightning Creek, where the elevation changes a dramatic 4,500 feet in less than two miles on the slopes of Scotchman Peak. Just over the headwalls of the deep cirques in Ross Creek, hillsides of alpine vegetation slope into the West Fork Blue Creek while the backsides of distinctive Sawtooth and Billiard Table Mountains drain through side hill parks, and waterfalls to the East Fork of Blue Creek. The U-shaped valley of South Fork Ross Creek curves through green meadows and rock slides to meet the main Ross Creek. The scoured headlands of Ross Creek are soon lost in stands of large cedar, hemlock and white pine, as the creek tumbles through what is often a tangle of moss-covered boulders and devil's club on its way to the scenic Ross Creek Cedar grove below. Pellick Ridge, with its summit of Squaw Peak, tips rocky south slopes nearly 4,000 feet into the Clark Fork and lower Bull River valleys. In contrast, an almost continuous canopy of trees covers the cooler north aspects of Pellick Ridge in Napoleon and lower Star Gulches. Upper Star Gulch, like neighboring Hamilton Gulch, shows much of its bedrock at the surface.

Use of the area consists of hiking, cross country skiing, and roadless hunting, and is characterized as light to moderate in intensity. Some snowmobile use has been occurring in the Draft Peak area, on the northern portion of the roadless area boundary.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Within the present roadless area boundary, the natural integrity and appearance is very high. Other than a few remnants of old, log trapper huts, the only manmade structure in the area is the Squaw Peak Lookout. Evidence of past mining activities has been reduced significantly by weathering and vegetation. There are relatively few miles of constructed trail in the area, considering the large size, and no constructed recreation sites. Little Spar Lake is the only area having enough concentrated recreation use to visibly show the signs of wear.

Opportunities for Experience: Through much of the area, opportunities for solitude are numerous. The north central sections of Ross and Blue Creeks in particular have deep valleys covered with large old growth cedar, hemlock and white pine, sharply defined cirque basins, and heavily vegetated riparian zones. These screening factors coupled with a distinct lack of concentrated recreation use provide opportunities for a very primitive recreation experience. In existing western wilderness the shorelines of alpine lakes with fish and mainline access trails concentrate users, making a primitive experience difficult. Recreation use is well dispersed in the Scotchman Peaks Roadless Area, as there are no mainline access trails and only one lake with fish. The Pellick Ridge trail is over 10 miles long, but does not have a destination of concentrated use. Much of the travel in the area is cross country both summer and winter, with quality backcountry hunting for elk, deer, and goats in the fall. The rugged country and lack of recreation access provides a challenge for the visitor. Bow hunting for elk and deer and ski mountaineering are also challenges people now experience in the area.

Special Features: There are several special features in the Scotchmen Peaks Roadless Area. One important one is its wide range of wildlife species; from the bighorn sheep in the Pellick ridge area to goats, grizzly bears and significant elk herds in the Ross Creek-Blue Creek areas. Ross Creek contains some of the largest western red cedar, western white pine, western hemlock and mountain hemlock remaining, portions of which are in a 1,300 acre Research Natural Area. The strongly glaciated topography of the upper basins is another special feature.

Manageability: The Squaw Peak lookout is the only manmade structure that constitutes a nonconforming use but its present does not detract from the wilderness quality of the area. A considerable portion of the Kootenai National Forest portion of the Scotchman Peaks area has remained roadless to the very perimeter if its landform, making much of the area ideal in terms of boundary management. Two sections of private land lie within the roadless area boundary along the southern edge. The private lands are within one mile of Scotchman Peak, the highest peak in the roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Little Spar Lake, a brook trout lake, is in this area as are numerous tributaries that flow into Bull Lake, Bull River, or Noxon Reservoir. Some of the more important streams are Ross Creek, a cutthroat-brook trout creek, and Blue Creek, a poor to fair cutthroat trout stream. Stream bottoms are generally quite brushy which results in very little fishing pressure. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Habitat in the area supports elk, mule and whitetail deer, bighorn sheep, goats and grizzly and black bear. Most of the area is important grizzly habitat. Wildlife management in the form of burning is considered most desirable in the big game winter range along the south face of Pellick Ridge. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: Average annual precipitation is very high, varying from 33 to 105 inches depending on the elevation and proximity to the watershed divide. Average annual runoff for the area varies from 12 to 60 inches, varying again with elevation and with aspect. The only deviation in the pristine water quality to be found in this area would be sediment levels during high runoff events. This roadless area contains 19,800 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: The area has the potential to provide 15,600 recreation visitor days of wilderness recreation. Snowmobile use is occurring around the Drift Peak area. Current recreation use is estimated to be 6,000 recreation visitor days per year. Scenic attractions include Sawtooth and Billiard Table Mountains and Scotchmen Peaks. Views from Pellick Ridge include Lake Pend Oreille to the west, the Bitterroot Mountains to the south, the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness to the east, and excellent views of the Bull River and Clark Fork Valleys.

Timber: Approximately 90 percent of the tentatively suitable timberland is located on slopes greater than 55 percent.

Range: There are no grazing allotments in the area and grazing potential is all transitory.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 7,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Minerals investigations by the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines indicate that the potential for the discovery of economic copper/silver deposits within the Star Gulch of Pellick Ridge and Ross Point is very high, similar to the Troy Mine (ASARCO) on Mt. Vernon immediately to the north. In the remainder of the roadless area, the mineral potential is considered medium to low. The oil and gas potential is moderate. This roadless area contains 19,800 acres of low geothermal potential.

Heritage: Cultural resources in the area include several historic sites including the Squaw Peak Lookout, the remains of a tent camp at Ross Point, six mining adits and pits, and two other mining remains. There are no known prehistoric sites in the area but the probability of sites occurring is considered low, except in the Ross Creek drainage bottom where the probability is moderate to high. This is based on surveys done in similar areas.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Scotchman Peak Management Theme Idaho Panhandle	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	9,400	10,800
Primitive	0	6,800	0
Backcountry	19,800	2,300	7,300
GFRG	0	0	400
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,300	1,300
Total Acres	**19,800**	**19,800**	**19,800**

Scotchman Peak Management Theme Kootenai	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	400	0
Primitive	0	200	0
Backcountry	600	0	200
GFRG	0	0	400
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**600**	**600**	**600**

Scotchman Peak Management Theme Total - Idaho	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	9,800	10,800
Primitive	0	7,000	0
Backcountry	20,400	2,300	7,500
GFRG	0	0	800
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,300	1,300
Total Acres	**20,400**	**20,400**	**20,400**

Selkirk #125

98,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Selkirk Roadless Area is located in the north-central portion of the Idaho Panhandle. The area begins roughly 4 miles south of the Canadian border and continues in a southerly direction for approximately 30 miles.

The primary drainages in the area are Smith Creek, Long Canyon Creek, Trout Creek, Ball Creek, Myrtle Creek, and Snow Creek, all of which empty into the Kootenai River. The southernmost portion of the area drains into Pack River, which empties into Lake Pend Oreille. Terrain is very rugged, with steep slopes, many exceeding 70 percent. The highest mountains in northern Idaho are found in this roadless area. There are numerous peaks in the 7,000-feet elevation range, the highest being Parker Peak at 7,670 feet. Lowest point is around 2,000 feet along the east side close to Kootenai River. The area is heavily forested with various species on bottomlands and mid-slopes in Long Canyon, Smith Creek, Trout Creek, and Ball Creek and has barren, rocky ridges at higher elevations. There is an abundance of subalpine vegetation over the entire area.

Unique features include the numerous alpine lakes, snowy peaks, geologic formations, and glacial effects. There is also a lookout tower on Roman Nose Mountain. Primary usage includes hiking, backpacking, fishing, and rock Climbing. Use is moderate to heavy along the Selkirk Divide and light in Long Canyon.

The roadless area is underlain primarily by intrusive igneous rocks, including those of the Selkirk Crest complex. These intrude metamorphosed sediment of the Belt Supergroup and older gneiss. The igneous units of the Selkirk Crest complex appear to be bounded by large faults on the east and west sides.

The area is accessible from a number of trails, some of which originate on blacktop roads and others from poorer 4-wheel-drive roads. Myrtle Creek drainage is a state-designated game preserve and is also the source of water for the city of Bonners Ferry.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact from human activity has been minor and scattered. Impacts include pack trails for fire control access, remnants of old lookout towers, a few trapper/prospector cabins, and some old mine tunnels and mine waste dumps in the lower end of Long Canyon Creek. Recent human activity is most evident where campers have camped near the shores of the high mountain lakes. These sites are sensitive because of short growing seasons, vegetation type, and wet conditions; they heal slowly once trampled or otherwise disturbed.

Undeveloped Character: Two situations exist in this roadless area. The large block of land that encompasses Long Canyon, Parker Creek, Fisher Creek, and Farnham Creek is such that persons in the area would feel they are in a natural area. Once inside this area there are very few locations where human activity outside the area can be seen or heard. These are generally confined to views from some of the highest peaks or from trails as they approach the Kootenai Valley and traverse rather open hillsides.

The remainder of the area resembles octopus tentacles, with stringers of land running out unroaded ridges on down the Selkirk Crest. These stringers are as narrow as one-half mile and none are over two miles wide; they are on high ridges where it is quite easy to look down on roads, timber harvest area, and farmland.

Opportunities for Experience: The ability to find solitude in this area is likewise affected by its configuration. In this large block of land it would be quite easy to find complete solitude. Since a high proportion of this is densely timbered, the solitude is accentuated. There are also large granite domes from which expansive vistas are possible in complete solitude. Solitude is to be found in the stringers, but it can be interrupted very easily and frequently due to the proximity to management activities and motorized recreation.

The area offers a variety of terrain types and physical and biotic features to challenge visitors. It offers hiking, hunting, mountain lake fishing, rugged cross-country travel through dense timber on steep slopes, open ridgetop walking, technical climbing opportunities on Chimney Rock, and rugged mountaineering skiing.

Special Features: The Sundance fire roared across the southern end of the Selkirk Crest in 1967. The large, open snowfield created by this burn has become one of the most popular snowmobile play areas in northern Idaho. The Selkirk Crest, with its rugged granite domes and peaks, is a popular hiking area, particularly in the vicinity of the numerous small lakes in the cirque basins. A 1,200 acre Research Natural Area is located within the roadless area. About 4,900 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: In this large block of land several easily identified and manageable boundaries could be drawn. Ridgetop boundaries could protect the integrity of that area to include a 1-, 2-, 3-, or 4-drainage wilderness or combination thereof. A manageable boundary around any of the stringers would be hard to locate. All would be mid-slope boundaries or straight-line boundaries along section lines. Snowmobile and trail bike use is well established in several parts of the area. Some heli-skiing has occurred also. Heavy use of the mountain lakes is also well established.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Cutthroat and, to a lesser extent, brook trout are both present in the many lakes and streams of this roadless area. Bull trout, sturgeon, burbot, inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlap this roadless area.

Wildlife: The Selkirk Roadless Area was once well known for their mountain goat population, but during the late 1950s the goats all bur disappeared. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has recently transplanted several goats on nearby State land. Grizzly bear are known to occur, as well as wolverine, fisher, northern bog lemming, harlequin duck, northern goshawk, boreal chickadee Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: Water quality is high. This roadless area contains 12,900 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Spoon-leaved sundew *(Drosera intermedia),* Krushea *(Streptopus streptopoides),* and Northern starflower *(Trientalis arctica)* are three sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: This is a large area which receives a large variety of recreation use; most of the use in the summer is concentrated around the cirque lakes and the trails to these lakes. On some summer weekends this use is heavy. During the winter the use focuses on snowmobiling in the southern portion of the area.

Timber: About 46,500 acres are tentatively suitable for timber production. The timber resource ranges from large old-growth white pine, cedar, and spruce in Long Canyon to small lodgepole pine on Parker Ridge. Higher elevations contain subalpine fir and a few subalpine larch.

Range: There is presently no grazing, due to low potential.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 38,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There are no identified mineral deposits. Although there have been 37 placer claims and 152 lode claims located since 1903, sample assays from the claimed areas revealed no significant mineral values. This roadless area contains 98,000 acres of low geothermal potential. The Bonneville Power Administration has identified a potential east-west energy corridor that may cross a portion of this roadless area. Generally, the corridor is located a few miles south of the Canadian Border, across Idaho.

Disturbances: The annual number of fires is low; however, northern Idaho has a history of periodic large fires, including the Sundance fire which burned over the southern portion of this area in 1967.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Selkirk Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	25,400	31,300
Primitive	0	30,100	10,700
Backcountry	98,000	36,400	41,200
GFRG	0	0	8,700
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	6,100	6,100
Total Acres	**98,000**	**98,000**	**98,000**

Sheep Mountain – State Line #799

27,700 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)
40,500 Acres Lolo (Montana)
68,200 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Sheep Mountain-State Line Roadless Area lies along the Montana-Idaho State Line south and east of the Dry Creek Road. It is located 12 miles southwest of St. Regis, Montana; five miles west of Superior, Montana; and 30 miles east of Avery, Idaho. The access to the area is by either the Dry Creek Road or the Cedar Creek Road system. There are 10 trails in the area totaling about 40 miles. Included within the roadless area are four miles of improved road and three short, unimproved roads. The Stateline area is accessed by the Stateline National Recreation Trail.

The geography of the area is characterized by high alpine terrain with vegetation of the grassy-bald or subalpine habitat groups. Elevations range from approximately 3,500 feet near Dry Creek to 7,543 feet at the top of Eagle Cliff. Prominent peaks or landmarks include Binocular Peak (elevation 7,266 feet), Sheep Mountain (elevation 6,723 feet), Mount Baldy (elevation 7,543 feet), Black Tail Mountain (elevation 6,167 feet), and Eagle Cliff. Some of these landmarks are seen from the Clark Fork Valley, which contains Interstate 90.

Geology of the area is characterized by northwest to southeast trending faults extending the length of the area and, bringing the various formations into contact with one another. These formations include limestones, calcareous argillites, and quartzites of the Precambrian Age Wallace Formation which crop out in the western two-thirds of the area. Missoula Group rocks cover the balance of the area.

Vegetation varies from the lower elevation habitat types (Douglas-fir climax) to the subalpine types intermixed with high elevation grassy balds. Between the extremes, the forested types are present containing lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and western larch. The understory vegetation is typified by the ninebark type in the northwest corner to the clintonia group on the north and east aspects of higher elevations. The upper ridges and peaks contain scree mixed with subalpine vegetation. Also included is menziesia and dry beargrass. The area has been burned over several times creating a mosaic of successional stages.

Several key attractions are located within or immediately adjacent to the area. Missoula Lake, an attractive recreational area, lies at the northeastern edge adjacent to the Stateline. Diamond Lake lies just outside to the west and provides access into the roadless area. Cliff Lake, a cirque lake, is a popular spot which lies southwest of Diamond Lake near the southwest edge of the Lolo National Forest portion of the area. The upper elevations near the Stateline are very scenic, with several cirque basins which contain Lost Lake and Bonanza Lake.

One corner of this area lies on the St. Joe Wild and Scenic River which receives moderate to heavy roaded recreation use. Redives Ranger Station is also located on the corner of this area and the possibility of encountering recreationists in the vicinity is very high.

The current use of the area includes scattered mineral exploration, hiking, fishing, hunting, and viewing. There is one outfitter and guide permit for this roadless area. Area hunters pack in for extended stays. Missoula, Cliff, and Bonanza Lakes have varying amounts of fishing use. The Stateline National Recreation Trail is used for hiking and viewing.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity of the area is only marred by an outhouse near Missoula Lake and old cabins previously used by miners or trappers which are in severe states of disrepair. There is also the remnant of an old lookout on Sheep Mountain consisting of some rearranged rocks and some number nine wire and the Cordilleran mine with an access road. There are several mine spoil areas along Oregon Gulch, one of the historic mining districts of Montana. Mineral exploration excavations are spotted

throughout the area, with a heavier concentration in the vicinity of Oregon Gulch and Mink Peak. Sheep grazing was a significant use until 1964 when it was discontinued. The edges of the area have several inclusions of timber harvest, mostly in Lost Creek. Also included near the lower edge is a fence on private inholdings and a game enclosure. There are three dwellings on the private land jutting up Thompson Creek. The remains of a Forest Service fire lookout are located at Simmons Ridge. The lookout burned in 1984. An outhouse and storage shed associated with the lookout remain.

The area appears quite natural especially the upper reaches which contain only limited mineral exploration activities. The exceptions are on the portions of the land adjacent to presently accessed areas in Dry Creek and along Oregon Gulch. The upper elevations provide a natural and rugged appearance expected in a wilderness. The lower segment along Dry Creek is typical of much of Western Montana forests.

Undeveloped Character: The appearance of the area varies significantly depending on the viewer orientation. The extremes of the elevations with the peaks, cirque basins, and lakes provide scenic landmarks for viewing within the area and from outside.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to this roadless area's proximity to Interstate 90 and the towns of St. Regis and Superior, opportunities for solitude and serenity are limited. However, from within the area there are places where a visitor can experience the feeling of being alone due to topographic or vegetative screening. It is not particularly easy to reach or traverse the entire area in a relatively short time. Much of the roadless area is relatively remote and challenging to cross, providing for a rigorous adventure to test an individual's woodland, survival skills. The recreational opportunity best fits a description of semi-primitive. This area contains one of the few remaining stretches of gentle, sloping riparian land which is still timbered and free of man-induced disturbance.

Special Features: Opportunities exist to observe and study big game animals in their natural habitat, but there are no known endangered species of animal, or plant, in the area. The roadless area contains significant amounts of area common to snow slides and represents a community with a great deal of diversity in compositions and structures. These areas have been designated alder glades, and the site, are commonly wet and at higher elevation.

Manageability: The size of the area is relatively small. Several fingers or appendages of land along the boundary encompass different parts of the area. The major and most significant part is that portion adjacent to the state line which joins a small area on the St. Joe National Forest of northern Idaho. This area of the state line has good capability of providing some wilderness opportunities. The area as a whole provides a long management boundary.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area. The area has a resident population of small mammals, and the many bird species inhabit the area yearlong or during the migration periods. Unconfirmed grizzly bear sightings along the Montana-Idaho line are reported sporadically throughout a larger area, of which this roadless area is a small part. Lynx, wolverine, and fisher also occur in this roadless area.

Wildlife use is fairly high throughout portions of the area. The high elevations provide summer range for elk and mule deer. while the lower elevations of Dry Creek provide critical winter habitat for the three big game species found in the area. Mountain goats are visitors to the area from a herd located in Trout Creek to the east. There may be a portion of that population which uses this area more frequently. Perhaps a moose or two will wander in and use portions of the area from time to time, but evidence is scarce as to much use of the roadless area by this species.

Water: The Sheep Mountain-Stateline Roadless Area is important for water storage in the form of snow accumulation in the high country for later release into the Clark Fork River. There are few local uses of

water from the drainages encompassed within the area. This roadless area receives abundant moisture, especially near the Divide, and, therefore, is important as a watershed. The several lakes located within this area are important for water-related recreation and serve to collect and disperse water to both tributaries of Dry Creek and Cedar Creek. This area collects water for Thompson Creek and contributes to Oregon Creek and on to Cedar Creek.

Botanical: Triangular-lobed moonwort *(Botrychium ascendens),* Mingan moonwort *(Botrychium minganense),* and Mountain moonwort *(Botrychium montanum),* three sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation in the area includes hunting, fishing, viewing, camping, and hiking. Big game hunting constitutes the major visitor use. Often, parties have their own packstock. There is also an outfitter who provides day hunts or overnight trips into the center of the area. The edges of the roadless area are hunted by day-use hunters. It is a popular area for elk hunting and for mule deer, especially in lower Dry Creek in the later part of the season.

Fishing is popular in the readily accessible lakes such as Cliff Lake and Missoula Lake, Diamond Lake, located at the very edge of the roadless area, can be reached by a road which provides quick access to Cliff Lake. Missoula Lake, although in the roadless area, is only 1/4 mile from the Upper Cedar Creek road. It is a popular spot in the summer, and the area is well used during the fall for camping during the two hunting seasons: Idaho in early fall and Montana later.

Hiking is popular along the state line into Bonanza Lakes and along the divide. The major divide along the Idaho-Montana border contains the Stateline National Recreation Trail. Trails to several lakes join the National Trail along the Divide, allowing relatively easy access for parts of the area.

Timber: The Sheep Mountain-State Line Area contains 27,300 acres (in Idaho) are classified as commercial timberland. The suitable lands presently support a standing timber inventory of 211.5 million board feet of timber.

Range: Livestock use is limited to the amount associated with outfitting and local horse use for pack trips into and through the area. The State Line area used to contribute a significant amount of forage to the sheep operations of the past.

Minerals and Energy: There are 51 unpatented mining claims in the roadless area. This area and the surrounding land to the south and east has produced placer gold and the potential still exists. About 40 lode and placer claims along Sherlock Creek are presently in litigation. New placer locations are prohibited but those existing before November, 1978, are subject to valid existing rights. This roadless area contains 27,200 acres of medium and 500 of low geothermal potential.

Oregon Gulch once had a large mining community with several thousand people working the mines. Later, in the 1930s, a dredging company reworked the diggings and employed 30-50 workers for several years. The reasons for the abandonment of this operation are unclear. Other mines include one on Wilson Gulch in Dry Creek and one on Lost Creek at the edge of the roadless area. There are numerous diggings throughout portions of the area, with heaviest concentrations in Oregon Gulch up to Mink Peak.

A site along Oregon Gulch at Big Flat is a potential historic site resulting from the past mining activities. There are several old buildings still standing from an old mining camp used during the last dredging operation. Although this area is not quite within the Sheep Mountain-State Line Roadless Area, it is located within a finger of land surrounded by the boundary. There are other scattered remnants of mining activity in the roadless area.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no special uses in the area other than the outfitter/guide permit previously discussed.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Sheep Mountain-State Line Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	14,500	0
Backcountry	27,700	3,200	26,900
GFRG	0	9,200	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	800	800
Total Acres	**27,700**	**27,700**	**27,700**

Skitwish Ridge #135

4,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Skitwish Ridge Roadless Area is located 12 air miles east of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. It is within Kootenai County and on the Fernan Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area consists of mountainous terrain with elevations ranging from 2,400 feet at the mouth of Marie Creek to 4,800 feet on Skitwish Ridge. A non-system Forest Service trail enters the area at the mouth of Marie Creek, follows the creek upstream past Skitwish Creek, and up Skitwish Ridge, where it exits the area. A second non-system trail used and maintained by a grazing permittee enters the area from Rutherford Gulch and drops into Marie Creek in Section 23.

This area's bedrock exposures consist mostly of Prichard and Burke formations, with minor outcrops of the Revett. These argillites and quartzites are metasediments of the Precambrian Belt rocks. The area has numerous northwest-trending faults which are the loci for mineralizations in the Coeur d'Alene Mining District.

Large wildfires burned over most of the area in approximately 1880. Currently, second-growth coniferous vegetation dominates the area. The area supports big game populations of elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, and an occasional moose and cougar. Marie Creek supports a resident cutthroat fishery and has been identified as the major spawning stream for cutthroat trout from the northern part of Lake Coeur d'Alene. The area does not provide habitat for threatened of endangered species.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Impact from human activity within the area is moderate, consisting of two trails, unpatented mining claims with some recent surface disturbing work, and an active grazing allotment. Evidence of the old burn is apparent only to the trained eye.

Undeveloped Character: The impact of cattle grazing along Marie Creek and adjacent open hillsides would be readily seen by the untrained eye. The two trails and recent mineral development work would also be apparent. Other more inaccessible portions of the roadless area appear natural.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers moderate opportunities for solitude because of its relative small size and some off-site intrusions. The area offers moderate opportunities for a primitive recreation experience. It has good topographic screening and vegetation is dense. It has little diversity which would offer a variety of primitive recreation experience or challenge.

Special Features: The area provides important spawning habitat for trout from Lake Coeur d'Alene.

Manageability: The area is small and boundaries are not well defined on ridgetops or other major topographic features because of man's activities surrounding the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Marie Creek supports a resident cutthroat fishery and has been identified as the major spawning stream for cutthroat trout from the northern part of Lake Coeur d'Alene.

Wildlife: Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area. The area supports big game populations of elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, and an occasional moose and cougar.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current use consists of biking, motorbiking, hunting, and fishing. No developed recreation facilities are planned.

Timber: Timber values consist of mature, second-growth conifers.

Range: The area contains an active grazing allotment.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 600 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential is moderate, with several old prospects near the area. The Revett outcrops may have some potential for stratabound gold and silver. Oil and gas potential is low due to lack of information; however, lease applications are currently on file for the west half of the area. This roadless area contains 4,000 acres of low geothermal potential.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Skitwish Ridge Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	4,000	1,000	4,000
GFRG	0	3,000	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**4,000**	**4,000**	**4,000**

Spion Kop #136

22,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Spion Kop Roadless Area is located about 22 miles north of Kellogg, Idaho, encompassing the Shoshone Range from Little Guard to Spion Kop. It is within Shoshone County on the Wallace Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is accessible by road from every side.

The highest elevation in the area is 6,210 feet at Bennett Peak and the lowest is 2,700 feet near the mouth of Little Canyon Creek. Other major peaks include Guard, Pond, Sentinel, and Amethyst. Major drainages include the Coeur d'Alene River, Cinnamon Creek, Calamity Creek, and Cataract Creek. The area is underlain by metasediments of the Belt Supergroup. The Wallace and Striped Peak Formations are the prevalent units, with only minor amounts of the Libby Formation. Two major northwest-trending faults have been mapped in the area.

About 85 percent of the area burned in 1935. As a result, the vegetation on the area includes about 15 percent mature western white pine and grand fir, 40 percent brushfields, and several thousand acres of western white pine plantations created by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1936 and 1940. There are some old-growth mountain hemlock stands on the east side of the Shoshone Range in the south end of the roadless area. The remaining area consists of natural, pole-size stands.

The roadless area is heavily used for hunting elk, deer, and bear. Other forms of recreation include hiking, backpacking, and primitive camping along the Coeur d'Alene River National Recreation Trail, which runs through the Spion Kop from Jordan Creek to the main river road. Another trail that is heavily used by hunters and backpackers is the Shoshone Ridge Trail from Pond Peak to Little Guard Peak. Rafting, canoeing, and Roadless Area fishing are also popular sports on the Coeur d'Alene River. The area receives an estimated 4,500 recreation visitor days use annually.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The Spion Kop Roadless Area has, with minor exceptions, retained qualities formed by nature without human disruption. Intrusions into the roadless area include roads to Steamboat Rocks, Spion Kop, Spion Kop Rock, and Pond Peak. There is an active lookout tower at Little Guard Peak.

Undeveloped Character: The landscape within the roadless area is natural appearing; however, views from higher elevations such as from Shoshone Range are subject to ordinary human activities and development.

Opportunities for Experience: Feelings of solitude for individuals are induced under a wide array of stimuli and vary greatly among persons of different backgrounds. Given the size of the area and its location, opportunities for solitude for a significant number of visitors are hampered by the ruggedness of terrain which tends to concentrate use on a few trails. Recreation opportunities would continue to include hiking; backpacking; primitive camping; big game hunting, either on day trips or extended trips; and, occasionally, rock climbing. The trails are the only man-made recreational developments in the area.

Special Features: Portions of the Spion Kop area are within the Coeur d'Alene River Scenic Corridor. Little Guard Lookout is one of the earliest on the Wallace District, originally constructed in 1919, with subsequent constructions taking place in the late 1920s and again in the early 1930s. This is the only continually manned lookout on the District. A historic Forest Service administrative trail was established along the Shoshone Range during the late 1920s and 1930s to service a lookout network consisting of Little Guard Lookout, Downey Peak Patrol Point, Pond Peak Lookout, and Spion Kop Rock Lookout Point. Remnants of this network are still present, with the section of Shoshone Range Trail between Pond Peak and Little Guard still being used for recreation. Approximately 300 acres are in a Research Natural Area, and 2,500 acres are in an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: The entire roadless area is composed of National Forest System land. The northern boundary of this roadless area follows Jordan Creek and the southern boundary follows Tepee Creek, but the remaining boundary follows less noticeable landforms and even cuts across drainages.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Coeur d'Alene River is rated as a low access, high quality sport fishing stream for westslope cutthroat and rainbow trout for its entire length within this roadless area. The State has special regulations to preserve and promote this quality fishing. Cinnamon, Jordan, West Elk, and Cataract Creeks are rated as important spawning and rearing streams for westslope cutthroat and rainbow trout.

Wildlife: Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area. Wildlife found in the area includes elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, black bear, moose, cougar, coyote, bobcat, pine marten, pileated woodpecker, and other small animals.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Hiking along the Shoshone Range Trail provides a panoramic view of the surrounding landscape and affords a view of the rugged Cabinet Mountains in Montana. The Coeur d'Alene River Trail provides excellent views of Steamboat and Cathedral Rocks--massive metasedioentary rock outcrops that rise 300 feet above the river bottom. These are probably the most scenic rock formations found on the Coeur d'Alene National Forest.

Timber: Future development of the timber resource would involve the management of 21,000 acres within the area.

Range: The area is not suitable for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

Minerals and Energy: The Spion Kop Roadless Area is currently under application for an oil and gas lease. Mineral potential for oil and gas in this area is unknown. There are presently no mining claims in this area nor are there any old prospects. However, the Wallace Formation has numerous prospects 5 miles to the southeast in the Coeur d'Alene Mining District. Potential at this time has been rated low. This roadless area contains 22,400 acres of low geothermal potential.

Heritage: A possible prehistoric stone monument exists on Spion Kop Rock. This consists of a vertical shale slab set upright in a crevice. This type of monument was used in hunting rituals by Indians of the region; however, the authenticity of this monument has not yet been documented.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Spion Kop Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	2,700	0
Backcountry	22,400	13,900	19,600
GFRG	0	3,000	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	2,800	2,800
Total Acres	**22,400**	**22,400**	**22,400**

Stevens Peak #142

4,700 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)
600 Acres Lolo (Montana)
5,300 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Stevens Peak Roadless Area is situated on both sides of the Idaho-Montana state line about four miles south of Hullan, Idaho, and nine air miles north of Avery, Idaho. The Idaho portion lies within Shoshone County on the Avery and Wallace Ranger Districts of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest; the Montana portion lies in Mineral County on the Superior Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest. The most popular access is on trails which originate at the Lookout Pass overpass on Interstate 90. Other access is provided by low standard mining roads entering at several locations into the roadless area.

Stevens Peak, with an elevation of 6,838 feet, dominates the topography of this irregularly-shaped roadless area. Several features of alpine glaciation, including cirques, alpine lakes, and moraines, typify the area lying north of Stevens Peak. Steep slopes dissected by tributaries of the North Fork of the St. Joe characterize the southern half. The lowest elevation of the roadless area is 3,600 feet along the North Fork of the St. Joe River.

A majority of the area burned in 1910 and reburned in 1928. One area of old-growth mountain hemlock remains in the upper reaches of Rougin and Park Creek drainages, with isolated residual trees scattered elsewhere. The lower elevations on both the St. Joe and Lolo portions were planted following the 1928 fire with off-site ponderosa pine or eastern white pine. Several areas, however, remain in a non-stocked brushfield condition. The higher elevations support relatively sparse vegetation, generally subalpine, with some rock and talus slopes present. The more productive slopes generally are covered by pole-sized stands of mixed species composition. Habitat-types range from cedar/clitonia at the lower elevations to mountain hemlock/menziesia or mountain hemlock/beargrass at the higher elevations.

The Stevens Peak Roadless Area exists as a popular recreational area, receiving about 6,500 recreation visitor days use per year. The greatest attractions are the alpine lakes--Upper and Lower Stevens and Lone Lake on the Idaho side and the St. Regis Lakes on the Montana portion--which provide fishing, swimming, and floating opportunities. The St. Regis Basin is an especially popular destination for both cross-country skiers in the winter and backpackers and hikers in the summer. Other forms of outdoor recreation include horseback riding, mountain climbing (limited), and pleasure driving with motorbikes or four-wheel drive vehicles on several of the mining access roads. The area also receives moderate hunting pressure in the fall.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: With the exception of a few old mining roads, the area has qualities predominantly influenced by nature rather than by man.

Undeveloped Character: The size of the area results in a relatively limited opportunity to view large areas of natural appearing landscape; however, the landscape within the area is virtually all natural appearing. Views from some of the higher elevations reveal logging activities such as clearcuts and roads outside the Stevens Peak roadless area.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude for a significant number of visitors are hampered by the rugged terrain and high elevations which tend to concentrate use around the lakes during July and August. Opportunities for a primitive recreation experience in the Stevens Peak Roadless Area are fairly good. Most of the lakes in the area have suitable sites for primitive camping; however, some of these sites are showing signs of over-use. There is a good system of trails in the area, but many of them are in need of reconstruction.

Special Features: During the 1910 fires, one person is known to have perished within this roadless area. Cultural sites related to this event may still exist. The area provides opportunities to view glaciated

peaks, cirques, and cirque lakes, affording the viewer a high degree of visual quality which is unavailable in the more or less uniform landscape in the surrounding areas. Though none have been located, there is a strong possibility that remains of single dwelling miners' cabins, primitive rock monuments and cairns, and rock markers from the 1904-1905 resurvey of the Idaho-Montana border may exist. On the Lolo, there are old mining cabins, two lookout sites, and two mineral development areas. There also is a 1,200-acre plantation of off-site species of eastern white pine and ponderosa pine, an old mining road, and 4-wheel drive roads along ridges that all impact the area.

Manageability: The boundaries of the Coeur d'Alene portion would be somewhat indistinguishable in the north end of the area. Boundaries on the south end follow Champion Creek and the North Fork of the St. Joe River.

RESOURCES

Wildlife: Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area. The area provides summer range for a variety of big game, including elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, and black bear. Cougar, bobcats, lynx, pine marten, and several small mammals also inhabit the area.

Water: This roadless area contains 1,300 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: This area receives a wide variety of year-round use. Use is concentrated on the trails which access the lakes and areas near the lakes. This is one of the few roadless areas where high elevation winter access is relatively easy as it can be reached from Interstate 90 within one hour when traveling on cross-country skis. This value is offset somewhat by the high natural avalanche hazard in the St. Regis Basin.

Timber: Future development of the timber resource would involve the management of 2,500 acres.

Range: None.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,500 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 347 mining claims, both patented and unpatented. Numerous old prospects are prevalent. A major exploration company has an active diamond drill program on both patented and unpatented claims. Seventy-three percent of the area is rated as having very high mineral potential, with the remainder rated as high. Oil and gas potential is estimated to be low. In Idaho, the entire area is covered by a lease application. In Montana, the entire area is presently under lease. This roadless area contains 4,700 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although the entire area burned in the catastrophic 1910 fire, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Stevens Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	1,200	0
Backcountry	4,700	2,600	4,700
GFRG	0	900	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**4,700**	**4,700**	**4,700**

Storm Creek #144

8,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Storm Creek Roadless Area borders the north side of the St. Joe River approximately one mile west of Avery, Idaho. The area is situated entirely within Shoshone County on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Maintained roads encircle the area, with the Trego Point Road intruding three miles into the roadless area from the east.

Steep, rugged slopes transected by several small drainages characterize the topography of this rectangular-shaped roadless area. Elevation ranges between 2,400 and 5,700 feet, with Dunn Peak, Storm Mountain, and Flash Peak being the most prominent landscape features. The entire roadless area burned in 1910 and reburned in 1934, creating a mosaic of pole-sized timber and brushfields. Reforestation efforts followed the fires, with ponderosa pine being the primary planted species. Natural stands of lodgepole and Douglas-fir also occur throughout the area. A major portion of the roadless area, however, remains non-stocked. Primary habitat types are western hemlock/clintonia and cedar/clintonia.

Little concentrated use exists within the roadless area. Primary activities include big game hunting and viewing scenery. Primary use centers on Dunn Peak Road 1934 on the northern boundary of the roadless area, which provides an excellent vista of the surrounding countryside. Few opportunities exist for hiking/backpacking, horseback-riding, or other recreational pursuits because of the rugged terrain and existing extensive brushfields.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact of past human activities in this area has been relatively minor even though those activities have been extensive. The area is essentially encircled by road systems. One existing road enters the area for a distance of approximately three miles from the eastern boundary below Trego Point. This road is currently on the trail system (Trail 58). Remnants of several old trails that are no longer being maintained can be found in several locations. Along the western boundary the Dunn Peak lookout tower (which can be seen from many places within the roadless area) receives sporadic use as a manned fire detection lookout. Dunn Peak has also been classified as an electronic site and is currently being used by the Forest Service and the Shoshone County Sheriff's Office as a communications relay station. There has been recent logging activity on adjacent private lands in the southwest corner of the area.

Undeveloped Character: The Storm Creek Roadless Area, although it is not exceedingly large, does offer most persons visiting the area a feeling that they are in a natural area. The steep topography of its three major drainages (Setzer, Storm, and Rock Creeks) contributes to this feeling by helping to isolate people from the evidence of nearby human activity and development. The extensive brushfields which occurred as a result of the 1910 fire cover such large areas that the periodic burning of some of those fields to maintain big game habitat appears to most people as a natural situation.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers limited opportunities for solitude. The 8,200 acres included in the Storm Creek area occur in an irregular shape that is approximately four miles long and four-1/2 miles wide (at its widest point). The deeply dissected topography, while providing screening between people, also tends to concentrate their use of the area to ridgetop trails. At no place within this area is a person more than two miles from a road (even though topography may dictate a longer walk than that). The expanse of dense brush gives an appearance of openness from above while actually concealing many of the area's features (inhabitants). Primitive recreation experiences are limited by motorized use of the trail system. Opportunities do exist for big game hunting (elk, deer, bear, and mountain lion), horseback riding, hiking, and backpack camping.

Special Features: The entire area was burned during the 1910 fire. The greatest number of casualties occurred in the 1910 fire when twenty-eight people perished in the fire at the head of Storm Creek (Sec. 29, T. 46 N., R. 5 E.). Cultural sites related to that event are known to exist within this roadless area.

Manageability: Area boundaries are readily identified by roads and topographic features.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The fisheries resource is limited. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The Storm Creek Roadless Area is an important winter and summer range for big game species, including elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, and black bear. Other game and non-game mammals and birds also inhabit the area, including beaver, grouse, martens, goshawks, and pileated woodpeckers. No threatened and endangered species habitat exists in this area. Prescribed burning is considered important to maintain elk winter range. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation use is light and occurs mostly as elk hunting in the fall. Occasional use of the Dunn Peak road, which forms the northern boundary of the area, also occurs. The road south of Trego Point is now closed to 4-wheel vehicles; cycle use probably occurs.

Timber: About 2,000 acres are considered suitable for timber; however, many of these acres are now brush covered and difficult to reforest.

Range: Grazing use followed the 1910 and 1934 fires but was discontinued by 1950. Little potential exists.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 2,300 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The geology of this area is mainly composed of the metamorphic equivalent of the Wallace Formation of the Belt rocks. This area is almost totally sandwiched between two persistent northwest-striking faults. There are no mining claims in the area at present although some old prospects are in evidence. About 22 percent of the area is rated as having moderate potential and 78 percent low. Lack of information makes the area rate low for oil and gas. This roadless area contains 8,200 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: The greatest number of casualties occurred in the 1910 fire when twenty-eight people perished in the fire at the head of Storm Creek (Sec. 29, T. 46 N., R. 5 E.). Cultural sites related to that event are known to exist within this roadless area.

Disturbances: Annual fire occurrence is moderate. The area has a history of periodic severe fires. Prescribed fire is used frequently to improve elk winter range.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Storm Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	8,200	4,800	8,200
GFRG	0	3,400	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**8,200**	**8,200**	**8,200**

Tepee Creek #133

5,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Tepee Creek Roadless Area is located 35 air miles northeast of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. It is within Shoshone County and on the Wallace Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is accessible from a maintained gravel road; Trail 407 provides access to the center of the area. It is within two hours drive from Coeur d'Alene. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has established special fishing regulations for the upper Coeur d'Alene River drainage to promote quality fishing.

The Tepee Creek Roadless Area is mountainous terrain; elevations range from 2,850 feet on the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River to 4,970 feet under Spyglass Lookout. Exposed in this area are metasediments of the Striped Peak and Libby formations (Belt Supergroup). Faults in the area are generally north-south trending and are more abundant in the western part of the area. The area consists of four smaller entire drainages which form the northeast half of a ridge. The topography is moderately steep--typical of the surrounding area.

Large wildfires burned over most of the area in 1910 and 1926. Currently, second-growth coniferous vegetation dominates the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Impact from human activity in the area is very low. A single trail, Trail 407, climbs through the center of the area from Tepee Creek to Spyglass Mountain. Evidence of the 1910 and 1926 fires occurs throughout the area in the form of charred stumps, snags, and young age class timber.

Undeveloped Character: With the exception of the trail, the entire area appears natural.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers moderate opportunities for solitude because of its relatively small size and some off-site intrusions. Dense vegetative screening and some topographic screening offer the only barriers to off-site intrusions, which would allow a moderate primitive recreation experience to users.

Special Features: Approximately 100 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor

Manageability: The area is small. Boundaries are well defined on major ridges or existing system roads.

RESOURCES

Fish: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species are known to occur.

Wildlife: Wildlife inhabitants include elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, and an occasional moose and cougar. The area does not provide habitat for any threatened or endangered species. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area includes hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. No developed recreation facilities are planned.

Timber: Timber values foregone under wilderness management would be relatively large because the entire area is essentially suitable, with a preponderance of high-site land. Timber values present consist of 60 to 70 year age classes.

Range: The area is not suited for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential is low because it is underlain by members of the Belt Supergroup which are not generally known to contain economic deposits. Just outside this area to the southeast is the Rock City Mine, which has had production but is presently inactive. There are presently

no mining claims in the area. Oil and gas potential is low due to the lack of information. This roadless area contains 5,200 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: The area has low fire occurrence.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Tepee Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	5,200	4,500	5,100
GFRG	0	600	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	100	100
Total Acres	**5,200**	**5,200**	**5,200**

Trestle Peak #129

7,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Trestle Peak Roadless Area is located 10 miles east of Sandpoint, Idaho, and three miles northeast of Lake Pend Oreille within the Cabinet Mountains. It is within Bonner County and is on the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is accessible from several trailheads originating from State Highway 200 to the south, the Trestle Creek Road to the west and north, and the Lightning Creek Road from the east.

This long, narrow roadless area includes the mountain range from Roundtop Mountain (elevation 6,149 feet) to Trestle Peak (elevation 6,032 feet). It is approximately seven miles long and averages 1-1/2 miles wide. The ridge is mostly shaped by continental glaciation. Elevation varies from 3,800 to 6,348 feet. The headwaters of three small streams are also included. Alpine glaciation has created several cirque basins within this area, but no mountain lakes exist.

Most of this area is high alpine forest type with interspersed rocky and grassy openings near the ridgetops. Diversity of vegetative type is most pronounced near the high elevation ridgetops. Forest types include mixed conifer stands common to northern Idaho in the lower elevations to alpine fir, lodgepole pine, and an occasional whitebark pine in the higher elevations.

The ridgetop is the location for Roundtop Trail 120, a popular hiking trail which bisects numerous alpine openings. Scenic views of Lake Pend Oreille can be experienced from Roundtop Mountain and the Cabinet Mountain Range to the east can also be seen. Trails within this area are used for hunting during the fall. Some berry picking also occurs within this area. The southern end of this area contains part of the Strong Creek municipal watershed (community of Hope, Idaho).

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Impacts from human activity in this area have, been relatively minor. In the past, some hard rock mining exploration occurred, but evidence of these diggings has been reduced substantially by weathering processes. Trails, where not maintained, quickly become overgrown with trees and shrubs.

Undeveloped Character: Since the area is narrow and encompasses a high ridge, persons visiting can generally view human activities and development near the periphery of this roadless area. Roads, timber harvest areas, and activities along Lake Pend Oreille are some of the activities viewed from this area.

Opportunities for Experience: The Trestle Peak Roadless Area possesses very little opportunity for solitude because of its size and location with respect to developed areas. The topography is not unique to northern Idaho. It does possess diversity in vegetation because of the substantial differences in elevation. Distant viewing into the Cabinet Mountain Range provides for unique views of high alpine, rugged mountainous terrain. The southwest boundary is only 2-1/2 miles from State Highway 200 and the shores of Pend Oreille Lake. The northwest boundary follows within 1/2 miles of Trestle Creek Road, which is a very heavily used road on the Sandpoint District. Sounds from logging and recreational activities have the potential of penetrating throughout the roadless area.

This area offers only limited challenge to the visitor because of its size, lack of streams and lakes, and lack of topographic diversity. Although big game species frequent the area it is not noted for an abundance of wildlife. Trail 120 is a popular hiking trail, providing numerous opportunities to experience scenic views of the surrounding area. Pend Oreille Lake and the Cabinet Mountain Range make up the most unique scenic views. Trail 120 is currently being used by backpackers, horseback riders, and motor bikers. It has been recommended for inclusion into the National Recreational Trail System.

Special Features: Almost the entire area was burned by fires in the early 1900s. The result of these fires was a uniform coniferous forest which is approximately 10-80 years old. An occasional old-growth tree which survived these fires can be seen protruding above the primary forest canopy.

Manageability: The Trestle Creek Roadless Area is a long and narrow roadless area. None of the boundaries follow major terrain or other recognizable ground features. Boundaries will be difficult to locate on the ground. In almost all instances there are no distinct natural terrain features which the boundary could follow. This area is not considered remote and free of external influences. There are no private lands within this area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No streams have fisheries existing within the roadless area.

Wildlife: Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area. Wildlife inhabitants include elk, moose, black bear, grizzly bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, and grouse. Portions of grizzly bear habitat are present within this area.

Water: This roadless area contains 5,600 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Lance-leaved moonwort **(***Botrychium lanceolatum var. lanceolatum)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area is primarily hiking and horseback riding along Roundtop Trail 120. Local residents also enjoy huckleberry picking and hunting opportunities within this area. Primitive camping use is low.

Range: While sheep grazed this area before the 1960s, there are no cattle and sheep allotments at this time. This situation will probably not change.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 500 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Mineral potential for the area is considered to be medium. There are three unpatented claims in this area. Although there are no known mineral occurrences in this area, there are many old prospects nearby. This area is within the Clark Fork Mining District and approximately 12 miles from the mines which were major past producers of the district. Oil and gas potential is low due to lack of information. All of the area is under application for oil and gas lease. This roadless area contains 7,300 acres of low geothermal potential.

Heritage: Roundtop Mountain has several Indian cairns (small depressions outlined by rock) which are believed to be used by the Indians in their religious ceremonies.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Trestle Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	4,300	0
Backcountry	7,300	3,000	7,300
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**7,300**	**7,300**	**7,300**

Trouble Creek #138

6,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Trouble Creek Roadless Area is located about 10 miles north of Osburn, Idaho, along the Coeur d'Alene River. It is within Shoshone County and on the Wallace Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is characterized by steep rock bluffs facing the Coeur d'Alene River, which dominate the view along Forest Highway 9 and Forest Road 208. Major drainages include Trouble, Creaky, and Hopkins Creeks. Topography changes from 4,320 feet at the east end of Uranus Ridge to about 2,400 feet along the Coeur d'Alene River. Medisedinlentary rocks of the Precambrian Belt Supergroup are exposed in the Trouble Creek Roadless Area. Several north- to northwest-trending faults have been mapped.

About 60 percent of the area burned in 1890 and/the rest in 1910. About 90 percent of the trees are pole size. The Civilian Conservation Corps planted trees extensively in the roadless area in the late 1930s. Oak, chestnut, and maple plantations are still identifiable.

The area is considered to be good for elk hunting and receives some deer hunting. The Coeur d'Alene River along the boundary is the only fishable stream. Trouble Creek Trail provides limited access to the roadless area. Due to access and topography, visitor use is light and probably less than 1,000 days annually. The south end of the roadless area received fairly heavy mineral exploration more than 10 years ago. As a result, the area includes several exploration pits and non-travelable roads. No recent mineral activity has taken place.

Wildlife species include elk, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, cougar, bobcat, pileated woodpecker, martin, grouse, and numerous non-game species. The area also possesses quality mountain goat habitat and has historically been considered a prime mountain goat location. The lack of recent sightings may be due to poaching. Much of the area is considered prime big game winter range.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: With some exceptions in the more accessible reaches of the area due to limited past prospecting activity, the Trouble Creek Roadless Area has, for the most part, retained qualities formed by nature without disruption.

Undeveloped Character: The size of the area results in a relatively limited opportunity to view large areas of natural appearing landscape. Views from the higher elevations reveal areas subject to ordinary human activities and development.

Opportunities for Experience: Given the size of the area and its location, opportunities for solitude for a significant number of visitors are hampered by the ruggedness of terrain, which tends to concentrate use. Recreation opportunities on the area would involve camping; backpacking; big game hunting, either on a daily or an extended trip basis; and the occasional rock climber. The Trouble Creek Trail bisects the area and provides limited access. No other developments exist in the area.

Special Features: Approximately 1,000 acres of the Trouble Creek Roadless Area are within the Coeur d'Alene River Scenic Corridor. Massive Precambrian-aged metasediments which have weathered to a steep, broken face are exposed along the Coeur d'Alene River, providing habitat capable of supporting Rocky Mountain goat. The Prichard Ranger Station, consisting of a log cabin and a barn, was constructed at the mouth of Trouble Creek in 1907. It was utilized as a Ranger Station until 1936 when it was dismantled and the lumber was used elsewhere. Trouble Creek Trail follows the ridge between Trouble and Creaky Creeks for 2-1/2 miles. The trail offers good hunting access and scenic views to the south.

Manageability: The Trouble Creek roadless area is bordered on less prominent ridge lines, which could make on-the-ground boundaries difficult to locate. Private land is included in the area, peripherally only, and consists of homesteads and recreational residences.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species are known to occur.

Wildlife: Wildlife species include elk, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, cougar, bobcat, pileated woodpecker, martin, grouse, and numerous non-game species. The area also possesses quality mountain goat habitat and has historically been considered a prime mountain goat location. The lack of recent sightings may be due to poaching. Much of the area is considered prime big game winter range. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 2,300 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Hunting is the predominant recreation use.

Timber: Future development of the timber resource would involve the management of 5,900 acres within the area.

Range: The area is unsuitable for cattle grazing due to the steepness of the terrain.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 4,500 acres of WUI.

Lands and Special Uses: A Bonneville Power Administration powerline closely follows the area boundary on the west.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential for the area is medium. The Revett Formation, which is being actively exploited for stratabound copper and silver, crops out in this roadless area. About five to six miles away in Eagle Creek, a deposit of this type has been delineated within the Revett Fornation. Presently located in this area are 220 mining claims. Its mineral potential has been rated moderate, with 10 percent of the area having a low rating. The potential for oil and gas in this area is unknown. This roadless area contains 6,000 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Trouble Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	6,000	2,800	5,000
GFRG	0	2,200	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,000	1,000
Total Acres	**6,000**	**6,000**	**6,000**

Trout Creek #664

8,500 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)
30,900 Acres Kootenai (Montana)
39,400 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The area is located on the southern border of the forest, in western Sanders County and is bordered on the west by Idaho, into which part of the area extends. It is readily accessible from the Clark Fork Valley Roads up Trout Creek, White Pine Creek, Minton Peak, and to the Lost Peak - Bloom Peak Ridgeline provides easy access via several trail heads. From the Idaho Panhandle side of the area, access is available from the Casper Creek Trail and Idaho-Montana Divide Trail.

The area is rugged, steep and mountainous with some very productive timberlands. The high ridgeline setting and timbered drainages make it unique among roadless areas on the Kootenai National Forest. Black Peak, at 6500 feet, is the highest point. The area was mostly burned over during the 1910 fire, but some old growth remains in a few areas untouched by the fires. Most of the productive timberland contains 70-80 year old stands. The fire also left many of the southern slopes bare or brush covered. This area includes numerous named tributaries of Trout Creek plus some headwater areas of both Whitepine and Beaver Creeks on the Kootenai portion. On the Idaho Panhandle portion, major drainages include Casper, West Fork Eagle, and Tributary Creeks.

Clearcut blocks and roads are most noticeable on the Idaho side of the roadless area. However, because of the concaveness of the roadless area, once off the ridgetop, surrounding developments are not an intrusion.

Three ecosystem types are represented; Douglas-fir, cedar hemlock, and western spruce-fir. Elk hunting is the predominant recreational use of the area. The Settler's Grove of Ancient Cedars Botanical Area also attracts many visitors. Recreational visitor use is estimated at 10,000 recreation visitor days annually.

The bulk of this roadless area consists of drainages and tributaries which are entirely roadless. The main "state line" divides to the west form the headwaters of these streams, and is roadless on the Trout Creek (Montana) side.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Outside of two low-standard roads, the natural integrity and appearance of the area is quite high. There are several miles of trail throughout the area, including a National Recreation Trail, which are generally in good shape and lay relatively lightly on the land.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude vary from moderate, along the ridgetop of the State line divide, to very high in the upper basins of the various forks of Trout Creek and White Pine Creek and, of course, down in the valleys and canyons of Trout Creek itself.

Visitor use tends to be dispersed throughout the area, which also enhances the solitude for any particular part of the area. The size and configuration of the Trout Creek area lends itself to opportunities for primitive recreation. There are several miles of very scenic streamside trails leading to shallow subalpine basins above with a wide variety of flowers and berries, in addition to the regionally known elk herd, plus other quality hunting opportunities for bear and deer. There is also a high quality fishery in the forks of Trout Creek. Prospective primitive campsites abound throughout the area, both in the canyon bottoms and the basins above, which have small alpine lakes. The potential for challenging experiences in the Trout Creek area would include elk hunting with bow and rifle, cross country hiking in the rugged canyons, and ski mountaineering along the main divide in the winter.

Special Features: The special feature the Trout Creek area is most known for is the elk that inhabit the area, in relatively large numbers. About 100 acres are in a Special Interest Area, and 100 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability:. The bulk of this roadless area consists of drainages and tributaries which are entirely roadless. The main "state line" divide to the west form the headwaters of these streams, and is roadless on the Trout Creek (Montana) side. These factors add up to a readily manageable boundary. The boundary could perhaps best be improved by either including the corridor presently excluded along the Granite Creek mining access road, or using it as a boundary and excluding the lands to the east of the road. The road itself is of very low standard and would have the same impact on a wilderness experience whether inside or out.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Upper Trout Creek and its headwaters are in this roadless area. Trout Creek provides popular fishing for cutthroat trout, bull trout, and whitefish.

Wildlife: The area's wildlife is one of its biggest attractions. Wildlife present on the Idaho Panhandle portion includes elk, whitetail and mule deer, black bear, cougar, bobcat, moose, coyote, wolverine, marten, owls, pileated woodpecker, hawks, and beaver. Numerous non-game species inhabit the area. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: Mean annual precipitation varies from 30-85 inches in the area, depending on elevation. Average annual runoff for the area in general varies from 8-5 inches, with most of this amount running off as streamflow in May and June. Overall existing water quality is very high, except during high runnoff events.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: The area has the potential of providing 9,500 recreation visitor days of wilderness recreation per year. The 22 mile Trout Creek Loop National Recreation Trail is located in this area.

Timber: Most of the lands in Idaho area tentatively suitable timber lands capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet per acre per year of timber growth. Over 90 percent of this timber land is located on slopes in excess of 55 percent. Road construction will be difficult and costly and logging will require the use of cable and helicopter yarding methods.

Range: There are no active grazing allotments in the area. Grazing potential for the area is considered transitory.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,900 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The mineral potential is considered high along the South Branch of Trout Creek and Attlebury Creek and very high in the area of the Jack Waite mine. Total acres are approximately 7,920 acres of high and very high potential. Mineral activity is occurring in the Tributary, Casper, Eagle, and Silent Creek drainages. The oil and gas potential is moderate. This roadless area contains 8,500 acres of low geothermal potential.

Heritage: There are two identified historic cultural sites on the Kootenai portion. Two historic trails pass through the Trout Creek area. Gold seekers followed these trails in the 1880's to the gold rush towns of Eagle and Murray from the Montana side. The Jack Waite mine and most of its workings are located within the Idaho Panhandle portion of the area. The mine was developed in the 1890's, which included the mine and mill complex and the Duthie townsite. The town remained active until the 1960's but is now a ghost town.

The area has not been surveyed for prehistoric sites so no sites have been identified. However, based on surveys in similar locales, the probability of sites occurring is considered low, except within the Trout Creek drainage bottom itself where the probability is moderate to high.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Trout Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	3,600	0
Backcountry	8,500	1,400	8,300
GFRG	0	3,300	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	200	200
Total Acres	**8,500**	**8,500**	**8,500**

Upper Priest #123

12,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Upper Priest Roadless Area is located about 50 miles north of Priest River, Idaho, within Bonner County and the Priest Lake Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Primary access is provided by paved Forest Road 237 and native-surfaced Roads 401, 1013, and 1341. The area may also be accessed by boat from Priest Lake.

The somewhat triangularly-shaped area includes a portion of Priest River, all of Upper Priest Lake, and the surrounding mountainous forestland. Slopes to the lake are mostly moderate to gentle. Elevations range from 2,440 feet at lake level to the 5,000 foot ridge of Plowboy Mountain. Gold Peak and Armstrong Meadows are other topographical features of the area. About 25 percent of the area is rockland or flat stream bottoms. Drainage is provided by Beaver Creek, Boulder Creek, Hughes Fork, Ruby Creek, Deadman Creek, and Upper Priest River. About 300 acres of private land are included within the boundary.

Mixed conifer forest of fairly recent fire origin (since 1880) covers most of the land area. Old-growth stands are found in the southern part of the area, while cedar, cottonwood, and brush are common along Priest River. Habitat types are generally hemlock or cedar/pachistima.

The primary human use of the roadless area focuses on the river and Upper Priest Lake, visited by thousands of boaters and hikers annually. Unique values of the area include the administratively designated scenic area (4,600 acres) surrounding the lake, part of which is State land managed under complementary objectives. The entire eastern slope of Plowboy Mountain is visible from the lake and is included in the scenic area. There is also a Research Natural Area (1,400 acres) in the Priest River flood plain north of the lake and a 400 acres Wild River segment of the Priest, also north of the lake. Two trails, Navigation 291 and Plowboy 295, provide access for hikers and backpackers. The Thorofare, a two mile channel separating the upper and lower lakes, provides access for boating, fishing, and camping activities on the Upper Lake.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impact from human activity has been related primarily to foot trails, campsites, and mineral exploration activities (tunnel entrances and two old log cabins). A Forest Service fire lookout and cabin were once located in the area, but all that remain are the foundation of the cabin and the footings and other incidental evidence of the tower.

Undeveloped Character: Visitors to the area would feel that they are in a natural area away from ordinary human activity. Signs of human activity are visible primarily as background from higher elevations. A timber harvest area can be viewed adjacent to a foot trail at the northern end of the area, yet a screen of trees keeps much of it from view. Forest roads and timber harvest areas outside the area are visible from the higher elevations. Mineral exploration evidence can be noted inside the area by one of the two old log cabins which are adjacent to a foot trail.

Upper Priest Lake is fed by Upper Priest River, plus several smaller streams. The upper river is a significant fisheries habitat. A three mile long thoroughfare connects Upper and Lower Priest Lakes and is also protected fisheries water.

Opportunities for Experience: The area varies from 1 to 7 miles wide and 3 to 6 miles north to south. It offers opportunities for solitude because of the differences in topography (2,500 to 5,000 feet elevation) and vegetation. There are four specific areas which have concentrated public use, but they are several miles from each other. The foot trails also receive high use during the summer months.

The thorofare is calm and winding, with boaters seldom seeing anyone ahead or behind them throughout parts of the summer. Upper Priest Lake, 3 miles long and up to 1 mile wide in spots, stretches before the

hiker and boater, providing a feeling of solitude with few visible camping spots. The nearest State highway is miles from the area. Forest roads provide access to the boundaries of the area, but the only means of access into the area is by hiking or boating. This is due to the fact that a large portion of the area surrounding Upper Priest Lake was designated as a Scenic Area by the Regional Forester in 1968.

The area offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, boating, canoeing, huckleberry picking, lake fishing, and scenery viewing. The topography and vegetation offer variety to the recreation experience. The area is of a size that it experiences backpacking activities of 2-4 days duration but also offers day hike opportunities. Overnight use is frequent at either of the two campgrounds on the west side of the upper lake or the two campgrounds on the east side of the upper lake.

Two trails into the area, Navigation Trail 291 and Plowboy Trail 295, are maintained annually. Navigation Trail parallels the Thorofare to the upper lake then parallels the shoreline of the lake to the northern end. The trail continues northwest and out of the area. Plowboy Trail leads over Plowboy Mountain then joins with the Navigation Trail near Navigation Campground. Boulder Creek Trail 296 was a fire access trail many years ago but it receives very low use today. At the southeast border, outside the Scenic Area, is Beaver Creek Recreation Site (currently under construction) adjacent to the Navigation Trailhead, which leads to the upper lake. It is a popular site for launching small boats and camping.

Fishing is permitted only in the lake due to the important Dolly Varden and cutthroat trout spawning habitat of the tributaries into Upper Priest River and other streams flowing into Upper Priest Lake.

Special Features: Upper Priest River at the northern end of the upper lake is unique in that it has been recommended to Congress for Wild and Scenic River status under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. Armstrong Meadows is located at the southeast boundary. Navigation Trail runs adjacent to it. Wildlife frequents the meadow, making it an interesting area for a side trip. Grizzly bear habitat extends through Armstrong Meadows, borders the southern end of the Scenic Area, crosses Boulder Creek, and continues east to the area boundary.

Manageability: The boundary around the area follows along several forest roads, topographic features, draws, timber harvest areas, and forest boundaries.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area. The streams tributary to the river and lake constitute important spawning and rearing habitat for Dolly Varden and cutthroat trout.

Wildlife: Wildlife species in the area include a threatened species, the grizzly bear, and other big game and non-game animals common to northern Idaho (moose. deer, elk, black bear). Great gray owl, harlequin duck, bald eagle, common loon, and fisher occur in the roadless area. Old-growth stands in the area provide habitat for species dependent upon such conditions.

Botanical: Deer-fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Lance-leaved moonwort (*Botrychium lanceolatum var. lanceolatum*), Mingan moonwort (*Botrychium minganense*), and Mountain moonwort (*Botrychium montanum*), and Stalked moonwort (*Botrychium pedunculosum),* Bristle-stalked sedge (*Carex leptalea*), Crested shield-fern (*Dryopteris cristata*), Swamp willow-weed (*Epilobium palustre*), Creeping snowberry (*Gaultheria hispidula*), Blueflag (Iris versicolor), Groundpine (*Lycopodium dendroideum*), Braun's sword-fern (*Polystichum braunii*), Bog willow (*salix pedicellaris*), Krushea (*Streptopus streptopoides*), Northern starflower (Trientalis arctica), and Bog cranberry (*Vaccinium ocycoccos*) all sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area

Recreation: Water quality is currently high, the current uses being boating, fishing, and swimming.

Timber: Most of the area contains tentatively suitable timber lands. The scenic area is not included in harvest base because of the administrative designation.

Range: None.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 300 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area contains uranium belts trending northeasterly that have been identified by Bendix Corporation under contract from the Department of Energy. There are several old prospects in the area, one of which produced a small amount of lead, zinc, copper, silver, and gold. Over 3,000 acres of this area are withdrawn from mineral entry as the Upper Priest Lake Scenic Area. The area has a moderate mineral potential. Oil and gas lease potential is low. This roadless area contains 5,900 acres of medium and 6,800 acres of low geothermal potential.

The Bonneville Power Administration has identified a potential east-west energy corridor that may cross a portion of this roadless area. Generally, the corridor is located a few miles south of the Canadian Border, across Idaho.

Heritage: The remains of an old fire lookout tower and cabin on Plowboy Mountain offer visitors a historical perspective of past forest fire detection methods of the Forest Service.

Disturbances: The annual fire occurrence is low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Upper Priest Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	12,700	4,300	6,100
GFRG	0	2,000	200
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	6,400	6,400
Total Acres	**12,700**	**12,700**	**12,700**

White Mountain #127

7,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The White Mountain Roadless Area is located approximately 15 air miles north of Sandpoint, Idaho, and lies southeast of the Selkirk Crest area. The roadless area is divided in two by Boundary County to the north and Bonner County to the south. It is within the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest and is accessible by the Pack River Road along the west boundary.

The area is irregular in shape, averaging six miles long and two miles wide. The roadless area rises from the Pack River Valley on the west side and the Purcell Trench on the east side. Three prominent landmarks exist within the area: Dodge Peak, White Mountain, and Mutiny Point. Topography changes from 2,200 feet in Pack River Valley to 5,027 feet at the top of Dodge Peak. No unique features or mountain lakes exist within the area.

Vegetation is diverse within the area, ranging from lodgepole pine, alpine fir, and Engelmann spruce in the higher elevations to grand fir, Douglas-fir, and some cedar in the lower elevations. Scattered ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir are also present. Very little old growth exists within the area due to logging activity and fires which occurred near the turn of the century. The area is generally forested, with a few occasional brushfields.

The area's activities center on the use of White Mountain Trail 453, which bisects the roadless area. The trail runs down the ridgeline from Dodge Peak south to White Mountain. Views from along this trail include the Selkirk Crest to the north, the Cabinet Mountain range to the far east, and immediate viewing of the Purcell Trench and Pack River Valley, U.S. Highway 95, rural farms, and small communities such as Elmira and Naples. The heaviest use of the trail occurs during the fall from big game hunters. Local residents also use the area for berry picking.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The impacts of human activity in this area are relatively light and consist of pack trails (constructed mainly for fire control access), old lookout sites, some very old logging, and some old plantations of conifer trees.

Undeveloped Character: Two major railroads and U.S. Highway 95 are within 2 miles of this roadless area. In addition, numerous other roads surround the area and provide access for area residents, logging, and roaded recreation. There is vegetative screening but very little topographic screening from these developments and the sounds that emanate from such uses.

Opportunities for Experience: It is difficult to get a sense of solitude in this area due to its proximity to so much development and the lack of any real topographic screening from activities that occur on the surrounding developments. This area provides opportunities for hiking, berry picking, and hunting.

Special Features: There are no other significant features identified in this area.

Manageability: The boundaries follow property lines or are located midslope on non-defined topographic features. If exchanges and/or purchases could be made, better boundary locations might be available. Regardless of boundary location, human activities occurring outside the area will always be visible or heard from inside the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The roadless area has no large streams with fisheries value, although bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife inhabitants include moose, elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, and grouse. Brushfields within this area are well browsed by the small local population of deer and big game. The area does not

contain habitat for threatened and endangered species. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use in the area is primarily hiking and hunting along White Mountain Trail 453. The trail runs along the ridgeline from Dodge Peak south to White Mountain and offers views of the Selkirk Crest and Cabinet Mountain Range. Heaviest use occurs during the fall from big game hunters.

Timber: About 6,860 acres of the area are estimated as tentatively suitable for timber production. The area has a moderate to high timber production value, with much of the present area in immature sawtimber. The relatively moderate slopes make harvest activities feasible.

Range: Cattle and sheep have not used the White Mountain area for many years and there are no cattle and sheep allotments at this time.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 7,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There is minor potential for contact-type vein deposits. The potential of this area is mostly unknown. No mining claims are located in the area. Oil and gas potential is low. This roadless area contains 7,500 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred in the area, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

White Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	7,500	100	7,500
GFRG	0	7,400	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**7,500**	**7,500**	**7,500**

Wonderful Peak #152

4,900 Acres Idaho Panhandle (Idaho)
1,600 Acres Lolo (Montana)
6,500 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Wonderful Peak Roadless Area is located on both sides of the Idaho-Montana border about four air miles southeast of Mullan, Idaho, and nine air miles north of Avery, Idaho. The Idaho portion lies within Shoshone County on the Avery Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, with the Montana portion contained in Mineral County on the Superior Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest.

About 500 acres of patented mining claims are contained within the roadless area. Bonneville Power Administration tower-access roads, the Bullion Creek Road, and Hanakar Creek Road provide motorized access to the eastern and southern boundaries. Low standard mining roads, the Stateline Trail, Wonderful Peak Trail, and Copper Gulch Trail offer interior access.

The roughly diamond-shaped roadless area rises in elevation from 3,400 feet on the North Fork of the St. Joe River to over 6,500 feet on the Bitterroot Divide. Terrain is precipitous with generally steep, rocky slopes. Alpine glaciation occurred along the state line, being most evident on the Montana portion. The Montana portion contains one alpine lake, Copper Lake, and drains northward via Copper Gulch and Hanakar Creek into the St. Regis River. The Idaho segment flows southward into the St. Joe River system.

Existing vegetation resulted from the 1910 and successive fires which consumed the entire roadless area. Extensive non-stocked brushfields remain on the more exposed southern aspects, with mature sapling or small saw timber stands of mixed composition on the cooler north aspects. Additionally, portions of the area were planted with off-site ponderosa pine or western white pine. Little old-growth timber remains anywhere within the roadless area. The Bitterroot Divide is characterized by open subalpine vegetation. Habitat varies from cedar/clintonia at the lower elevations to mountain hemlock or subalpine fir types on the higher slopes.

The roadless area receives only light recreational use, with Copper Lake being the most popular destination, providing water-oriented activities. The primary activity throughout the roadless area however, centers upon big game hunting. Pleasure-driving with motorbikes and 4-wheel-drive vehicles also occurs on existing mining roads and maintained trails. Hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and other activities remain limited.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: In the Idaho portion, the impact of past human activity in this area is moderate. Mining activity first began in the early 1900s. Nearly 500 acres are patented and under private ownership. Anaconda Mineral Company has leased a number of patents and is presently carrying out exploratory operations. There are numerous unpatented claims scattered throughout the planning area. There is a road accessing the Old Wonderful Mine. An existing trail accesses Wonderful Peak. Existing roads completely encircle the Wonderful Peak area. On the Montana portion, impacts include a developed road with earthworks, cut and fill slopes, the quarter mile long Copper Lake Road, a dam which forms Copper Lake, a mining excavation area, dozer trenches and trails, exploratory pits, and 140 acres of thinning and pruning on a white pine plantation.

Undeveloped Character: The Wonderful Peak Roadless Area does not lend itself to the solitude normally attributed to natural or wilderness areas because of the topography. The Bonneville Power Administration powerline and surrounding roads and activity become dominant features of the landscape. Interstate 90 is visible from some places. The Milwaukee Road Railroad which is now abandoned is partially visible and a Bonneville Power Administration powerline will be constructed within 3 miles of the northeast corner of the area.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers little opportunity for solitude because of its size and surrounding developments. There is little in terms of topographic or vegetative screening. The distance from its core to the perimeter is 1.5 miles from east to west and less than 1 mile from north to south. The area consists of the Bitterroot Crest to the north with two major ridgelines radiating southward. Wonderful Creek is the only well defined creek which would screen any of the surrounding intrusions. Human use is concentrated along the surrounding road system. Opportunities for primitive recreation experiences are greatly limited. The size and shape of this area provide little opportunity to actually be isolated from evidence of man and his activities. With much of the area having similar topographic and vegetative features, there is little diversity of recreation opportunities. Primitive recreation experiences are further limited by motorized use of the trail and road intruding into the area. Opportunities do exist for big game and hunting (elk, deer, bear, and mountain lion), while horseback riding, hiking, and backpacking experiences are limited.

Special Features: A high percentage of the Wonderful Peak area was influenced by the 1910 fire. Eight firefighters perished inside the Bullion Mine just outside the boundary of the roadless area where they had taken refuge from the fire. They were eventually buried in the Wallace Cemetery. Vegetative conditions which developed as a result of that fire have created the sort of habitat which is ideal for big game species. There is a high level of public interest in roadless elk hunting as evidenced by the survival of commercial outfitter/guide operation in this general area.

Manageability: Existing boundaries are not well defined. The southern and eastern boundaries do not follow topographic features but, rather, are located so that roads and powerline corridors would not be incorporated within the boundaries. There is private ownership under patented mining claim within the area. There is active exploration being carried out at three locations within the area boundary. The road accessing the Wonderful Mine is being used for this activity. Additional road construction will continue to be required for access to future drill sites.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Little fisheries resources exist within the roadless area.

Wildlife: The area serves as big game summer and winter range for elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, and black bear. Other game and non-game species common to northern Idaho and western Montana also populate the roadless area. No habitat for threatened and endangered species exists. It is the elk herd existing in this general area which catches public attention. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Elk hunting and driving old mining roads are the predominant recreation uses of this area. Current use is light.

Timber: The area contains 4,800 acres of suitable timberland supporting 38 million board feet of timber. The low volume reflects the fact that much of suitable acreage is presently poorly stocked brushfield.

Range: Neither cattle or sheep have used the Wonderful Peak area since the 1930s. This situation will probably not change under either a wilderness or non-wilderness form of management.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 100 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area is underlain primarily by argillites and quartzites of the Wallace Formation, a unit of the Precambrian Belt Supergroup. The Ravalli Group crops out to the north and northeast. The northwest-striking Placer Creek fault, which is the southern boundary of the silver belt of the Coeur d'Alene Mining District, is located within the northern half of the roadless area.

Two percent of the roadless area is rated as having very high mineral potential and the remaining 98 percent as high. The Idaho Panhandle side of the roadless area has 362 unpatented mining claims and 479 acres of patented mining claims. In Montana there are 63 claims. There are many prospects in the area

and exploration is ongoing, with a current diamond drilling project underway. There is presently a gas and oil lease application on file covering the area. This roadless area contains 4,900 acres of low geothermal potential.

Disturbances: Although large fires have occurred, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Wonderful Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	4,900	1,300	4,900
GFRG	0	3,600	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**4,900**	**4,900**	**4,900**

Roberts #691

7,400 Acres Kootenai (Idaho)
3,400 Acres Kootenai (Montana)
10,800 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Roberts Roadless Area is located near the Idaho-Montana state line, immediately north of the Callahan Creek Road. Access is provided via Highway 2 ad the Callahan Creek Road. The area is primarily a south exposure mountainside setting, generally vegetated throughout. The area is dominated by the divide between Sweasey and Frezkat Creeks, 6,000 to 6,600 feet. Sweasey, Frezkat, and Jill Creeks, originate in this area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity is rated high with no manmade features detracting from the natural appearance.

Opportunities for Experience: The vegetative cover provides moderate opportunities for solitude although the size and configuration would serve to limit the opportunities. Primitive recreation experiences provided include ridgetop hiking and hunting.

Manageability: The boundary of the area can be considered relatively good from a management standpoint, with a ridgeline defining the north boundary and a road on the south.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area is partial headwaters for rainbow, cutthroat, and bull trout for Callahan Creek; brook, cutthroat, rainbow and bull trout for Star Creek; and cutthroat and rainbow trout in Ruby Creek. Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area contains grizzly habitat, elk summer range, and excellent whitetail deer habitat. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: Mean annual precipitation for the area is about 65 inches, varying between 50 to 105 inches depending on elevation. Except during occasional rain or snow events, the water quality is high.

Recreation: The area has the potential of providing 2,700 recreation visitor days of wilderness recreation per year. Current use is estimated to be 500 recreation visitor days. Current recreation uses include hunting in the fall and the total use is considered light.

Timber: There are 6,900 acres of suitable timberland capable of producing greater than 20 cubic feet per year of timber growth. Over 90 percent of this timberland is on slopes steeper than 55 percent. Road construction will be difficult and costly and timber harvesting would require cable or helicopter logging. Some regeneration problem areas are located in the northwest corner.

Range: There is no livestock grazing allotments in the area and the areas potential for grazing is considered all transitory.

Minerals and Energy: The mineral potential is low and the oil and gas is moderate. Oil and gas leases have expired.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private lands.

Heritage: There are no identified historic or prehistoric cultural sites in the area. Based on surveys done in similar areas, the probability of prehistoric sites occurring is considered low.

Disturbances: The area has low fire occurrence in the last 20 years (five fires). The fuels situation is predominantly dense conifer with downed woody material. About 10 percent of the area contains lodgepole pine susceptible to mountain pine beetle infestation but no insect activity has been identified to date.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Roberts Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	5,400	0
Backcountry	7,400	1,300	7,400
GFRG	0	700	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**7,400**	**7,400**	**7,400**

West Fork Elk #692

3,700 Acres Kootenai (Idaho
1,500 Acres Kootenai (Montana)
5,200 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The West Fork Elk Roadless Area is located on the southwest corner of the forest, abutting the divide separating the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Access is available via Highway 200 and the main Elk Creek Road. The area is generally surrounded by forest management activities such as roads and clearcuts.

The area is primarily a low-elevation stream bottom with steep, rocky upland slopes. The area constitutes the watershed basin for the upper West Fork Elk Creek. A road to Prospect lookout straddles a ridgeline which rims the area.

The quality elk hunting experience and the views of the Clark Fork Valley are among the area's attractions.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity is high with no manmade features to detract from the area's natural appearance.

Opportunities for Experience: Despite the area's smallness and compactness, opportunities for solitude are high in the interior, owing to the steep canyon walls. Atop the ridge, opportunities are less so because of the view of existing roads and clearcuts. Recreation opportunities include hunting and some fishing. The steep canyons provide challenging cross country travel.

Special Features: Special features include the resident elk herd which attracts hunters in the fall.

Manageability: This is a good example of a "pocket" wilderness; small and compact with a well defined and easily managed boundary. The boundary is set along a strong ridgeline essentially surrounding the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area contains elk summer range which is currently maintaining itself. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: Mean annual precipitation is 55 inches, which varies from 38 to 78 inches depending on the elevation. The streams normally peak in mid to late May, but may peak mid-winter from the occasional rain-on-snow event.

Recreation: The primary recreation is hunting for elk.

Timber: Most of the area is tentatively suitable timberland capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet per acre of timber growth. The timberland is almost located on slopes steeper than 55 percent. Most of the area is in cedar hemlock. The insect disease situation is stable, with no susceptible stands of lodgepole pine and no insect and disease activity occurring.

Range: There is no livestock grazing allotments in this area. The grazing potential is transitory and considered negligible.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,100 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The mineral potential is low.

Landownership and Special Uses: No private lands in the area. There are no special uses.

Heritage: There are no identified historic or prehistoric cultural sites. Based on surveys in similar areas, the probability of prehistoric sites occurring is considered low.

Disturbances: The area has a low occurrence of fires.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

West Fork Elk Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	3,700	2,300	3,700
GFRG	0	1,400	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**3,700**	**3,700**	**3,700**

Clear Creek #844

9,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Clear Creek Roadless Area is located in the head of Clear Creek along the western boundary of the Nez Perce National Forest. Private property adjoins this area on the northwestern boundary. The nearest roads are spurs of Road 1842 on the north, Road 650 on the west, and Road 286 on the east, but some of these roads are closed during the general hunting season as a means of mitigating impacts on big game.

Elevation ranges from 2,000 feet on Clear Creek at the forest boundary to 4,600 feet at China Point Ridge and the headwaters of Solo and Kay Creeks. Topography is mountainous with steep slopes, commonly over 70 percent, paralleling the drainages. Ridgetops are relatively flat.

The Clear Creek drainage has been a significant part of the Nez Perce Forest timber sale program since the late 1950s. Most of the acreage remaining in Clear Creek Roadless Area burned twice, once in 1870 and again in 1931, leaving about 7,000 acres covered with brushfields in the South Fork and Middle Fork of Clear Creek drainages. Previous conifer forests have never reestablished themselves.

Vegetation in the area ranges from very moist, warm cedar habitat types, to drier, warm Douglas-fir habitat types. Shrub coverage in the brushfields is primarily maple, willow, serviceberry, and various other shrubs. Bordering the brushfields are patches of young (approximately 70 years old) timber, a mix of grand fir, Douglas-fir, and western redcedar. Understories are sparse, but contain a variety of moist-site plants. There are also some natural meadows in upper Kay Creek in Section 28.

The brushfields have been important big-game (elk and moose) winter range, but the preferred browse species-redstem, willow, mountain maple, and serviceberry -- have in recent years grown out of reach of the animals. Some use of prescribed fire has been made in attempt to increase the value of the range. Current uses of the area include livestock grazing, big-game winter and summer range, fishing, hunting, and mining.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Past wildfires in Clear Creek and the resulting vegetative succession are some of the natural processes that have occurred. These processes have been modified to some degree on about 200 acres which have been reburned in an attempt to improve wildlife browse.

Opportunities for Experience: This small area, with nearby logging activity, offers limited opportunity for solitude. Vegetative screening is high, however. The main opportunity here is bushwhacking and following game trails through dense brushfields. It is easy to get turned around in this country.

Manageability: This area has been reduced by at least 14,800 acres since 1979, almost entirely because of timber sales. The area boundary is imprecise except where it coincides with the forest boundary. It has been drawn to exclude existing roads from the remainder of the area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Steelhead, rainbow trout, brook trout, and whitefish are found in Clear Creek. Although the drainage has been impacted by past timber sale activity and road building, the aquatic habitat remains in fair condition on National Forest System land. Habitat has been reduced in that part of the creek between the forest boundary and the mouth, since activities on private property are not restricted. There is a Chinook summer salmon summer salmon hatchery near the mouth of the creek, although returning spring fish are not allowed to go upstream.

Wildlife: Elk, moose, deer, bear, and cougar are found in the roadless area. The brushfields are important winter range. This area, taken together with the Silver Creek-Pilot Knob Roadless Area to the south, is potential yearlong gray wolf habitat. Pileated woodpecker, red-naped sapsucker, Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Water: This roadless area contains 9,200 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation use is mostly big game hunting. There are several low-standard trails in the area, which have not been maintained in recent years.

Timber: Timber in the Clear Creek country is predominantly old-growth grand fir. Cedar is also present.

Range: Parts of three allotments are in this area. The majority of the available forage is transitory, being generated from the large brushfields in the South Fork and Middle Fork drainages. The remainder of the area is covered with old-growth cedar/grand fir stands with little available forage underneath except in the natural meadows and stream bottoms.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 2,900 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 9,200 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is private land in the northwest corner of the roadless area.

Heritage: There are no known cultural resource sites in the area.

Disturbances: The old-growth grand fir and western redcedar stands are decadent. Heartrot, caused by Indianpaint fungus, is prevalent in the grand fir. Butt rot extending into the upper bole of the tree is common in the western redcedar. Other damaging agents are also present, but are minor problems. Fire frequency is very low in the Clear Creek drainage.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Clear Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	9,200	8,000	9,200
GFRG	0	1,200	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**9,200**	**9,200**	**9,200**

Dixie Summit-Nut Hill #235

13,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The name of the Dixie Summit-Nut Hill Roadless Area is somewhat misleading as Dixie Summit and Nut Hill are no longer included within area boundaries. Moose Butte, at 7,100 feet, is the most prominent topographical feature. A ridge runs south from Moose Butte through the roadless area. The east Side of this ridge drains into Red River, a part of the Clearwater drainage and the west side runs into Big Creek and then Crooked Creek, in the Salmon drainage.

The roadless area can be reached by Road 311, which parallels the area on the west, and Roads 9535 and 9531, which approach from the east. The elevation ranges from 5,400 feet at West Fork to 7,100 feet at Moose Butte. Although some of the slopes are steep, much of the country is relatively gentle. Quite a lot of this area is a mountain meadow environment. Big Creek Meadows cover most of the western portion of the area and extend up the tributaries. They are grazed by both cattle and wildlife. The rest of the area ranges from pure lodgepole pine stands on southern slopes at moderate elevations to alpine fir and Engelmann spruce in draws and higher elevations. The predominant species is mature lodgepole pine. As in other lodgepole stands in this locality, mountain pine beetles are causing increasing damage.

There is a passable road from Badger Summit, in the extreme northwest corner of the area, to an old cabin about a mile and a half within the area. The cabin, about 10x15 feet with a metal roof, dates back to the 1940s. Trail 207 runs south from Moose Butte to Burpee. It is not heavily used. Other manmade features include drift fences near Vetter Creek and Eutopia Creek, and mining relics from the earliest days of mining in the area. Traditional recreation uses include fishing, hunting, camping, horseback riding and snowmobiling. Now that the Burpee Road has been built through the middle of the area, motorcycles and ATVs are becoming prevalent. One outfitter operates in this area.

A 1,000 acre Research Natural Area is located in the wet meadows along Moose Meadow Creek and its tributaries. It includes the stream network itself, and the nearby forest of lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce. This area does not adjoin any existing wilderness.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural processes have been little impacted, except for a long history of grazing and some placer mining which occurred years ago. Evidence of grazing is most apparent in Big Creek Meadows. Current mining is being carefully regulated. It is possible to see cattle grazing in some parts of the area, and there is mining activity along the western boundary.

Opportunities for Experience: The small size of this area, together with nearby roads and logging activity, restricts isolation. Off-site intrusions are apparent in many places. Roads and cattle are found along the western edge. Clearcuts and ranches in Red River Valley are visible from the ridge top. Primitive recreation opportunities are also limited. The area is small, and evidence of man's activities is not far away. The topography is not challenging, and there is little diversity.

Special Features: A 1,000-acre Research Natural Area in Moose Meadow Creek, a tributary of Big Creek, was approved by the Chief of the Forest Service in 1982. This Research Natural Area is completely within the Dixie Summit-Nut Hill Roadless Area. Although vegetation there has not been studied thoroughly, no known threatened or endangered plant species occur in the area; however, it does contain a few species that are uncommon in Idaho.

Manageability: This area is small, and the boundary is highly irregular. No existing wilderness adjoins this area. Since 1979, the boundary of this area has been adjusted to exclude timber sales and miscellaneous mining activity. The acreage has been recalculated, reducing the acreage from 17,700to the present 13,000.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The fish in Big Creek and tributaries are not anadromous, but those in Red River are. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: Species include elk, moose, deer, bear, and cougar. The endangered gray wolf may inhabit the area based on suitability of habitat and unconfirmed sightings. Wolverine, fisher, and pileated woodpecker, Region 1 sensitive species occur in this roadless area.

Botanical: Spacious monkeyflower *(Mimulus ampliatus)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Most users are hunters and fishermen.

Range: This roadless area contains approximately 700 acres of primary range in the Big Creek grazing allotment, and 500 acres of transitory range in the Moose Butte allotment for a total of 160 animal unit months (AUMs).

Minerals and Energy: There is currently some mining activity along the western boundary of the area, in which exploratory holes are dug with a backhoe, then are refilled and seeded. This operation involves about 100 acres. Presently there are 52 other unpatented claims in the area. This roadless area contains 13,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area is completely within National Forest System boundaries. The most unique features of the area are managed as a Research Natural Area. The West Fork portion of the roadless area has considerable lodgepole pine in high risk class for mountain pine beetle infestation. The Big Creek side of the roadless area has overmature lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, and alpine fir which are dying from old age.

Heritage: There are no known cultural resource sites in the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Dixie Summit-Nut Hill Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	13,000	4,000	12,000
GFRG	0	8,000	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,000	1,000
Total Acres	**13,000**	**13,000**	**13,000**

East Meadow Creek #845D

96,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

East Meadow Creek Roadless Area joins the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness on the east and is separated from the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness by a road corridor on the south. It is located on the east side of Meadow Creek, a principal tributary of the Selway River, and includes the headwaters of Running Creek, which flows into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, and Bargamin Creek, which flows into the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

The area can be reached by Indian Hill Road 290, which ends at the northern boundary; Running Creek Road 257 and Elk Mountain Road 285, which enter the area from the west; and the "Montana" Road 468, which is the southern boundary. These roads are not surfaced, and can be hazardous when wet. The Elk Mountain Road forks within the area. One fork runs 17 miles and deadends near Elk Mountain; the other deadends at Warm Springs Bar, 12 miles from the junction. Driving time from Grangeville to most trailheads is three to four hours.

Elevation ranges from 2,420 feet on Meadow Creek to 8,200 feet at Burnt Knob. This area is similar in topography and vegetation to the adjacent wildernesses. Slopes are characteristically steep throughout the area, especially toward the lower end of Meadow Creek, but there are exceptions. For example, the country opens up in the heads of some of the larger slide drainages such as Schwar Creek; and Disgrace Ridge, between Buck Lake Creek and Schwar Creek, is almost flat for over 5 miles.

This area contains lakes talus slopes, avalanche chutes, hot springs, rocky peaks, open alpine meadows, varied stream bottoms, and other features commonly associated with wilderness. Vegetation runs from cedar and grand fir in the creek bottoms to ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir on mid-slopes to lodgepole pine and subalpine fir at higher elevations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Human impacts on this area have been very light. A few sections of trail are heavily eroded, but most are not. Overall, long-term ecological processes are intact and operating naturally.

Undeveloped Character: Since there have been so few human impacts, the area appears natural by almost any criterion. A few trails are noticeable. Although many lookout towers were built in the area, they are all gone now. The only remains are a few burned nails and places of melted glass on some mountain tops. Spans of telephone wire that have never been rolled up and packed out can be found along some trails. Distant roads and clearcuts can be seen from the highest elevations in the area.

Special Features: Burnt Knob and 3 Prong Ridge are scenic features (alpine glaciation) visible from most points in the area. Other scenic or special features in this area include areas along meadow creek, alpine larch stands, and the Meadow Creek National Recreation Trail. A 500 acre Research Natural Area is also located in this roadless area.

East Meadow Creek Roadless Area joins the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return Wildernesses and together, offers an opportunity for solitude possibly unmatched in the lower 48 states. Although other people can be encountered on trails and at popular camping spots, there are many places where the probability of encountering others is almost zero. There are no comfort and convenience facilities in this roadless area except a few undeveloped campsites and the already-mentioned substandard trails. This area and the neighboring wilderness make up an undeveloped roadless expanse of over three million acres. There is plenty of diversity of opportunity and challenge once the visitor leaves the established trails. Vegetation, terrain, lakes, streams, and climate vary markedly. Meadow Creek and some of the larger tributaries are difficult and hazardous to cross except when the water is very low. Throughout, the opportunity for risk-taking is significant.

Manageability: Boundaries are well-defined, and follow major topographical features such as streams and ridges. With few exceptions, boundaries would be fairly easy to locate on the ground. Many are trails.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Meadow Creek is bigger than some streams that are called rivers on the Nez Perce Forest. In fact, on some of the original maps of the Forest it is called the South Fork of the Selway. Meadow Creek has more miles of significant fishery than any other roadless area on the Forest. The potential spawning and rearing habitat available for anadromous species in the drainage has been estimated at over 41 acres. Healthy populations of rainbow trout, steelhead trout, cutthroat trout, and Dolly Varden exist throughout the area. The fish are small, but plentiful. Water quality is very high. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: Mule and whitetail deer, elk, black bear, and moose inhabit this roadless area. The west-facing slopes along lower Meadow Creek are important winter range. Elk populations are not as large as they were 20 years ago, but recent winter counts by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game indicate numbers are increasing. The area is also possible grizzly bear and lynx habitat. The endangered gray wolf may inhabit the area based on suitability of habitat and unconfirmed sightings. Numerous species of birds and nongame animals are also found in the area, including some not often seen, such as varied thrushes and wolverines. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: Idaho Douglasia *(Douglasia idahoensis)* and Candystick *(Allotropa virgata)* two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current uses of the area include fishing, motorcycle riding, horseback riding, hunting, backpacking, camping, hiking, snowmobiling, and sightseeing. Three outfitters operate in the area. A trail network built in the 1920s and 1930s exists in the area. Some of these trails are reconstructed stock driveways dating back to 1900-1915. Fifteen miles of Trail 726, which follow Meadow Creek upstream from the mouth, have been designated a National Recreation Trail. It is an easy trail compared to those that climb out of the creek bottom, and receives somewhat more maintenance work than the other trials in the area. Several bridges have been built on this trail in recent years, but major reconstruction will be required to bring it to standard. It is popular with backpackers early in the season when high country trails are still blocked with snow. It is often used by fishermen and is sometimes used by motorcyclists in the summer, and is heavily used during the fall hunting season. A few cougar hunters use it in the winter.

Timber: The middle elevation zones contain stands of ponderosa pine on southern and western exposures. Cedar is present in the lower creek bottoms, and lodgepole and subalpine species prevail at the higher elevations. There is a lack of potential commercial timber production.

Range: There are no rangelands within this area.

Minerals and Energy: There are no mining claims in the area, and there is no patented ground. About 160 acres in Section 23, T 29N, R 11E, has been impacted by past mining activity. This roadless area contains 96,800 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: All land is National Forest System land. A Research Natural Area is located in Sections 11, 14, and 15, T 29N, R 12E. This 500-acre area, in the vicinity of Warm Springs near Running Creek, represents hot springs and associated vegetation.

Heritage: There are no known cultural resource sites in the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

East Meadow Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	95,600	96,300
Backcountry	96,800	500	0
GFRG	0	200	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	500	500
Total Acres	**96,800**	**96,800**	**96,800**

Gospel Hump #921

46,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Gospel-Hump Wilderness was created out of lands in this roadless area and the acreage remaining still carries that name. However, the area is probably better known as "Jersey-Jack".

The Gospel Hump Roadless Area is immediately above the Salmon River breaks, and has a long common boundary (southeastern) with the Frank Church –River of No Return Wilderness along those breaks. Road 222 borders this area on the southwest; Road 421, Jacks Creek, and Big Mallard Creek make up the northeastern boundary; and Roads 222 and 1190 border on the northwest. Generally, exposures are southeast and all streams in the area flow into the Salmon River. Major creeks within the area include all of Little Mallard Creek, Big Blowout Creek, Jersey Creek, and Noble Creek.

Access is by way of Road 222 and its spurs on the north and west, Road 421 on the east, and Road 1190 on the north. Road 222 ends at Mackay Bar and Road 421 ends at Whitewater Ranch, both on the Salmon River. This area several mountains including: Blowout Mountain, Blue Ridge, Sinker Mountain, and Cove Mountain. The elevation ranges from 2,402 feet at Whitewater Ranch to 6,680 feet at Sinker Mountain.

This is a high, rolling, timbered country, with meadows along some of the larger creeks. The ecosystem type ranges from extensive lodgepole pine dominated stands in the Lower Mallard Creek, Lower Noble Creek, Jack Creek, Rhett Creek, and Mammouth Mountain areas to climax ponderosa pine in the Vista Point and Whitewater areas to Engelmann spruce-alpine fir in the higher elevations and cold air drainages. Some larger meadows exist along Jacks Creek, Noble Creek, and Little Mallard Creek.

Gospel-Hump adjoins the small town of Dixie, which has a history of mining activity dating back to 1864. Early placer operations exploited creek gravels and high benches. The area's mining boom came with hardrock activity between 1890 and 1915. Many old mining relics still remain. Current mining activity is located in the Robinson Dike area and the Blowout Mountain area, both southeast of Dixie.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Most impacts are confined to small areas. Overall, long-term ecological processes are intact and operating. The principal impacts come from Mallard Creek Ranch and mining activity in the head of Little Mallard Creek and the Robinson Creek area. The mining activity is on the perimeter of the area and could be excluded.

Undeveloped Character: Present and proposed activities are located along the northern and eastern boundaries. Thus, the farther one travels into the area, the more natural the surroundings will appear. Less than 15 percent of the area is impacted.

Opportunities for Experience: This roadless area has a common boundary with the Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness and at one point is separated from the Gospel-Hump Wilderness by a road corridor. When taken together with these wildernesses, this are offers very high opportunities or solitude. Vegetative screening is moderate to dense. Most off-site intrusions – airplanes and other activity at Mallard Creek Ranch, timber harvest, and mining – are located a mile or more from the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness. The area by itself is not diverse, and offers few challenges. Topography is mostly rolling hills. The forest cover is uniform, almost monotonous, and the main challenge is a lack of topographical features for orientation. When the area is taken together with the Frank Church –River of No Return Wilderness, however, primitive recreation opportunity becomes very high.

Special Features: Vista Point has a scenic view of Mallard Creek Falls and the Salmon Breaks. The road from Vista Point to Whitewater Ranch goes through one of the few areas containing old-growth ponderosa pine on the Red River District.

Manageability: Boundaries of this area are well defined by roads on the east, north, west, and southwest sides. The southeastern boundary is the Frank Church –River of No Return Wilderness. Administrative

costs would be similar to those of the adjacent wildernesses. Boundaries may have to be adjusted to exclude existing mining activity.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Small fish are found in the streams, but they are not anadromous.

Wildlife: This area is also big game summer range, and possible grizzly bear and gray wolf habitat. The northern part of the area is potential spring and summer wolf range, and the southwestern part could also serve as a travel corridor between Gospel-Hump and River of No Return Wilderness. The terrain adjoining the River of No Return Wilderness is bighorn sheep and mountain goat range. The area is also potential habitat for the peregrine falcon and pileated woodpecker.

Botanical: Payson's milkvetch *(Astragalus paysonii)* and Candystick *(Allotropa virgata)* two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation uses include fishing, hunting, camping, horseback riding, hiking, snowmobiling, motorcycling, sightseeing along the Dixie-Mackay Bar Road, and driving to the Salmon River via the two roads that border the roadless area to boat or to fish for steelhead and salmon. Elk hunting is a major recreational activity in the fall.

Timber: Lodgepole pine is the principal species at the higher elevations, with mixed species near the Frank Church –River of No Return Wilderness boundary. There are 46,300 acres of suitable timber land, and 511,528 thousand board feet of standing timber.

Range: Meadows along Noble, Grouse, Jack, and Little Mallard Creeks are used by cattle, horses and game. Impacts are light. There are a few fences, and stock trails follow the stream bottoms. There are currently two grazing allotments in this area.

Wildland urban interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 11,500 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There are 50 unpatented mining claims in this roadless area. The Little Mallard Quartz Placer has a heavy impact on about 10 acres. Approximately 100 acres west of Mammouth Mountain have also been heavily impacted by past mining activity. This roadless area contains 43,600 acres of medium and 2,800 of low geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Four commercial outfitters operate in the area. About 266 acres of patented mining claims lie within this area.

Heritage: There are no known cultural resource sites in this area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Gospel Hump Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	46,300	9,800	46,300
GFRG	0	36,500	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**46,300**	**46,300**	**46,300**

Gospel Hump Adjacent to Wilderness #923

2,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Gospel Hump Adjacent to Wilderness Roadless Area is a piece of land adjacent to the Gospel-Hump Wilderness which was not included in the wilderness legislation.

This roadless area is above the Salmon River breaks, and has a long common boundary with the Gospel-Hump Wilderness on the west side. Roads 222 and 311 border this area on the east and south. Generally, exposures are southeast and all streams in the area flow into the Salmon River. Major creeks include branches of Crooked Creek.

This is a high, rolling, timbered country, with meadows along some of the creeks. The ecosystem type ranges from lodgepole pine dominated stands to Engelmann spruce-alpine fir in the higher elevations and cold air drainages.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Most impacts are confined to small areas. Overall, long-term ecological processes are intact and operating.

Undeveloped Character: Present and proposed activities are located along the northern and eastern boundaries. Thus, the farther one travels into the area, the more natural the surroundings will appear.

Opportunities for Experience: This roadless area has a common boundary with the Gospel-Hump Wilderness. When taken together with the wilderness, this area offers good opportunities or solitude. Vegetative screening is moderate to dense.

The area by itself is not diverse, and offers few challenges. Topography is mostly rolling hills. The forest cover is uniform, almost monotonous, and the main challenge is a lack of topographical features for orientation.

Manageability: Boundaries of this area are well defined by roads on the east, north and south sides. The western boundary is Gospel-Hump Wilderness. Administrative costs would be similar to those of the adjacent wildernesses. Boundaries may have to be adjusted to exclude existing mining activity.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This roadless area is in a priority watershed for steelhead and Chinook salmon which are threatened or endangered fish species. Bull trout, Inland redband trout, and westslope cutthroat trout also have habitat that overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: This area is big-game summer range, and possible gray wolf and grizzly bear habitat.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation uses include fishing, hunting, camping, horseback riding, hiking, snowmobiling, motorcycling, sightseeing along the Dixie-Mackay Bar Road. Elk hunting is a major recreational activity in the fall

Timber: Lodgepole pine is the principal species at the higher elevations, with mixed species throughout. There are 2,200 acres of suitable timber land.

Range: There are no grazing allotments.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 2,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: There are no known cultural resource sites in this area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Gospel Hump-Adjacent to Wilderness Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	2,400	1,000	2,400
GFRG	0	1,400	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**2,400**	**2,400**	**2,400**

John Day #852

10,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The John Day Roadless Area is located on a high ridge between the Salmon River and Little Slate Creek. The headwaters of Allison Creek and John Day Creek are located within this roadless area. A road corridor on the top of the ridge separates this roadless area from Little Slate Creek Roadless Area to the north. Access is from the north, south, and west on Roads 441, 221, and 263.

The elevation ranges from 3,800 feet at the National Forest boundary to 7,450 feet at John Day Mountain and 7,814 feet at Southwest Butte. Slopes are very steep with hardly any flat benches. This area contains a north-south ridge with perpendicular ridges and draws. On the slopes facing the Salmon River canyon, vegetation runs from nonforested land to an alpine zone. The east side of the main ridge is not as steep as the west, and vegetation is more uniform. South slopes contain mostly grasses with scattered trees at the higher elevations. The north slopes are timbered. The major species are white bark pine, Douglas-fir, and a small amount of ponderosa pine.

The principal topographic features are Southwest Butte and John Day Mountain. John Day, for whom the mountain and creek are named, operated a way station for miners near the mouth of the creek in 1862.

The current major use of this area is grazing. The area is also heavily hunted. There is a very scenic view from Road 441 that runs next to the north boundary of this area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: On the whole, natural processes are intact and operating, although there are heavy impacts on some sites. The thin soils around Southwest Butte and southwest of Nut Basin are locally damaged from off-road vehicle use. These areas still show soil and vegetative impacts from past grazing, although they are not grazed at the present.

Undeveloped Character: Human activities are not far away from this area. The impacts noted above are noticeable, as are off-site intrusions listed below. Roads or logging areas are visible from nearly all high viewpoints within the area.

Opportunities for Experience: Since the area is at or near the top of a ridge, one does not have the opportunity to experience the Solitude of an enclosed drainage.

Manageability: Other than the portion of the western boundary that is also the forest boundary, avoidance of existing roads has been the gilding factor in establishing the perimeter of the area. Managing this area as a wilderness would be difficult due to irregular boundaries and small size. Administrative costs per acre would be high.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon summer/fall salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds. Allison Creek and John Day Creek support anadromous fish.

Wildlife: Bald eagles occur in this roadless area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: A jeep trial runs from Nut Basin to Chair Point via Southwest Butte, causing locally heavy impacts. Off-road vehicles use other parts of the area as well. Hunter use during the season is moderate to heavy.

Timber: The standing volume of 138 million board feet is mixed species on steep slopes.

Range: There are few trees below 4,500 feet on south slopes and below 3,000 feet on north slopes. This land is primary range. Transitory range is above these elevations. Parts of three grazing allotments are within this roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 900 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 10,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: No State or private lands are in this area.

Heritage: An upland Native American campsite has been discovered in the area. It was probably a late summer or early fall occupation. Various cultural remains have been found at the site.

Disturbances: There is a mistletoe problem in the Douglas-fir, but it is not as severe as on other parts of the Forest. Bark beetles are endemic in the East Fork of John Day Creek.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

John Day Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	10,300	2,000	10,300
GFRG	0	8,300	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**10,300**	**10,300**	**10,300**

Lick Point #227

6,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Lick Point Roadless Area contains Lick Creek and the head of American River. It is between 5,000 and 6,000 feet in elevation, and is completely surrounded by roads.

Meadows are found along the creek bottoms. The rest of the area is rolling and homogeneous. Over half of the area is covered with brushfields. The remaining portions are covered by either patches of old growth mixed with alder glades or stands comprised of various age classes. Lodgepole pine is the main species.

Cattle, horses, elk, and deer use all of the area, especially the meadows. Grazing by these animals causes most of the impacts which are especially heavy near the salt lick at Lick Point and on the trails. About five acres at the lick have been fenced to reduce impacts. There are also semi-permanent exclosures on this range, as well as a number of drift fences. Trails cover the area. Some are not on the Forest Service trail system, but have resulted from game and stock use over the years.

The American River is an anadromous fishery and supports steelhead trout and Chinook summer salmon summer salmon. Rainbow, cutthroat, brook trout, and whitefish are also present. The area is excellent moose range, potential elk summer range, and potential wolf habitat. The meadows along Lick Creek and the American River are very heavily used for calving and calf rearing.

Current major uses include hunting and grazing. One hundred forty-five acres of private land adjoin this area on the south.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Impacts on natural processes are moderate. Trails and streambanks in the area are used by stock and game. Thistles and other non-native plants are present.

Undeveloped Character: Sights, sounds, and smells of grazing animals are present. Fences and exclosures are noticeable. Noise by vehicles on roads is apparent near the edges of the area.

Opportunities for Experience: This is the smallest roadless area on the Nez Perce National Forest. Although vegetation is sometimes dense, both on-site and off-site intrusions seriously restrict the isolation required for a feeling of solitude.

Manageability: There is little diversity in the area, and few challenges are present. Even if one became lost because of the absence of prominent landmarks, roads are located within a few miles in any direction. Roads form a natural boundary around this area. Administrative costs per acre would be high, however, due to the small size of the area and the fact that it does not share a boundary with any other wilderness or roadless area. Due to the relatively narrow shape, the majority of the area is influenced by the surrounding roads.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Native and anadromous fish are found in American River and its tributaries.

Wildlife: Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area. Elk, deer, and moose are the principal big-game species. There is little big-game winter range mostly because of the elevations.

Water: This roadless area contains 6,800 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Payson's milkvetch (*Astragalus paysonii*) and Evergreen kittentail (*Synthyris platycarpa*) two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: This roadless area is popular as a place to hunt big game.

Timber: The 105.3 million board feet of timber in the area is predominantly lodgepole pine.

Range: The meadows in this area have been grazed for many years. There are currently two allotments with a combined total of 753 AUMs.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 6,900 acres of medium geothermal potential.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Lick Point Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	6,900	5,000	6,900
GFRG	0	1,900	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**6,900**	**6,900**	**6,900**

Little Slate Creek #851

12,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Little Slate Creek Roadless Area and John Day Roadless Area, which are separated by a road corridor, are both located on the divide between the Salmon River and Little Slate Creek. Principal drainages are Van Buren Creek, Little Van Buren Creek, No Business Creek, Waterspout Creek, and Deadhorse Creek. All are part of the Slate Creek drainage. This area is bordered by Slate Creek and Road 354 on the north, and Road 441, which traverses the Slate Point-Nut Basin ridge, on the south and west. Little Slate Creek North Roadless Area was split off from this roadless area during the revision of the Nez Perce Forest Plan, because of development between the two roadless areas.

The elevation ranges from 2,100 feet where Slate Creek crosses the National Forest boundary to 7,370 feet Just below Nut Basin. This area has very steep side slopes and tributary draws, with some flat benches along the mid-elevations. Deadhorse Creek is hidden in the middle of the area and has solitude qualities. The area contains many springs and intermittent streams. There is one small lake, Nut Basin, at the head of Van Buren Creek beneath Nut Basin. It is unique in that one would hardly expect to find a lake there. It is about two acres, and deep enough to support a large population of eastern brook trout. Marsh vegetation is present on the shoreline, making the lake hard to fish.

This area is almost completely forested. It lies on north to east slopes, or high enough south slopes for the climax vegetation to be trees. The major species is Douglas-fir.

Trail 307, which crosses the area from west to east, is a part of the old miners' route to Florence. Gold was discovered in Florence Basin in the summer of 1861, and by November there were 2,000 miners in the camp. The winter of 1861-62 was one of the coldest in Idaho history, and Van Buren Creek was named after a traveler who froze to death there.

The major current uses are grazing and hunting. This is a quality hunting area for elk and deer. This area contains deer and elk summer and winter range.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Other than trails and grazing, the area has been little impacted.

Undeveloped Character: The area itself appears natural. There are many off-site intrusions, however.

Opportunities for Experience: The area offers little opportunity for solitude. It is almost impossible not to notice off-site intrusions such as lookout towers, roads, old clearcuts, and present logging activity from most parts of the area because these impacts are an integral part of it. Although topographic and vegetative screening are moderate over most of the area, there is little diversity and challenge. One lake is present, but it is close to the road and can hardly be called isolated. There are few features that are commonly considered hazardous.

Special areas: Scenic points include Slate Point, Dead Point, and Nut Point.

Manageability: The northern boundary of this area is Slate Creek. The remaining boundary is irregular, drawn mostly to exclude existing roads and timber sale areas. Some parts of it would be hard to locate on the ground with any degree of accuracy.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: Parts of the area are summer habitat for big game, and other parts are winter range.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are known to occur.

Recreation: Use is light except for hunting. Impacts are light, except along the roaded parts of Slate Creek and Little Slate Creek.

Timber: Almost all parts of the area are timbered with mixed species on steep slopes.

Range: This area is grazed by both cattle and big-game. Primary range is on south slopes below 4,500 feet and on north slopes below 3,000 feet. Transition range is above 4,500 feet and on ridgetops. There are two grazing allotments with a total of 700 AUMs.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 12,200 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no non-Federal lands in this roadless area.

Heritage: Two upland Native American campsites have been discovered in this area. These sites are high on the ridgetop and were probably late summer to early fall occupations. Various chipped and ground stone artifacts have been found at these sites.

Disturbances: There is a problem with Douglas-fir bark beetles, mistletoe, and small pockets of root rot in the Douglas-fir.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Little Slate Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Back Country Restoration	12,200	3,500	12,200
GFRG	0	8,700	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**12,200**	**12,200**	**12,200**

Little Slate Creek North #856

5,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Little Slate Creek North Roadless Area was split from the Little Slate Creek Roadless Area during revision of the Nez Perce Forest Plan due to development. The Little Slate Creek North Roadless Area and the North Fork of Slate Creek Roadless Area are separated by a road corridor located along Slate Creek. Principal drainages are Little Van Buren Creek, No Business Creek, and Waterspout Creek. All are part of the Slate Creek drainage. This roadless area is bordered by Slate Creek and Road 354 on the north, Road 9303 and Road 441 on the southwest.

The elevation ranges from 2,100 at Slate Creek where it meets the Forest boundary to 7,291 feet at Slate Point. The area contains very steep side slopes and tributary draws.

The major current uses are grazing and mining. The area is generally too steep for hunting. This area is also winter range for deer and elk.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: the area has not been significantly impacted.

Undeveloped Character: Except for the roads near the boundaries, the area would appear natural to most people.

Opportunities for Experience: Topographic and vegetative screening is moderate. There are few drainages and a few miles of trail available for extensive travel. Management activities are present on almost every side. Primitive recreation opportunity is moderate. Although there is some diversity in the Slate Creek breaks and the area is too small for a significant range of opportunity. Cliffs and bluffs on the breaks would be challenges.

Manageability: The northern boundary of this area is Slate Creek. The remaining boundary is irregular, drawn mostly to exclude existing roads and timber sale areas. Some parts of it would be hard to locate on the ground with any degree of accuracy.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Slate Creek is an anadromous stream. Some of the creeks contain steelhead and rainbow trout. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: The usual big-game species, including moose, are present. This area is both summer and winter range for deer and elk. Introduced bird species such as turkeys and chukars are also present, as well as Mountain quail, a Region 1 sensitive species.

Botanical: A 1,200 acres Research Natural Area is located in No Business Creek. Maidenhair fern grows in this drainage, which is near the southern extreme of this plant's range.

Recreation: The trial network in the area is little used except by hunters.

Timber: Almost all parts of the area are timbered (approximately 75 percent) with mixed species on steep slopes.

Range: No grazing is permitted in this area.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 1,300 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 5,900 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no non-Federal lands in this roadless area.

Heritage: The area probably had late summer to early fall occupations by Native Americans.

Disturbances: There is a problem with Douglas-fir' bark beetles, mistletoe, and small pockets of root rot 1n the Douglas-fir.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Little Slate Creek North Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	5,900	2,800	4,700
GFRG	0	1,900	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Existing Special Areas	0	1,200	1,200
Total Acres	**5,900**	**5,900**	**5,900**

Mallard #847

19,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Mallard Roadless Area is immediately above the Salmon River breaks, and includes most of Big Mallard Creek. The Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness borders this area on the south and east, the Nez Perce trail is part of the north boundary, and roads form most of the boundary on the west and north.

Access is via Roads 421, 468, and 9550. Road 468 follows the route of the Nez Perce Trail, which was used long before Lewis and Clark as a passage over the Bitterroot Range.

The Mallard Roadless Area consists of rolling hills, lightly to moderately dissected, with fairly low stream gradients until nearing the Salmon River breaks. Big Mallard Creek is the principal drainage. Elevation ranges from 5,200 feet at the East Fork of Mallard Creek to 7,648 feet at Boston Mountain. There is evidence of glaciation in the northeast portion of the roadless area.

The ecosystem type ranges from Engelmann spruce-alpine fir in the wet areas and draws in the upper Slide and Mallard Creek areas to ponderosa pine-Douglas-fir in the lower Mallard and Cup Creek areas. Lodgepole pine dominates dryer ridges and exposed aspects across the entire roadless area, and high mountain meadows occupy sites along Big Mallard Creek.

This area contains a lot of lodgepole pine over 80 years old and greater than 8 inches in diameter, growing at elevations under 6,200 feet. These trees are especially vulnerable to attacks by mountain pine beetles, a species that has already caused widespread damage to the timber resource in nearby drainages.

Recreation uses include fishing, hunting, camping, horseback riding, hiking, and snowmobiling. One outfitter operates in the area. The area is also used for grazing in the meadows.

The Cook Ranch consisting of two adjoining homesteads in Big Mallard Meadows patented in 1919 and 1924 is located about a mile inside the area. There are four buildings on this 141-acre site. An airport was built in the nearby meadow some years ago. An old Jeep trail runs from Road 421 to the ranch, but no motorized traffic is allowed on it.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Except for the buildings, fences, and airport at the Cook Ranch, the area would appear natural to most people.

Undeveloped Character: Diversity and challenge are outstanding when this area is taken together with the adjoining existing wilderness. Developed recreation facilities are limited to the Cook Ranch, a private facility.

Opportunities for Experience: When this area is taken together with the adjacent Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, opportunities for solitude are outstanding, even though there are off-site intrusions near the boundary in the forms of roads, and on-site intrusions caused by airplanes and other activities at the Cook Ranch.

Manageability: This roadless area could be managed as a part of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness at about the same cost per acre as that wilderness.

The Cook Ranch would present a problem in wilderness administration. If boundaries were adjusted to exclude it, the size of the area would be considerably reduced.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Big Mallard Creek does not contain anadromous fish: a waterfall in the lower part of the creek blocks fish passage. The creek does contain a population of cutthroat, rainbow, and brook trout. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: The area is elk, deer, and moose summer range, and potential gray wolf habitat. It also contains potential nesting habitat for peregrine falcons. Wolverine and fisher, and northern goshawk, three toed woodpecker, and black-backed woodpeckers, all Region 1 sensitive species occur in this roadless area.

Botanical: Payson's milkvetch *(Astragalus paysonii)* and Candystick *(Allotropa virgata)* two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation activity in this area is associated mainly with big-game hunting, with some fleshing in the summer.

Timber: Timber is predominantly lodgepole pine, except for areas adjacent to the wilderness boundary which contain ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. Spruce is found in the Slide Creek area.

Range: Parts of two allotments lie within this area. Cattle are grazed in this area under term permit.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 700 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 19,600 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Cook Ranch (HES 241 & 242) is located in the west central part of the area.

Heritage: There are no known cultural resource sites in the area.

Disturbances: Most of the Engelmann spruce-alpine fir component is mature to overmature, with increasing mortality rates. The 80-year-old lodgepole pine is vulnerable to attacks by the mountain pine beetle. Widespread damage has already occurred to the timber resource in nearby drainages. There is also some root rot activity in the southern part of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Mallard Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	19,600	12,700	19,600
GFRG	0	6,900	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**19,600**	**19,600**	**19,600**

North Fork Slate Creek #850

10,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Slate Creek and Road 354 from the forest boundary upstream to the North Fork of Slate Creek Campground make up the southern boundary of the North Fork Slate Creek Roadless Area. The National Forest boundary is the area's western boundary. Approximately 2/3 of the northern and eastern sides are bordered by Roads 463, 243, and 398. The remaining boundary is drawn to eliminate existing and proposed roads and timber harvest sites. Principal streams are the head of McKenzie Creek which drains into the Salmon River, and the North Fork of Slate Creek. Exposures are west, south, and southwest. Road access is principally by way of Roads 354 and 463.

The elevation ranges from 2,100 at Slate Creek where it meets the forest boundary to 6,480 feet at Dairy Mountain. The area contains very steep side slopes and tributary draws with some flat benches in the northeastern portion. The western and southern portions are open grass slopes with sparse timber, the northern portion below Dairy Mountain is typical rimrock, and the remainder is timbered hillsides.

Grasslands, scattered timber, and rimrock cover the steep south and west slopes in the western half of this area. The east half of the area has more timber cover, with scattered grassy openings.

This roadless area was important in early Idaho history. In the fall of 1811, 11 members of the Wilson Price Hunt expedition, led by Donald McKenzie, passed the mouth of what is now McKenzie Creek. The river route was also used by miners in the 1860s.

The major current uses are grazing and mining. The area is generally too steep for hunting. This area is also winter range for deer and elk.

About 110 acres of private property is located in the southwest portion of the area next to Hurley Creek. A road runs about one mile into the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Other than the private property, the road to the private property, and a logged area near it, the area has not been significantly impacted.

Undeveloped Character: Except for the above impacts, the area would appear natural to most people.

Opportunities for Experience: Topographic and vegetative screening is moderate. There are a few drainages and a few miles of trail available for extensive travel. Management activities are present on almost every side. Primitive recreation opportunity is moderate. Although there is some diversity in the Slate Creek and Salmon River breaks and the ridge tops around the North Fork of Slate Creek, the area is too small for a significant range of opportunity. Cliffs and bluffs on the breaks would be challenges.

Manageability: The boundary is well defined by roads on every side except the west, which borders private land. Since 1979, at least 1,700 acres have been removed from this area to account for timber sales.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Slate Creek is an anadromous stream. Some of the creeks contain steelhead and rainbow trout. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon summer/fall salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: The usual big-game species, including moose, are present. This roadless area is both summer and winter range for deer and elk. Introduced bird species such as turkeys and chukars are also present, as well as pileated woodpeckers a Region 1 sensitive species.

Botanical: Broad-fruit mariposa *(Calochortus nitidus)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: The trial network in the area is little used except by hunters and grazing permittees.

Timber: Most of the timber in this area is in the North Fork of Slate Creek.

Range: One grazing allotment exists. The impacts are light.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 2,900 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 10,400 acres of high geothermal potential.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

North Fork Slate Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	10,400	3,800	10,400
GFRG	0	6,600	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**10,400**	**10,400**	**10,400**

O'Hara-Falls Creek #226

33,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The O'Hara-Falls Creek Roadless Area contains all of the O'Hara Creek drainage and the southside breaks of the Selway River for about 10 miles upstream from the mouth of O'Hara Creek. The name of this area is somewhat misleading, since the major part of Falls Creek is no longer included. The area is almost completely surrounded by roads. Principal access is by Road 651, Road 464, and Road 356.

Topography is fairly typical of the lower Selway country - steep slopes, but not highly dissected. Elevations range from about 1,600 feet on the Selway River to 6,056 feet at West Fork Point and 6,185 feet at Iron Mountain.

Vegetation over most of the area is heavy, but the country opens up near the top of Iron Mountain. The west side of O'Hara Creek is heavily timbered with mixed species. Cedar is common in the Creek bottom and lodgepole pine prevails on the ridge tops. On the east side of the area, Saddle Ridge has dense brushfields which are the result of past fires.

A walk up the trail along O'Hara Creek reveals a constantly changing watercourse. Small clearings or meadows are found along the first few miles.

Large, blackened cedar snags, the result of past fires, are also found in the area. From Saddle Creek on, the trail becomes difficult to find. The tread is almost gone and in some of the wet, shady draws, the ferns are often over the hiker's head. The middle section of the Creek cascades through a steep, rocky gorge, with waterfalls and pools. The canyon opens up in the upper section of the Creek where there are meadows and beaver ponds. If one attempts to walk up the West Fork from its confluence with the main Creek, it is necessary to climb over tall bluffs.

Major current uses of this area include hiking, hunting, big-game winter range, and outfitter and guide businesses.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Long-term ecological processes are operating with only low impacts from development activities on lands surrounding the area. The trails are generally so bad that in another 10 years without maintenance, natural processes will take over. A few non-indigenous plants will probably remain, however, as the result of heavy stock use on the trails in past years.

In the creek bottom, the area appears almost completely natural, except for the trail and a few sections of old telephone wire that were never picked up. In the Iron Mountain vicinity, there are some old mining sink holes which are now almost completely grown over. Most people would not notice them.

Opportunities for Experience: At 33,200 acres, O'Hara-Falls Creek Roadless Area offers a moderate potential for solitude. Topographic and vegetative screening range from moderate to high. The area includes almost all of the O'Hara Creek drainage, one of the largest on the lower Selway, and opportunities for solitude are highest in and near the stream bottoms.

The Selway River Road is visible from about half of the Selway Face portion of the area, and the Hamby Road is visible from other parts. A telephone microwave relay and a Forest Service radio remote station atop Iron Mountain are visible from some parts of the area. Potential for primitive recreation opportunity is limited. Although the area is very diverse in plants, it is less so in fish, wildlife, and terrain. There are no lakes. Following the trials is often a challenge, as is wading O'Hara Creek in high water. There are few dominant visual features.

Special Features: Key attractions of this area include Iron Mountain, water falls on Island Creek, the 2,900 acre Selway Wild and Scenic River, and a Research Natural Area. All of the 6,600-acre O'Hara Research Natural Area, established in 1980, is contained within this roadless area. Three rare plant species and one threatened species have been located in this Research Natural Area.

Manageability: About half of the boundary follows roads, trails, and the Selway River. Some of the remainder, drawn around existing and past timber sale areas, would be difficult to establish on the ground.

The portion of this area that is most unique is already being managed as a Research Natural Area and, as such, must be protected against activities which modify ecological processes. Logging is prohibited, and recreation is discouraged. Roads are not permitted unless they contribute to Research Natural Area objectives. Unique scenic qualities of the Selway Face are protected under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The O'Hara Creek fishery is typical of Selway tributaries, with anadromous fish throughout and a few natives in the head of the creek. Like many other streams in the Selway country, O'Hara Creek contains eastern brook trout in the headwaters. These were planted long ago.

Wildlife: The usual big game species -- deer, elk, bear, and moose -- inhabit the area. Hunting pressure is light because of difficult access over existing trails. Columbia spotted frog, Coeur d'Alene salamander, and western toad habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Botanical: Payson's milkvetch *(Astragalus paysonii),* Constance's bittercress *(Cardamine constancei),* Pacific dogwood *(Cornus nutalii),* clustered lady's-slipper *(Cypripedium fasciculatum),* evergreen kittentail *(Synthyris platycarpa)* all sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: The O'Hara Creek trailhead is located four miles up Road 651. This trail, once a mainline route, is now in very poor condition, but a few hunters and fishermen use it each year. The other trails in the area get even less use.

A full-service, 34-unit campground is located at O'Hara Bar, just outside of the roadless area, but visitors here seldom venture far inside the area. There are many fishermen and floaters on the Selway River in the summer, but these people also never get very far into the roadless area.

Timber: Estimated standing volume is 309 million board feet, but part of this is in the Research Natural Area, as are approximately 6,500 of the 30,000 tentatively suitable acres.

Range: A grazing allotment in the Iron Mountain vicinity was discontinued in 1970 due to overuse, and natural processes are slowly being restored.

Minerals and Energy: Iron Mountain, the highest point in the area, is evidently composed of some kind of magnetic iron, because lightning strikes there often during thunderstorms. There has been some past mining activity in the Iron Mountain vicinity and there are currently is unpatented claims in the area. Current mineral potential is low. This roadless area contains 33,200 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The O'Hara drainage is unique. This fact was recognized when the Chief of the Forest Service established a 6,600-acre Research Natural Area there in 1980, the first such area established on the Nez Perce National Forest.

According to the Research Natural Area establishment report, "O'Hara Creek has been selected because it has the best known representation of several characteristics of the lower Lochsa-Selway area, is accessible, and presents minimal conflicts with other uses. The nearby Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness includes some of the individual values found in O'Hara Creek; however, a comparable area within the wilderness has not been found and access is very limited."

A protected 1/4-mile corridor immediately adjacent to the Selway River has been established under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and everything that can be seen from the river is managed to retain the present visual qualities.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

O'Hara-Falls Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	33,200	20,300	23,800
GFRG	0	3,500	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	9,400	9,400
Total Acres	**33,200**	**33,200**	**33,200**

Rackliff-Gedney #841

53,600 Acres Nez Perce
36,400 Acres Clearwater
90,000 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Rackliff-Gedney Roadless Area is generally the lands between the Lochsa and Selway Rivers from their confluence eastward to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness boundary. The ridgetop that separates the drainages is also the boundary between the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests.

The area's northern boundary is the Lochsa River, and the southern boundary is located 1/4 mile above the Selway River. This river corridor, established under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, contains the Selway River road, several parcels of private property, Forest Service facilities, and numerous recreational developments. Although both the Lochsa and Selway are classified rivers, only the Lochsa corridor is included in the roadless area because there is very little development there.

Coolwater Road 317, an unsurfaced, primitive road built in the 1930s, traverses about two-thirds of the boundary between the Forests, and deadends at Roundtop Mountain -- 16 miles from the Selway River. This road furnishes access from the west. Fog Mountain Road 319 enters the area from the south and deadends at Big Fog Saddle, 13 miles from the Selway River. Both are routes to Selway Bitterroot Wilderness trailheads. U.S. Highway 12 parallels the northern boundary of the area across the Lochsa River. A pack bridge at Split Creek furnishes access from the North.

Slopes are steep throughout and the country is rugged. Such topographical features as Knife Edge Ridge are appropriately named. The river canyons range from 1,500 to 1,900 feet in elevation, and the highest point in the area, Coolwater Lookout, is 6,926 feet.

Vegetation in the area is largely a result of past wildfires. Although trees have reestablished themselves on some sites, much of the area consists of extensive brushfields with islands of unburned trees and snags. Mixed conifer species occupy the lower elevations, and brush and meadows the upper elevations.

Uses of the roadless area include hunting, fishing, hiking, sightseeing, horseback riding, berry picking, outfitter and guide services, and grazing.

There are many other special features of the roadless area including Native American religious sites and trials, a sheep drive trail, a grave site, the Boyd Glover Roundtop National Recreation Trail, high mountain lakes, bald eagle and osprey in the river corridors, and brushfields from the 1934 Pete King fire with excellent elk habitat (both elk summer and winter range) and an elk herd. Scenic landmarks include Coolwater Ridge and Big Fog Saddle.

The parts of the roadless area near Andy's Lake, Coolwater Lake, and Fire Lake have been glaciated, and contain landforms and Cirque basins commonly found in the adjoining wilderness.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Except for the roads and a few trails, man's activities have had small impact on natural processes in the area. Most of the trails are little used and receive little maintenance. Some, however, are heavily used by stock during the hunting seasons and erosion is locally severe.

Parts of the brushfields have been broadcast burned in order to improve big-game forage. Although these projects were begun in the 1960s, only the most recent burns would show effects apparent to untrained observers.

Some physical evidence of placer mining around the turn of the century can be found at China Flat on the Lochsa River near the mouth of Kerr Creek.

There is evidence of past logging activity in almost all major drainages on the Lochsa side of the area, and some on the Selway side. This logging was mostly for cedar products - poles, posts, and shakes. Remnants of old flumes still exist along the Lochsa.

In the early 1960s, erosion became a major problem on the steep southern slopes just below Coolwater Lookout. All grazing allotments were closed, and a bulldozer was brought in to terrace the hillside. These trenches are now revegetated. Other impacts are located near the roads, and are not extensive. Overall, less than 15 percent of the area is impacted.

Undeveloped Character: Although the appearance of the area has been altered by 20th century wildfires, this is probably not an impact that is apparent to most visitors -- there is little recent evidence of fire. Impacts on apparent naturalness are caused mainly by facilities and activities along the roads.

A short spur road leads from Coolwater Road to Idaho Point. A snow-measuring installation owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is located along this road. A television receiving installation with antennas and a small block house is located near the Idaho Point Junction. There is a short spur road at Remount that leads to an outfitter camp, which is occupied during the summer and fall. Coolwater Lookout is located on the highest pinnacle in the area, and is visible from most of the higher elevations. Trenches dug by bulldozers in the early 1960s to control erosion below the lookout are still visible.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude vary throughout the area. Traffic noise from U.S. Highway 12 is apparent in many parts of the Lochsa face, and the highway is visible from much of it. The view from the Coolwater ridgetop gives one an impression of vastness, especially on a clear day or clear night, but there are also intrusions. Although the Coolwater Road receives light use much of the year, traffic is heavy during the hunting season.

The mid-slope areas, especially those in the larger drainages, offer the highest opportunities for solitude. Topographic and vegetative screening is highest here, and few off-site intrusions are visible, especially in the stream bottoms, away from the ridgetop trails.

Overall, primitive recreation opportunities are somewhat limited because of the roads entering the area, but they exist nonetheless. Topographic and vegetative cover is significant over much of the area, and trails tend to concentrate visitors on ridgetops. The area is not without challenge and risk, there are cliffs and very steep slopes. Cross-country travel is often difficult; and it is sometimes a challenge to follow the trials. Hunters are injured or die in this area and in the nearby wilderness nearly every year. The area adjoins the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness on the east, offering an additional million acres of solitude and primitive recreation opportunity.

Special Features: About 100 acres of the Lochsa Research Natural Area are located in this roadless area. The Research Natural Area also is within the 5,600 acre designated Wild and Scenic River Corridor.

Manageability: For the most part, the boundaries follow well-defined topographical features. Some surveying and marking might be necessary to establish a wilderness boundary along the private property on the west and south sides. Boundaries would probably have to be adjusted near the roads in this area to allow for some activities using motorized equipment.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area contains several streams on both the Lochsa and Selway sides of the divide that are potential spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous and native fish. These streams contain populations of both. All of the smaller streams contain fish, but few are important fisheries.

Wildlife: The brushfields in the area supply browse for elk and other big-game species. Elk populations have declined from those once found; one reason is that much of the vegetation has grown too high to furnish quality browse for the animals. In recent years, a modest program of prescribed burning has been conducted in an attempt to encourage new vegetation. The area provides habitat for elk, mule and whitetail deer, black bear, moose, mountain goat, fisher, and cougar. High-quality elk summer range is found at the mid and high elevations, and the lower elevations are important winter range. Glover Ridge,

a flat, open ridge on the east side of the area, is a major elk-calving site. Although bald eagle and osprey are found mainly in the river corridor, they are active in lower parts of the area as well. The entire area is potential wolf, lynx, and grizzly bear habitat. Northern flicker, pileated woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, red-naped sapsucker, Williamson's sapsucker, and downy woodpecker occur in this roadless area.

Botanical: Payson's milkvetch (*Astragalus paysonii*), lance-leaved moonwort (*Botrychium lanceolatum var. lanceolatum*), Northern moonwort (*Botrychium pinnatum*), Constance's bittercress (*Cardamine constancei*), Pacific dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*), Daubenmire's dasynotus (*Dasynotus daubenmirei*), clustered ladyslipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*), Evergreen kittentail (*Synthyris platycarpa*), and banks monkeyflower (*Mimulis clivicola*) all sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Travelers driving U.S. Highway 12 consider the part of the area visible from the highway as pleasant scenery. The highway is a major recreational route. Hunting, berry picking, and sightseeing are the principal uses of the area; hunting is the most important. Commercial outfitters have base camps and stock facilities in the area, and many hunters bring in their own pack and saddle stock during the hunting seasons.

Access from U.S. Highway 12 is limited to several foot and horse trails crossing the river. There is a pack bridge at the Split Creek trailhead, but other river crossings are limited to low-water fords. A road also follows the southern boundary of the area. Although at one time or another trails were built up almost every southside ridge from the river to the ridgetop, only a few are now maintained, and use is light. A National Recreation Trail has been established on the south side, but it is steep and hard to find in places, and is thus suitable only for the hardiest.

The main access route is Coolwater Road 317, which enters the area from the West and bisects it for 16 miles. It is not surfaced and becomes difficult to traverse in years of heavy rain and snow during hunting seasons. It is usually impossible to drive to the end of this road before July 4 because of snow.

Timber: Tree species in the area include western redcedar, larch, Douglas-fir, grand fir, ponderosa pine, and western white pine. At the higher elevations, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce are found. Scattered whitebark pine stands are located along the ridgetop.

Range: The only active grazing allotment in Rackliff-Gedney is also located on and around Glover Ridge.

Minerals and Energy: There is one mining claim in the area, on an alluvial terrace near the mouth of Kerr Creek, known as China Flat. Some minor hand tool exploration has been undertaken there in recent years. This roadless area contains 90,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no non-Federal lands in this roadless area.

Heritage: Coolwater Ridge, Knife Edge Ridge, and Ridgetop Trail 3A into the wilderness were used by both prehistoric peoples and by Native Americans during historic times. Artifacts have been found on the ridgetops, and historic records have established the Coolwater Ridge route as a major avenue into the high country to the east. There is at least one marked grave in the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Rackliff-Gedney Management Theme Nez Perce	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	53,600	51,900	51,900
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,700	1,700
Total Acres	**53,600**	**53,600**	**53,600**

Rackliff-Gedney Management Theme Clearwater	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	5,700	0
Backcountry	36,400	26,800	32,500
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	3,900	3,900
Total Acres	**36,400**	**36,400**	**36,000**

Rackliff-Gedney Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	5,700	0
Backcountry	90,000	78,700	84,400
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	5,600	5,6000
Total Acres	**90,000**	**90,000**	**90,000**

Salmon Face #855

9,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Salmon Face Roadless Area is high on the east side of the divide between the Snake and Salmon Rivers. It joins the Hells Canyon Wilderness at the ridge top on the west side. Squaw Creek, Race Creek, and Papoose Creek, which flow into the Salmon River, originate in the area. Road 517 borders on the south side. Other access roads are roads 487, 9901, 2052, and 205 on the east side.

The elevation ranges from 3,500 feet to 8,429 feet at Heavens Gate Lookout. The area is made up of very steep side slopes and tributary draws with a few flat benches. This area contains mostly heavy timber with underbrush. Less brush grows on the south slopes than on the north slopes. The major tree species are Douglas-fir and grand fir.

The current major uses include grazing, hunting, and spelunking. The Papoose grazing allotment is divided into four pastures which are rotated, and the area contains numerous developed springs, dams, corrals, and fences. Big game animals also use the area as summer range. The key grass species is bluebunch wheatgrass.

Two east-west trails cross the area and connect to Trail #101, the old Boise Trail. This trail, used since prehistoric times, follows the ridgetops which, for the most part coincides with the boundary of this roadless area. Two small lakes are also present high on the ridge, both support fish.

Scenery from within the area is spectacular to those who hike or ride horseback on the trails. On clear days, one can see four states from the summit, and view the Snake River and canyon.

Papoose Cave, a large, deep, limestone cave, is one of the most important undeveloped caves of its type in Idaho, and perhaps the Pacific Northwest. An unusually deep and rugged cave, it has gained both national and international attention. It has been managed since 1971 under a cooperative agreement with the Gem State Grotto, National Speleological Society. This cave lies below the roadless area with the entrance just within the roadless boundary.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The heaviest impact is that caused by grazing, and facilities such as stock tanks and fences associated with livestock management. Much of the area contains on-site intrusions that result from grazing livestock and range-related, manmade structures. Parts of the area not grazed would appear natural.

Opportunities for Experience: Solitude opportunities are good when the area is considered together with the Hells Canyon Wilderness. Topographic and vegetative screening is both moderate. There are roads, and noises associated with roads, on all sides, and cutting units are visible.

Special Features: Papoose Cave is the only known extensive, undeveloped limestone cave available for "wild" caving in the Pacific Northwest. In spite of its reputation as one of the west's most "unfriendly" caves, Papoose remains popular with experienced explorers because of its rugged challenges and pristine conditions. There are a few other small limestone caves in the area, none of which has attracted any particular attention from spelunkers.

Manageability: The boundary is well defined by roads on every side except the west, which borders the Hells Canyon Wilderness. This area could be added to the Hells Canyon Wilderness even though it was originally left out when Congress established the wilderness in 1975.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Two lakes support fish populations. Almost all streams inside the area drain into anadromous fisheries outside of the roadless area, such as Squaw Creek, Race Creek, and Papoose Creek. There are

resident fish inside the boundary where there is enough water to support them. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: Elk, deer, bear, and cougar are the primary big-game species. There is summer and winter habitat for both deer and elk.

Water: There are several hydro projects proposed for the drainages running out of this area at or near the forest boundary.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: The trails are mainly used by hunters and livestock. Other recreational activity such as berry picking and mushroom gathering occurs in season.

Timber: There are 5,800 suitable timber acres in this roadless area with a standing volume of 70,400 million board feet. Species is mixed and located on steep slopes. There is a small problem with Douglas-fir bark beetles, mistletoe in the Douglas-fir, and small pockets of root rot.

Range: The area has a long history of grazing use, dating back to the late 1700's when the Indians acquired horses. Almost all of the area is presently grazed.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 900 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There are 28 unpatented mining claims in the area. Potential exists for development of a mine just outside the boundary, and veins with good mineralization may extend into the northern part of the area. Most of the interest shown has been in gold. This roadless area contains 9,200 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is one small tract of private land in the northeastern portion of this area.

Heritage: The old Boise Trail, which was used for centuries, runs through this area. Although parts of the trail are now difficult to find, cultural resource sites may exist in the vicinity.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Salmon Face Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	9,200	2,000	9,200
GFRG	0	7,200	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**9,200**	**9,200**	**9,200**

Selway Bitteroot #new

600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

This is a new roadless area which was identified during the revision of the Nez Perce Forest Plan. It is a 600 acre parcel adjacent to the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness that had not been included in the Wilderness designation.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural processes have received little impact.

Undeveloped Character: Except for the roads near the boundaries, the area would appear natural to most people.

Opportunities for Experience: The adjacency of the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness along with this area offer good possibility for isolation. There is limited trail access to the interior of the area.

Manageability: The Selway Bitterroot Wilderness boundary is not easily pinpointed. The remainder of the area is bordered by a creek and roads.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: Parts of the area are summer habitat for big game, and other parts are winter range.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are known to occur.

Recreation: Use is light except for hunting. Impacts are light.

Timber: Almost all parts of the area are timbered with mixed species on steep slopes.

Range: None.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 600 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no non-Federal lands in this roadless area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Selway Bitterroot Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	600	600
Back Country Restoration	600	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**600**	**600**	**600**

Silver Creek-Pilot Knob #849

21,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Silver Creek-Pilot Knob Roadless Area includes the upper two-thirds of Silver Creek and several small tributaries of Newsome Creek. Roads 1853, 244, 284, 1858, and 1834 border this area on all of the north side and parts of the east and west sides. Road 466 enters the area from the north and runs 4.5 miles to Pilot Knob Lookout. Two short spurs extend from this road, one to an old mine.

The elevation ranges from approximately 4,000 feet at the lowest point in Newsome Creek to 7,000 feet at Pilot Rock. Topography is uniformly rolling with uniform forest cover. The Pilot Knob/Pilot Rock Ridge is a highly visible landmark in the center of the area with rock outcrops, meadows, and timber providing a visually pleasing mosaic. Drainages form a dendritic pattern.

Vegetation types are diverse. Old-growth grand fir stands are prevalent next to Newsome Creek. Subalpine fir habitat types, currently dominated by lodgepole pine, are found near Nellie Mountain and Reed Mountain. Moist grand fir and subalpine fir types cover the majority of the area. Small, wet openings dominated by Sitka spruce and alder are scattered throughout the Silver Creek drainage.

A key visual attraction in this area is Pilot Rock, a massive, bare rock formation almost in the center of the area. There is easy walking access from the lookout to the top of this formation. Pilot Rock is reported to be an ancient "vision quest" site for the Nez Perce Indian Tribe. Other attractions include several large, natural meadows below China Point and at Mountain House Site. There are also a few remnants of early day mining along Newsome Creek, but nothing that would require special considerations.

The mining frontier arrived in this area in 1861, only a year after the first gold discoveries in Idaho. John Newsome's company started panning about the same time that gold fever hit Elk City. By August 1861, over 300 miners were staked out along Newsome Creek, but by fall 1864, only 21 people were left at Newsome townsite, which is adjacent to Silver Creek-Pilot Knob Roadless Area.

Mining here followed the same trend as other mining camps in Idaho County: a boom of initial placer discoveries in the 1860's, a decline followed by placer mining by the Chinese, a quartz (hardrock) boom in the 1880's, decline, stream-dredging activities, then final collapse. Between 1870 and 1890, Chinese miners lived and mined in and near this roadless area. The Chinese arrived after the claims began to decline by white standards, and those miners were willing to sellout. When the properties became valuable again in the quartz boom of the 1880's, courts ruled that Chinese could not legally own mining property. There were few Chinese left in the area by 1900. A memento of their presence in Silver Creek-Pilot Knob Roadless Area is Sing Lee Creek, named after a miner who was especially friendly to white men, and who reputedly lived over 100 years.

Current uses include livestock grazing, mining, big-game hunting, sightseeing, special use electronics sites, and fishing.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Overall, natural processes are intact and operating. Although the area has been impacted by fire, mining, and grazing, the sum of these impacts is moderate. Most are sharply localized.

Undeveloped Character: A road enters the area from the north, and climbs the ridge to Pilot Knob, where a lookout and electronic site are located. These are apparent to most observers. Elsewhere in the area, there are signs of grazing and past mining activity.

Opportunities for Experience: The size of this area does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The road to Pilot Knob almost divides the area in half. Topographic and vegetative screening is both moderate, and there are off-site intrusions in the form of visible clearcuts, roads, and sounds from logging activity. Opportunities for primitive recreation are moderate. Challenges are limited 'to the rocks

and cliffs around Pilot Rock and Pilot Knob. Manmade facilities are present in the center of the area (Pilot Knob Lookout) and on the edges roads, timber sale areas. There is a small opportunity for isolation.

Manageability: Some parts of the boundary would be difficult to locate on the ground. Since the south side of the area shares a boundary with roaded development, trespass with motorized equipment would be likely.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Anadromous fish are not present in Silver Creek, but the upper portion contains a reproducing population of eastern brook trout. Newsome Creek and its tributaries do contain anadromous fish as well as native species.

Wildlife: The area supports elk, deer, moose, fisher, and bear populations. Controlled hunts are made each year for a few moose. Silver Creek-Pilot Knob Roadless Area is a major elk summer range and security area. In addition, when taken together with Clear Creek roadless area to the north, it is a possible yearlong gray wolf habitat.

Botanical: Candystick *(Allotropa virgata)* and Evergreen kittentail *(Synthyris platycarpa)* two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use is light except for fall hunting. A couple of trails cross the area, but receive only very light use.

Timber: The Pilot Rock/Pilot Knob ridge is not heavily forested. The rest of the area is covered with mixed species.

Range: This area contains parts of two allotments. The majority of the available forage is from low brush and forbs found under the overstory and along stream courses. There are a few small natural meadows along the streams and some small open grass areas along the ridges.

Minerals and Energy: Mining activity is not widespread, but in view of the area's mining history, interest continues. There are currently 12 unpatented mining claims. This roadless area contains 21,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: A 160-acre homestead patented in 1923 and an adjoining patented mining claim of 31 acres are located at the mouth of Pilot Creek on the northeast edge of the area. This land has been partially subdivided and is the site of several summer homes.

Heritage: The area may contain undiscovered historic and prehistoric cultural resources. In addition to past mining, the northeastern boundary of the Silver Creek-Pilot Knob Roadless Area is the historic Nez Perce Trail, which was used by Indians long before the time of mountain men and miners. This trail was the main access route to Idaho County mines of the 19th century, later became the Elk City Wagon Road, and still later was improved to accommodate motor vehicles.

Pilot Rock is reported to be an ancient "vision quest" site for the Nez Perce Indian Tribe. The Tribe is presently negotiating with the Forest Service to establish an undisturbed area around Pilot Rock that encompasses nearly the game acreage and boundaries as the proposed roadless area.

Disturbances: Silver Ridge, on the west edge of the roadless area, and the entire Silver Creek drainage are hotspots for lightning strikes and resultant fires.

Heartrot caused by Indian paint fungus is predominant in the old-growth grand fir. Lodgepole pine stands are currently 70 to 75 years old. Stands which are 80 years old are considered moderately susceptible to mountain pine beetle attack. Other factors, such as large size and low elevation can compound the susceptibility, creating high risk of a mountain pine beetle attack.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Silver Creek-Pilot Knob Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	12,500	0
Backcountry	21,000	3,600	0
GFRG	0	4,900	0
SAHTS	0	0	21,000
Existing Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**21,000**	**21,000**	**21,000**

West Fork Crooked River #new

9,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The West Fork Crooked River Roadless Area was identified during revision of the Nez Perce Forest Plan. The roadless area is reached by Road 233 from the north, which also forms the western and southern borders. The western border is the Gospel Hump Wilderness. Fivemile Creek forms the northern border.

West Fork Crooked River, Umatilla Creek and Fivemile Creek are the dominant drainages of the area. Vegetation cover types range from pure lodgepole pine stands on southern slopes at moderate elevations to alpine fir and Engelmann spruce in draws and higher elevations. The predominant species is mature lodgepole pine. As in other lodgepole stands in this locality, mountain pine beetles are increasing mortality.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural processes have received little impact, except near the road corridors along the west and south boundaries.

Undeveloped Character: Except for the roads near the boundaries, the area would appear natural to most people.

Opportunities for Experience: The adjacency of the Gospel Hump Wilderness along with this area offer good possibility for isolation. There is limited trail access to the interior of the area.

Manageability: The Gospel Hump Wilderness boundary is not easily pinpointed. The remainder of the area is bordered by a creek and roads.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The drainages in the area are anadromous and provide habitat for Chinook and Steelhead. Bull trout habitat is extensive as well.

Wildlife: Species include elk, moose, deer, bear, wolverine, fisher, and cougar. The endangered gray wolf may inhabit the area based on suitability of habitat.

Botanical: Candystick *(Allotropa virgata)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Most users are hunters and fishermen.

Timber: The area is dominated by lodgepole pine with subalpine fir at higher elevations.

Range: The area is open to grazing.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 1,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 9,500 acres of medium geothermal potential. The area has had some placer and other exploratory mining for locatable minerals.

Roads and Trails: There is a trail crossing the south west portion of the area.

Disturbances: Fire has been the most extensive disturbance throughout the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

West Fork Crooked River Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	9,500	8,500	9,500
GFRG	0	1,000	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**9,500**	**9,500**	**9,500**

West Meadow Creek #845C

115,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Meadow Creek is a principal tributary of the Selway River which enters about a mile above Selway Falls. West Meadow Creek Roadless Area is essentially the west side of the Meadow Creek drainage, although a few small streams drain into American River, a tributary of the South Fork of the Clearwater.

This area joins the East Meadow Creek Roadless Area on the east and is separated by a road corridor from the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness on the south. The western boundary is, for the most part, the divide that separates the Selway and South Fork of the Clearwater drainages. Road access is by way of Road 443 on the north and west sides, and Roads 468 and 285 on the south.

The entire main stem of Meadow Creek above the junction with the East Fork is included in this area. Elevations range from about 1,800 feet at the trailhead on the northern boundary to 7,232 feet at Granite Peak. Slopes are steep, mostly facing east and north. As is characteristic of north and east exposures, vegetation in most parts of the area is dense, especially in the stream bottoms. Pacific yew is common, and thick. The head of Meadow Creek is open, however, with the meadows that give the creek its name.

Virtually all of the upper Meadow Creek drainage burned in 1919, and much of it is now covered with thick reproduction. There are some stands of fir and spruce on lands that escaped this and other flies. Lodgepole pine and subalpine species are common at higher elevations.

Scenic areas include Anderson Butte and Meadow Creek. Wildlife and fisheries occurring in the area includes gray wolves, elk, bald eagle, steelhead trout, Chinook summer salmon, and possibly grizzly bears. One of the key attractions of this area is the extremely high water quality of Meadow Creek. It is one of the very few streams left on the forest with very excellent water quality and a productive anadromous fishery. Other special features are Green Mountain Lookout, which is one of the older lookout locations on the Forest, Horse Point Lookout site, Meadow Creek cabin, old sheep driveways, evidence of glaciations in the upper Meadow-Fourmile area, Meadow Creek and Anderson Butte National Recreation Trails, and the Nez Perce Trial.

Current uses include grazing, hiking, motorcycle riding, hunting, fishing, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, snowmobiling, and sightseeing along the Montana Road. One outfitter operates in the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Long-term ecological processes have been only slightly impacted in the West Meadow Creek Roadless Area. The area has a history of grazing. At one time, there were many sheep grazing allotments in the East and West Meadow Creek Roadless Areas. Stock driveways are shown on forest maps as early as 1911, and large sheep allotments first appeared on forest maps in 1920. Most likely, they were both established before these maps came out.

Although the effects of past sheep grazing have largely vanished, the effects of the stock driveways have not. They can be identified in the Meadow Creek Roadless Area and in the adjoining Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness because they go almost straight down one side of a hill and straight up the other side, and are cleared to a width of 50 feet. Erosion has left its mark on these sites, despite reconstruction of many of the driveways into graded trails. Grazing today is much less extensive, concentrated mostly along the western boundary and around the meadows in the head of Meadow Creek.

Undeveloped Character: The area as a whole is not heavily impacted, although some sites obviously are. The most noticeable sites are described below:

Anderson Butte and Green Mountain Lookouts are both noticeable from parts of the area. Several other lookouts were present, but they have been removed. There are a few drift fences in the upper end of Meadow Creek.

Trails, especially the old stock driveways and an old jeep trail from Blackhawk Mountain to Anderson Butte, have caused impacts. A few of these trials are heavily used, especially during hunting season. Motorcycle use is also common on some of the better trails.

Past mining activity on the ridge between Three Prong Creek and the East Fork of Meadow Creek has resulted in about 100 acres of roads and pits. There are currently no claims in this area, and no activity.

Human-caused developments are very obvious in Section 4, T 29 N, R 10 E, in the form of a complete custodial-era Forest Service Ranger Station. This building was constructed in 1923 and has recently been restored. In addition to the small main cabin, there are three other buildings and a corral. These are localized impacts. Overall, the area would appear natural to most visitors.

Opportunities for Experience: This area, along with the East Meadow Creek Roadless Area, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness on the east and north, and the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness on the south, offers excellent opportunity for solitude. Topographic and vegetative screening is also significant. This area is not as diverse as East Meadow Creek Roadless Area across the creek. For example, there are no lakes. Challenges, too, are probably fewer than those found on the east side of the creek, but land navigation would be more difficult in some parts of this area due to heavy vegetation and lack of recognizable landmarks. A person who broke a leg or suffered a similar mishap in this area might not be rescued, especially since some of the draws are too damp to build much of a fire.

The old Meadow Creek Ranger Station built in 1923 is accessible only by trail or helicopter. To some visitors, these buildings may seem an intrusion, an invasion of solitude; to others, they may seem to fit in perfectly with the surrounding area.

Special Features: About 300 acres are within the designated Wild and Scenic River corridor for the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River.

Manageability: Boundaries for the most part follow definite topographic features. The majority of the area is relatively uninfluenced by roads and other factors that would decrease the wilderness attributes. Manageability as wilderness would depend in part on the classification of East Meadow Creek Roadless Area to the east; that is, whether this area would be managed as a part of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, or as an isolated, independent wilderness. Costs per acre would, of course, be higher for a separate wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Meadow Creek is a significant fishery. Both Chinook summer salmon and steelhead trout inhabit Meadow Creek, while most of the tributaries to Meadow Creek support steelhead. Some of the side drainages on the west side have obstacles that prevent passage of anadromous fish. Meadow Creek gets little fishing pressure, and the westside tributaries get even less. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon summer salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: Mule and whitetail deer, elk, black bear, fisher, and moose inhibit West Meadow Creek Roadless Area. Pacific yew thickets furnish winter browse for moose. Other wildlife occurring in the area includes gray wolves, elk, bald eagles, and grizzly bears. The roadless area contains some very productive elk summer range. The elk winter rage is low in productivity and is in need of logging and/or prescribed burning to regenerate winter forage.

Water: Facilities of the Horse Creek Administrative-Research project are present in the East Fork of Horse Creek. This project, begun in the late 1960s, will furnish better data on stream sedimentation caused by road construction. Although the major part of this activity is in the Main Fork and not in the roadless area, the East Fork is the control drainage for the research activities. Climatic, streamflow, and sediment-measuring instruments are installed in the East Fork near the confluence with the Main Fork. The control drainage will not be disturbed until the completion of the research project. This roadless area contains 100 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Payson's milkvetch *(Astragalus paysonii),* Candystick *(Allotropa virgata),* Clustered lady's-slipper *(Cypripedium fasciculatum),* Banks monkeyflower *(Mimulis clivicola),* and Evergreen kittentail *(Synthyris platycarps)* all sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Recreation: Trails 830 and 835 together make up the Anderson Butte National Recreation Trail, and furnish access from the west side of the area. Trail 809 from Anderson Butte to Meadow Creek is heavily used in hunting season. These trails receive minimum maintenance. A 55-foot native timber bridge was built across Meadow Creek at the end of Trail 809 in 1975 and 1976, replacing an unsafe tram and a ford that was impossible in high water and dangerous all of the time. This is the only trail bridge across Meadow Creek. Other than hunting, recreation use is generally light.

Timber: Timber harvest in this area is for the most part confined to areas which escaped earlier wildfires. Thick reproduction is common.

Wildland Urban Interface: This roadless area contains 3,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 115,900 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no non-Federal lands in the area. Meadow Creek Ranger Station is located on the east side of Meadow Creek adjacent to East Meadow Creek Roadless Area. There are four buildings on the site: the station itself, a 22x28-foot log structure with a kitchen, two bedrooms and a small office; a 15x20-foot bunkhouse with a loft; a log tack room of about the same dimensions; and a small pole and shake woodshed. The station was built in 1923, the tack room in 1925, and the bunkhouse in 1930. The main building was completely renovated in 1983, and the other buildings were repaired in 1984.

Heritage: There are no known cultural resource sites in the area except Meadow Creek Ranger Station, although the existence of old cabins is suspected.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

West Meadow Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	400	0
Backcountry	115,900	88,600	115,600
GFRG	0	26,600	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	300	300
Total Acres	**115,900**	**115,900**	**115,900**

Big Creek Fringe #009

1,100 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Big Creek Fringe Roadless Area encompasses a narrow strip of land less than a mile wide between Big Creek and the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness on the Krassel Ranger District. Access is by road along Big Creek (Forest Roads 340 and 371), and by the trail from Big Creek into Cougar Basin (Forest Trail 004). Secesh Roadless Area lies directly to the west; Placer Creek Roadless Area lies to the northwest; and Franck Church - River of No Return Wilderness forms the eastern border.

The area consists of extremely steep, northwest-facing slopes that drain into Big Creek. The soils derive from granitic rocks of the Idaho Batholith and generally are light-colored, coarse-textured, and rocky. Elevations range from 5,400 feet to 7,600 feet. The area is mostly forested with Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and Engelmann spruce. Its understory includes elk sedge, tall huckleberry, ninebark, meadow rue, thimbleberry, mountain maple, pinegrass, buffaloberry, spirea, and queencup.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: There have been no major human-caused disturbances and there is only about 0.5 mile of unauthorized road within the boundaries; thus, the natural integrity appears intact and the natural appearance is high.

Opportunities for Experience: The area consists primarily of slopes facing the Big Creek Road. Because development (summer homes, lodge, work center, air strip) occurs along the road, and the road is a popular access point for the adjacent Wilderness area, the opportunity for solitude within the Fringe itself is low. Due to its shape (a long, narrow strip of land), the area alone provides very little opportunity for primitive recreation. The opportunities for primitive recreation become high, however, in conjunction with the adjacent Franck Church - River of No Return Wilderness. The steep slopes offer challenging backpacking.

Special Features: In conjunction with the Big Creek Road, the area serves as an access point to the Franck Church - River of No Return Wilderness. The portion close to Big Creek is an elk calving area. About 400 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: Due to the area's small size, alternative boundaries are not practical. Because the area is less than 5,000 acres, the only wilderness management opportunity would be to add the area to the existing Franck Church - River of No Return Wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Fish habitat in this roadless area is limited to several small, unnamed tributaries of Big Creek, and a half-mile reach of Lick Creek. It is unlikely that these streams support fish populations. However, the area is within the Big Creek sub-watershed, which provides or may potentially provide spawning and/or rearing habitat for threatened Chinook summer salmon and steelhead trout. The entire area lies within designated critical habitat for Chinook summer salmon.

Wildlife: Habitat is present for many species including elk, deer, moose, cougar, black bear, mountain goat, boreal owl, northern and three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, spotted frog, and gray wolf (an experimental, non-essential population). Potential habitat for lynx, a threatened species, is present in most of the area. Suitable habitat and travel corridors are present for wolverine and fisher.

Water: The area contains portions of Big Creek and Lick Creek, but no lakes. The entire area drains into Big Creek, an important anadromous stream.

Botanical: No populations of threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are known to occur. Few botanical surveys have been done in the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Recreation: Uses of the area are off-trail, non-motorized, and very light (estimated at 50-100 recreation visitor days a year), consisting primarily of fall hunting, hiking, and huckleberry picking.

Timber: The area contains an estimated 12,300 thousand board feet, equivalent to 24,300 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 1,000 acres (92 percent) is considered tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 20 acres are considered to have low productivity; 900 acres, moderate productivity; and 60 acres, high productivity.

Range: The area has no livestock grazing permits. There are no capable grazing lands within the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 900 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There is no mineral or energy activity in this area at the present time. The mineral potential is moderate. This roadless area contains 1,100 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: The Payette National Forest administers all lands in the roadless area. There are no non-Federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within the roadless area. One outfitter-guide provides mainly summer recreation opportunities for clients.

Roads and Trails: An estimated one-half mile of Forest Service Trail 004 passes through this small fringe area and accesses the Cougar Basin area of the Franck Church - River of No Return Wilderness. This non-motorized trail receives considerable use by hikers and pack stock in summer and fall.

Heritage: There has never been a cultural resource inventory within this roadless area. Half of the area is rated low and half as high for potential cultural sites.

Disturbances: Historic wildland fire occurrence in this area is rated as low. Mean fire return intervals for these fire regimes are classified as infrequent (76-150 years) to very infrequent (151-300 years). There have been no major fires within this area for the past 60 years. Timber in the area has minor, endemic infestations of Douglas-fir bark beetle, mountain pine beetle, and spruce bark beetle.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Big Creek Fringe Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	1,100	700	700
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	400	400
Total Acres	**1,100**	**1,100**	**1,100**

Caton Lake #912

45,400 Acres Payette
39,100 Acres Boise
84,500 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Caton Lake Roadless Area occurs on the Krassel Ranger District of the Payette National Forest, and the Cascade Ranger District of the Boise National Forest. The South Fork Salmon River, East Fork South Fork Salmon River, Johnson Creek, and Warm Lake Roads bound the Caton Lake Roadless Area. Several trails enter the area, but travel in much of the area is restricted by the vegetation and rugged topography. The Needles Roadless Area lies to the west, Secesh Roadless Area lies to the north, Meadow Creek and Burnt Log Roadless Areas adjoin to the east, and Peace Rock Roadless Area lies to the south.

The area rises steeply out of three major canyons through timberlands and meadows to high, glaciated granite crests. Soils derive from granitic parent materials of the Idaho Batholith and are mostly light-colored, coarse-textured, and rocky. Elevations range widely from 3,663 to 9,195 feet. Indian Ridge, Caton Lake, Log Mountain, and Thunderbolt Mountain are prominent scenic landmarks.

Lands at lower elevations are steep and strongly dissected by streams, with brush fields and moderate to dense stands of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and western larch. Higher elevation lands are U-shaped glacial valleys with steep side slopes and gently sloping alluvial bottoms, adjacent to high peaks, rocky ridges, and cirque basins. Lodgepole pine and subalpine fir are the dominant tree species. Ground cover at the lower elevations includes pinegrass, Idaho fescue, ceanothus, bluebunch wheatgrass, snowberry, ninebark, serviceberry, elk sedge, tall huckleberry, meadow rue, thimbleberry, mountain maple, buffaloberry, queencup, and spirea. Higher-elevation ground cover includes elk sedge, low huckleberry, beargrass, and woodrush.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity is generally high, as this is a large area with few effects from past development. The natural appearance for this area is high, although appearance has been recently changed by a number of large wildfires, most notably the 1994 Thunderbolt fire. There are an estimated 1.25 miles of unauthorized road within the boundary.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to its large size, rugged terrain, and limited access, this area has a high opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation. Steep, rugged mountains characterize the area. Roads access the edges and several trails access portions of the interior. Much of the area is open to motorized travel on designated trails.

Special Features: Scenic Caton Lake lies in the heart of the area. The Phoebe Meadows Research Natural Area (1,100 acres) also occurs within the area. Approximately 1,100 acres of land the South Fork Salmon River are considered eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System.

Manageability: Several boundary options have been reviewed for this area. One option includes the entire area, for approximately 84,500 acres. The other options retain core sections of the area and, where possible, move the boundaries to natural features to improve manageability. Existing uses and landownership would not seriously complicate managing the area as wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The roadless area encompasses tributaries of the South Fork Salmon River (Fourmile Creek, Camp Creek, Phoebe Creek, Indian Creek), East Fork South Fork Salmon River (Caton Creek), and Johnson Creek. These tributaries provide or may potentially provide spawning and/or rearing habitat for threatened Chinook summer salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout; and Region 4 sensitive westslope cutthroat trout. The entire area lies within designated critical habitat for Chinook summer salmon. Other species within the roadless area include resident redband rainbow trout, mountain whitefish, suckers, and sculpin.

Wildlife: The bald eagles migrate along the South Fork Salmon River. Habitat is present for many wildlife species, including deer, elk, black bear, mountain goat, cougar, boreal owl, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, and northern and white-headed woodpecker. The area provides important winter and summer range, as well as wallows, licks, and escape areas, for deer and elk. Two migration routes for big game have been identified in addition to elk calving areas. Gray wolves (an experimental, nonessential population) have been reported in this and adjacent areas. Potential habitat for lynx (a threatened species) occurs in about half of the area, generally occurring above drier ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir habitats in the South Fork Salmon River canyon. Suitable habitat and travel corridor are present for wolverine and fisher.

Water: The area contains numerous streams and wetland areas, and several lakes. Portions of the area drain into the East Fork South Fork Salmon River, Johnson Creek, and South Fork Salmon River. Johnson Creek is a major tributary of the East Fork South Fork, which flows into the South Fork Salmon River. All these streams provide important anadromous fish habitat. Johnson Creek, East Fork South Fork, and South Fork Salmon River are designated as water quality limited water bodies under the Clean Water Act. The South Fork Salmon River has an established total maximum daily load. Potential exists for a small hydropower project along Caton Creek.

Botanical: No known populations of endangered, threatened, or sensitive plants are present. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Recreation: The main recreation activities consist of hunting, backpacking, horseback riding, and trail biking.

Timber: There is an estimated 682,800 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 1,356,500 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 64,400 acres (76 percent) of the Caton Lake Roadless Area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 30,300 acres are considered to have low productivity; 41,400 acres, moderate productivity; and 6,700 acres, high productivity.

Range: The area contains an estimated 100 acres of capable rangeland. One cattle allotment occurs in the southern portion of the roadless area on the Boise National Forest, while no grazing permits exist on the Payette portion.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 2,500 acres of WUI.

Minerals: The area has very few active mining claims. There is very little potential for future locatable mineral or energy development. This roadless area contains 84,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: The Forest Service administers all lands in the roadless area. There are no known special use permits associated with this area. One outfitter-guide provides mainly summer recreation opportunities for clients.

Roads and Trails: Approximately 50 miles of Forest Service system trail are in this area. The terrain and trail system provide for some motorized use by trail bikes, limited to designated routes.

Heritage: Previous cultural resource inventory found an absence of heritage resources. The likelihood of cultural resources is rated as low across most of the area, with smaller portions rate as moderate or high.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence in this area ranges from high along the South Fork Salmon River to moderately high at the higher elevations. Mean fire return intervals for these fire regimes range from frequent (16-35 years) to very infrequent (100-300 years). Approximately 23,700 acres have burned in wildfire between 1960 and 2000. Recent major wildland fires burned in 1992 (Camp fire, 100 acres) and 1994 (Thunderbolt fire, 1,000 acres). The forest has ignited four prescribed fires in the area since 1988. Douglas-fir and Engelmann spruce bark beetles are active in the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Canton Lake Management Theme Payette	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	45,400	43,400	43,400
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	2,000	2,000
Total Acres	**45,400**	**45,400**	**45,400**

Canton Lake Management Theme Boise	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	39,100	29,400	29,400
GFRG	0	9,500	9,500
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	200	200
Total Acres	**39,100**	**39,100**	**39,100**

Canton Lake Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	84,500	72,800	72,800
GFRG	0	9,500	9,500
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	2,200	2,200
Total Acres	**84,500**	**84,500**	**84,500**

Chimney Rock #006

8,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Chimney Rock Roadless Area lies within the McCall Ranger, northeast of Secesh Meadows. War Eagle fire lookout sits on the northern edge of the unit. A few trails extend a short distance into the area, but much of the area is only accessible by cross-country travel. The Cottontail Point/Pilot Peak Roadless Area lies to the north and east, Crystal Mountain Roadless Area lies to the west, and Secesh Roadless Area lies to the south, beyond the Secesh Meadows subdivision.

Named for the resistant granitic formation "Chimney Rock," the area forms a high bench of moderate relief. Soils derive from granitic parent materials of the Idaho Batholith and are mainly light-colored, coarse-textured, and rocky. Elevations range from 5,700 to 8,200 feet.

Dense, continuous stands of lodgepole pine cover much of the area. Ground cover species include beargrass, elk sedge, dwarf huckleberry, and pinegrass.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity is moderate and the natural appearance somewhat impaired, mainly due to impacts inside and adjacent to the western boundary from private development in the Secesh Meadows subdivision. There is an estimated 2.3 miles of unauthorized road within the boundary. Once visitors leave the affected area and enter the drainages, the area appears relatively unaffected by human activity.

Opportunities for Experience: The lack of nearby large population centers and the dense, continuous stands of lodgepole pine afford a moderate opportunity for solitude. The absence of trails and facilities provides a substantial opportunity for primitive recreation and challenging hunting and hiking. Nearly 90 percent of the area is closed to motorized vehicle travel, including snowmobiles. Access roads pass around the outer edges of the area and intrude near the junction of Grouse Creek and Secesh River.

Special Features: "Chimney Rock" is a scenic landmark near the northern boundary of the area. About 200 acres of the Secesh River, passing near the area's western boundary, is eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River system.

Manageability: Due to the topography and surrounding roads, no practical opportunity exists to alter the boundaries to increase manageability. There are no private or state land inholdings, and no dominant current uses that would affect potential manageability.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Streams in this area are considered critical habitat for threatened Chinook summer salmon, contributing to the quality of occupied downstream habitat. Several resident fish species may also occur in area streams. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Elk, deer, boreal owl, northern goshawk, great gray owl, spotted frog, northern three-toed woodpecker, and bear can be found in the area. Elk calving areas occur in nearby Secesh Meadows, but the area is too high in elevation for elk or deer winter range. Suitable habitat is found for gray wolf, an experimental, non-essential population. Potential habitat for lynx, a threatened species, occurs in almost all of the area. Travel corridors for fisher and wolverine are also found here.

Water: No lakes or reservoirs occur in the area. The main streams are Piah Creek and Warm Spring Creek. All streams in the area drain directly into and provide good quality water for the Secesh River, an important anadromous fishery. Three permitted water systems serving the Secesh Meadows subdivision exist on the western boundary of the roadless area. The systems are spring fed or diverted from unnamed creeks, and are all piped underground.

Botanical: No threatened or endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur in this roadless area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Recreation: The majority of the recreation use in the roadless area is big game hunting. Other uses are considered low.

Timber: The area contains an estimated 79,700 thousand board feet, equivalent to 156,500 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 8,200 acres (96 percent) of the Chimney Rock Roadless Area is considered tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 2,200 acres are considered to have low productivity; 6,300 acres moderate productivity; and 20 acres, high productivity. There have been no recent timber sales in the area.

Range: No range allotments or livestock operations occur in this roadless area. There are no capable grazing lands within the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 2,700 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are very few active mining claims in the Chimney Rock Roadless Area. Historically, there was little activity within the area, although some moderate-scale placer mining occurred along the western boundary. The potential for future locatable mineral and energy development is limited. This roadless area contains 8,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: The Payette National Forest administers all lands within the roadless area. There are no non-Federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within this area.

Roads and Trails: Non-motorized recreation is the dominant recreation use in the area due to the terrain and absence of trails.

Heritage: This area has not had extensive cultural resource inventories to date. There are no identified prehistoric activity areas within the roadless area. However, there is some evidence of historic placer and hard rock mining activities.

Disturbances: Historic wildland fire occurrence is low to moderately low. Mean fire return intervals are infrequent (76-150 years) to very infrequent (151-300 years). An estimated 1,600 acres of the roadless area have burned since 1960. Most of these acres were from the Burgdorf Junction fire in 2000. No recent major insect or disease infestations have occurred in the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Chimney Rock Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	8,500	8,300	8,300
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	200	200
Total Acres	**8,500**	**8,500**	**8,500**

Cottontail Point/Pilot Peak #004

92,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Cottontail Point/Pilot Peak Roadless Area is located on the McCall Ranger District, in the north central portion of the forest. The area stretches from Marshall Mountain in the west, across the South Fork Salmon River to Pueblo Summit in the east. The Franck Church - River of No Return Wilderness forms the area's north boundary. The Chimney Rock, Crystal Mountain, and Secesh Roadless Areas lie to the south, and Marshall Mountain Mining District lies to the west.

The area is extremely rugged. The steep river breaks and canyons of the Salmon and South Fork Salmon River drainages typify the area. The soils derive from granites of the Idaho Batholith and are mainly light-colored, coarse-textured, and rocky. Elevations range from 2,700 to 8,160 feet. Much of the area is heavily timbered with ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, grand fir, Engelmann spruce, and subalpine fir. Common ground cover includes bunchgrasses, pinegrass, ninebark, beargrass, elk sedge, and dwarf huckleberry.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and natural appearance of the area are high, except in the heavily mined Warren Meadows area and along the border near the Salmon River, where several special uses are in effect. Associated with the mining, are an estimated 23.5 miles of unauthorized and 8.6 miles of forest roads within the boundary. Other portions of this large area have had very little disturbance.

Opportunities for Experience: The limited access and rugged terrain over much of the area create a high opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation. The area is very remote from any large population centers, although local use from Warren, Secesh Meadows, and McCall is increasing.

Special Features: The South Fork Salmon River Canyon and the Wolf Fang Peak area are scenic landmarks. The South Fork Salmon River has been found eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. There are 5.5 miles and 1,700 acres of land considered suitable for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System within the area. The area also provides important habitat for threatened Chinook summer salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout, and has many significant cultural resource sites.

Manageability: Forest Plan alternatives evaluated boundary options that would add portions of this area to the Franck Church - River of No Return Wilderness. These changes would enhance existing wilderness by moving the boundaries to ridge tops and away from mid-slope. Existing mining activity could complicate managing this area as wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Streams in this area are considered critical habitat for threatened Chinook summer salmon, contributing to the quality of habitat in downstream areas where Chinook summer salmon occur. Steelhead and bull trout, both threatened species, are also found in the roadless area. Introduced brook trout occur in some area streams. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, steelhead, inland redband trout, pacific lamprey, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The area's wildlife species include elk, deer, moose, bighorn sheep, northern goshawk, and pileated woodpecker. Suitable habitat also exists for Townsend's big-eared bat, white headed and northern three-toed woodpecker, flammulated owl, boreal owl, great gray owl, and spotted frog. The area provides big game winter range and elk calving habitat. Suitable habitat for an experimental, non-essential population of gray wolf is found here. Suitable habitat for the peregrine falcon is also found in the roadless area. Migrating bald eagles occasionally visit the South Fork Salmon River. Potential habitat for lynx, a threatened species, occurs in about half of the area. Generally, all but the lower slopes of the major drainages are potential habitat. Travel corridors for fisher and wolverine can be found at higher elevations.

Water: There are only a few lakes and no reservoirs in this area. The main streams include California Creek, Warren Creek, and South Fork Salmon River. The central and western portions of the area drain into the main Salmon River, and the eastern portion drains into the South Fork Salmon River. Portions of Warren Creek watershed have been negatively affected by past mining activities, including stream dredging. Placer and dredge mining, along with poorly designed roads on private or patented lands, continue to contribute large amounts of sediment to the drainage. Sediment is also a concern in the South Fork Salmon River drainage due to its highly valued anadromous fishery.

The South Fork Ranch has a hydropower facility, an irrigation ditch system, and a spring-fed domestic water system on Smith Creek, west of their property. The Sandy Cove Subdivision has a permitted water system on Pony Creek, with a small diversion above ground, and a below-ground piping system.

Botanical: Candystick *(Allotropa virgata)* and Cascade reedgrass *(Calamagrostis tweedyi)* two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Recreation: The Cottontail Point/Pilot Peak Roadless Area provides opportunities for non-motorized and motorized recreation uses including hunting, fishing, trail bike riding, and backpacking. Recreation use is low to moderate.

Timber: The roadless area contains 796,200 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 1,618,600 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 76,200 acres (82 percent) of the Cottontail Point/Pilot Peak Roadless Area contains tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 28,500 acres are considered to have low productivity; 39,500 acres, moderate productivity; and 21,500 acres, high productivity. A small part of the area was entered for salvage harvest following the 1994 wildfires. The area of impact centered in the area of Smith Knob to Pilot Peak to Bear Creek Point. Harvesting was done by helicopter, and no new roads were constructed.

Range: A portion of one sheep allotment, Marshall Mountain, occurs in the western portion of the roadless area. This allotment has a deferred rotation grazing system, and the level of structural improvements is low. An estimated 2,100 acres (2 percent) of land within the area have been classified as capable for grazing by sheep.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 12,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals: Several hundred active mining claims exist within the roadless area. Much of the area has an extensive mining history, with hundreds of old exploration and mine development workings. Most of this disturbance is in a zone about 5 miles wide and 12 miles long, extending from the Marshall Mountain Mining District in the northwest through the Warren Mining District in the southeast. Only limited activity is occurring at present, but there is at least one producing mine in the Warren area. Much of the area has a high potential for future mineral development, particularly in the previously described zone. This roadless area contains 90,900 acres of high and 2,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: The roadless area surrounds one privately owned parcel of 92 acres. There are also an estimated 1,010 acres of unpatented mining claims in which the claimants hold surface occupancy rights. These claims lie in the California and Union Creek drainages in the western portion of the area. There are no cost-share agreements of record within this area. An outfitter-guide provides hunting and guiding services in the Warren Creek drainage.

Roads and Trails: The rugged terrain and trail system allow for limited motorized use by trail bikes. An estimated 33 miles on non-motorized trails exist in the area, and 12 miles of motorized trails.

Heritage: There are significant and outstanding prehistoric Indian cultural sites in the area, including a house pit village, rock shelters, pictographs, lithic scatters, and cambium-peeled pine trees. This area also has a multiple resource National Register of Historic Places listing for 19th century Chinese sites within the historic Warren Mining District. This is the only place in the State of Idaho that contains such a

designation. Also, within this area are two Forest Service historic guard stations that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and one active Forest Service fire lookout.

Disturbances: Wildland fire occurrence ranges from high to low in this large area. Mean fire return intervals range from very frequent (less than 25 years) at the lowest elevations to very infrequent (151300 years) at the highest elevations. The majority of this area would be classified as infrequent (76-150 years). An estimated 51,200 acres have burned between 1960 and 2000. Substantial acreage in the South Fork and Pilot Peak portions of the roadless area burned in the 1994 Chicken fire. Significant portions in the northwestern part of the roadless area burned in the 1994 Corral fire and 2000 Burgdorf Junction fire. Douglas-fir bark beetle activity is at near epidemic levels in portions of the roadless area that burned in the 1994 fires.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Cottontail Point/Pilot Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	36,700	36,700
Backcountry	92,900	54,500	54,500
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,700	1,700
Total Acres	**92,900**	**92,900**	**92,900**

Council Mountain #018

16,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Council Mountain Roadless Area covers the top of Council Mountain, which is bordered on the west by Council Valley and on the east by the Middle Fork Weiser River. The Middle Fork Weiser River Road, the East Fork Weiser River Road, and Cottonwood Creek Road provide the principal access. A few primitive trails criss-cross the area. The area is surrounded by a combination of private and public lands, with Snowbank Roadless Area located several miles to the south.

Cirque basins with granite intrusions and steep, grassy, basaltic slopes characterize the area. The soils in the western portion derive mainly from volcanic parent materials and are mostly dark colored, fine textured, and rocky. The soils in the extreme eastern portion are derived from granitic parent materials and are mainly light colored, coarse textured, and rocky. Elevations range from 3,400 feet to 8,126 feet. Generally, the area receives heavy precipitation, mostly snow in winter and rain in the spring with hot, relatively dry summers.

The area is mostly forested with Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, grand fir, and western larch (scattered in cool sites), with riparian-related Engelmann spruce above midslope. Lodgepole pine, like western larch, is associated with cool airflow and can be found in drainage bottoms and at upper elevations associated with subalpine fir. Typical grasses include Idaho fescue, needle grass and sedges. Several shrubs are evident, including ninebark, ocean spray, huckleberry, thimbleberry, currants, and willow (remnants). Aspen clones are present, scattered, but old and declining in health due to conifer encroachment.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and natural appearance for this area are medium to high. The area is somewhat affected by grazing-related developments such as fencing and water ponds as well as other developments that occur near the area borders. There is an estimated 2.1 miles of unauthorized road and 0.2 mile of forest road within the boundary. Upon leaving the disturbed areas, visitors would not be affected by the past activities.

Opportunity for Experience: Due to the visibility of the town of Council and the easy access, this area provides only a moderate opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation. The area's open ridges and deep snow pack make it popular for winter sports, including challenging ski mountaineering.

Special Features: The Council Mountain Research Natural Area covers approximately 100 acres of Council Mountain.

Manageability: The area has fairly irregular and complex boundaries along much of its perimeter and is less than one mile wide in one point. More manageable boundaries could be defined but this would also result in a reduction of acreage. Established motorized use within the roadless area, as well as private land, along the south and southeast perimeter, could complicate managing this area as wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The roadless area contains bull trout rearing habitat. Rainbow trout and introduced brook trout also occur within the roadless area. Most streams within the roadless area are believed to provide little fish habitat due to the high stream gradient.

Wildlife: Elk, pileated woodpecker, vesper sparrow, and Williamson's sapsucker can be found in various locations of the roadless area. Big game species are mountain lion, black bear, elk, and mule deer. Because of the unroaded character of the area, human interaction with wildlife is low to moderate most of the year and the area acts as a security area. No threatened or endangered species has been verified in the area. Potential lynx (a threatened species) habitat occurs in about one third of the area, generally in the northern portion. The area also provides habitat for the peregrine falcon. Habitat for several Region 4 sensitive species—including northern goshawk, Townsend's big-eared bat, white headed and northern

three-toed woodpecker, fisher, flammulated owl, boreal owl, great gray owl, and spotted frog—are also found in the area.

Water: The roadless area lies within three watersheds: the Upper Weiser River, Middle Fork Weiser River, and the Goodrich-Bacon Watershed. The area mainly drains into two non-anadromous streams: the Middle Fork Weiser River and Cottonwood Creek. Eventually, these streams empty into the Snake River, an important hydroelectric supplier for the Northwest. The closest identified water body is the Middle Fork Weiser River. Current uses include: domestic water supply, agricultural water supply, cold water biota, salmonid spawning, and recreation. The Middle Fork is also listed as a Special Resource Water.

Botanical: Swamp onion *(Allium madidum)* and Bank monkeyflower *(Mimulus clivicola)* two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area. There are no inventoried areas of noxious weeds in the roadless area.

Recreation: Use is mainly dispersed recreation and includes hunting, hiking, fishing, horseback riding, trail riding and scenic viewing.

Timber: The area contains 94,400 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 187,100 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 10,900 acres (66 percent) of the Council Mountain Roadless Area contains tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 700 acres are considered to have low productivity; 7,400 acres, moderate productivity; and 3,400 acres, high productivity. Tree mortality is ongoing, primarily among Douglas-fir, resulting from insect and diseases associated with mature to overmature, low vigor trees.

Range: A portion of one cattle allotment covers 100 percent of the roadless area. It is managed under a deferred rotation system. The cattle allotment has a moderate level of structural improvements. There are 2,500 acres (15 percent) of land within the roadless area that have been classified as capable for grazing by cattle.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 8,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are no mining claims and no approved plans of operation in the Council Mountain Roadless Area. The potential for mineral or energy development in the reasonably foreseeable future is very low. This roadless area contains 16,600 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: Private lands (Boise Cascade) form part of the southeastern boundary of the roadless area. At this time there are no inholdings or permitted special uses within the area.

Roads and Trails: There are six system trails in the area totaling an estimated 18 miles. About 55 percent of these trail miles are open for motorized use.

Heritage: There are several identified prehistoric and historic cultural resources within the area of Council Mountain. This is the former range of Eagle Eye's Band of Northern Shoshone who occupied this area as late as 1890. Some historic Indian trails have become Forest Service maintained trails within this area. Prehistoric activity areas are present in the form of lithic artifact scatters on the landscape. There is evidence of early and contemporary livestock grazing activities, as well as early logging, and mineral exploration. Around 1918, the Weiser National Forest established a forest fire lookout on Council Mountain. The first lookout site consisted of an alidade on a table, with a telephone, and was associated with a log cabin residence. Later a square lookout house was constructed, and was later removed. This administrative site was abandoned in the early 1950s.

Disturbances: Historic fire occurrence and fire hazards are low. Since 1960, there have been no major wildfires within the roadless area. Prescribed fire is planned within the roadless area from Sheep Creek to Boulder Creek. The effects of past western spruce budworm are evident in the dead tops of Douglas-fir, grand fir, and subalpine fir, which were defoliated in the early 1980s. There is a slight occurrence of

Douglas-fir dwarf mistletoe in the roadless area and concern exists that untreated areas in the roadless area will affect treated and reforested areas in the roaded areas. There were numerous small debris slides of less than one acre in size inventoried within this roadless area after the January, 1997 storm event.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Council Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	16,500	16,500
Backcountry	16,600	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	100	100
Total Acres	**16,600**	**16,600**	**16,600**

Crystal Mountain #005

13,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Crystal Mountain Roadless Area, located in the north central portion of the Forest, lies just south of the Salmon River on the McCall Ranger District. The Warren Wagon Road, Fall Fingers Road, War Eagle Road, and the Marshall Mountain Mining District border the Crystal Mountain Roadless Area. Access is via the surrounding roads and by a primitive trail that enters the area. The area is surrounded on three sides by other roadless areas: French Creek on the west, Secesh on the south, and Chimney Rock and Cottontail Point/Pilot Peak on the east. The Marshall Mountain Mining District and Franck Church - River of No Return Wilderness lie to the north.

High ridges, glaciated valleys, and several lakes typify the northern part of the area, while low relief characterizes the lower western and southern portions. Soils derive from granites of the Idaho Batholith and are mostly light-colored, coarse-textured, and rocky. Elevations range from 5,900 to 8,256 feet.

The northern portion has open stands of whitebark pine and subalpine fir. Ground cover in this area is generally sparse, with clumps of elk sedge dominating. Dense stands of lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce cover the remainder of the area. Common ground cover species include beargrass, elk sedge, dwarf huckleberry, and pinegrass. The 1994 Corral fire burned through the northwestern edge of the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and appearance for the area are high. Although the area is not large, it is round in shape, with only minor roaded or developed inclusions. There is an estimated 2.8 miles of unauthorized road within the boundary. Once visitors leave the roads that surround the area, the signs and effects of development are not apparent.

Opportunities for Experience: The area has a high opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation, and offers challenging backpacking and hunting. The roads accessing this area pass around the outer edges and intrude in only a couple places. Much of the area has no trail access and can be reached only by cross-country hiking. The area is remote from any large population centers and presently receives light recreational use.

Special Features: A unique feature on the western boundary is Crystal Mountain, a large quartz deposit and patented mining claim. About 100 acres of the Secesh River, passing near the southwest boundary, is eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. The area provides important habitat for threatened Chinook summer salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout, and for westslope cutthroat trout.

Manageability: Manageability would not be compromised by current uses or land ownership. The combination of topography, location, and surrounding roads does not lend the area to alternative boundaries.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Streams in this area are considered critical habitat for threatened Chinook summer salmon, contributing to the quality of occupied downstream habitat. Chinook summer salmon and steelhead, both listed as threatened species, are found in some area streams. Other resident fish species include rainbow trout and introduced brook trout.

Wildlife: The area has habitat for elk, deer, bear, boreal owl, northern goshawk, great gray owl, spotted frog, and northern three-toed woodpecker. Suitable habitat is found for an experimental, non-essential gray wolf population. Potential habitat for lynx, a threatened species, occurs in about two thirds of the area. Connecting habitat and travel corridors for wolverine and fisher are also found in the area.

Water: Several small lakes occur in the northern part of this area, including California Lake. The main streams in the area are Willow Creek, Threemile Creek, Flat Creek, and Sand Creek. Water from these streams enters the Secesh River via Lake Creek and Grouse Creek.

Botanical: No federally listed plant species or Region 4 sensitive species are known to occur in this roadless area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds.

Recreation: Non-motorized uses in the area include hunting and hiking. Big game hunting and trail biking account for most of the use in the area.

Timber: The area contains 55,300 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 109,000 hundred cubic feet. The Crystal Mountain Roadless Area includes an estimated 9,500 acres (73 percent) considered tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 5,600 acres are considered to have low productivity; 7,000 acres, moderate productivity; no acres are considered high productivity. There have been no recent timber sales in the area.

Range: A portion of two sheep allotments, Marshall Mountain and Bear Pete, occur within the roadless area. These allotments have a deferred rotation grazing system, and the level of structural improvements is low. The area has an estimated 2,800 acres (21 percent of the roadless area) of capable sheep grazing land.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals: Very few active mining claims exist within the Crystal Mountain Roadless Area. This roadless area contains 13,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no non-federal lands, permanently encumbered land titles, or cost-share agreements of record within this area. There are no special uses in this area.

Roads and Trails: About half of the area is currently open to motorized use, and the other half allows snowmobiling, with two-wheeled motorized use (and a small segment of all-terrain vehicle use) on the only trail in the area, which is roughly five miles in length.

Heritage: Prehistoric and historic cultural resources have been identified within this area. Prehistoric Indian sites are few; however, they indicate presence. Historic sites are associated with placer and hard rock mining activities, as well as early logging activities. There is one actively used Forest Service fire lookout in this area.

Disturbances: Between 1960 and 2000, an estimated 7,100 acres of the roadless area burned in wildfires. A small part of the northwest portion of this area burned in the 1994 Corral fire, generally with stand-replacing effects. Much of the rest of the area burned in the Burgdorf Junction fire of 2000. No recent major insect and disease infestations have occurred in this area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Crystal Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	13,000	12,900	12,900
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	100	100
Total Acres	**13,000**	**13,000**	**13,000**

Cuddy Mountain #016

41,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Located in the southwest portion of the forest, the Cuddy Mountain Roadless Area lies between Wildhorse River on the north, Snake River and Brownlee Creek on the west, and the Hornet Creek slope on the east. Brownlee Reservoir on the Snake River lies to the west; Payette National Forest administered land lies to the east; and the Shoe Peg Valley private land lies directly to the south. Several roads, off-road vehicle tracks, and primitive trails access the area. Access is limited by private land at low elevations.

Rimrock cliffs, steep slopes, and gentle, open ridge tops typify the area. Most soils are derived from volcanic parent materials and are generally dark colored, medium textured, and rocky. Some scattered areas of light colored, coarse textured, rocky granitic soils occur. Elevations range from 3,500 to 7,800 feet.

Lower elevations are typically covered by grass and brush, including cheatgrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, ninebark, snowberry, old willow complexes, ceanothus, sagebrush, hawthorn, and service berry. Mid to upper slopes contain ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, scattered western larch, and grand fir, with pinegrass, elksedge, thimbleberry, ninebark, white spirea and willow as understory vegetation. The higher ridges support subalpine fir, lodgepole pine in cool draws, and riparian-influenced Engelmann spruce. Associated with these ridges are grassy meadows at higher elevations and a sparse ground cover, including huckleberry in cool draws and elksedge on higher dry aspects. Stands of decadent aspen are also scattered within the roadless area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity is moderate and the natural appearance is moderate due to past management activities. Roads intrude along the western boundary, and fences and stock ponds occur throughout the area. There are an estimated 17.9 miles of unauthorized road and 3.5 miles of forest road within the boundary. In some portions of the area, visitors are unaffected by signs of human activities.

Opportunity for Experience: The opportunity for solitude is high and the opportunity for primitive recreation is moderate because of the moderate recreation use and the lack of large population centers nearby. The opportunity for challenging experiences is moderate, consisting mainly of hunting.

Special Features: Special features include a State of Idaho sensitive plant (tall swamp onion) near Rush Lake, big game winter range, and five recorded historically significant sites. The area also contains the Cuddy Mountain, Emery Creek, and Lost Basin Grasslands Research Natural Areas, which cover about 1,800 acres. Scenic landmarks include Devil's Slide, Crooked River Point, Cuddy Point, and Cuddy Mountain itself. Excellent brook trout fishing attracts fishermen to the area.

Manageability: The boundary of the roadless area varies from regular along much of the southern and western perimeter to fairly irregular along its eastern perimeter. It also narrows to under two miles wide in several locations and contains a number of deep indentations from roads and other developments. Because of this, opportunities for logical alternative boundaries are limited and would also likely result in a significant reduction of acreage. Private land and mining activity within the roadless area could also complicate management as wilderness as access and maintenance needs arise.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Rainbow trout occur throughout the roadless area. Brook trout, brown trout, and Yellowstone cutthroat trout have all been introduced into Rush Creek within the roadless area. Electro fishing surveys in 1998 revealed both brook trout and Yellowstone cutthroat trout within the roadless area. Bull trout are thought to be present in isolated local populations.

Wildlife: Habitat for several sensitive species—including fisher, northern goshawk, Townsend's big-eared bat, flammulated owl, white headed and northern three-toed woodpecker, mountain quail, great gray owl, and spotted bat—are also found in the roadless area. Big game species include mountain lion,

black bear, elk, and mule deer. The lower elevations are considered big game winter/spring range. Because of the large unroaded character of the area, human interaction with wildlife is low to moderate most of the year, and the area acts as a security area. No threatened or endangered species has been verified in the area. The area does not contain potential habitat for lynx, a threatened species. The area provides habitat for peregrine falcon.

Water: The roadless area lies within Brownlee Basin to the north and Weiser Basin to the south. The northern portion includes two watersheds, Wildhorse River and Brownlee. The southern portion also includes two watersheds, Pine Creek and Rush Creek. The entire area drains into the Snake River, which is listed as a Special Resource Water and is an important source of northwest hydroelectric power. Current beneficial uses include domestic water supply, agricultural water supply, cold-water biota, salmonid spawning, and recreation.

Botanical: Tolmie's onion (*Allium tolmiei var. persimile*) and Bank monkeyflower *(Mimulus clivicola)* two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area. Inventoried noxious weed species found within the area include Canada thistle and yellow toadflax. Canada thistle occurs primarily in the northern portion around Grizzly Creek and in the southern portion around Rush Creek. The area around Starveout Creek and No Business Creek is infested with some Scotch thistle. Overall noxious weed infestation is estimated to occur on less than one percent of the roadless area.

Recreation: Use is mainly dispersed recreation and includes hunting, hiking, camping, horseback riding, all-terrain vechicle and trail biking, scenic viewing, snowmobiling and backcountry skiing.

Timber: The Cuddy Mountain Roadless Area includes an estimated 258,500 thousand board feet of standing timber, equivalent to 511,200 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 26,500 acres (65 percent) of the Cuddy Mountain Roadless Area are considered tentatively suited timberland. An estimated 2,400 acres have low productivity; 16,100 acres, moderate productivity; and 10,800 acres, high productivity.

Tree mortality is ongoing, primarily among Douglas-fir, resulting from insect and disease factors associated with mature to overmature low vigor trees. Conifer tree species composition is changing to more climax tree species like grand fir and subalpine fir. Early seral tree species have slowly been replaced through succession.

Range: Portions of five cattle allotments cover 100 percent of the roadless area. All these allotments are managed under a deferred rotation system. Two allotments have a moderate level of structural improvements, while three have low levels. The Salmon River sheep driveway occurs within the area. The area has an estimated 6,000 acres of capable cattle grazing land.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 18,900 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are several active mining claims in the Cuddy Mountain Roadless Area, mostly along the west flank of Cuddy Mountain. There are no approved plans of operation for exploration or development activities anywhere in the vicinity, and the potential for mineral or energy development in the reasonably foreseeable future is very low. This roadless area contains 41,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: There are no permitted special uses within the roadless area at this time. There is a 160-acre parcel of private land within the roadless area accessed by a low-standard two-wheel drive road from the north. There is one permitted outfitter offering trail rides in parts of the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There are 17 system trails within the roadless area totaling an estimated 83 miles. About 60 percent of the trail miles are motorized.

Heritage: Several prehistoric and historic cultural resources have been identified within this area. Surface lithic scatters represent prehistoric archaeological sites. This area was formerly occupied by a reclusive "mountain man" named Jim Summers who drove the last of the free roving Shoshone Indians from this mountain plateau during the late 1800s. His burial site has been fenced to protect it from grazing

livestock, and is interpreted with a sign as a historic site. Evidence remains of mining activity. The Buck Park administrative and historic site is used for the benefit of domestic livestock grazing activities. The ruins of the Weiser National Forest Cuddy Mountain fire lookout also remain.

Disturbances: Between 1960 and 2000, wildfire burned an estimated 300 acres within the roadless area. Fire frequency has been lengthened through fire exclusion. The 1994 Cuddy Mountain Complex fire occurred within this roadless area, and shrub/brush communities have resprouted. Prescribed fire opportunities for fuel reduction and habitat improvement projects exist. Western spruce budworm and Douglas-fir tussock moth were affecting the Douglas-fir/grand fir component, but currently they are at endemic levels. Tree mortality is ongoing primarily among Douglas-fir, resulting from moderate to high infections of dwarf mistletoe where Douglas-fir beetle kills the trees weakened the most by the mistletoe. Western pine beetle is present, but currently at endemic levels causing scattered individual ponderosa pine tree mortality. Mountain pine beetle has caused tree mortality in the lodgepole pine forests.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Cuddy Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	36,500	36,500
Backcountry	41,000	0	0
GFRG	0	2,700	2,700
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,800	1,800
Total Acres	**41,000**	**41,000**	**41,000**

French Creek #026

88,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The French Creek Roadless Area was combined with the Patrick Butte Roadless Area in previous inventories. The two roadless areas have now been separated due to recent timber and road development in the Lower Elkhorn Salvage Sale (1996). The French Creek Roadless Area area lies in the north central section of the Forest, on the New Meadows and McCall Ranger Districts. The area includes Bear Pete Ridge and the head of French Creek, and extends south to Brundage Mountain. The Hazard Lakes and Elk Meadow roads (Forest Roads 257 and 308) provide access to the western portion of the area, and the Warren Wagon and Fall Fingers Roads (Forest Highway 21 and Forest Road 246) provide access to the eastern portion. Access to the north is limited due to private ownership of adjacent lands. Trails provide access into the area from the west and east. The Salmon River lies to the north, with the Secesh and Crystal Mountain Roadless Areas to the east and the Patrick Butte Roadless Area to the west.

The area is very rugged with steep river breaks, high alpine meadows, glacial cirque basins, and many small alpine lakes. Soils derive generally from granitic parent material and are mainly light-colored, coarse-textured, and rocky. Elevations range from 3,400 to 8,700 feet.

Stands of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, grand fir, and larch grade into lodgepole pine, spruce, and subalpine fir at the higher elevations. Understory plants include pinegrass, wheatgrass, fescue, ceanothus, snowberry, willow tall huckleberry, ninebark, beargrass, and mountain maple. Large portions of this area burned in the 1985 French Creek fire and the 1994 Corral fire.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and appearance of the area are mainly intact and high, although the appearance has substantially changed over much of the area due to recent wildfires. There are few developed structures or signs of human presence to affect visitors or detract significantly from the natural appearance. There are an estimated 3.1 miles of unauthorized road and 0.6 mile of forest road within the boundary.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to its size, topography, and limited access, the northern two thirds of the area provides a high opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation. Many roads pass near the area and vehicles easily access the perimeter, and much of the interior is closed to motorized use. Trails provide limited access to much of the area, but portions have no trail access and can only be reached by cross-country travel. The southern third of the area is separated into two smaller fingers, and this area receives substantially more motorized use, particularly by snowmobilers. Much of this area is open to snowmobile and two-wheeled motorized vehicles. The opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in this portion of the area are low in the winter, and moderate the rest of the year.

Special Features: Black Tip, Bear Pete Peak, and Bruin Mountain are prominent landmarks. The 700 acre Bruin Mountain Research Natural Area preserves a hanging valley, rare plant and insect species, and subalpine fir communities. About 11,400 acres adjacent to Hard Creek, Hazard Creek and the Secesh River are considered eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River system. About 400 acres of the Research Natural Area are within the eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor. An estimated 3,600acres of the southeastern portion of the area are part of the municipal watershed for the city of McCall.

Manageability: The area has irregular and complex boundaries along much of its perimeter, with narrow fingers and large indentations. More manageable boundaries could be defined, but this would likely result in a considerable reduction of acreage. Management might also be complicated by State inholdings within the roadless area, which might require access in the future. Motorized vehicle operation from snowmobiles and motorcycles has become a dominant use along the perimeter and in the southern portion of the area. However, existing uses would not seriously complicate managing the remainder of the area for wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Streams in this area that drain to the Salmon and Secesh Rivers are considered critical habitat for Chinook summer salmon, contributing to the quality of habitat in the area and downstream. Two threatened species, steelhead and Chinook summer salmon are found in lower French Creek. Historically, these species likely accessed the upper French Creek drainage above a barrier cascade falls. The stream provides a critical juvenile summer refugia for Salmon River steelhead and salmon seeking to escape high water temperatures. Streams in the area that flow into the North Fork Payette River contain resident native and introduced fish species, but no listed species.

Wildlife: The area provides habitat for gray wolf, considered an experimental, non-essential population in this area. Potential habitat for lynx, a threatened species, occurs in about half of the area. Generally, all but the lower slopes of the major drainages are potential habitat. In addition, the area provides habitat for many Region 4 sensitive species, including fisher, wolverine, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, boreal owl, three-toed woodpecker, white-headed woodpecker, great gray owl, and spotted frog. Lower elevations are considered winter/spring range for deer and elk. Other big game species are mountain lion, black bear, and moose. Travel corridors for fisher and wolverine can be found at higher elevations. Due to the large, unroaded character of the area, human interaction with wildlife is low to moderate for most of the year, and the roadless area serves as a security area for many species.

Water: There are about 20 small alpine lakes in this roadless area. The main streams in the area are French Creek and its tributaries, including Little French Creek. The majority of the streams drain into the main Salmon River via French Creek. There is a diversion on private land bordering the northeast portion of the roadless area that diverts water from outside the area into French Creek. The northeastern portion of the area drains into Lake Creek and the Secesh River, and the southeastern portion drains into the North Fork Payette River, which is part of the municipal watershed for the city of McCall. Water from the roadless area is also used for several domestic uses and for power generation by a small hydroelectric plant located off National Forest lands.

Botanical: No federally listed plant species are known to occur in this roadless area. Tobias' saxifrage (*Saxifraga bryophora var tobiasiae*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Recreation: The French Creek Roadless Area provides opportunities for motorized and non-motorized recreation, and features an extensive trail system. The area receives year-round use through activities such as backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, and backcountry skiing. Snowmobiling has been increasing rapidly in this area, especially in the areas near Burgdorf and Brundage Mountain.

Timber: The area contains an estimated 626,800 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 1,262,900 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 63,900 acres (72 percent) of the French Creek Roadless Area contains tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 26,200 acres are considered to have low productivity; 47,600 acres, moderate productivity; and 8,100 acres, high productivity. Small portions of the area were salvage logged following a spruce bark beetle epidemic in the early 1990s and wildfires in 1994.

Range: Portions of nine sheep allotments and one cattle allotment cover most of the roadless area. The Bill Hunt and Vance Creek sheep allotments have a seasonal (fall) grazing system, and the rest of the allotments have a deferred rotation grazing system. All allotments have a low level of structural improvements. An estimated 15,400 acres of land within the area have been classified as capable for grazing by sheep, and 300 acres have been classified as capable for grazing by cattle.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 500 acres of WUI.

Minerals: Some past placer mining and exploration has occurred in the area. There are few current mining claims and no approved plans of operation. The potential for mineral or energy development in

the reasonably foreseeable future is very low. This roadless area contains 88,800 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: The State of Idaho owns 640 acres within the roadless area. No other permanently encumbered land titles of record occur within the area. An estimated 2,000 acres of National Forest System lands along the eastern boundary of the roadless area, north of McCall, are subject to consideration for mutual road systems under the assured ingress and egress provisions of the State of Idaho - Forest Service Cooperative Road Agreement (Cost-Share). Several permits have been issued for special uses within the roadless area. These uses include snowcat skiing and backcountry skiing near Brundage Mountain area, and outfitter and guide services for fly fishing and mountain bike tours. Brundage Mountain is proposing to add helicopter skiing in the area.

Roads and Trails: There are portions of 15 system trails in the area, including an estimated 51 miles of motorized trail and 22 miles of non-motorized trail.

Heritage: Prehistoric activity areas have been identified on mountain ridges where traditional Indian trails were established years ago. At lower elevations, in the French Creek drainage, log cabin ruins associated with early mineral exploration can be found. This roadless area has not been thoroughly examined for prehistoric sites, and the potential for locating additional prehistoric sites is moderate in the unsurveyed portions of this area.

Disturbances: An estimated 58,000 acres of the roadless area were burned over by wildfires between 1960 and 2000. Historic wildland fire occurrence in this area ranges from high in the southern portion to moderate and low in the central and northern portions. Mean fire return intervals range from frequent (26-75 years) to very infrequent (151-300 years). The 1994 Corral fire disturbed an estimated 60 percent of this area. Fire severity ranged from stand replacement to light surface burning. Prescribed fire has not played a role in past disturbances, but could be utilized to support natural ecosystems and reduce unwanted fuel loadings.

Large areas of spruce bark beetle infestation occurred in the early 1990s, and much of the tree mortality from this outbreak fueled the 1994 Corral fire. Douglas-fir beetle outbreaks have increased in and around portions of the burned areas since the fire.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

French Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	11,500	11,500
Backcountry	88,800	65,100	65,100
GFRG	0	100	100
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	12,100	12,100
Total Acres	**88,800**	**88,800**	**88,800**

Hells Canyon/Seven Devils Scenic #001

29,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Hells Canyon/Seven Devils Scenic Roadless Area lies along the western boundary of the Forest between the Snake River, the Hells Canyon Wilderness, and the tops of the Snake River breaks. The area lies across the Snake River from the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest with the Hells Canyon Wilderness to the north and west. Indian Creek Roadless Area lies to the south. Access is by the paved road along the Snake River, the gravel road on the Kleinschmidt Grade, and the dirt road to Kinney Point. Several trails access the area but foot travel is difficult because of the extremely steep terrain.

The area is mostly very steep, with bluffs, rimrock cliffs, and side canyons. Hells Canyon, North America's deepest gorge, dominates the area's geography. Soils are derived from volcanic parent materials and are generally dark colored, medium textured, and rocky. Some scattered areas of light-colored, coarse-textured, rocky granitic soils occur. Elevations range from 1,500 to 8,355 feet.

Forested cover is composed of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine graduating to grand fir, western larch, lodgepole pine, to subalpine fir and whitebark pine as elevation increases, with Engelmann spruce existing as riparian coniferous vegetation. The understory vegetation also changes as elevations increase and includes bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, ninebark, common snowberry, white spirea, pinegrass, blue huckleberry, mountain maple, and elk sedge. At lower elevations in old homesteads, apple and pear trees can be found associated with shrub/brush communities along Forest Road 545.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and appearance are largely high and intact. Some primitive road intrusions reduce these qualities somewhat in local portions of the area. There is an estimated seven miles of unauthorized road within the boundary.

Opportunity for Experience: The opportunity for solitude is high due to the topography, vegetation, and the lack of large population centers nearby. Opportunities for primitive and challenging recreation experiences are high as well, due to the exceptionally rugged terrain, steep slopes, and remoteness of the area. Off-trail hiking is difficult, making almost any activity a challenging experience.

Special Features: The area is currently designated as a Scenic Area. Scenic landmarks and vista points include Kinney Point, Horse Mountain, and Sheep Rock National Natural Landmark. These vista points provide scenic views of Hells Canyon, Seven Devils Mountains, Eagle Cap Wilderness, and the historic Kleinschmidt Grade. The area contains Flatiron Rock, which has become a popular rock climbing area. Fossil hunting is popular, and this area has most if not all of the inventoried caves on the forest. About 500 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: Except for the cherry-stem intrusion for the road into Sheep Rock, the roadless area boundaries would be fairly manageable. Some reduction in size would likely result from defining a boundary around the cherry-stem. Private land inholdings and a buried power line within the roadless area could complicate management as wilderness as access and maintenance needs arise.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Threatened Chinook summer salmon and steelhead trout occur in Deep Creek. Tributaries to Hells Canyon and Oxbow Reservoirs support adfluvial rainbow trout populations. The roadless area also provides limited habitat for bull trout. Most fish habitat occurs in the low-gradient segments near the mouths of area streams.

Wildlife: The lower elevations along the Snake River breaks are considered as winter/spring range for deer and elk. Other big game species are mountain lion, mountain goat, bighorn sheep, and black bear. Because of the unroaded character of the area, human interaction with wildlife species is very low during most of the year, and the area acts as a security area. The only threatened or endangered species verified

in the area is the bald eagle, which forages on winter-killed big game in the winter range area above the Snake River. Potential habitat for lynx, a threatened species, occurs in about eleven percent of the area. Generally only the upper elevations are potential habitat. Habitat for the peregrine falcon exists. In addition, habitats for several Region 4 sensitive species are also found in the roadless area, including flammulated owl, northern three-toed and white-headed woodpecker, northern goshawk, wolverine, fisher, mountain quail, great gray owl, spotted frog, and Townsend's big-eared bat.

Water: The roadless area lies within the Hells Canyon Basin on the north and the Brownlee Reservoir Basin on the south. The northern portion lies within the Deep Creek subwatershed of the Granite-Bush watershed. The southern portion lies within the Kinney-Kirby, Sawpit-Thirty-two, and Copper-Limepoint subwatersheds in the Granite-Bush watershed. The entire area is drained by tributaries to the Snake River, which is listed as a Special Resource Water and is an important source of hydroelectric power. Current beneficial uses include domestic water supply, agricultural water supply, cold water biota, salmonid spawning, and recreation.

Botanical: Bartonberry (*Rubus bartonianus*) a sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds.

Recreation: Use is mainly dispersed recreation and includes hunting, hiking, fishing, camping, rock climbing, caving, snowmobiling, wildlife viewing, and scenic viewing. Sheep Rock National Natural Landmark is located in the area.

Timber: The roadless area contains an estimated 174,500 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 358,900 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 14,200 acres (48 percent) of the roadless area contains tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 3,300 acres are considered to have low productivity; 6,100 acres, moderate productivity; and 8,000 acres, high productivity. Most forest stands are mature to overmature, with overmature trees near 300 years old and mature trees approaching 100 years old. Fire suppression in this area has allowed most climax tree species like grand fir and subalpine fir to dominate over early seral ponderosa pine, western larch, and lodgepole pine.

Range: A portion of one sheep allotment covers 100 percent of the roadless area. The allotment is managed under a deferred rotation system. The allotment has a low level of structural improvements. There are approximately 4,700 acres of land within the roadless area that have been classified as capable for grazing by sheep.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 6,800 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are no mining claims and no approved plans of operation in the Hells Canyon/Seven Devils Scenic Roadless Area. The potential for mineral or energy development in the reasonably foreseeable future is very low. This roadless area contains 29,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: Several inholdings of private land, comprising about 600 acres, exist within the roadless area. There are two buried power lines that come up from the Snake River south of Eckels Creek, crossing the area. These lines provide power to the Cuprum/Bear area and a microwave site on Lynes Point, both of which are just east of the boundary.

Roads and Trails: There are 11 system trails within the roadless area totaling approximately 50 miles. About 90 percent of the trail miles are non-motorized.

Heritage: This roadless area is located adjacent to the Snake River winter Nez Perce Indian villages. Nez Perce Indians and their ancestors accessed the uplands above the Hells Canyon during the warmer seasons for the procurement of big game and plant resources. The probability for finding additional prehistoric resources within this area ranges from medium to high. During the historic period, mineral exploration occurred, and mining sites can still be found within this roadless area.

Disturbances: Between 1960 and 2000 wildfires burned an estimated 20,100 acres within the roadless area. The 1992 Windy Ridge fire burned over large areas north of Kleinschmidt Grade. Other large fires

included Eagle Bar (1988), Emmett (1989), and Eckels Creek (1960). There were numerous small debris slides (less than one acre) inventoried within this roadless area after the January 1997 storm event.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Hells Canyon/ Seven Devils Scenic Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	29,200	29,200
Backcountry	29,700	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	500	500
Total Acres	**29,700**	**29,700**	**29,700**

Horse Heaven #925

13,400 Acres Payette
4,300 Acres Boise
17,700 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Horse Heaven Roadless Area was formally the northern portion of the Meadow Creek Roadless Area. During the Forest Plan Revision roadless inventory update, the Meadow Creek Roadless Area was separated into two roadless areas after an existing power line and access road were identified. The Horse Heaven Roadless Area is on the Krassel Ranger District of the Payette Forest, and the Cascade Ranger District of the Boise Forest.

The Horse Heaven Roadless Area lies in the south central portion of the Payette National Forest and the northeast portion of the Boise National Forest, southeast of Yellow Pine, between the East Fork South Fork Salmon River, Johnson Creek, and the old Thunder Mountain Roads. Access is from the Johnson Creek, South Fork Salmon River, East Fork South Fork Salmon River, old Thunder Mountain Roads, and several trails. The Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness is adjacent, separated from the roadless area only by the East Fork South Fork Salmon River Road. The Stibnite mining area adjoins the eastern boundary. The Caton Lake Roadless Area lies to the west, Sugar Mountain Roadless Area to the east, Meadow Creek Roadless Area to the south, and Secesh Roadless Area to the north.

Topography is generally moderate except for the canyons whose streams follow steep gradients. Soils derive from Idaho Batholith granitics and are mostly light-colored, coarse-textured, and rocky. Elevations range from about 4,700 feet near Yellow Pine to 7,722 feet along Antimony Ridge. Antimony Ridge is the prominent landscape feature. Engelmann spruce, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir and, to a lesser extent, ponderosa pine comprise the bulk of the timber stands. Common ground cover includes elk sedge, tall huckleberry, ninebark, pinegrass, and thimbleberry.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Surrounding roads, cherry-stem roads along the western boundary, a telephone corridor, and scattered mining claims detract from the natural integrity in some portions of the area. There is an estimated 0.2 mile of unauthorized road within the boundary. Overall, however, visitors are unaffected by human developments, and the natural appearance is moderately high.

Opportunities for Experience: The opportunity for solitude is high because of limited recreation use and remote location. Primitive recreation opportunities are moderate. Challenging experiences include trail bike riding and big game hunting. Roads encircle the area, but no roads and only a few trails access the interior. The area is adjacent to the community of Yellow Pine.

Special Features: An elk security area lies in the north end.

Manageability: Several boundary options have been considered for this area. All enhance manageability by moving the boundaries away from areas with existing incompatible uses and, where possible, to natural features. There are numerous mining claims in the area, which may require modification of the boundary due to mining development inclusions.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The roadless area encompasses tributaries of the East Fork South Fork Salmon River (No Mans Creek, Bishop Creek, and Pepper Creek) and Johnson Creek. These tributaries provide or may potentially provide spawning and/or rearing habitat for threatened Chinook summer salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout; and Region 4 sensitive westslope cutthroat trout. The entire area lies within designated critical habitat for Chinook summer salmon. Other species within the area include resident rainbow trout, mountain whitefish, suckers, and sculpin.

Wildlife: Wildlife species include elk, deer, boreal owl, flammulated owl, bear, northern three-toed and white-headed woodpecker, great gray owl, northern goshawk, spotted frog, and gray wolf (considered an experimental, non-essential population in this area). Potential habitat for lynx, a threatened species, occurs in about three quarters of the area. The area has elk winter range. Suitable habitat and travel corridors are found for wolverine.

Water: The area contains numerous streams, and wetland areas. Portions of the area drain into the East Fork South Fork Salmon River and Johnson Creek. Johnson Creek flows into the East Fork South Fork Salmon River. All these streams provide important anadromous fish habitat. Johnson Creek and the East Fork South Fork are designated as water quality limited water bodies under the Clean Water Act. There is one permitted special use permit for a water transmission line for domestic water, and another permit for a water transmission line for domestic and irrigation water. This roadless area contains 12,200 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No known population of endangered, threatened, or sensitive plants occur in the roadless area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use is light. Big game hunting is the main recreation use.

Timber: This roadless area includes an estimated 159,400 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 310,300 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 16,800 acres (95 percent) of the roadless area contains tentatively suited timberlands. There are 8,200 acres considered to have low timber productivity; 9,300 acres moderate productivity; and no acres of high productivity. Timber species include Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, and to a lesser extent, ponderosa pine and grand fir.

Range: The area contains an estimated 300 acres of capable cattle grazing land. There is a portion of one cattle and horse allotment encompassing the entire roadless area, which is grazed by horses and managed under a season long system; however, the portion within the roadless area receives very little use.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,100 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are numerous mining claims in the roadless area, with active mineral exploration underway on the Boise portion of the roadless area. Past mining is evident in portions, especially around the Stibnite Mine area and along Antimony Ridge. The potential for the future developing mineral resources is moderate to high. This roadless area contains 17,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: One outfitter-guide provides mainly fall big game hunting opportunities for clients. There are three outfitter-guide permits for fishing, hunting, and horse trail riding.

Roads and Trails: There are no motorized trails in the area.

Heritage: No cultural resources inventory has occurred in this area; however, about 75 percent of the roadless area rates out as having low sensitivity; a small portion, moderate sensitivity; and a very small part, high sensitivity.

Disturbances: Historic wildland fire occurrence in this area is rated as low. Mean fire return intervals are classified as infrequent (76-150 years) to very infrequent (151-300 years). An estimated 100 acres burned between 1960 and 2000. Douglas-fir bark beetles are active in the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Horse Heaven Management Theme Payette	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	13,400	13,400	13,400
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**13,400**	**13,400**	**13,400**

Horse Heaven Management Theme Boise	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	4,300	2,200	2,200
GFRG	0	2,100	2,100
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**4,300**	**4,300**	**4,300**

Horse Heaven Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	17,700	15,600	15,600
GFRG	0	2,100	2,100
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**17,700**	**17,700**	**17,700**

Indian Creek #019

4,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Indian Creek Roadless Area adjoins the southeast corner of Hells Canyon/Seven Devils Scenic Roadless Area on the Forest's western boundary. Forest Road 072 down Indian Creek from Cuprum accesses the top of the area. The Hells Canyon/Seven Devils Scenic Area Roadless Area lies a short distance to the northwest, Bureau of Land Management land and the Snake River to the west, and Payette National Forest to the east.

The area is very steep and rugged, except for a relatively flat area at the bottom of the canyon. Soils are derived from volcanic parent materials and are mostly dark colored, fine textured, and rocky. Elevations range from 2,280 feet to 4,838 feet. Generally the area receives heavy precipitation; mostly snow in winter and rain in the spring, with hot, relatively dry summers.

Large openings of sagebrush and bunchgrass separate stringers of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir mixed with grand fir in the cool draws. Ground cover in the stringers includes ninebark, twinberry, serviceberry, and pinegrass and remnants of willow components. Old homesteads contain pear and apple trees.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Many range developments and mining claims (especially along Windy Ridge) impair the natural integrity and give the area a moderate natural appearance. Lode mines have disturbed some areas and effects are highly visible. There are an estimated six miles of unauthorized road and two miles of forest road within the boundary.

Opportunity for Experience: Range, timber and mining activities as well as roads reduce the opportunities for solitude to a low level. The area's steep slopes provide challenging hiking but, in general, opportunities for primitive recreation experiences are limited.

Special Features: There are no special features in the roadless area.

Manageability: The area is relatively narrow in shape for much of its length and has fairly irregular boundaries along much of its eastern perimeter. Because of its small size and narrow shape, the area has few logical alternative boundaries. Private land within the area could also complicate management as wilderness as access and maintenance needs arise.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout occur upstream of the roadless area in Indian Creek. Rainbow trout and introduced brook trout occur within the roadless area.

Wildlife: The lower elevations along the Snake River breaks are considered as winter/spring range for deer and elk. Mountain lion and occasionally black bear are likely the only other big game species found in the area. Because of the area's unroaded character, human interaction with wildlife species is low during most of the year and the area acts as a security area. There is no potential habitat for the lynx, a threatened species. Marginal habitat for peregrine falcon exists. Habitats for several sensitive species—including Townsend's big eared bat, northern goshawk, spotted frog, flammulated owl, northern three-toed and white-headed woodpecker, and mountain quail—are also found in the roadless area.

Water: The roadless area lies within the Indian-McGraw watershed, in the Lower Indian and Middle Indian subwatersheds. The entire area drains into Indian Creek, which flows into the Snake River, an important hydroelectric supplier for the Northwest. Current beneficial uses include domestic water supply, agricultural water supply, cold-water biota, salmonid spawning, and recreation.

Botanical: Bank monkeyflower (*Mimulus clivicola*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area. The only inventoried noxious weed found in the roadless area is diffuse knapweed. It is found on less than five acres.

Recreation: Recreation use is light and consists mainly of dispersed recreation that includes hunting, hiking, fishing and scenic viewing.

Timber: There is an estimated 16,500 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 32,300 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 1,000 acres of the roadless area contain tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 1,000 acres are considered to have low productivity; 800 acres, moderate productivity; and 200 acres, high productivity. Tree mortality is ongoing, primarily among Douglas-fir, due to insect and disease factors associated with mature to overmature low vigor trees.

Range: Portions of two cattle allotments and one sheep allotment cover the entire roadless area; all three allotments are managed under a deferred rotation system. There is a low level of structural improvements on all of the allotments. There are an estimated 1,300 acres of land within the roadless area that have been classified as capable for grazing by cattle, and about 50 acres classified as capable for grazing by sheep.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 3,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are a few active mining claims along the western edge of the Indian Creek Roadless Area. There are no approved plans of operation for exploration or development activities anywhere in the vicinity, and the potential for mineral or energy development in the reasonably foreseeable future is very low. This roadless area contains 4,800 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Features: One inholding of non-federal land of about 160 acres lies within the roadless area and is accessed by an unpermitted low standard road from the west. There are no permitted special uses within the roadless area at this time.

Roads and Trails: There is one non-motorized system trail (225) totaling about eight miles in length.

Heritage: Previous cultural resource inventories have identified prehistoric archaeological sites and ruins of historic period homesteads. The Indian Creek Valley was an access for Indian people traveling between the Snake River winter camps to the summer high elevation seasonal camps. The probability of finding additional prehistoric archaeological resources ranges from medium to high.

Disturbances: Historic fire occurrence is low throughout this area, although fires tend to spread quickly. Between 1960 and 2000 wildfires burned an estimated 4,600 acres within the area. The Windy Ridge fire occurred in 1992, and disturbed a large portion of this roadless area. Minor infestations of Douglas-fir bark beetle, western pine beetle, and mountain pine beetle are present. Minor amounts of dwarf mistletoe are also present. There were numerous small debris slides of less than one acre in size inventoried within this area after the January 1997 storm event.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Indian Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	4,800	4,800
Backcountry	4,800	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**4,800**	**4,800**	**4,800**

Meadow Creek #913

8,000 Acres Payette
21,300 Acres Boise
29,000 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Meadow Creek Roadless Area is on the Krassel Ranger District of the Payette National Forest, and the Cascade Ranger District of the Boise National Forest. During the Forest Plan Revision roadless inventory update, the Meadow Creek Roadless Area was separated into two roadless areas after an existing power line and access road were identified. The Meadow Creek Roadless Area is the southern portion of the roadless area by the same name evaluated under the 1988 Forest Plan. The northern portion, now called the Horse Heaven Roadless Area, is described earlier in this appendix.

The Meadow Creek Roadless Area lies in the south central portion of the Payette National Forest and the northeast portion of the Boise National Forest, southeast of Yellow Pine, between the East Fork South Fork Salmon River, Johnson Creek, and the old Thunder Mountain Roads. Access is from the roads and several trails. The Franck Church - River of No Return Wilderness adjoins the southeastern boundary, and the Stibnite mining area adjoins the northeastern boundary. The Caton Lake Roadless Area lies to the west, and the Horse Heaven Roadless Area to the north.

Topography is generally moderate except for the canyons whose streams follow steep gradients. Soils derive from Idaho Batholith granitics and are mostly light-colored, coarse-textured, and rocky. Elevations range from 5,200 near Johnson Creek to 8,863 feet at the Meadow Creek fire lookout. Prominent features include Riordan Lake, Meadow Creek, and Meadow Peak. Engelmann spruce, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine and, to a lesser extent, ponderosa pine comprise the bulk of the timber stands. Common ground cover includes elk sedge, tall huckleberry, ninebark, pinegrass, and thimbleberry.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Surrounding and intruding roads, a telephone corridor, and scattered mining claims detract from the natural integrity in some portions of the area. There are an estimated 4.2 miles of unauthorized road and 3.4 miles of forest road within the boundary. Overall, however, visitors are unaffected by human developments, and the natural appearance is moderately high.

Opportunities for Experience: The opportunity for solitude is high because of limited recreation use and remote location. Primitive recreation opportunities are moderate. Opportunities for solitude are good around Riordan Lake, which is sheltered by extensive vegetation and small draws. Challenging experiences include trail bike riding and big game hunting. Roads encircle the area, but no roads and only a few trails access the interior.

Special Features: Riordan Lake is a special feature of the area. Meadow Creek fire lookout lies within the roadless area. About 100 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: The main portion of the area could have boundaries that would be easily defined by an offset from the surrounding roads. There are numerous mining claims in the area that could complicate future management.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Tributaries of the East Fork South Fork Salmon River (Meadow Creek) and Johnson Creek (Riordan Creek, Bear Creek, and Trapper Creek) provide or may potentially provide spawning or rearing habitat for threatened Chinook summer salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout; and Region 4 sensitive westslope cutthroat trout. The entire area lies within designated critical habitat for Chinook summer salmon. Other species within the roadless area include resident rainbow trout, mountain whitefish, suckers, and sculpin. Introduced arctic grayling and golden trout are stocked in Meadow Lake.

Wildlife: Wildlife species include elk, deer, boreal owl, bear, white-headed and northern three-toed woodpecker, great gray owl, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, spotted frog, and gray wolf (considered an experimental, non-essential population in this area). Confirmed gray wolf activity has occurred in this roadless area, with increasing activity occurring since the re-introduction program in the mid 1990s. Potential habitat for lynx, a threatened species, occurs in most of the area. Suitable habitat and travel corridors are found for wolverine and fisher.

Water: The area contains numerous streams and wetland areas, as well as Riordan and Meadow Creek Lakes. Portions of the area drain into the East Fork South Fork Salmon River and Johnson Creek. Johnson Creek and Meadow Creek are major tributaries of the East Fork South Fork River, which flows into the South Fork Salmon River. All streams provide important anadromous fish habitat. Johnson Creek and East Fork South Fork are designated as water quality limited water bodies under the Clean Water Act. This roadless area contains 200 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Recreation: Recreation use is light, with big game hunting and trail bike riding as the main recreation uses, making up most of the estimated 300-500 annual recreation visitor-days. Other uses include camping, horseback riding, and winter snowmobile use. Riordan Lake is a popular motorbike trip, and Meadow Creek Lookout is popular for its views into the Franck Church - River of No Return Wilderness.

Botanical: No known populations of endangered, threatened, or sensitive plants occur. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Timber: The area contains an estimated 233,800 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 458,800 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 26,500 acres (90 percent) of the Meadow Creek Roadless Area contains tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 14,900 acres are considered to have low productivity and 13,600 acres are considered to have moderate productivity. The main timber species include Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, and to a lesser extent ponderosa pine and grand fir. The Thunderbolt Fire Salvage Sale harvested a small portion of the area in 1995.

Range: A portion of one cattle and horse allotment encompassing about 50 percent of the area is grazed by horses and managed under a season long system, although the portion within the roadless area receives very little use. The area contains an estimated 1,200 acres of capable grazing land.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 400 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are numerous mining claims in the roadless area, with active mineral exploration underway on the Boise portion of the roadless area. Past mining is evident in portions, especially around the Stibnite Mine area. The potential for the future developing mineral resources is moderate to high. This roadless area contains 29,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are three outfitter-guide permits for fishing, hunting, and horse trail riding. There is one permitted special use permit for a water transmission line for domestic water, and another permit for a water transmission line for domestic and irrigation water. One outfitter-guide provides mainly fall big game hunting opportunities for clients.

Roads and Trails: There are three motorized trails within the roadless area totaling 14 miles.

Heritage: This area has not had a cultural resources inventory. However, about three-quarters of the area is rated as low; a small portion moderate, and a very small part as high for finding cultural resources.

Disturbances: Historic wildland fire occurrence in this area is rated as low. Mean fire return intervals are classified as infrequent (76-150 years) to very infrequent (151-300 years). Between 1960 and 2000, an estimated 6,900 acres were burned by wildfires. The Indian fire in 2000 burned around 3,000 acres. Epidemic levels of Douglas-fir bark beetle infestations resulted in mortality of a large percentage of the older Douglas-fir trees in the early 1900s. Evidence of this mortality occurs in scattered locations throughout the roadless area wherever Douglas-fir is present.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Meadow Creek Management Theme Payette	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	8,000	8,000	8,000
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**8,000**	**8,000**	**8,000**

Meadow Creek Management Theme Boise	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	21,300	12,900	12,900
GFRG	0	8,300	8,300
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	100	100
Total Acres	**21,300**	**21,300**	**21,300**

Meadow Creek Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	29,300	20,900	20,900
GFRG	0	8,300	8,300
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	100	100
Total Acres	**29,300**	**29,300**	**29,300**

Needles #911

131,300 Acres Payette
29,900 Acres Boise
161,200 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Needles Roadless Area is located on the McCall and Krassel Ranger Districts of the Payette National Forest, and the Cascade Ranger District of the Boise National Forest. This roadless area lies between Long Valley in the west and the South Fork Salmon River in the east, and between the Lick Creek Road (Forest Road 48) in the north and the Warm Lake Road (Forest Highway 22) in the south. Access is by the surrounding roads and by trail systems into most of the major drainages; however, some places can only be reached by cross-country travel. Private and State lands in Long Valley lie to the west, the Secesh Roadless Area borders on the north, and the Caton Lake Roadless Area adjoins the east boundary.

Soils are derived from granites of the Idaho Batholith. In general, they are light-colored, coarse-textured, and rocky. Elevations range from 3,650 feet to over 9,000 feet. Lands at lower elevations are steep and strongly dissected by streams, with brush fields and moderate to dense stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. Higher elevation lands are U-shaped glacial valleys with steep side slopes and gently sloping alluvial bottoms, adjacent to high peaks, rocky ridges, and cirque basins. Lodgepole pine and subalpine fir are the dominant tree species. Ground cover varies from ninebark, thimbleberry, currants, grouse whortleberry, and pinegrass in lower elevations to sparse clumps of elk sedge in the higher elevations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity is generally high, as this is a large area with few effects from past development. The natural appearance for this area is high, although appearance has been recently changed by a number of large wildfires, most notably the 1994 Blackwell fire. There are an estimated 30.2 miles of unauthorized road and 2.7 miles of forest road within the boundary.

Opportunities for Experience: The area has high opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation due to its substantial size, rugged topography, and limited access. Although opportunities are somewhat limited in portions of the area adjacent to heavily used access roads and trails, much of the area may be reached only by steep trails or cross-country travel. Only a few trails have the ability to support motorbike use, and they provide challenging trail bike riding. The area's rugged topography also provides excellent and challenging hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, and backcountry skiing.

Special Features: Rugged granite peaks with many glacial cirques, hanging valleys, and alpine lakes characterize the area. Jughandle Mountain, Nick Peak, and the Needles are a few of the scenic landmarks. The 1,000 acre Needles Research Natural Area lies in the southern portion of the roadless area. About 2,700 acres adjacent to the South Fork Salmon River is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation.

Manageability: The area has some fairly irregular boundaries. Manageability as a designated wilderness would benefit from simplified boundaries that could be created with some acreage reduction. Existing uses and land ownership would not seriously complicate managing this area as wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This area contains streams important to anadromous fish, as well as streams that support only resident fish. Those streams supporting anadromous fish are considered critical habitat for threatened Chinook summer salmon. Chinook summer salmon and steelhead trout, another threatened fish species, are found in some area streams that drain into the South Fork Salmon River. These streams provide important spawning and rearing habitat. Threatened bull trout are in the South Fork Salmon River and upper Gold Fork River drainages, and may occur in the headwaters of Lake Fork Creek. Native westslope cutthroat trout and redband rainbow trout are present. Brook trout and other introduced fish species are also found in some area streams.

Wildlife: Habitat exists for Region 4 sensitive species such as great gray owl, northern goshawk, three toed woodpecker, harlequin duck, spotted frog, and boreal owl. Mountain goat, black bear, and cougar also occur. The area provides habitat for gray wolf, considered an experimental, non-essential population in this area, and peregrine falcon. Potential habitat for lynx, a threatened species, occurs in about half of the area. Generally, all but the lower slopes of the major drainages are potential lynx habitat. Big game winter range occurs along the South Fork Salmon River, and bald eagles occasionally migrate along the river corridor. Travel corridors for fisher and wolverine are found at higher elevations.

Water: The Needles area has over 50 alpine lakes, most of which are in the Lick Creek Range in the western third of the area. The main streams in the area are the South Fork Salmon River, Buckhorn Creek, Kennally Creek, Fitsum Creek, East Fork Lake Creek, Gold Fork River, and Dollar Creek. The western third of the area drains into the North Fork Payette River below McCall. The eastern two thirds of the area drains into the South Fork Salmon River, which is an important anadromous drainage for threatened chinook summer salmon and steelhead trout. Twin Lakes, Boulder Lake, Maloney Lake, Maki Lake and Louie Lake all have dams and some sort of headgate system. They are all currently under U.S. Department of Interior permanent easements. Maki Lake's dam was breached in the 1950s and has never been repaired. The Forest Service breached the dam on Maloney Lake, and the permittees have not requested to rebuild it.

Botanical: Idaho douglasia *(Douglasia idahoensis)* a sensitive plant species occurs in the roadless area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Recreation: The area supports a wide range of backcountry recreation such as hunting, fishing, camping, horse riding, hiking, backcountry skiing, and trail bike use. Snowmobile use is increasing, and the area also provides opportunities for rock climbing and photography.

Timber: The area includes an estimated 1,403,700 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 2,797,300 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 116,400 acres (72 percent) of the Needles Roadless Area is considered tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 50,400 acres have low timber productivity; 69,900 acres, moderate productivity; and 28,600 acres, high productivity. There have been timber sale entries on the Boise National Forest portion of the area since the Forest Plan.

Range: All or portions of three sheep allotments occur within the roadless area: North Fork Lick Creek, Lake Fork, and Jughandle. The Lake Fork and Jughandle allotments have a deferred rotation grazing system, and the North Fork Lick Creek allotment has a seasonal (fall) system. All allotments have a low level of structural improvements. An estimated 7,600 acres of land within the area have been classified as capable for grazing by sheep, and an estimated 40 acres have been classified as capable for grazing by cattle. There is a portion of one cattle allotment managed under a rest-rotation system within the roadless area. The allotment covers approximately 10 percent of the area and receives minimal grazing use.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 500 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are few active mining claims and no hydropower permits on the Payette portion of the Needles Roadless Area, and there is low potential for future locatable mineral or energy development. Some limited placer activity occurs in the southern portion of the area, but most of this is recreational suction dredging. On the Boise National Forest portion, placer mining in the Gold Fork River occurs. Potential for gold and silver mining exists, and there are several registered active claims. This roadless area contains 161,200 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state lands or permanently encumbered land titles of record in this area. An estimated 160 acres of National Forest System lands adjacent to private lands south of Jughandle Mountain are subject to consideration for mutual road systems under the assured ingress and egress provisions of the Boise Cascade Corporation - Forest Service Cooperative Road Right-of-Way Construction and Use Agreement (cost-share). Electronics sites are proposed in the vicinity of Nick Peak and Square Top Mountain. One outfitter and guide provides llama pack trips and

mountain bike touring services. Outward Bound has a special use permit for rock climbing, camping, and hiking. Two outfitter-guides provide summer recreation opportunities for clients.

Roads and Trails: There is an estimated 104 miles of trail open to motorized use, and 71 miles of non-motorized trail.

Heritage: Nez Perce Indian trails cross the mountain range, connecting the South Fork Salmon River, and North Fork Payette River valleys for the seasonal harvest of summer Chinook and sockeye salmon. These Indian trails were used into the early part of the twentieth century. Today, Indian people continue to harvest summer Chinook summer salmon from the South Fork Salmon River but they no longer use the traditional trails. The Forest Service has improved and maintained these trails historically. Otherwise, little is known about the historic use of this area.

Disturbances: Historic wildland fire occurrence in this area ranges from moderately low in the northern section to moderately high and high in the southern section. Mean fire return intervals range from infrequent (76-150 years) to very infrequent (151-300 years). Recent large wildland fires include the 1994 Blackwell fire; the 1989 Foolhen, Green Mountain, and Spruce Creek fires; the 1979 Kennally Creek fire, and the 2000 Nick fire. Significant "natural fires" during this time include the 600-acre Golden Lake fire, and the 400-acre Jughandle fire. Prescribed natural fires were allowed to burn during the period of 1977-1988 as a part of the previous Lake Fork fire Management Area Plan. An estimated 24,900 acres burned between 1960 and 2000. No recent major insect or disease infestations have occurred in this area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Needles Management Theme Payette	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	90,200	90,200
Primitive	0	7,100	7,100
Backcountry	131,300	31,500	31,500
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	2,500	2,500
Total Acres	**131,300**	**131,300**	**131,300**

Needles Management Theme Boise	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	3,300	3,300
Primitive	0	5,800	5,800
Backcountry	29,900	19,500	19,500
GFRG	0	100	100
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,200	1,200
Total Acres	**29,900**	**29,900**	**29,900**

Needles Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	93,500	93,500
Primitive	0	12,900	12,900
Backcountry	161,200	51,000	51,000
GFRG	0	100	100
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	3,700	3,700
Total Acres	**161,200**	**161,200**	**161,200**

Patrick Butte #002

80,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

In previous inventories, the Patrick Butte Roadless Area was combined with the French Creek Roadless Area, described earlier in this appendix. During the Payette Forest Plan Revision roadless inventory update, the Patrick Butte area was separated, due to recent development.

The Patrick Butte Roadless Area lies in the north central section of the forest, extending from Granite Mountain north through Patrick Butte and Hard Butte, and including Lava Ridge. The Hazard Lakes and Elk Meadow Roads provide access to the eastern portion. Trail access exists from the west, north, and east. The Salmon River lies to the north with the French Creek Roadless Area to the east and the Rapid River Roadless Area to the west.

The area is very rugged with steep river breaks, high alpine meadows, glacial cirque basins, and over 30 lakes. Several of the cirque basins have unusual basalt headwalls, which surround granitic basins. Elevations range from 3,400 to over 8,800 feet.

The area is generally forested with ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, grand fir and larch at lower elevations and lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, and subalpine fir at higher elevations. Understory plants include species such as pinegrass, wheatgrass, fescue, ceanothus, snowberry, willow, tall huckleberry, ninebark, beargrass, and mountain maple.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and appearance for this area is largely intact. There are an estimated 6.6 miles of unauthorized road and 2.3 miles of forest road within the boundary. The few timber developments along the perimeter and the few internal range developments would not affect visitors or detract significantly from the natural appearance.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to its substantial size, topography, and limited access, the area has a high opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation. Though many roads pass near the area, vehicles do not easily access much of the area. Roads and trails easily access other parts of the area's boundary. Within the area, trails provide limited access into much of the area, but portions have no trail access and can only be reached by cross-country hiking. The topography and climate provide challenging backpacking, hiking, and ski mountaineering.

Special Features: The area contains a number of craggy, scenic peaks including Granite Mountain, Hard Butte, and Patrick Butte. It also contains more than 30 lakes and many glacial cirque basins. The Lava Ridge National Recreation Trail (149) passes through the roadless area. The area also contains the 300 acre Lava Butte Research Natural Area and the 800 acre proposed Patrick Butte Research Natural Area. Segments of Hazard and Hard Creek are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. There are 6.6 miles of Hard Creek and 5.4 miles of Hazard Creek and 3,800 acres of land considered eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System.

Manageability: The area has fairly irregular and complex boundaries along much of its perimeter. It is also relatively narrow in shape for almost two-thirds of its length. More manageable boundaries could be defined but this would likely result in a reduction of acreage. Localized motorized use within the roadless area could also complicate managing this area as wilderness but could be minimized through boundary adjustments. Private land and water developments within the roadless area could also complicate management as wilderness as access and maintenance needs arise.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Two federally listed threatened species, steelhead trout and Chinook summer salmon, are found in streams (Lake, Partridge, and Elkhorn Creeks) draining the Patrick Butte Roadless Area. All three streams provide a critical juvenile summer refugia for Salmon River fish seeking to escape high

water temperatures. Other species with spawning and rearing habitat in the roadless area include threatened bull trout, and isolated local populations of westslope cutthroat. Bull trout, Chinook summer/fall salmon, steelhead, inland redband trout, pacific lamprey, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Lower elevations are considered winter/spring range for deer and elk. Other big game species are mountain lion, black bear, and moose. Due to the large, unroaded character of the area, human interaction with wildlife is low to moderate for most of the year, and the area serves as a security area for many species. There is habitat for the gray wolf, considered in this area as an experimental, non-essential population. Potential habitat for lynx, a threatened species, occurs in about one third of the area. Generally the upper slopes of the major drainages are potential lynx habitat. Potential habitat for peregrine falcon also exists. Habitats for many Region 4 sensitive species—including wolverine, fisher, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, boreal owl, three-toed woodpecker, white-headed woodpecker, mountain quail, great gray owl, spotted frog—exist in the roadless area.

Water: There are about 30 small alpine lakes in this roadless area. The main streams in the area are Partridge and Hazard Creeks and their tributaries. The majority of the streams eventually feed the main Salmon River. Water use developments within the roadless area include a small diversion with an earthen ditch in the northwest corner, and a dam with a headgate at Twin Lakes. Owners of these developments have submitted applications for ditch bill easements. Water from the roadless area is also used for several domestic uses and for power generation by a small hydroelectric plant located off National Forest lands.

Botanical: Puzzling halimolobos (*Halimolobos perplexa var perplexa*) and Tobias' savifrage *(Saxifraga bryophora var tobiasiae)* two sensitive plant species occur in the roadless area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Recreation: The Patrick Butte Roadless Area provides opportunities for quality backcountry Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized recreation, as well as motorized recreation. The adjacent road system provides access to the area for day hikes as well as overnight trips. This area is also a destination backcountry recreation area due to the large number of high mountain lakes. Uses include camping, overnight backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, and forest product gathering (huckleberries, mushrooms). Snowmobile use is dramatically increasing in this area, specifically in the portion from Granite Mountain to Clayburn Trailhead. Summer use occurs from July 1 through the fall due to the snow at the high elevations.

Timber: The area contains an estimated 704,700 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to about 1,379,200 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 54,700 acres (68 percent) of the roadless area contains tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 17,600 acres are considered to have low productivity; 33,100 acres, moderate productivity; and 18,200 acres, high productivity.

Range: All or portions of five sheep allotments and three cattle allotments cover about 60 percent of the roadless area. Two sheep allotments are grazed under a seasonal grazing system (fall) and all the others are managed under a deferred rotation system. There is a low level of structural improvements on all of the allotments. There are an estimated 3,400 acres of land within the roadless area classified as capable for grazing by cattle and 10,800 acres classified as capable for grazing by sheep.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 7,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There are few mining claims and no approved plans of operation in the area. The potential for mineral or energy development in the reasonably foreseeable future is very low. This roadless area contains 80,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or State inholdings within the roadless area. Two special use permits have been issued for uses within the roadless area. These include snowcat skiing and

a low-standard road. Helicopter skiing has also been recently proposed for portions of the area but a decision has not been made on this use.

Roads and Trails: Motorized use within the area consists of motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle use. There are 35 system trails within the area comprising about 113 miles of trail. Four of these trails are open to motorized use.

Heritage: Prehistoric artifacts and one historic cabin, probably associated with early settlement, have been found within the roadless area.

Disturbances: An estimated 20,300 acres burned between 1960 and 2000 in the roadless area. Insignificant amounts of prescribed fire have occurred within the area. An uncharacteristic level of spruce beetle activity occurred in the late 1980s and early 1990s, killing trees that burned in the Corral fire of 1994. In 1997, flooding, landslides and numerous creek scourings occurred in Lake Creek, Hazard Creek, Hard Creek, and Bascom Canyon.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Patrick Butte Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	24,800	24,800
Backcountry	80,700	51,000	51,000
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	4,900	4,900
Total Acres	**80,700**	**80,700**	**80,700**

Placer Creek #008

6,900 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Placer Creek Roadless Area is located on the Krassel Ranger District and lies south of Smith Creek and east of the Big Creek Work Station. It is accessed by the Warren-Profile Gap and Big Creek Roads, and by two primitive mining roads from the south. The Franck Church - River of No Return Wilderness and the Cottontail/Pilot Peak and Secesh Roadless Areas surround the area.

Steep and rugged timbered slopes with many granite outcrops and talus slopes typify the area. Soils derive from granitic rocks of the Idaho Batholith and are mostly light-colored, coarse-textured, and rocky. Elevations range from 5,400 to above 8,000 feet.

Stands of Douglas-fir, Engelmann spruce, and lodgepole pine give way to subalpine fir and whitebark pine on the upper slopes. Lower-elevation ground cover includes elk sedge, tall huckleberry, ninebark, thimbleberry, pinegrass, and buffaloberry. Higher-elevation ground cover includes elk sedge, low huckleberry, beargrass, and woodrush.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity is somewhat affected by the presence of old mining sites and mining roads that intrude into the interior of the area. There is an estimated 0.4 mile of unauthorized road within the boundary. The natural appearance is low near the surrounding and intruding roads, and fairly high away from them.

Opportunities for Experience: Steep, densely timbered slopes contribute to light use and moderate to high opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Challenging big game hunting is available.

Special Features: A small group of unnamed mountains exceeding 8,000 feet is the area's central feature. Scenic Placer Lake sits in a small alpine basin at the head of Placer Creek. About 100 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: No practical boundary alternatives exist. The area is considered in its entirety in the roadless evaluation. Past, existing, and potential mining activity could complicate managing this area as wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Area streams support redband rainbow trout, and habitat for Chinook summer salmon and steelhead in the lower reaches. The entire area lies within designated critical habitat for spring/summer Chinook summer salmon.

Wildlife: The area wildlife species include elk, deer, boreal owl, bear, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, great gray owl, spotted frog, white-headed and three-toed woodpecker and gray wolf (an experimental, non-essential population in this area). Potential habitat for lynx, a threatened species, occurs in about half of the area. Suitable habitat and travel corridors are found for wolverine and fisher.

Water: The area encompasses Placer Creek and other small tributaries of Smith Creek, and unnamed tributaries to Big Creek and Government Creek. Placer Lake is the only body of standing water. The entire area eventually drains into Big Creek, an important anadromous fishery. Big Creek Lodge and its licensed hydropower facility are located just outside the southeastern edge of the area. However, the diversions for the hydropower facility, a well, and domestic water system are located within the roadless area.

Botanical: No known populations of threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are present. Few botanical surveys have been done for this area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use consists of such activities as hunting, hiking, and huckleberry picking. Use is light (approximately 300-500 recreation visitors' days annually) and is a mix of motorized and non-motorized activity. However, due to the steep terrain and lack of a trail system, motorized recreation is less common.

Timber: The area contains an estimated 64,900 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 126,300 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 3,600 acres (52 percent) of the Placer Creek Roadless Area contains tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 3,100 acres are considered to have low timber productivity; 3,100 acres, moderate productivity; and 200 acres, high productivity.

Range: The area has no livestock grazing permits. There are no capable grazing lands.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals: Numerous mining claims exist. Although there are no approved operating plans within the area at this time, it is likely there will be proposals for exploration or development in the future. The entire area has high potential for mineral development. This roadless area contains 1,600 acres of high and 5,300 of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: On the south boundary, at the northern edge of the community of Big Creek, is a private land access road.

Roads and Trails: Motorized use, primarily two-wheeled, does occur on user-established routes extending from the National Forest System roads that surround the area, or existing non-system mining-exploration roads.

Heritage: The roadless area has not been surveyed for cultural resources. However, the majority of the area is rated low, about a third as moderate, and a small portion high for potential resources.

Disturbances: Wildland fire occurrence in this area is rated as low. Mean fire return intervals are classified as infrequent (76-150 years) to very infrequent (151-300 years). There have been no major fires within this area between 1960 and 2000. Minor infestations of Douglas-fir bark beetle and mountain pine beetle exist.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Placer Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	4,100	4,100
Backcountry	6,900	2,700	2,700
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	100	100
Total Acres	**6,900**	**6,900**	**6,900**

Rapid River #922

57,700 Acres Payette
21,000 Acres Nez Perce
78,700 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Rapid River Roadless Area encompasses the corridor of Rapid River, a Wild and Scenic River, and is contiguous to the Hells Canyon Wilderness along the area's western boundary. The Rapid River, Black Lake, Bear Creek, Whitebird Ridge, and Smokey-Boulder Roads, and several trails provide access to the edge of the area, and a network of trails provides good access within the area. The Hells Canyon/Seven Devils Scenic Roadless Area lies to the southwest, with Patrick Butte Roadless Area directly to the east across the Little Salmon drainage.

The area is quite rugged with craggy peaks, glacial cirques, hanging valleys, steep forested slopes, and deep river canyons. Elevations range from 2,200 to 8,747 feet.

The area is generally forested with ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, grand fir, and western larch at lower elevations, and Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir at higher elevations. Pacific yew is also present. Several low brush and grass species such as pinegrass, wheatgrass, fescue, ceanothus, snowberry, ninebark, serviceberry, and willow grow on the steep, dry, west and south exposures. Elk sedge, huckleberry, meadow rue, mountain maple, pinegrass, violet, alder, and beargrass occur in cooler and moister areas.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity and appearance for this area is high. There are an estimated 5.8 miles of unauthorized road and 0.1 mile of forest road within the boundary. The mining, grazing, and prescribed fire activities have had little impact.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to its substantial size, terrain, and moderate accessibility, the area has a high opportunity for solitude and a moderate opportunity for primitive recreation. The topography and climate provide challenging backpacking and hiking.

Special Features: Rapid River, a designated Wild and Scenic River, lies within the roadless area and provides salmonid spawning and rearing habitat. There are 13.1 miles of Rapid River and 8,400 acres of land in the Wild and Scenic River System within the area. One Research Natural Area (Pony Creek) lies within the area (1,900 acres). The Lick Creek and Pollock Mountain lookouts are located within the area.

Manageability: The area has some irregular and complex boundaries, largely along its southern perimeter. The western boundary is contiguous with the eastern boundary of the Hells Canyon Wilderness. Limited access and the relative ease of control at access points should also contribute to manageability of the area. Private land within the roadless area could also complicate management.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Three threatened fish species—steelhead trout, bull trout, and Chinook summer salmon—are distributed throughout the Rapid River drainage. This subwatershed provides optimum spawning and rearing habitat for these three species, along with high quality water for the downstream Rapid River Fish Hatchery. The fish stocks present in Rapid River above the hatchery are unique in that the Chinook and steelhead stocks are of wild origin and likely not influenced by hatchery fish. The West Fork Rapid River has a barrier to upstream fish movement located about one-third mile above its confluence with the main stem, making most of the West Fork's habitat unavailable for anadromous species. Bull trout, also of wild origin, are fluvial and grow to a large size. This subwatershed is the largest, best remaining aquatic stronghold within the Little Salmon River landscape. Rapid River is one of the key areas for the survival and recovery of listed salmon and trout. An isolated population of bull trout also occurs within Bear Creek. Although spawning and rearing has not been documented, the presence of a barrier falls in lower

Bear Creek suggests that spawning is occurring. Rainbow trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and introduced brook trout can also be found within the roadless area.

Wildlife: The lower elevations are considered winter/spring range for deer and elk. Other big game species are mountain lion and black bear. An occasional mountain goat or bighorn sheep may be found in the area. Due to the large, unroaded character of the area, human interaction with wildlife is low to moderate for most of the year, and the area serves as a security area for many species. There are no threatened or endangered species verified in the area. There is a peregrine falcon nest located on a small tributary to Rapid River. Potential habitat for lynx, a threatened species, occurs in about one third of the area. Generally, the upper slopes of the major drainages are potential lynx habitat. Habitats for several Region 4 sensitive species are also found in the roadless area. Unconfirmed sightings of wolverine have been reported, and the remoteness of the area suits the animal's basic requirements. Habitat also exists for flammulated owl, white-headed and northern three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, mountain quail, boreal owl, great gray owl, and spotted frog.

Water: The roadless area lies mainly within the Little Salmon River Basin to the north, with a small portion in the Brownlee Reservoir Basin to the south. Major drainages include Rapid River, draining north and east into the Little Salmon River, and Bear Creek draining into the Wildhorse and eventually the Snake River.

Rapid River and the West Fork Rapid River have stringent water quality standards as set forth in Public Law 94-199, which designated Rapid River as a Wild and Scenic River. The standards are designed to protect water quality, fish habitat, and for the downstream salmon hatchery. The roadless area contains a small number of high-elevation lakes. Water uses also include domestic and agricultural water supplies.

Botanical: Puzzling halimolobos (*Halimolobos perplexa var perplexa*) a sensitive plant species occurs in the roadless area. There are minor occurrences of Scotch thistle, yellow star thistle, and spotted knapweed found on the Nez Perce portion of the roadless area. Noxious weeds are estimated to infest less than one percent of the roadless area.

Recreation: The Rapid River Roadless Area provides opportunities for diverse dispersed recreation uses including hiking, hunting, horseback riding, fishing, overnight backpacking, and trail bike riding. Snowmobiling is also popular in the Lick Creek and Pollock Mountain areas. Recreational use tends to be seasonal in nature. The northern portion receives heavy use in the spring and fall from both day and overnight hiking and backpacking, due to the lower elevation providing earlier access from snow. The southern portion and ridges receive use during the summer and fall due to higher elevations, which limit early access, and also during hunting season.

Timber: The roadless area contains an estimated 564,600 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 1,115,900 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 42,000 acres (53 percent) of the roadless area contain tentatively suited timberlands. There are 5,700 acres considered to have low timber productivity; 24,200 acres, moderate productivity; and 20,900 acres, high productivity.

Range: All or portions of four sheep allotments and three cattle allotments cover the entire roadless area. Three allotments are managed under a rest rotation grazing system, while four allotments are managed under a deferred rotation system. There is a low level of structural improvements on all but one of the allotments; one cattle allotment has a moderate level of structural improvements. There are an estimated 2,000 acres of land within the roadless area that have been classified as capable for grazing by cattle and 6,400 acres of land that have been classified as capable for grazing by sheep.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 5,400 acres of WUI.

Minerals: There were no active mining claims in the area. The potential for mineral or energy development in the reasonably foreseeable future is low. However, the roadless area includes mineralized zones, which may continue to attract occasional interest from prospectors when mineral values are high. This roadless area contains 78,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: One outfitter and guide permit has been issued for big game hunting within the area and there is a permitted, microwave communications site on the summit of Smith Mountain. There are four patented mining claims consisting of about 180 acres within the roadless area. About 500 acres of the roadless area lie within a cost share agreement area with Boise Cascade, Inc. There is a development consisting of 118 "ranchettes" subdivided from former ranchlands located immediately adjacent to the roadless area on lower Rapid River. There is a water diversion within the area associated with a small hydroelectric project that is under a special use permit.

Roads and Trails: Motorized use within the area consists of two-wheel motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle, and four-wheel drive use of the road to Black Lake. There are 37 system trails within the area comprising about 116 miles of trail. Twelve of these trails are open either entirely or partially to at least one form of motorized use. Trail 166 on the Nez Perce portion is seasonally open to motorized use from June 15 to September 15, to provide big game security on winter range.

Heritage: Some historic sites associated with early mining and homesteading have been located in the roadless area. Three historic Forest Service fire lookouts are located in or at the edge of the roadless area.

Disturbances: An estimated 5,400 acres of the roadless area were burned by wildfires between 1960 and 2000. Significant wildfires include the 1962 Cannon Lakes, 1968 Paradise, 1989 Curren, and 1994 Rapid River fires. Prescribed fire has been used repeatedly within the area, with approximately 5,900 acres burned since 1984. Current plans call for burning approximately 8,000 more acres in the near future. No uncharacteristic insect and disease events have occurred within the area; however, some spruce beetle activity has occurred in the head of the drainage. The portion of the roadless area on the Nez Perce National Forest is experiencing an increase in Douglas-fir bark beetle activity related to and expanding from old burns in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. In 1997, numerous creek scourings on feeder creeks to Boulder Creek and the Little Salmon occurred.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Rapid River Management Theme Payette	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	6,000	51,700
Backcountry	57,700	45,700	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	6,000	6,000
Total Acres	**57,700**	**57,700**	**57,700**

Rapid River Management Theme Nez Perce	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	14,000	16,700
Backcountry	21,000	2,400	0
GFRG	0	300	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	4,300	4,300
Total Acres	**21,000**	**21,000**	**21,000**

Rapid River Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	20,000	68,400
Backcountry	78,700	48,100	0
GFRG	0	300	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	10,300	10,300
Total Acres	**78,700**	**78,700**	**78,700**

Secesh #010

248,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Secesh Roadless Area lies within the McCall and Krassel Ranger Districts on the Payette National Forest. The area stretches across the center of the Forest, from Payette Lake on the west to Big Creek on the east. The Warren-Elk Creek Road (Forest Road 340) on the north and the Lick Creek Road (Forest Road 48) on the south provide boundaries and the principal vehicle access. Trails provide entry into much of the area, with some portions being accessible only by cross-country hiking. The Needles and Caton Lake Roadless Areas lie directly to the south; the French Creek Roadless Area lies to the west; the Franck Church - River of No Return Wilderness adjoins to the east; and the Crystal Mountain, Chimney Rock, and Cottontail Point/Pilot Peak Roadless Areas lie to the north.

The area is extremely rugged, with many craggy peaks, glacial cirques, hanging valleys, and deep canyons. The soils derive from granites in the Idaho Batholith and are mainly light-colored, coarse-textured, and rocky. Elevations range from 3,400 feet to over 9,200 feet.

Tree stands are dominated by lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine, with subalpine fir and whitebark pine found at higher elevations. Understory vegetation includes queencup, tall huckleberry, spirea, pinegrass, ninebark, meadowrue, buffaloberry, mountain maple, willow, thimbleberry, serviceberry, beargrass, snowberry, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and ceanothus.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Although several activities have occurred along portions of the boundary, the natural integrity of the area remains high. This is a large area with relatively few road corridor or other developed incursions. The natural appearance for this area is also high, although this appearance has been modified in some areas by road intrusions and recent fires. There are an estimated 32.2 miles of unauthorized road and 2.2 miles of forest road within the boundary. When visitors leave surrounding road corridors, they are not affected by human activity or developments.

Opportunities for Experience: This area has a high opportunity for solitude and for primitive recreation because of its substantial size, rugged terrain, limited access, and the lack of large population centers nearby. The roads accessing this area pass around the outer edges and intrude in only a few places. The rugged topography and climate provide many challenging and primitive recreation opportunities.

Special Features: The Secesh River and South Fork Salmon River are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. There are 13.9 miles of the Secesh River and 10.4 miles of the South Fork Salmon River and 4,200 acres of land associated with the Secesh River and 3,600 acres of land associated with the South Fork Salmon River. Scenic landmarks include Slick Rock, Loon Peaks, and the South Fork Salmon River Canyon. Elk winter range occurs along the East Fork South Fork Salmon River and along the South Fork Salmon River. About 2,800 acres are in Research Natural Areas in Pony Meadows and Circle End Creek. Three potential National Natural Landmarks lie within the boundaries: Slick Rock, Lick Creek Block Stream, and Rainbow Rock. There are approximately 4,300 acres of the western portion of the area that are part of the municipal watershed for the city of McCall, and an additional 700 acres in the eastern portion that are part of the Yellow Pine Water Users watershed.

Manageability: As mentioned above, this area is very large and relatively intact, lending itself to many boundary options. The current level of developed uses and activities is relatively low both within and around the area. The Loon Lake Trail is a highly publicized and used mountain bike trail. Mountain bike use on the Duck Lake – Twenty Mile Lakes Trail is moderately high.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Secesh Roadless Area contains streams important to anadromous fish, as well as streams that support only resident fish. Those streams supporting anadromous fish are considered critical habitat for threatened Chinook summer salmon. Chinook summer salmon and steelhead trout, another

threatened fish species, are found in area streams, which provide important spawning and rearing habitat. North Fork Lake Fork Creek tributaries may support bull trout, another threatened species. Large densities of brook trout, as well as non-game fish, are also found in these streams.

Wildlife: Habitat exists for elk, deer, cougar, pika, bighorn sheep, boreal owl, fisher, northern goshawk, Townsend's big-eared bat, white-headed woodpecker, flammulated owl, great gray owl, spotted frog, harlequin duck, mountain goat, and many other species. The bald eagle, a federally listed species, may be found. The gray wolf, considered an experimental, non-essential population in this area, has been confirmed in this roadless area. Potential habitat for lynx, a threatened species, occurs in about half of the area. Generally, all but the lower slopes of the major drainages are potential lynx habitat. Peregrine falcon nesting habitat may also be found in the area. Travel corridors for fisher and wolverine are also present at higher elevations. Important big game winter range exists along the South Fork Salmon River.

Water: The Secesh Roadless Area has over 50 alpine lakes, most of which are in the Lick Creek Range in the western third of the area. Within this portion, both Box and Blackwell Lakes have low relief dams at their outlets used for irrigation storage. The western portion of the area drains into the North Fork Payette River, which is part of the municipal watershed for the city of McCall. The middle portion of the area drains into the Secesh River. The Secesh River drains into the South Fork Salmon River, which also drains the eastern portion of the area.

Botanical: Candystick *(Allotropa virgata),* Puzzling halimolobos (*Halimolobos perplexa var perplexa*), Tobias' saxifrage *(Saxifraga bryophora var. tobiasiae)* three sensitive plant species occur in the roadless area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Recreation: This roadless area provides opportunities for motorized and non-motorized recreation. Much of the recreation use includes backpacking, hiking, big game hunting, fishing, photography and rock climbing. Snowmobile use is increasing in the western portion of the area. Other uses include trail biking, all-terrain vehicle riding, horseback riding, mountain bike riding, and backcountry skiing.

Timber: The area includes an estimated 1,896,000 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 3,795,000 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 165,500 acres (67 percent) of the Secesh Roadless Area contains tentatively suited timberlands. There are 90,000 acres considered to have low timber productivity; 116,400 acres, moderate productivity; and 21,800 acres, high productivity. Fringes of the area have been entered for salvage timber harvest in the last decade. The western edge was impacted by 1991 spruce beetle salvage efforts and the 1994 wildfire post-fire salvage. A small area along the northern boundary was also entered with the 1994 wildfire post-fire salvage.

Range: Portions of six sheep allotments occur within the western part of the roadless area: North Fork Lick Creek, Victor Loon, Lake Fork, Brush Creek, Fall Creek, and Twentymile. The Lake Fork, Brush Creek, Fall Creek, and Twentymile allotments have a deferred rotation grazing system, and the North Fork Lick Creek and Victor Loon allotments have a seasonal (fall) system. All allotments have a low level of structural improvements. An estimated 10,200 acres of land within the area have been classified as capable for grazing by sheep. There is also some limited recreational stock grazing allowed in the eastern part of the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 25,900 acres of WUI.

Minerals: Most of the Secesh Roadless Area has little history of mining-related activity and limited potential for future development. Past mining activity occurred in Ruby and Willow Basket Creeks, and around Secesh Meadows. Most active mining claims are in the eastern portion of the area near Yellow Pine and Edwardsburg, and in the northern portion near Warren. The potential for future mineral development in these areas is relatively high. This roadless area contains 248,000 acres of high and 100 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The roadless area surrounds three privately owned parcels totaling 306 acres. There are also an estimated 600 acres of unpatented mining claims in which the claimants hold

surface occupancy rights. These claims lie south of Warren Wagon Road, near Steamboat Summit. There are also an estimated 1,280 acres of State of Idaho public school endowment lands within the area. An estimated 1,800 acres of National Forest System lands along the western boundary of the area, east of McCall, are under consideration for long-range land exchange proposals with the State of Idaho, Department of Lands. These same lands are also subject to consideration for mutual road systems under the assured ingress and egress provisions of the State of Idaho - Forest Service Cooperative Road Agreement (cost-share).

Special use permits have been issued for several outfitter and guide services involving rock climbing, backpacking, llama packing, trail rides, sight-seeing, fishing, and big game hunting. Special use permits have also been issued for several domestic/irrigation waters systems near private land around Big Creek. There is one exempted hydropower system within the roadless area, also in the Big Creek area. Box Lake has a rock-faced dam approximately 300 feet long with a corrugated steel siphon, and concrete headwall with a head gate. Blackwell Lake has a concrete dam and head gate. Both deliver water via a natural drainage as opposed to a ditch, and users have applied for Ditch Bill Easements. There are several other ditch bill applications pending for water diversions from within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: There is an estimated 93 miles of trails open to motorized use, and 73 miles of non-motorized trails. The Loon Lake Trail is an internationally recognized mountain bike trail, even being referred to as "the Holy Grail of singletrack", and receives a high level of use. The Duck Lake – Twenty Mile Lakes Trail receives moderate mountain bike use. The rest of these trails receive low to moderate use.

Heritage: This vast area has had limited heritage resources inventories; however, prehistoric and historic heritage resources have been identified within the area. Indians have used the Secesh River area for the harvesting of summer Chinook and sockeye salmon, leaving evidence of their activities through 1924. Historically, there is a 1943, B-23 Bomber crash site at Loon Lake, a recreational destination within this roadless area. Evidence of gold and cinnabar mining is visible in the Ruby drainage.

Disturbances: Historic wildland fire occurrence in this area ranges from high in the North Fork Payette drainages and lower elevations of the South Fork Salmon River to moderately low in the upper elevations of the Secesh drainages. Mean fire return intervals range from frequent (25-75 years) to very infrequent (151-300 years). Major wild fires within the last 30 years include the 1985 Savage Creek fire, the 1994 Chicken fire, the 1989 Steamboat Complex, and the 1994 Corral/Blackwell Complex. An estimated 94,300 acres burned between 1960 and 2000. Most of the major areas of spruce bark beetle activity burned in the 1994 wildfires, although some beetle activity still occurs throughout the area wherever spruce is found. Douglas-fir bark beetles are at near epidemic levels in some areas burned in the 1994 wildfires.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Secesh Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	110,300	110,300
Primitive	0	7,700	7,700
Backcountry	248,000	118,400	118,400
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	11,600	11,600
Total Acres	**248,000**	**248,000**	**248,000**

Sheep Gulch #017

5,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Located on the west side of the Forest, the Sheep Gulch Roadless Area lies just east of Brownlee Reservoir. Lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the Idaho Department of Lands, as well as National Forest System lands, surround the area. The West Fork Brownlee Creek Road (085) and several foot and horseback trails provide access.

Large plateau summits and dry ridge tops characterize the area. Soils are derived from volcanic parent materials and are generally dark colored, medium textured, and rocky. Elevations range from 3,600 to 5,600 feet. Sagebrush, grass and shrub/brush cover a large portion of this area, with mature to overmature coniferous timbered stands limited to west to northwest aspects, composed of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine trees with extremely scattered western larch. Where the sagebrush and timber meet, there is often tall brush with young single and clumped conifers encroaching on the sagebrush/grass vegetative types.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity is generally unaffected and the natural appearance is high despite the presence of some range developments (stock tanks) and intruding primitive two-track roads, such as those near Box Springs and Sheep Camp Gulch. There is an estimated three miles of unauthorized road within the boundary. Vegetation and topography provide some natural screening and minimize the effects of these developments.

Opportunity for Experience: Light use gives the area a high opportunity for solitude and a moderate opportunity for primitive recreation experiences such as big game hunting.

Special Features: No special features have been identified in this roadless area.

Manageability: Except for the cherry-stem intrusion of four-wheel drive road 023 into interior tree plantations, the roadless area boundaries would be fairly regular. However, excluding the centrally located developments would be difficult. A significant reduction in size would be likely to result when defining a boundary around the cherry-stem intrusion. When combined with the overall small size of the area, opportunities for logical alternative boundaries do not exist.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Rainbow trout and introduced brook trout occur within the roadless area. Limited fish habitat is available due to the high stream gradient and intermittent nature of most streams within the roadless area.

Wildlife: The lower elevations along the Snake River breaks are winter and spring range for deer and elk. Because of the unroaded character of the area, human interaction with wildlife species is very low during most of the year, and the area acts as a security area. There is no potential habitat for lynx in this roadless area. Habitat for several Region 4 sensitive species is also found in the roadless area, including Townsend's big-eared bat, northern three-toed woodpecker, flammulated owl, and spotted frog.

Water: The roadless area lies within the Brownlee Reservoir watershed and is mostly drained by Cottonwood and West Brownlee Creeks and their tributaries. The closest identified water body is the Snake River with Brownlee, Oxbow, and Hells Canyon Reservoirs. Current beneficial uses include domestic water supply, agricultural water supply, cold-water biota, salmonid spawning, and recreation. The entire area drains into the Snake River, which is listed as a Special Resource Water and is an important source of hydroelectric power.

Botanical: No known threatened, endangered or Region 4 sensitive plant populations occur in the area. Inventoried noxious weed species found within the area include Canada thistle and Scotch thistle. This area has Scotch thistle in the northeast portion along the West Fork of Brownlee Creek. Minor amounts of

Canada thistle occur on the higher elevations in the southern portion of the area. Overall, noxious weed infestation is estimated to occur on about 2 percent of the roadless area.

Recreation: Use is mainly dispersed recreation and includes hiking, hunting, horseback riding, trail bike riding and wildlife viewing.

Timber: The area contains 15,600 thousand board feet of standing timber, equivalent to 32,800 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 1,500 acres (26 percent) of the Sheep Gulch Roadless Area contains tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 100 acres are considered to have low productivity; 600 acres, moderate productivity; and 800 acres, high productivity.

Range: All or portions of two cattle allotments and one sheep allotment cover 100 percent of the roadless area. The cattle allotments are managed under a deferred rotation system while the sheep allotment is managed under a seasonal (fall) system. One allotment has a moderate level of structural improvements, while two have low levels. There are an estimated 2,000 acres of land within the roadless area that have been classified as capable for grazing by cattle and 500 acres that have been classified as capable for grazing by sheep.

Minerals: There are no mining claims and no approved plans of operation in the Sheep Gulch Roadless Area. The potential for mineral or energy development in the reasonably foreseeable future is very low. This roadless area contains 5,800 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no inholdings or other ownership or permitted special uses within the roadless area at this time.

Roads and Trails: There are three system trails within the roadless area totaling 17 miles. All of these trails are open for motorized use.

Heritage: Several prehistoric activity areas have been previously identified in this upland environment. There is a low to medium probability for finding additional prehistoric sites. Domestic livestock grazing was introduced into this area as early as 1880.

Disturbances: There have been no major fires within the roadless area between 1960 and 2000. Prescribed burns were conducted on 200 acres at Box Springs and 1,300 acres in the Cherry Creek area in 1986. There were several small debris slides (less than one acre) inventoried within this roadless area after the January 1997 storm event.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Sheep Gulch Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	5,800	5,800	5,800
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**5,800**	**5,800**	**5,800**

Smith Creek #007

2,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Located on the Krassel Ranger District, the Smith Creek Roadless Area lies between Smith Creek and the Franck Church - River of No Return Wilderness. Forest Road 371 and two primitive trails provide access. The Placer Creek Roadless Area adjoins Smith Creek Roadless Area to the south and west.

Steep, southwest-facing slopes, with rocky outcrops at the higher elevations, typify the area. Soils derive from Idaho Batholith granitic parent materials and are mostly light-colored, coarse-textured, and rocky. Elevations range from 5,400 feet to 8,400 feet. Dense stands of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine cover the area. Common understory species include elk sedge, tall huckleberry, ninebark, meadow rue, thimbleberry, mountain maple, pinegrass, and buffaloberry.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Appearance: There is an estimated 0.3 mile of unauthorized road and 0.1 mile of forest road within the boundary. One mining claim in the southern tip and roads along the western boundary do little to detract from the area's high natural integrity or its high natural appearance.

Opportunity for Experience: The opportunity for solitude is low; the area is small, so the visitor is always near a road. Primitive recreation opportunity is high in conjunction with the adjacent wilderness. No roads or maintained trails intrude, but the entire area is accessible by perimeter roads. The area offers challenging big game hunting.

Special Features: McFadden Point is a prominent landmark.

Manageability: The only boundary option considered, because of the area’s small size, is as an addition to the Franck Church - River of No Return Wilderness. Past, present, and future mining activities could complicate managing this area as wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area is within the Smith Creek subwatershed, which provides spawning and/or rearing habitat for threatened Chinook summer salmon and steelhead trout. The entire area lies within designated critical habitat for spring/summer Chinook summer salmon.

Wildlife: Deer and elk occupy the area during the summer and light winters when snow accumulations are below average, and elk use the area for calving. The area also contains habitat for boreal owl, bear, northern three-toed and white-headed woodpecker, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, spotted frog, and gray wolf (considered an experimental, non-essential population in this area). Potential habitat for lynx, a threatened species, occurs in about two thirds of the area. Suitable habitat and travel corridors are found for lynx, wolverine, and fisher.

Water: The area contains a few small, unnamed streams that are tributary to Smith Creek. There are no wetland areas or lakes. The entire area eventually drains into Big Creek, an important anadromous fishery.

Botanical: No known populations of threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants are known. Few botanical surveys have been done for the area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the roadless area.

Recreation: Use is light (approximately 300-500 recreation visitor days annually) because of the steep terrain and lack of a trail system. Recreation activities consist of non-motorized activities such as hunting, hiking, and huckleberry picking.

Timber: The area contains an estimated 23,600 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 45,200 hundred cubic feet. The roadless area contains an estimated 1,300 acres (57 percent) of tentatively suited timberlands.

Range: There are no livestock grazing permits or capable grazing lands within the roadless area.

Minerals: There are numerous mining claims in the area. The approved Plan of Operations for one small mining and milling operation includes an access trail to a mine portal and waste dump in the roadless area. The mineral potential in this area is high. This roadless area contains 2,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: No state or private land is found within this roadless area. There are no special use permits associated with this area.

Roads and Trails: About 1/2 mile of the Smith Creek Cutoff Trail (Forest trail 003) passes through this area. This short piece of trail is used as access from the Smith Creek Road to the Mosquito Ridge trailhead. There is an abandoned Forest Service trail that still receives some use from lower Smith Creek to McFadden Point. There are also some old mining exploration trails in the area and a frequently used ridge route between Pueblo Summit and McFadden Peak that are used by recreationists. Along the road following Smith Creek that borders the area on the west are some short spurs used to access camping and woodcutting areas.

Heritage: There has never been a formal heritage resources inventory within this roadless area. The probability of finding resources is rated as low in most of the area and high elsewhere.

Disturbances: Wildland fire occurrence in this area remains low. Since 1960 there have been no wildfires of any size. Mean fire return intervals are classified as infrequent (76-150 years). Natural fuel loading is slowly increasing primarily from blow down and bug kill. Opportunities for natural fuels treatment are limited and considered low priority. Minor infestations of Douglas-fir bark beetle and mountain pine beetle exist.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Smith Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	2,300	2,300
Backcountry	2,300	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**2,300**	**2,300**	**2,300**

Sugar Mountain #014

10,300 acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Located on the Krassel Ranger District, the Sugar Mountain Roadless Area lies between Franck Church - River of No Return Wilderness to the north and east, and the Profile Gap and Monumental Summit Roads (Forest Roads 340 and 412) on the west and south. These roads provide access to the edge of the area, but no interior trails exist. The area also adjoins Secesh and Horse Heaven Roadless Areas.

Generally steep, rugged slopes typify the area. Soils derive from granitic rock of the Idaho Batholith and are mostly light-colored, coarse-textured, and rocky. Elevations range from 5,300 to 8,738 feet. Lower elevation tree species include Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and ponderosa pine, which then grade into spruce, subalpine fir, and whitebark pine at the higher elevations. Common lower-elevation ground cover includes pinegrass, Idaho fescue, ceanothus, bluebunch wheatgrass, snowberry, ninebark, serviceberry, tall huckleberry, mountain maple, and thimbleberry. Higher-elevation understory is mostly forbs and low shrubs, such as elk sedge, low huckleberry, and woodrush.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity and Appearance: Natural integrity and appearance have been somewhat affected by past mining exploration and excavation activities, but still remain moderate to high overall. There is an estimated 1.1 miles of unauthorized road within the boundary.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are high in conjunction with the Franck Church - River of No Return Wilderness. Steep, rugged, and remote, the area is seldom used. Big game hunting provides challenging experiences.

Special Features: Sugar Mountain and Missouri Ridge are prominent landmarks. A big game migration route passes near Sugar Mountain.

Manageability: No boundary options were considered. Past or future mining activity could complicate managing this area as wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The roadless area encompasses two tributaries of the East Fork South Fork Salmon River (Sugar Creek, Salt Creek). These tributaries provide or may potentially provide spawning and/or rearing habitat for threatened Chinook summer salmon and steelhead trout. Salt Creek probably provides rearing habitat for Chinook summer salmon and/or steelhead. Salt and Sugar Creeks probably support resident populations of rainbow trout. Limited area may support bull trout, another listed species. The entire area lies within designated critical habitat for spring/summer Chinook summer salmon.

Wildlife: Habitats exist for elk, deer, bear, boreal owl, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, great gray owl, spotted frog, northern three-toed and white-headed woodpecker, grouse, and gray wolf (considered an experimental, non-essential population in this area). Potential habitat for lynx, a threatened species, occurs in about two thirds of the area. Suitable habitat and travel corridors are found for wolverine and fisher.

Water: The area contains several streams, but no wetland areas or lakes. Portions of the area drain into the East Fork South Fork Salmon River, which flows into the South Fork Salmon River. Both provide important anadromous fish habitat. The East Fork South Fork has been designated as a water quality limited water body under the Clean Water Act. This roadless area contains 3,600 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No populations of threatened, endangered or sensitive plants are known to occur in the roadless area. There are no inventoried locations of noxious weeds within the area.

Recreation: Due to the steep terrain and lack of a trail system, recreation is light, mostly non-motorized, and consists of such activities as hunting, hiking, and huckleberry picking.

Timber: The area includes an estimated 80,200 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 154,300 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 8,900 acres (86 percent) of the Sugar Mountain Roadless Area contains tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 3,800 acres are considered to have low productivity; 5,600 acres, moderate productivity; and no acres of high productivity.

Range: There are no livestock grazing permits or capable grazing lands within the roadless area.

Minerals: There are numerous mining claims in the roadless area. Although significant exploration and some development occurred in the past, there is no activity at present. Most of the area has moderate potential for future mineral development. This roadless area contains 10,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Numerous mining claims exist within and around the roadless area. There is one permitted special use for an outfitter-guide. One outfitter-guide provides mainly fall big game hunting opportunities for clients.

Roads and Trails: No Forest Service maintained trails occur in this roadless area. However, there are some access routes used by recreationists, including an old route taking off at the mouth of Salt Creek and heading up to Sugar Mountain, and the abandoned Missouri Ridge Trail taking off from the Profile Gap Road on the west edge at the area.

Heritage: The area has not had a cultural resource inventory. Most of the area rates as low and one-fifth as high.

Disturbances: Historic wildland fire occurrence in this area is rated as low. Mean fire return intervals are infrequent (76-150 years) to very infrequent (151-300 years). There have been no major fires within this area since 1960, with only 200 acres burned. There are minor infestations of Douglas-fir bark beetle, western pine beetle, and mountain pine beetle.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Sugar Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	10,300	10,300	10,300
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**10,300**	**10,300**	**10,300**

Agency Creek #512

6,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Agency Creek Roadless Area is approximately 15 air miles southeast of Salmon on the Leadore Ranger District. Access to the area is via roads along Warm Springs Creek, Pattee Creek, Agency Creek, and a road that traverses the Continental Divide between Agency Creek and Warm Springs Creek.

The area is bounded on the east by the road along the Continental Divide, on the south by the Forest boundary, on the west by a timber sale and associated roads, and on the north by the Warm Springs Creek road. Dissected by the headwaters of Pattee and Flume Creeks, sideslopes in the roadless area range from 20 percent to over 70 percent. The Challis volcanic bedrock forms a smooth and subdued topography, and results in clay loam textured soils. Vegetation on much of the area is sagebrush and grass, with Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine found on the higher elevational slopes. The area receives from 15 to 20 inches of moisture, mostly in the form of snow. The western spruce-fir, and the alpine meadows and barren ecosystems are found here.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The majority of the area is essentially natural appearing, with the exception of road construction activities. However, there is a timber sale under contract that will substantially alter the natural appearance in the center of the roadless area. Past and current activities have a high influence on the area's natural integrity. The duration of impact will exceed 10 years and there is little feasibility of correction. Natural appearance will be altered when the timber sale units under contract are harvested. The impacts will be readily apparent to virtually all visitors. Agency Creek Roadless Area is surrounded by previously harvested areas and sagebrush rangeland. The scenery in this roadless area is generally considered common for the Salmon National Forest.

Undeveloped Character: Three small intrusions on the east side of the area resulted from portions of cutting units of a 1976 timber sale. An intrusion through the center of the area is a result of a 2.7 million board feet timber sale in 1980. These intrusions total 1,290 acres which no longer meet roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness. Also, the 1980 sale separated the area into two parcels. The western portion is less than 5,000 acres and will not be considered further for wilderness.

Opportunities for Experience: This roadless area has a low opportunity for solitude due to size, distance from perimeter to core, lack of topographical screening, and permanent intrusions. Agency Creek Roadless Area has a low opportunity for primitive recreation due to the lack of diversity and the lack of opportunity for challenging experiences.

Special Features: The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail pass through this roadless area.

Manageability: Recent roading into the center of the roadless area has resulted in a difficult situation for the development of logical and manageable boundaries. The boundary could not be expanded in any direction due to existing roads, and deleting impacted areas would barely leave sufficient acres to meet minimum size requirements.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Several streams within the area have habitat suitable for fish, including bull trout, but fish densities are expected to be low because the streams have predominantly high gradient channels with minimal holding areas for fish. Fishing use of the area streams is light and quality would be fair.

Wildlife: The mid to lower elevation portions of this area provide good mule deer summer range and excellent big game winter range in the form of open sagebrush slopes and small stringers of Douglas-fir timber. Several hundred mule deer and elk winter in this area in the vicinity of Pasture Mountain. Antelope also summer and winter on the lower slopes within this area. The higher elevations (along the

Continental Divide) consist primarily of large expanses of dense lodgepole pine timber. Mule deer and elk migrate through this portion of the area to reach their winter range. Elk calve within this area during heavy snow years when their return towards summer range areas is delayed.

Water: This moderate water producing area is an important source of excellent quality irrigation water to ranchers in the Lemhi Valley. Hydrologic conditions vary throughout the area, showing impacts of previous grazing activities. However, the streams currently provide good fish habitat and water sources for wildlife and livestock.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation use at present is primarily related to hunting and firewood gathering. There were approximately 4,700 recreation visitor days in 1982.

Timber: An estimated 12.8 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .3 million board feet. Mountain pine beetle exists in endemic levels in the lodgepole pine in this roadless area. The most susceptible stands have been harvested, or will be harvested, under existing timber sale contracts.

Range: The Agency Creek Allotment and a portion of the Pattee Creek Allotment and provides approximately 700 animal unit months (AUM) of livestock use each grazing season. The majority of the suitable range is in fair to good condition. There are four existing water developments and approximately four miles of existing fence.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 300 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area was rated moderate and there is no new data to modify the original rating. There has been no mineral production from this area; however, mining claim owners continue to do assessment work. The southern portion of the area includes part of the Lemhi Pass thorium rare-earths belt. Copper occurs in the southeastern portion of the roadless area. Oil and gas lease applications have been filed, but have since expired. This roadless area contains 6,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private lands within the perimeter of the area.

Heritage: The potential for cultural resources in this roadless area is unknown. Part of the Lewis and Clark Trail are located in this area.

Disturbances: The area includes 4.7 miles of trail and there are 8.0 miles of road within the intrusion area. Segments of two permitted 69KV aerial powerlines cross a part of the area near Flume Creek and at Pattee Creek. Fire occurrence is very light in the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Agency Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	6,400	0	6,400
GFRG	0	6,400	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**6,400**	**6,400**	**6,400**

Allan Mountain #946

46, 500 Acres Salmon (Idaho)
102,300 Acres Bitterroot (Montana)
148,800 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

About two-thirds of the Allan Mountain Roadless Area is in Montana and about one-third is in Idaho. Resource values are identified for the whole area, and state and Forest portions. The Salmon National Forest portion of this roadless area is located on the North Fork Ranger District.

The Allan Mountain Roadless Area is located in the southern end of Ravalli County in western Montana and the northern portion of Lemhi County in east central Idaho. It lies approximately 45 miles south of Hamilton, Montana, and 40 miles north of Salmon, Idaho. Primary access is via U.S. Highway 93 which parallels the east side of the area and by the West Fork Road on the west. Various Forest roads leading from these roads serve as trailheads to provide access to the interior. Thirty trails totaling about 150 miles provide for travel within the area. Four mining roads totaling 17 miles intrude into the area. The area extends 28 miles from north to south, with a width of up to 13 miles east to west. The area is shaped like a comma with a consolidated core area containing Overwhich Falls (Montana) at the north end and a tail running to the southwest. There are several appendages, and the northern and southern portion is almost bisected by mining roads.

Elevations range from about 4,800 feet to 9,154 feet at Allan Mountain in Idaho. Approximately 60 percent of the area is above 7,000 feet. The Idaho portion drains into the Salmon River, while the Montana portion drains into the Bitterroot River. Topography is steep and generally rocky, with shallow, sandy-loam soils. Drainage bottoms are narrow, with steepened slopes rising to relatively narrow ridges in the Montana portion and wider, rounder ridges in the Idaho portion.

The area is mostly forested except for bare peaks in the Allan and Piquet Mountain areas (Montana) and at spots along the Montana-Idaho border. Lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and whitebark pine are the major tree species above 7,000 feet. At lower elevations, Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, and Engelmann spruce prevail. Topography, aspect, elevation, and precipitation create ecosystems that are characteristic of local mountainous areas.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Man-caused impacts occur on less than one percent of the roadless area, with most near the center in the vicinity of Overwhich Falls. These would be evident to users when onsite. Overall, the area appears natural.

Opportunities for Experience: Solitude opportunities are also excellent on the Idaho side in the vicinity of Allan Mountain. Here the mountainous region and steep drainages allow for escape from the timber harvest and roads on adjacent lands. Most of the appendages offer few opportunities for solitude. The size of the core area and topography around Overwhich Falls offer excellent opportunities for solitude. This opportunity decreases in the southern portion along the state border, due to its long, narrow configuration, and the greater opportunity to view man's activities because of mid-slope boundaries. Lower slopes leading away from this portion are roaded and timber has been harvested.

Special Features: Overwhich Falls, while carrying a relatively small volume of water, is spectacular. The geologic processes which led to Overwhich Creek cutting back through erosive materials and capturing the upper reaches of Fault Creek are significant. High scenic values exist in the area around Allan and Piquett Mountains. The 1,700 acre Allan Mountain Research Natural Area occurs in this roadless area.

Manageability: Separate wilderness boundaries could be identified for each state's portion. On the Montana side, an area around Overwhich Falls is possible, and on the Idaho side, a smaller portion around Allan Mountain is possible. Most of the current boundary is not on readily identifiable

topographic features, but is defined by the upper limits of development in individual drainages. There are opportunities to move boundaries to topographic features to enhance wilderness attributes.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The Idaho portion contains tributaries for five important anadromous fish streams, which are directly influenced by habitat conditions in these headwaters. Streams are small, cold, and fast-flowing, with gravelly, rocky bottoms, and support a native fishery. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife includes elk, mountain goat, black bear, mule deer, moose, mountain lion, wolverine, marten, pileated woodpecker, lynx, golden eagle, hawks, ravens, blue and Franklin grouse, cutthroat and brook trout, and smaller animals and birds that are typical of moderate to high elevation land. The area also provides security areas for game during the hunting season.

Water: This is a relatively high water-producing area. Annual precipitation ranges from 40 to 50 inches. Watershed conditions are generally excellent and water quality is high. Headwater streams are tributary to the North Fork and main Salmon Rivers and the East and West Forks of the Bitterroot River.

Botanical: The subalpine larch stands on Allan Mountain represent the southernmost limit of this species. There is one occurrence of Meesia (*Meesia longiseta*), a sensitive species in this roadless area. Ground cover varies with elevation and aspect, but grouse whortleberry, pinegrass, beargrass, and elk sedge are common, with bunchgrasses on south-facing slopes at lower elevations. Large areas east of Piquet Mountain, and in the Straight Creek drainages (Montana) burned in 1917 and 1919, and some fairly large, grassy opening favored by wildlife were created.

Recreation: Current use is light, consisting of big game hunting, and including hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, camping, and ski touring. Major attractions include trails and campsites along the major streams and lakes and Overwhich Falls, and geologic attractions in that vicinity. The State Line, Saddle to Piquett Mountain, Allan Mountain, and Butcherknife Ridge trails provide varied subalpine scenery. Use is concentrated in these areas. The area is well-suited to primitive types of recreation. The existing trail system is well-maintained and suitable for foot, horse, and trailbike travel. Some opportunities exist for cross-country travel and water is available throughout this area. Opportunities for high-risk activities such as rock climbing are rare.

Timber: About 65 percent of the area is tentatively suitable for timber production. Unsuitable lands are concentrated at the highest elevations along the state line and prominent lateral ridges, in the vicinity of Allan Mountain and Piquett/Rombo Mountains (Montana), and on south to west-facing slopes dispersed throughout the area. Potential productivity ranges from 20 to 84 cubic feet per acre per year. Lands of higher site quality and those most suitable for development, due to favorable topography, are generally found at the lower/warmer elevations.

Range: A moderate amount of recreational horse use occurs during the fall big game hunting season. Although the Indian Ridge Cattle Allotment (Idaho) extends into the roadless area, practically all use occurs outside. The remaining allotments are in Montana with use confined primarily to meadows bordering Warm Springs Creek and grassy ridgetops to the north of Saddle Mountain and Medicine Point. On the Montana side, evidence of range activities includes fences, stock water tanks, and a cabin in Warm Springs Creek. Cattle have created bare spots around salting grounds and watering areas. Removal of cattle and facilities would allow these areas to heal.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 2,600 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Mineral potential is high or very high on about 55 percent of the area. The very high rating is near Overwhich Falls where some 400 claims have been located and core drilling of low grade copper has occurred. High ratings are also concentrated in Overwhich Creek and in the Idaho portion. Minerals recorded include copper, iron, barite, gold, thorium, and rare earths. The oil and gas

potential is considered low. Oil and gas leases are confined to the northeast portion, and all are in Montana. This roadless area contains 46,500 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are five outfitter permits in the Montana portion and three in Idaho. There are about 100 acres of privately-owned land along the exterior boundary in a tributary of Hughes Creek in Montana.

Heritage: A branch of the Southern Nez Perce Trail is believed to have traversed the southern portion near the state line. Sites are assumed to be near the trail; however, little is known about cultural sites within the roadless area. Important cultural resources include a portion of the historic Southern Nez Perce Trail and remnants of Forest Service, miner, and trapper cabins scattered throughout the area.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is low to moderate. The potential for large, intense fires is moderate, due to heavy accumulations of downed fuels, particularly in lodgepole pine stands decimated by mountain pine beetles in the 1930's. Insects and diseases are generally endemic; however, dwarf mistletoe reduces annual growth in some areas, as does spruce budworm, a recurrent pest. There are areas of high-risk lodgepole pine that will become increasingly susceptible to mountain pine beetle attack.

The most evident fire control impacts are the helispots which have been cut along ridgetops. In most cases, a gradual return of tree cover would heal these areas.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Allan Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	46,500	33,700	44,800
GFRG	0	11,100	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,700	1,700
Total Acres	**46,500**	**46,500**	**46,500**

Anderson Mountain #942

18,500 Acres Salmon (Idaho)
31,100 Acres Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest (Montana)
49,600 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Anderson Mountain Roadless Area is approximately 30 air miles north of Salmon, Idaho. The Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest portion is located on the North Fork Ranger District. The area is bounded on the east by the Continental Divide, which is the Idaho-Montana state boundary; on the south by a road along Dahlonega Creek (079) and by a road along Threemile Creek; on the west by the ridge between Anderson Creek and Crone Gulch, by the ridge between Crone Gulch and Pierce Creek, and Highway 93. Access to the area can be gained from Highway 93, from the ridge road to Anderson Mountain, and from the road along Dahlonega Creek.

The southern portion is separated by Anderson Creek, Nez Perce Creek and Threemile Creek. Pierce Creek drains the northern portion. Elevations range from about 4,600 feet near Gibbonsville, to over 8,000 feet at Anderson Mountain. Slopes are between 30 and 70 percent throughout most of the area. This area contains neither cirque basins nor lakes. Average annual precipitation of 30 to 35 inches occurs mostly as snow, spring rains, and fall rains. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit at the low elevations contrast with winter lows of 35 to 40 degrees below zero at the higher elevations. Quartzite bedrock forms the sandy loam to loamy sand textured soils.

Much of the area is timbered with Douglas-fir, with ponderosa pine occurring on the hotter/drier sites and lodgepole pine and subalpine fir occurring at the higher elevations. Engelmann spruce is found in creek bottoms and on wet sites. Open, grassy, dry-land meadows are scattered throughout the higher elevations. The ecosystems found in the area are western spruce-fir and grand fir/Douglas-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The roadless area is essentially natural appearing. Human influence on the area's natural integrity has been very low. The impacts that exist are long term in nature, but are limited to a small percentage of the land and could easily be separated by boundary modification. Most visitors would find this area to be natural and free from disturbance.

Opportunities for Experience: The area provides only moderate opportunities for solitude. The vegetative screening is dense, but the topographic screening is moderate. The distance from the perimeter to the area core rates as moderate and there are some permanent off-site intrusions. The size of the roadless area rates as low potential, contributing to the overall rating for solitude as moderate.

The opportunity for primitive recreation is high due to vegetation, diversity, and lack of recreation facilities. Opportunities would include hiking, hunting, camping, cross-country skiing and horseback riding. The opportunity for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards is rare.

Special Features: The scenery in this roadless area is considered common for the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail corridor passes through this roadless area.

Manageability: Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area; minor boundary changes would be necessary to eliminate an intrusion on the southwest corner. Size is not a factor with this area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Four streams within this area are known to have trout. Habitat characteristics are representative of small, moderate-to-high gradient streams. Habitat condition would be rated as good to excellent. Game fish species present include rainbow, cutthroat, and bull trout. Fishing use of the streams

is rated as light, with fishing quality fair. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: This large area of key elk summer range includes a significant portion of the migration corridor that is used by elk and mule deer herds that primarily summer in Montana and winter in Idaho. Wet meadows in the heads of Anderson, Smithy and Threemile Creeks, and abundant dry meadows in Pierce and Nez Perce Creeks contribute to a near-optimum cover/forage ratio for big game, as well as overall wildlife habitat diversity. The normal complement of small birds and mammals are present, and black bear, mountain lion, wolverine, and lynx are known to occur.

Water: The headwaters of two major streams tributary to the North Fork of the Salmon River are located below the Continental Divide in this area. The headwaters of Pierce Creek and Dahlonega Creek produce excellent quality water.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreational uses include backpacking, trail bike riding, horseback riding, cross country skiing, and hunting. Use was estimated at approximately 1,200 recreation visitor days in 1982. Recreation use associated with the Continental Divide Scenic Trail is expected to increase as implementation of the trail proceeds. Hunting use will likely increase as access to and through the roadless area improves.

Timber: Timber sale activities have occurred on 300 acres in the southwest corner. The area impacted by these activities no longer meet roadless area criteria and this portion of the roadless area will not be considered further for wilderness.

Approximately 95 percent of the area is potentially suitable timberland. The estimated standing volume is approximately 94.9 million board feet, with an estimated potential annual yield of .9 million board feet. The volume is composed of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and lodgepole pine. One existing intrusion results from a trespass timber harvest in 1979.

Range: Except for a small amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by livestock.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 6,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of the area was rated as unknown. Gold and copper occur within this area. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work, with some expanding their claim activity. The roadless area currently contains no active mining operations. This roadless area contains 18,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Part of the Keating outfitter and guide permit area is within the roadless area. There are private lands within the intrusion in Anderson Creek, and at the forks of Dahlonega Creek and Nez Perce Creek. These areas total 100 acres, and 61 acres, respectively.

Roads and Trails: Approximately 1.5 miles of roads are within the perimeter of the roadless area. In addition, the area includes 8.37 miles of the Continental Divide Trail and 16.53 miles of forest trails.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered moderate. Historic structures are known to exist, but their significance has not been evaluated.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is moderate. As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or overstocking. Western spruce budworm periodically kills some of the understory Douglas-fir, especially on the drier sites. Occasionally, the tops of the larger trees are killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir. Dwarf mistletoe causes serious deterioration in some Douglas-fir stands.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Anderson Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	18,500	12,100	18,500
GFRG	0	6,400	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**18,500**	**18,500**	**18,500**

Blue Joint Mountain #941

500 Acres Salmon (Idaho)
65,400 Acres Bitterroot (Montana)
65,900 Total Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Blue Joint Mountain Roadless Area has a small portion in Lemhi County, Idaho and the rest in the Bitterroot Mountains in southwestern Ravalli County in western Montana. The Blue Joint Mountain Roadless Area is approximately 40 air miles north of Salmon, Idaho and 45 air miles south of Hamilton, Montana. Access is provided at many points along the boundary by forest roads which tie in with U.S. Highway 93, some 23 miles to the northeast.

The roadless area is a triangular-shaped area running 13 miles north and south and ranging in width from 4 to 13 miles. The west side borders the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho for about 17 miles. The rest of the areas is defined by roads; primarily the West Fork Road and extensions from it. The Nez Perce Road defines the northern boundary separating this area from the adjacent Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and continuous roadless lands. Likewise, the Reynolds Lake road defines the southern boundary, separating the area from that portion of the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness in the headwaters of Reynolds Creek. Seventy-five percent of the boundary is well-defined by topographic features such as ridgetops or streams, and the remainder is at midslope above roads and/or timber harvest.

Elevations range from 4,900 to 8,600 feet. The area is generally a high, mountainous region with 50 percent of the area over 7,000 feet. Razorback Ridge and Razorback Mountain, dominant features, divide the area into northwest and southeast portions. Blue Joint Creek, by far the largest stream, drains the northwestern segment; and Chicken, Deer, and West Creeks drain the southeast. Stream bottoms are generally narrow with sideslopes rising steeply to narrow ridges. Slopes on more than one-half of the area are in excess of 60 percent, thereby confining most use to stream bottoms or ridgetops.

The area is forested except for the unique large meadows in the headwaters of Deer and Blue Joints Creeks and dry, south-facing slopes. At higher elevations rock rubble and grassy balds are common. Tree species are predominantly Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine on the warmer, lower elevation sites and lodgepole pine on cooler sites at midslope. Near the top of the higher ridges, whitebark pine is a dominant species. Ground cover is primarily pine grass, snowberry, and ninebark at lower elevations and beargrass or grouse whortleberry on higher, cooler sites.

In the Blue Joint drainage, forest fires in the late 1800 are burned over most of the area. Today, small lodgepole pine stands cover this portion contrasting with the rest of the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Activities that have significantly altered natural processes are minimal and just inside the eastern and southeastern boundaries. These include all or portions of seven timber sale cutting units totaling 170 acres and three miles of associated access roads. The boundary could be defined to exclude these impacts. There is a three-quarter mile fire road in the extreme headwaters of Blue Joint Creek, and about one mile of dozer trail in lower Blue Joint Creek.

These impacts are readily apparent to any visitor when onsite; however the reminder of the area appears natural. The roads have permanently altered natural processes, but cutting units will recover to nearly natural conditions in 20-30 years.

Opportunities for Experience: The northwest portion of the area is entirely enclosed by high ridges and provides outstanding solitude. This feeling is enhanced by many miles of wilderness to the west and south. No development can be seen or heard.

Solitude is somewhat lower in the southeast portion. About two miles of road in Deer Creek, outside the area, form a roaded intrusion into the headwaters of that drainage. Distant views include roads and timber sale activity just outside the area.

Civilization appears close at hand along the northern and eastern boundaries and from that portion within Woods Creek. About 40 percent of the area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, another 40 percent provides high to moderate opportunities, and 20 percent provides low opportunities.

Special Features: Significant scenic attractions include two prominent landmarks, meadows in the upper reaches of Blue Joint and Deer Creeks, and wide panoramas viewed from the major divides. The landmarks are Castle Rock, the remnant of a volcanic plug, and a natural rock arch east of the confluence of Jack the Riper and Blue Joint Creeks. Parts of the Southern Nez Perce Indian Trail traverse the Idaho/Montana ridge and Bare Cone lookout is in the northern portion of the area. Several archeological sites are associated with the trail.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Fish in the area include cutthroat, Dolly Varden, and brook trout. Steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife includes elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, moose, black bears, mountain lions, wolverines, pileated woodpeckers, golden eagles, hawks, ravens, blue ruffed and Franklin grouse, and a host of smaller animals and birds.

Water: This is a relatively high water producing area. Stream runoff is estimated at 85,000 acre-feet/year, much of which is stored behind Painted Rocks Dam for irrigation and to maintain instream flows on the lower Bitterroot River. There are no structures, diversions, or ditches in the area.

Botanical: *Penstemon lemhhiensis* a Region 4 sensitive species may be present.

Recreation: Current use is very light consisting primarily of big-game hunting but also includes day hiking, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, camping and fishing. Major attractions include trails and campsites along the several larger streams and meadows. The State Line and Razorback Ridge trails provide varied alpine scenery near the crests.

Timber: About 44,000 acres, 65 percent of the area, is tentatively suitable for timber production. Unsuitable lands are concentrated at the highest elevations along the state line, Razorback Ridge, and south to west facing slopes dispersed through the area. Lower elevations, warmer sites are the most productive. Potential productivity on the 40 percent of the suitable land is low, and the reminder is moderate. The standing timber volume is 420 million board feet. Currently the area is not in the timber base nor does it contribute to the sales program.

Range: Approximately 130 AUMs of grazing occur in meadows bordering the upper reaches of Deer and Blue Joint Creeks.

Minerals and Energy: The U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines have conducted a mineral survey and prepared a report for the area (Lund and others, 1984). Hardrock mineral potential is rated high for about 40 percent of the area in the vicinity of Bare Cone Lookout, Jack the Ripper Creek, Steep Hill, Deer Creek Point, and Lower Deer Creek. Forty claims have been located, of which 15 are lode and 25 are placer. Examination of claims revealed only a few prospect pits and trenches with little or no evidence of production. Traditional theory places the oil and gas potential as low. There are no oil and gas leases. This roadless area contains 500 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are two outfitter guide permits for this roadless area.

Roads and Trails: Within the area, a network of eight trails provides access along major drainages and ridgetops.

Heritage: A portion of the Southern Nez Perce Indian Trail traverses the ridge crest forming the divide between Blue Joint Creek ad the Nez Perce Fork of the Bitterroot River. Several archeological sites are associated with the trail. Little else is known about cultural remains.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is low and the potential for large, intense fires is moderate due to heavy accumulation of down fuels, particularly in lodgepole pine stands tat were decimated by mountain pine beetles in the 1930's. Heavy fuels are concentrated in the reaches of Chicken and Deer Creeks.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Blue Joint Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	500
Backcountry	500	500	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**500**	**500**	**500**

Camas Creek #901

35,400 Acres Salmon
68,500 Acres Challis
103,900 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Camas Creek Roadless Area is approximately 35 air miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho and seven air miles northwest of Challis, Idaho, on the Cobalt Ranger District. The area is bounded on the west by the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness, on the northwest by the Silver Creek Road (108), on the northeast by the Panther Creek Road (055), and on the north by a roaded area. Access to the area is via roads along Silver Creek, Panther Creek, Morgan Creek, Challis Creek and Camas Creek.

The area is dissected by numerous drainages flowing into Panther Creek, Silver Creek, Camas Creek, Morgan Creek and Challis Creek. Elevations range from approximately 5,200 feet on Silver Creek to 10,196 feet on East Twin Peak. The topography ranges from gentle slopes of benches and bottomlands to near vertical headwalls in cirque basins. Much of the high country above 7,000 feet has been glaciated, with lakes formed in the glacial cirque basins. This high country is typical of alpine glaciated country. Average annual precipitation is in the 15 to 20 inch range. The majority of the precipitation occurs as snow, and spring and fall rains. Temperatures range from summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit at the lower elevations to winter lows of 35 degrees below zero at the higher elevations. Acidic volcanic rocks form the bedrock for much of the area. Soils derived from this bedrock have a loamy sand to sandy texture. Quartzite is the parent material for some of the loamy sand textured soil.

Much of the area is covered by lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir. Subalpine fir occurs in the higher elevations. Ponderosa pine occurs on some of the warmer sites. Scattered throughout the lower elevations are patches of sage and grass. The area's ecosystem is western spruce-fir and grand fir-Douglas-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural integrity for this area is fairly high.

Opportunities for Experience: There is good opportunity for solitude and winter sports such as cross-country travel could be a challenging experience.

Special Features: There are no special features in the area. Some portions of the roadless area lack visual features which could be used for orientation.

Manageability: The area is separated by road corridors from the Callis Creek, Taylor Mountain, and Duck Peak Roadless Areas. It is bordered by a roaded area on the north and is contiguous with the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness on the west.

The area's east side is bordered by improved roads and timber sales, some of which penetrate the roadless area; the west side follows the wilderness boundary. Several four-wheel drive roads exist in the roadless area. In much of the roadless area, steep terrain makes access difficult. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for the northern part of the roadless area. A boundary change could be made along the north edge to delete intrusions related to mining.

Intrusions which might alter the roadless area boundary include logging and roads near Van Horn Creek, Annie Rooney Creek, Lick Creek, White Valley Creek, and Panther Creek, and roads in the Pats Creek, Alder Creek, and Spruce Gulch Lake areas.

Two intrusions totaling 800 acres were identified within the inventoried boundaries. One is a mining-related access road which provides access to mining claims north of Arrastra Creek; the other is a logging road in the northeast corner of the area. The areas directly affected no longer meet roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area contains anadromous fish spawning streams. Several lakes provide excellent habitat for resident trout, and others have the potential to support fish but have not been stocked. Most streams are characterized as small, high gradient headwaters. The lower reaches most likely support small numbers of fish. Streams in the Castle Creek, Furnace Creek, and Silver Creek drainages influence anadromous fish production in Camas and Silver Creeks. Most of the fishing opportunity in the area is provided by high mountain lakes. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon and bull trout priority watershed.

Wildlife: Wildlife present includes elk, deer, bear, bighorn sheep, goats, and cougar. A large portion of the area has good vegetative diversity, providing classic high elevation big game summer habitat. Elk, bighorn sheep, and mule deer are found in this area, as are black bear and many species of small birds and mammals. Spruce grouse are particularly abundant. The area also contains important big game winter habitat. There is good potential for big game population increases within existing habitat.

Water: The area is located within tributaries of the Middle Fork and main Salmon Rivers. The predominant geology of the area is volcanic and highly erosive. This results in high sedimentation rates in streams during spring runoff. The area produces a moderate water yield due to precipitation levels as high as 40 inches a year.

Botanical: Flexible alpine collomia *(Collomia debilis var. camporum)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current recreation uses include hunting, fishing, backpacking, and horseback riding. Use is estimated at approximately 6,700 recreation visitor days. Extended back country trips by foot or horse are possible.

Recreation activities consist of hunting, fishing, backpacking, trail riding, and trailbike use. Most recreation use occurs during the fall hunting season. Patterns, types, and amounts of recreation use are not expected to significantly change in the near future. The area's greatest recreation potential is for primitive recreation activities. Current use is significantly below present capacity. There are several trails in the area.

Timber: There are an estimated 370 million board feet of sawtimber within the roadless area, with an estimated annual potential yield of 3.9 million board feet. Extensive and expensive road construction in steep terrain would be needed to support such a harvest level. Other resource constraints would reduce this level.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 11,100 acres of WUI.

Range: A portion of the area is currently grazed by livestock with use of approximately 2,800 AUMs per year. Portions of the Camas Creek, Eddy Creek, and Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin cattle and horse allotments are within the roadless area. About 2,800 AUMs of use are permitted on this roadless area. With the exception of a few heavy use sites, much of the suitable range is in good condition. There are numerous structural range improvements within the roadless area portion of the allotment.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of the northern part of the area has been rated high, which has been affirmed by the U.S. Geological Survey. Past mineral production from the area includes gold and silver. In addition, there is a high potential for gold, silver, and fluorspar associated with volcanic rocks of the Twin Peak and Van Horn Peak Cauldron Complexes. There are three patented mining claims in the area. There is little potential for leasable minerals such as oil and gas. This roadless area contains 35,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: A large portion of the area is used by outfitters and guides, specifically during the big game hunting season.

This area includes 79.8 acres of private land (patented mining claims) in Arrastra Creek and 60 acres of private land near the mouth of Eddy Creek. The Eddy Creek property could be excluded by a slight boundary modification.

Roads and Trails: There are several trails in the area.

Heritage: Several prehistoric archeological sites have been identified and more are likely to be found in the roadless area. There are some mine structures located at the north edge of the roadless area that may have historical interest.

Disturbances: There have been several man-caused and lightning fires during the last decade. Most of these were very small; however, fuels and large acreages of old growth timber provide potential for large wildfires. There is potential for using prescribed fire to improve livestock range and wildlife habitat.

In some parts of the area, Douglas-fir has been repeatedly defoliated by western spruce budworm, which reduces growth and kills understory seedlings and saplings. Mountain pine beetle and Douglas-fir beetle are endemic in the area. Mountain pine beetle appears to be increasing in lodgepole pine.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Camas Creek Management Theme Salmon	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	35,400	27,800	35,400
GFRG	0	7,600	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**35,400**	**35,400**	**35,400**

Camas Creek Management Theme Challis	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	68,500	68,500	68,500
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**68,500**	**68,500**	**68,500**

Camas Creek Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	103,900	96,300	103,900
GFRG	0	7,600	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**103,900**	**103,900**	**103,900**

Deep Creek #509

7,100 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Deep Creek Roadless Area is 10 air miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho, on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. It is bounded on the south by a timber sale and associated roads, on the west by Forest Roads 099, 100, on the northwest by Forest Road 055 along Panther Creek, and on the north by Forest Road 101 and timber harvest activities. Access to this area can be gained from the Forest roads.

Deep Creek and Little Deep Creek dissect the roadless area, which has slopes ranging from relatively gentle (15 to 30 percent) at the higher elevations, to steep (60 to 70 percent) along Panther Creek and Deep Creek. Elevations range from 5,000 feet to 8,000 feet. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees contrast with winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation of 15 to 30 inches occurs mostly as snow. Soils are formed from quartzite bedrock and have loamy sand to sandy loam textures. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir cover most of the area, with sagebrush and grass meadows occurring throughout the area. Western spruce-fir and grand fir/Douglas-fir are the ecosystem types represented in the Deep Creek Roadless Area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Most of the area is essentially natural appearing, with the exception of road construction activities. However, there is a timber sale under contract that will significantly alter the natural appearance of almost half the area. Past and current activities have a high influence on the area's natural integrity.

Opportunities for Experience: This area has dense vegetative screening, but because of the small size, small distance from core to perimeter, and gentle topography, the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation experiences are only low to moderate. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: There are no special attractions or features in this area.

Manageability: Road corridors separate Deep Creek from three other roadless areas on the northwest, northeast, and southwest. It is bordered by developed lands on the west, north, east, and southeast. Recent roading into the center of this area has made development of logical and manageable boundaries difficult. The boundary could not be expanded in any direction due to existing roads, and deleting impacted areas would leave an area for which logical boundaries would be impossible.

One timber sale intrusion occurred in the middle portion of the area. This sale extended across the entire width of the roadless area and split the Deep Creek Roadless Area into two separate roadless areas; #509 Deep Creek and #509A South Deep Creek. The South Deep Creek Roadless Area is addressed in a separate write-up. The timber sale covered 10,900 acres. The area impacted by these timber sale activities no longer meets roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, and steelhead habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Big game summer habitat potential is high, but existing low numbers of mule deer and elk reflect an unbalanced cover/forage ratio. Deep Creek Roadless Area is also characterized by old growth Douglas-fir stands along the ridge tops, and thus provides excellent habitat for pileated woodpecker and other species. Pine marten are abundant along drainages.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation use was estimated at 3,600 recreation visitor days in 1982 and includes hunting and firewood gathering. Hunting use is not expected to change significantly in the foreseeable future.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 9,400 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 7,100 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are 52 acres of private land at the Blackpine Mine.

Disturbances: Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Deep Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	7,100	1,000	7,100
GFRG	0	6,100	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**7,100**	**7,100**	**7,100**

Duck Peak #518

48,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Duck Peak Roadless Area is approximately 25 miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho, on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. It is bounded on the east by Forest Road 055 along Panther Creek, on the southeast by Forest Road 108 along Silver Creek, on the southwest by a fluorspar mine and the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness, on the northwest by Forest Road 112 along Yellowjacket Creek, and on the north by Forest Road 112 along Porphyry Creek.

Panther, Silver, Camas, and Yellowjacket Creeks dissect the area with slopes ranging between 20 and 60 percent. Duck Peak is the highest point at 8,900 feet the low point is 4,800 feet. Summer highs of 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation of 20 to 35 inches falls mostly as snow. Quartzite and volcanic bedrock form sand to loamy sand textured soils. Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine, interspersed with sagebrush and grass meadows, cover much of the area. Some ponderosa pine occurs along Silver Creek. Western spruce-fir, and grand fir/ Douglas-fir are the ecosystems represented.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is essentially natural appearing, with outstanding scenery along Camas Creek, Cabin Creek, and other scattered areas. Road corridors separate Duck Peak from three other roadless areas McEleny, Musgrove, and Camas Creek on the northwest, northeast, and southeast. Adjacent to the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness on the south and west, it is bordered by developed lands on the east. Visitors would find this roadless area to be natural appearing.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to its large size, good diversity, good topographic and vegetative screening, good distance from core to perimeter and lack of developed recreation facilities, this area provides a high opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: The Dry Gulch-Forge Creek Research National Area (1,400 acres) is partially within the roadless area, containing rare plants, water falls and hot springs of ecological significance.

Manageability: Boundary adjustments would be necessary to delete existing intrusions before this area would be capable of being designated wilderness. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this roadless area without its size being a critical factor. Man's influence on the natural integrity of this roadless area has been very low, and intrusions could be deleted by boundary adjustment.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Numerous small streams drain into the significant anadromous fish habitat of the Middle Fork drainage. Several of these streams provide habitat for small populations of resident trout. Fishing use of the area streams is rated as light, with quality rated as fair to good. Bull trout, Chinook summer salmon, steelhead, inland redband trout, pacific lamprey, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: This large area is extremely diverse in terms of vegetative are topographic features, containing a wide variety of wildlife habitats over almost a mile of vertical relief. Key big game winter ranges occur along Camas and lower Yellowjacket Creeks. The area is used by summering mule deer and elk, but the northern half has particularly high quality big game summer range and elk calving areas. Mountain goats, black bear, mountain lion, and a wide variety of small mammals and birds occur in this area.

Water: The area includes a wide range of water producing zones, as precipitation rates vary from 20 to 45 inches. Watershed conditions are generally good throughout; however, naturally erosive volcanic soils in

much of the area results in high stream sedimentation rates. Streamflow from the area contributes to tributaries of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, as well as Panther Creek.

Botanical: Lemhi penstemon *(Penstemon lemhiensis)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use, estimated at 2,300 recreation visitor days during 1982, includes hunting, fishing, horseback riding, and backpacking. Current patterns, types, and amounts of recreation use are not expected to change significantly in the near future. This area includes eight trails totaling 29.3 miles, and nine roads totaling 11.4 miles within the intrusion area.

Timber: An estimated 199.3 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 2.9 million board feet. As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic, especially in the lower elevation lodgepole stands. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking. The western spruce budworm is periodically killing some of the understory Douglas-fir, especially on the drier sites. Occasionally, the tops of the larger trees are being killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger, Douglas-fir.

Range: Livestock graze on a small part of the area. Much of the Camas Creek cattle and horse allotment is within the roadless area; however, due to the rugged topography and small amounts of suitable range in the roadless area portion, only a small percentage of the 900 permitted AUMs on the allotment occur within the roadless area. There are no structural range improvements.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 7,600 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The southwestern half of the area has a high hardrock mineral potential for gold, silver, and fluorspar associated with the volcanics of the Van Horn Cauldron complex, and portions have been classified as prospectively valuable for geothermal resources. The hardrock mineral potential of the northeastern half of the area is unknown, but it has produced minor amounts of lead, zinc, and silver in the past. There are currently no active mining operations within the area. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work, with some expanding their claim activity. There is no known potential for other currently leasable minerals. This roadless area contains 48,700 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private lands within the area.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered high along Camas Creek and low throughout the remainder of the roadless area. Historic cultural resource potential is considered low.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is light.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Duck Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	3,500	0
Backcountry	48,700	11,900	47,300
GFRG	0	31,900	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,400	1,400
Total Acres	**48,700**	**48,700**	**48,700**

Goat Mountain #944

35,700 Acres Salmon (Idaho)
9,600 Acres Beaverhead-Deerlodge (Montana)
45,300 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

For a complete description of the entire roadless area, refer to the Beaverhead National Forest Plan Draft EIS. The Goat Mountain Roadless Area is located on the North Fork Ranger District. The Goat Mountain Roadless Area is approximately 30 air miles southeast of Salmon, Idaho, and three air miles north of Leadore. The area is bounded on the south and east by the forest boundary, on the north by the Idaho-Montana border and by the Grizzly Hill Road (012) along the border, on the east by State Highway 29. Access to the area can be gained from these roads.

The area is dissected by one major stream, Little Eightmile Creek, and numerous smaller streams. The highest point in the roadless area is 9,900 feet at Goat Mountain; the low point is 6,200 feet above sea level. The topography of the area is broad rounded ridges with slopes ranging from 20 to 50 percent. The headlands of Little Eightmile Creek are rugged alpine glaciated topography. Average annual precipitation of 15 to 20 inches occurs mostly as snow. Temperatures vary from summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit, to 40 below zero in the winter. Sedimentary limestone bedrock forms the loamy textured soils of this area, much of which is covered with sagebrush and grass. Lodgepole pine occurs at the higher elevations and Douglas-fir patches are scattered throughout the area. The ecosystems that occur in the area are western spruce-fir and sagebrush.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The majority of the area is essentially natural appearing. Man's influence on the natural integrity of this roadless area has been very low except in some areas near Grizzly Hill, where mining exploration has scarred the landscape. The impacts that exist are long term in nature, but are limited to a small percentage of the roadless area and can be separated by boundary modification. This roadless area would be apparently natural to most visitors, but there are impacts that would be apparent to some visitors.

Opportunities for Experience: The area provides moderate opportunity for solitude due to moderate size, little topographic or vegetative screening, moderate distance from core to perimeter and the existence of some permanent off-site intrusions. Due to these factors and the lack of diversity, the area has a low opportunity for primitive recreation. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: The roadless area contains some outstanding scenery, particularly in the vicinity of Goat Mountain, and East and West Peak. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail corridor passes through this roadless area.

Manageability: The roadless area is contiguous with roadless lands on the Beaverhead National Forest along its northeast side. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for the area, but boundary changes would be necessary to delete existing intrusions. Size is not a factor with this area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Only one small stream within the area contains habitat presently supporting fish, and it has moderate to high channel gradients. Cutthroat trout are found in the stream. There is also one water storage pond located within the Little Eightmile drainage that provides habitat for fish. Present fishing use is very light.

Wildlife: The gray wolf may frequent this area, although its presence has not been confirmed. Evidence is strong enough that this roadless area was included in a "Wolf Coordination Area" with the Beaverhead National Forest.

The lower elevations of this area comprise a large block of key big game winter range, particularly in the Little Eightmile drainage. The drainage is also important to waterfowl in that the numerous basin potholes are used for nesting and brood-rearing. Approximately 400-450 antelope migrate through the Railroad Canyon portion each spring and fall, and mule deer migrate through the Little Eightmile - Grizzly Hill country. Sage grouse, chukars and blue grouse are found in this area. Prairie falcons and golden eagles commonly nest in this area, and moose are occasionally observed. A small herd (8-10 animals) of mountain goats inhabits Goat Mountain. Pygmy rabbit, a Region 4 sensitive species also occurs in this roadless area

Water: The area includes several small drainages with headwaters along the Continental Divide. Many of the streams are intermittent. Water which does leave the forest is used for irrigation of ranch lands. Watershed quality is generally good; however, a few localized disturbances have been identified which resulted from past management practices. All streams are within the Lemhi River drainage.

Botanical: There are no known areas of ecological significance.

Recreation: Recreation use was estimated at 2,800 recreation visitor days in 1982 and is primarily related to hunting and off road vehicles. Recreation use associated with the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail will increase as implementation of the trail proceeds. Hunting use could be expected to decline somewhat should motorized use of the area be prohibited.

Timber: Approximately 8 percent of the area is potentially suitable timberland. The estimated standing volume is approximately 15 million board feet having an estimated annual potential yield of .5 million board feet. The volume is composed primarily of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. A 1.074 million board feet timber sale was sold in this roadless area in 1980.

Range: Three grazing allotments are entirely within the roadless area, and the Grizzly Hill Allotment is partially in the area. The Peterson Creek, Little Eightmile, and Grizzly Hill cattle and horse allotments provide about 2,650 AUM's of cattle use each year. The Mollie Gulch sheep and goat allotment was formerly grazed by 1,200 sheep for 400 AUMs of permitted use. Within the roadless area boundary are 15 water developments and 32.9 miles of fence. Although a small amount of excellent and poor condition range exists, the majority of the suitable range is rated as good or fair.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 9,700 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area is rated as high. Past mineral production from this area includes silver, gold, copper, lead and zinc. There is one patented mining claim within the area. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work, with some expanding activities on their claims. There are no active mining operations at this time within the roadless area. Oil and gas potential for this area is considered low. This roadless area contains 35,700 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is one tract of private land at the Commodore Mine totaling 19.5 acres. This roadless area includes six separate special use permits for mining access roads totaling about 10.5 miles. There is an Electronic Communications Site permitted adjacent to the intrusion area and the State of Idaho has requested an additional electronic site inside the area. Four-tenths of a mile of a forest road and .6 mile of permitted power line (12.5 KV) are also within the intrusion. About 4.3 miles of the power line are outside the intrusion. The area has been used in the past for outfitter and guiding.

Roads and Trails: There are 8.5 miles of trail, 13.7 miles of horse and jeep trails, and 3.5 miles of old railroad bed within the area. Approximately 6.2 miles of the Continental Divide Trail are within the northeast perimeter of the area.

Heritage: Prehistoric and historic cultural resources are known to exist within this roadless area, but their significance has not been determined.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is light. Since most of the area contains high elevation non-timber types and sagebrush grass types, disease considerations are minimal.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Goat Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	35,700	34,700	35,700
GFRG	0	1,000	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**35,700**	**35,700**	**35,700**

Goldbug Ridge #903A

12,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Goldbug Ridge Roadless Area is approximately 15 air miles south of Salmon, Idaho, and 20 air miles east of Challis, Idaho, on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. The western boundary follows the Forest boundary. The eastern boundary follows the ridge between Twelvemile Creek and the main Salmon River tributaries of Dummy, Briney, and Second Creeks, crosses the head of Meadow Creek, and then crosses the upper Warm Spring Creek drainage to the Forest boundary. The southern boundary follows Long Ridge in the Phantom Creek area. Access to the Goldbug Ridge Roadless Area can be gained via roads and trails in Twelvemile, Warm Spring, Poison, and Phantom Creeks.

The roadless area is dissected by numerous small streams that drain into the Salmon River. Elevations range from 5,000 feet to over 9,300 feet at Poison Peak. The area is the northern extension of the basin and range topography found in Utah and Nevada. The high country does not have the evidence of alpine glaciation that is typical of the area to the south. The topography is more subdued with broad rounded ridges. Annual precipitation ranges from 15 to 25 inches, most of which occurs as snow. Temperatures range from summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees to wintertime lows of -40 degrees Fahrenheit. Quartzites, limestones, and volcanic rocks form the bedrock. Soil textures range from loamy sands to loamy clays. Lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and subalpine fir are the tree species. Sagebrush and grass are interspersed throughout the area. The ecosystems are western spruce-fir and sagebrush.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is essentially natural appearing. Human activity has not greatly affected the natural integrity of most of the area. Visitors would find this roadless area to be apparently natural.

Undeveloped Character: Three intrusions were identified within the inventory boundary. One is timber related and located along Goldbug Ridge on the north end of the roadless area. The other two are mining and off-highway vehicle related road corridors up Poison Creek and Phantom Creek on the southwest, southern and southeastern portion of the area. The area directly impacted by these activities totals 3,791 acres which no longer meet roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to moderate size, very good topographic screening, good vegetative screening, good diversity, and lack of developed recreation facilities, the area offers a high opportunity for solitude and for primitive recreation experiences. The area offers few opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards.

Special Features: The hot spring pools located in Warm Spring Creek are a significant special attraction.

Manageability: Logical and manageable boundaries could easily be developed for this roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This area contains two streams supporting populations of resident trout. Fish production is very high because of the limestone parent materials in the drainage. Habitats have been influenced by grazing and off-highway vehicle use of the area. Fishing use is light to moderate with quality being good to excellent.

Wildlife: The Goldbug Ridge Roadless Area is a large area with excellent vegetative and topographic diversity. Low timber productivity and ruggedness have combined to keep the area roadless, and big game numbers reflect this condition. Key summer elk and mule deer habitat in the form of abundant meadows and large blocks of dense lodgepole pine - subalpine fir timber exists throughout this area. Elk numbers are particularly high. Mountain goats are found along the crest of the area and bighorn sheep are occasionally observed throughout. Excellent black bear habitat and populations exist in the major canyons and fringes of lower elevation timber. Antelope inhabit the lower elevation sagebrush slopes in

the area, and key big game winter range is present in the lower elevations of several major drainages. A wide variety of small birds and mammals ranging from sage grouse to snowshoe hares inhabit the area.

Water: The area contains headwaters of several moderate sized drainages which are tributary to the main Salmon River. Much of the water yield is used for irrigation on ranches in the Salmon River valley. Watershed conditions are generally excellent as is the quality of water produced. This roadless area contains 2,900 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Giant helleborine (*Epipactis gigantea*), a sensitive plant species, occurs in the area.

Recreation: Current recreation use is primarily related to big game hunting, fishing, backpacking, horseback riding, trailbike riding, and use of natural hot springs. Use was estimated at 1,200 recreation visitor days in 1982. Current high use of the hot springs will continue.

Timber: The productivity rating is low. An estimated 37 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated potential annual yield of approximately 0.25 million board feet per year.

Range: Portions of two cattle and horse allotments are within the roadless area. The two allotments are grazed by 633 cattle for approximately 2,214 AUMs of livestock use. Range conditions are mostly good and fair with small areas of poor condition range. Range improvements within the roadless area boundary amount to six water developments, 10.3 miles of fence, and one stock bridge.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,800 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has moderate to high potential for silver. Oil and gas potential of the area is low. This roadless area contains 12,800 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Roads and Trails: A few trails dissect the area**.**

Landownership and Special Uses: There is one Bonneville Power Administration-identified potential power corridor through the area.

Heritage: Little is known about the existence of prehistoric or historic cultural resources in the area. The potential for prehistoric sites is moderate in the vicinity of the hot springs pools.

Disturbances: Western spruce budworm periodically kills understory Douglas-fir seedlings and saplings, and occasionally kills the tops of larger trees in portions of the area. The stands of large diameter lodgepole at lower elevations run the risk of a mountain pine beetle epidemic. Dwarf mistletoe is common in lodgepole pine.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Goldbug Ridge Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	7,200	0
Backcountry	12,800	4,500	12,800
GFRG	0	1,100	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**12,800**	**12,800**	**12,800**

Haystack Mountain #507

12,100 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Haystack Mountain Roadless Area is located 10 air miles west of Salmon, Idaho, on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District, and is bounded entirely by the Moose Creek Road (061), the Leesburg Road (242), and the Arnett Creek Road (0601), all of which provide access to the area.

The area forms a part of the Leesburg Basin and is dissected by tributaries of Arnett Creek and the headwaters of Napias Creek. Slopes vary from 30 to 60 percent. The high point is at 8,700 feet, the low is at 6,500 feet. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 below zero. Soils are formed from granite, quartzite, and volcanic bedrock, and have textures from loamy clay to sand. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir cover much of the area. Wet, grassy meadows occur along some of the drainages. The ecosystem is grand fir/Douglas-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The roadless area is natural appearing. Human influence on the area's natural integrity is almost nonexistent, and visitors would find it to be apparently natural.

Undeveloped Character: One mining related intrusion was identified along the southwest boundary during public and management review. This area does not meet roadless area criteria and has been removed from the inventory.

Opportunities for Experience: Although this area is not large and the relatively gentle topography does not provide good screening, there is dense vegetative screening to help provide a high opportunity for solitude. A lack of diversity, as well as the above factors, contributes to only a moderate opportunity for primitive recreation experience. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: The roadless area contains no special attractions or features.

Manageability: Road corridors separate Haystack Mountain Roadless Area from four other roadless areas on the west, north, and east. It is bordered by developed lands on the south. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this roadless area. Size is not a factor.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Many of the streams have been influenced by past placer mining activity. A small amount of fish habitat might be present in the lower reaches of Camp and Rapps Creeks. It is not likely that any appreciable amount of fishing occurs within this area. Inland redband trout, pacific lamprey, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: This relatively small area is predominantly covered by dense lodgepole and mixed conifer timber. Forage for mule deer and elk is limited, and the habitat potential for these species could be improved through timber management activities. Pine marten are abundant in this area, and snowshoe hares are commonly observed.

Water: The roadless area is located in the headwaters of several small drainages in the Napias Creek watershed. Watershed conditions are generally good, but the lower portions of the watersheds have had historic mining activities which caused some damage to stream channels. Water yield from moderate precipitation levels of up to 35 inches a year results in generally good to excellent water quality.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation use estimated at 1,100 recreation visitor days in 1982 is primarily related to hunting. Current recreation use is related almost entirely to hunting. Due to the lack of attractions in the area, types and amounts of use are not expected to significantly change.

Timber: An estimated 42.8 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 4 million board feet.

Range: The majority of the roadless area is within the Williams Basin/Napias Creek Cattle and Horse Allotment. However, due to limited suitable range, actual grazing use is insignificant. There are no structural improvements within the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,100 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area is high. Past mineral production includes substantial amounts of gold. There are numerous patented mining claims within the roadless area, and owners of non-patented mining claim are continuing to do assessment work. Some claim owners are expanding their claim activity. There are four past producing mines within the area, but there are currently no active mining operations. This roadless area contains 12,100 acres of medium geothermal potential. Potential resources include lode and placer gold.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area includes 0.5 mile of non-system trail and 1.5 miles of unauthorized road within the intrusion. Haystack Mountain Roadless Area is not used for outfitter and guide purposes. The area includes three tracts of private land totaling 132 acres.

Heritage: Prehistoric and historic cultural resource potential is unknown.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is moderate. As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Haystack Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	12,100	0	12,100
GFRG	0	12,100	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**12,100**	**12,100**	**12,100**

Italian Peak #945

50,100 Acres Salmon (Idaho)
141,200 Acres Targhee (Idaho)
91,300 Acres Beaverhead-Deerlodge (Montana)
191,300 Acres Total – Idaho
282,600 Acres Total – Idaho and Montana

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Italian Peak Roadless Area overlaps the Continental Divide and is located on the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest, and the Targhee and Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests. The Italian Peak Roadless Area is approximately 40 air miles southeast of Salmon, Idaho, and five air miles east of Leadore. The area is bounded on the northeast by State Highway 29, and by the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis forest boundary on the rest of the area. A Bureau of Land Management wilderness study area abuts the southern portion of the area. Access to the Italian Peak Roadless Area can be gained from the State highway and from Road 130 along Cruikshank Creek, Forest Road 177 along Hawley Creek, and Forest Road 188 in Dry Canyon.

The area is dissected by two major drainages, Cruikshank Creek and Hawley Creek. Elevations range from 6,800 feet to over 10,700 feet at Baldy Mountain. The area forms the western slope of the Continental Divide and is the northern extension of the basin and range topography found in Utah and Nevada. Glaciation has formed rocky ridges and high peaks with broad U-shaped canyons in the headlands of the drainages. Steep canyon walls with rock outcroppings are typical of the lower elevation topography. Precipitation, mostly in the form of snow, ranges from 15 to 20 inches annually. Summer high temperatures of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 below zero. A mixture of limestone, quartzite, and volcanic rocks forms the bedrock, producing soils with textures ranging from loamy clays to loamy sands. Much of the country is covered with sagebrush and grass. Douglas-fir occurs throughout the lower elevations, with lodgepole pine and subalpine fir occurring on the higher elevations. The ecosystems that occur in the area are western spruce-fir and sage-grass.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The majority of the area is essentially natural appearing. Man's influence on the natural integrity of this roadless area has been low. The long term impacts that exist can be deleted by boundary modification, or have a moderate feasibility of correction. This roadless area would be apparently natural to most visitors.

Undeveloped Character: Three intrusions were identified within the inventory boundary. Two are mining related and are located in the vicinity of Big Bear Creek and Bull Creek, and total 5,100 acres. One is timber related and is located between Frank Hall Creek and Wildcat Creek for a total of 2,000 acres. The area directly impacted by these activities no longer meets roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness.

Opportunities for Experience: The area has significant size and good distance from core to perimeter, but only moderate amounts of topographic and vegetative screening and there are some permanent off-site intrusions, all of which result in a moderate opportunity for solitude. Due to these factors and only moderate amounts of diversity, the opportunity for primitive recreation is moderate. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: This area contains some outstanding scenery, particularly in the high divide country. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail passes through this roadless area.

Manageability: The Italian Peak Roadless Area is contiguous with another roadless area on the east; the Bureau of Land Management Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area on the south and southwest; Bureau of Land Management administered lands on the west and north; and is separated by a road corridor from another roadless area on the north. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this

roadless area, with boundary changes to delete existing intrusions. Size is not a factor with this roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The area contains two streams with significant resident fisheries, but habitat conditions have been degraded by past livestock management. Several other streams support populations of resident rainbow, cutthroat and rainbow-cutthroat hybrid trout. One lake provides excellent trout habitat. Fishing use of the streams ranges from light to heavy.

Wildlife: Inherent vegetative diversity and a wide range of elevation make this area important to many wildlife species. Elk calving and mule deer fawning areas are located in the upper portion of the Cruikshank and Hawley Creek drainages, as are important riparian areas for small birds and mammals. This area contains both key big game winter and summer range. Moose are occasionally observed. Natural cover/forage ratios in this area are near to below optimum.

Water: The majority of use is within the Hawley Creek drainage. General fishing quality would be rated as good to excellent. The area is located in the headwaters of the Lemhi River and includes portions of the Canyon Creek drainage, Hawley Creek drainage and several small intermittent streams which contribute directly to the Lemhi River. Generally, water yield is low to moderate and is used extensively for irrigation.

Botanical: Lemhi penstemon *(Penstemon lemhiensis)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use, estimated at 9,400 recreation visitor days in 1982, includes hunting, fishing, backpacking, horseback riding, trail bike riding, snowmobiling, and off-highway vehicle use. Recreation use of this roadless area is expected to increase as implementation of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail proceeds.

Timber: Timber is primarily Douglas-fir with some lodgepole pine also occurring.

Range: There are three cattle and horse allotments within the roadless area. Grizzly Hill, Hawley Creek and Powderhorn cattle allotments account for nearly 7,000 AUMs of permitted use annually. The Chamberlain Sheep Allotment was formerly grazed by 1,200 sheep for approximately 360 AUMs of permitted use. Most of the suitable range is in either good or fair condition, with small amounts of poor and excellent condition range present. There are 47 water developments and 61.1 miles of fence within the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 8,600 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area was rated high. There has been no mineral production from this area however; mining claim owners continue to do assessment work. Gold, copper, and thorium occur, and substantial potential phosphate resources. Oil and gas potential for the area is considered low. This roadless area contains 191,300 acres of medium geothermal potential (Idaho portion).

Landownership and Special Uses: This area includes five special use permits for access roads totaling about 10.4 miles. Also included are 21.4 miles of trails (1-1/2 miles within the intrusion), and 13.7 miles of non-system trails. The Continental Divide Trail runs along the east perimeter for 10.4 miles. This area has previously been used for outfitter and guide purposes. The area contains one tract of private land (HES #659) totaling 148.2 acres.

Heritage: Prehistoric and historic cultural resources are known to exist in this roadless area, but their significance has not been determined.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is light. Although western spruce budworm has not caused severe defoliation, the insect does reduce Douglas-fir cone crops and kills some understory Douglas-fir. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Italian Peak Management Theme Salmon	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	2,500	0
Backcountry	50,100	20,600	50,100
GFRG	0	27,000	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**50,100**	**50,100**	**50,100**

Italian Peak Management Theme Targhee	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	48,700	48,700
Backcountry	141,200	49,700	49,700
GFRG	0	39,700	39,700
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	3,100	3,100
Total Acres	**141,200**	**141,200**	**141,200**

Italian Peak Management Theme Total - Idaho	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	51,200	48,700
Backcountry	191,300	70,300	99,800
GFRG	0	66,700	39,700
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	3,100	3,100
Total Acres	**191,300**	**191,300**	**191,300**

Jesse Creek #510

14,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Jesse Creek Roadless Area is one air mile west of Salmon, Idaho on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. The area is bounded on the east by the Forest boundary, on the north by the powerline from Salmon to the Cobalt Mine, on the west and south by the Salmon River Mountain Road (020) and the Spring Creek Road (026). This area can be accessed from the forest road system.

The area is dissected by one major drainage, Jesse Creek, and several smaller drainages. Slopes range from 30 to 70 percent. Baldy Mountain is the highest point at over 9,100 feet; the low point is 4,400 feet. Summer highs of 85-95 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation, mostly in the form of snow, ranges from 15 to 25 inches. Quartzite and volcanic bedrock form loamy clay to loamy sand textured soils. The lower elevational slopes are covered with sagebrush and grass, with lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir at the higher elevations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Approximately three-fourths of the roadless area is essentially natural appearing, with the remainder affected by road construction and timber harvest activities. Man's influence on the natural integrity of this area has been very low in the southern three-fourths, and high in the remainder of the area. The southern three-fourths of the roadless area would be apparently natural to most visitors; but the remainder is obviously affected in many sections, with the impacts readily apparent to all visitors.

Undeveloped Character: Five intrusions have been identified in the roadless area. The Cobalt Townsite powerline crosses the northern portion of the area and the area north of the powerline has been impacted by a 2.9 million board feet timber sale sold in 1983. Three other intrusions occur along the southeastern edge. One is the Jesse Creek Administrative Site and storage area and the other two are water transmission and storage facilities which were constructed and are periodically maintained by heavy equipment. The areas impacted by these activities total 4,400 acres which no longer meet roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to the area's size and sparse to moderate vegetative and topographic screening, it offers only low opportunity for solitude. In addition, it has little diversity and offers only low opportunity for primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: Outstanding scenery exists in some of the mayor canyons, with the remainder of the area considered common for the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

Manageability: The area is separated by road corridors from three other roadless areas on the west and south. It is bordered by developed National Forest System lands on the north, and developed Bureau of Land Management and private lands on the east. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area. Size would not be a factor when making necessary boundary modifications to delete logging intrusions in the north.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Jesse Creek has a minor amount of suitable fish habitat, with lower reaches supporting a small number of fish. U-P Lake provides habitat for cutthroat trout, which is stocked on a three-year cycle. No fishing pressure is expected on the streams. U-P Lake receives moderate to heavy use because of its close proximity to Salmon.

Wildlife: This entire area provides good summer range for mule deer, but contains more cover than needed at the upper elevations and less cover than needed at the lower elevations. These lower slopes do, however, constitute key winter range for mule deer. Elk are present on the southern portion of the area in small numbers, but do not presently occur throughout. Some opportunities for big game habitat

improvement exist in the dense lodgepole stands in the higher elevations. Abundant, large, rock outcrops provide good nesting habitat for several species of raptors.

Water: 13,700 of this area have been recognized as the Salmon City municipal watershed, and is the source of much of Salmon's domestic water supply. Watershed conditions are generally excellent, as is the water quality. Minimal disturbance has occurred in the southern three-fourths of the roadless area; the remainder, which includes Bob Moore Creek, has had recent road and timber entries. All area streams are irrigation sources.

Botanical: Lemhi penstemon *(Penstemon lemhiensis)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use, estimated at 300 recreation visitor days in 1982, is related primarily to hunting. This area is generally not considered available for recreation use because it contains the Salmon municipal watershed. Recreation use is not prohibited, but it also is not encouraged.

Timber: An estimated 38.4 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .2 million board feet.

Range: The area is not grazed by livestock.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 4,300 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area is rated as moderate. There are no active mining operations, but past mineral production includes minor amounts of gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc. Minor occurrences of tungsten have also been recorded within the area. There is about 14,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The Chipps Creek-Pollard Creek-Jesse Creek area is the watershed for the Salmon City municipal water supply and is managed under a Co-op Agreement signed on June 8, 1939, by the Secretary of Agriculture. In addition, the City has several permits for related water facilities, and there are two water impoundment permits for use on adjacent private land. The intrusion area includes 40 acres of private land at U-P Lake.

Roads and Trails: The intrusion area includes 2.6 miles of trails and 12.5 miles of roads. There are 1.4 miles of roads and 2.6 miles of trails outside of the intrusion area.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered moderate, and the potential for historic cultural resources is considered low.

Disturbances: As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking. Western spruce budworm is periodically killing some of the understory Douglas-fir. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Jesse Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	9,500	0
Backcountry	14,000	0	14,000
GFRG	0	4,500	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**14,000**	**14,000**	**14,000**

Jureano #506

25,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Jureano Roadless Area is located on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. The Jureano Roadless Area is 15 air miles west of Salmon, Idaho. The area is bounded on the east by road 061 along Moose Creek, on the southeast by the powerline from Salmon to the Cobalt Mine, on the west by the Panther Creek Road 055, and on the north by a developed area in Hot Springs Creek. Access can be gained from these forest roads.

The area is dissected by Trail Creek, Beaver Creek, and smaller drainages that flow into Panther Creek. The slopes along Panther Creek are steep (greater than 70 percent) and rocky. Elevations range from 3,500 feet to over 8,300 feet at Jureano Lookout. Summer highs of 80 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 degrees below zero. Soils are derived from granite of the Idaho Batholith and quartzite bedrock. Textures range from sandy loam to sand. Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine cover much of the area, with openings of sagebrush and grass. Much of the Panther Creek face is rock outcrop and talus slopes. The ecosystem is western spruce-fir and grand fir/Douglas-fir.

Three intrusions totaling 300 acres were identified during the review of the roadless area inventory. One is a road corridor up Beaver Creek, one resulted from a 1968 timber sale in the northeast corner of the area near the headwaters of Beaver Creek, and one on the south end resulted from the Cobalt Townsite powerline. Two portions of the inventoried area are now separated from the main roadless area. The first on the northwest corner was separated by the Beaver Creek Road. The second on the southern edge was separated by the Cobalt Townsite powerline. Both of these separated parcels are less than 5,000 acres in size.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is essentially natural appearing, and would appear so to most visitors.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to large size, good topographic screening, and moderate vegetative screening, the area offers a high opportunity for solitude. In addition, the lack of developed recreation facilities results in a high opportunity for primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are few.

Special Features: The area contains limited amounts of outstanding scenery in the Panther Creek canyon. The scenery in the remainder of the roadless area is considered common for the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

Manageability: Road corridors separate Jureano from three other roadless areas on the west, southwest and northeast. Developed lands border it on the north and southeast. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area with minor boundary changes to delete existing intrusions. Size is not a factor. Man's influence on the area's natural integrity has been very low. The primary existing impacts are a primitive road with moderate feasibility of correction, and a powerline corridor. A portion of the area is segregated from the rest of the area by the powerline. This segregated area does not meet the minimum size standards.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: These are only minor amounts of fish habitat, primarily in Beaver Creek and to a lesser degree Trail Creek. Habitat conditions would be rated as fair and population densities would be low. Fishing use is very light and quality would be fair.

Wildlife: The extremely rough, rocky nature of the area's lower two-thirds provide ideal bighorn sheep habitat. Elevational differences make it possible for sheep to summer and winter. Mule deer and elk summer throughout, and winter primarily on the Panther Creek face. Mountain lion are particularly

abundant, and bobcats are commonly encountered. The great gray owl, a Region 4 sensitive species occurs in this roadless area.

Water: Located in several small drainages which are tributary to Panther Creek, the area receives from 20 to 35 inches of precipitation a year. Generally, water quality is good, but some mining activities have caused damaged stream channel and watershed conditions in a few locations.

Botanical: Lemhi penstemon *(Penstemon lemhiensis)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use estimated at 2,700 recreation visitor days in 1982, mostly related to hunting. Due to the lack of attractions in the area, types and amounts of use are not expected to change significantly.

Timber: An estimated 101.6 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 0.8 million board feet per year.

Range: Portions of the Williams Basin-Napias Creek Cattle and Horse Allotment are within the roadless area; however, very little suitable range and only a small number of grazing AUM's actually occur within the roadless area portion of the allotment. Few, if any, structural improvements are located in the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 6,700 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area is rated as high. Past mineral production includes silver, and lode and placer gold. There are several patented mining claims within the area, and non-patented mining claim owners continue assessment work. Some non-patented mining claim owners are expanding their claim activity. Hardrock mineral potential includes gold, silver, copper, cobalt, and molybdenum. This roadless area contains 25,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area was previously used for outfitter and guide purposes. The area includes a patented homestead and a patented mining claim, both tracts totaling 53.9 acres.

Roads and Trails: This area includes three trails totaling 12.5 miles, two forest roads of three miles, and 1.9 miles of 69KV powerline within the intrusion.

Heritage: Prehistoric cultural resource potential is considered moderate in the Panther Creek canyon and low throughout the remainder of the area. Several historic structures are known to exist, but their significance has not been determined.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is moderate. As the lodgepole pine stands age, the chances of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic increase. Western spruce budworm periodically kills some understory Douglas-fir, and the tops of larger trees, especially on the drier sites. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger trees. Dwarf mistletoe is causing serious deterioration in a few Douglas-fir stands along Trail Creek.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Jureano Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	25,400	6,900	25,400
GFRG	0	18,500	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**25,400**	**25,400**	**25,400**

Lemhi Range #903

153,500 Acres Salmon
155,000 Acres Challis
308,500 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Lemhi Range Roadless Area is located on the Challis, Lost River and Leadore Ranger Districts. The northern portion of the area is approximately 15 air miles south of Salmon, Idaho, and 20 air miles east of Challis, Idaho. The area continues in a southeasterly direction for a distance of 45 miles. The area extends approximately 50 miles along the Lemhi Mountain Range and ranges from three to ten miles in width. Except for a large area in Hayden Creek-Mill Creek, and smaller areas in Big Eightmile Creek and Little Timber Creek, the east boundary generally follows the old Salmon Forest boundary. The west boundary generally follows the old Challis Forest boundary. Access to the area can be gained via Forest roads originating in the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi Valleys.

The area is dissected by numerous small streams that drain into the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi Rivers. The streams in the northern portion drain into the main Salmon River. Elevations range from 5,000 feet to 11,300 feet. The area is a northern extension of the basin and range topography found in Utah and Nevada. The range trends northwest-southeast. Much of the high country has been glaciated and lakes have formed in the glacial cirque basins at the heads of many of the major drainages. The high country is typical of alpine glaciated country. Barren, rocky peaks and ridges occur throughout the area. Annual precipitation ranges from 15 to 25 inches, most of which occurs as snow. Temperatures range from summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit to winter lows of 45 degrees below zero. Granites, quartzites, limestones, and volcanic rocks form the bedrock from which the soils are formed. The soil textures range from loamy sands to loamy clays. Lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and subalpine fir are the tree species that occur in the area. Sage-grass communities are interspersed throughout the area. This area is classified as a western spruce-fir ecosystem type.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The roadless area is substantially natural appearing.

Opportunities for Experience: The area has high natural integrity, and good opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, and challenging experiences.

Special Features: Practically the entire area is a special attraction due to the outstanding scenery provided by the Lemhi Range. Two Research Natural Areas, Mill Lake (2,000 acres) and Bear Valley (2,400 acres), are within the roadless area and a third Research Natural Area, Sheep Mountain (200 acres), is partially within the roadless area. Due to the large size and diversity of the roadless area, it is likely there are other areas of ecological significance.

Manageability: The roadless area boundary generally follows the forest boundaries. These boundaries do not follow natural topographical features. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed, and the effects of existing intrusions could be mitigated by boundary changes. Size is not a factor, as this roadless area as it is over 300,000 acres.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Numerous lakes and streams provide habitat for fish. Habitat conditions within the lake are excellent. One lake provides habitat for Arctic grayling which is found in only one other area on the Forest. Many of the streams support fish populations. Fishing use on the lakes is moderate to light with Basin, Bear Valley, and Buck Lakes receiving the most use. Fishing quality in the lakes is excellent. Fishing use of the streams is generally light. Big Timber Creek receives the heaviest use and supports the highest quality fishing. Fishing quality ranges from fair to excellent. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: Several unconfirmed sightings in 1976-78 indicated the probable presence of the gray wolf, although howling surveys in the late 1980's found none. Since wolf reintroduction, wolves have been seen in this area. Mountain goat and bighorn sheep are also found in the area. This portion of the Lemhi Range is large, with excellent vegetative and topographic diversity. Low timber productivity and ruggedness have combined to keep the area roadless and big game numbers reflect this condition. Key summer big game habitat in the form of abundant meadows and large blocks of dense lodgepole pine-subalpine fir timber exists throughout this area. Elk numbers are particularly high. Goats are common along the crest of the area. Excellent black bear habitat and populations exist in the major canyons and lower timber fringe areas. Antelope inhabit the lower elevation sagebrush slopes in the area and key big game winter range is present in the lower elevations of several major drainages. A wide variety of small birds and mammals ranging from sage grouse to snowshoe hares inhabit the area.

Water: The area contains headwaters of many moderate sized parallel drainages, which are tributary to the Lemhi River along the east, the Pahsimeroi River along the west, and to the Salmon River on the north. Precipitation is low to moderate throughout the area. Much of the water yield is used for irrigation on downstream ranches. Many of the headwaters are in glaciated basins and contain small basin lakes. Watershed conditions and quality of water produced are generally excellent.

Botanical: Pink Agoseris (*Agoseris lackschewitzii*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation uses include hunting, fishing, backpacking, horseback riding, and trailbike riding. Use was estimated at 20,100 recreation visitor days in 1982. The area contains outstanding scenery and excellent opportunities for hunting and fishing.

Timber: There is an estimated 526 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the roadless area with an estimated potential annual yield of approximately 3.3 thousand board feet per year. This potential annual timber yield would be reduced due to the cost of roads and constraints of other resource needs such as visuals, wildlife habitat, recreation, watershed, etc.

One intrusion in the extreme north roadless area resulted from a 1978 timber sale which logged a million board feet within the roadless area. Intrusions in the Hayden Creek area resulted from logging between 1960 and 1970. These were erroneously included in the original roadless area review. An additional 1 million board feet was logged in two timber sales in 1974 and 1977. Approximately 1 million board feet were harvested from a 1971 timber sale in the Big Timber Creek drainage. There has been a significant amount of post, pole, and firewood harvest along the Allison Creek Road.

Range: Portions of two sheep and goat allotments and 15 cattle and horse allotments are within the roadless area. Sheep and goat allotments included Flat Iron and Gilmore. The two sheep allotments are currently grazed by 2,000 sheep and contribute approximately 800 AUM's of livestock use. The majority of the suitable sheep range is classified as fair. The Gilmore sheep allotment was converted to cattle use in 1984, resulting in a decrease of 1,200 sheep contributing 687 AUM's of use on the sheep allotments. Upon conversion, all sheep use will be within the roadless area. The fifteen cattle allotments are grazed by approximately 4,370 cattle and contributed approximately 9,920 AUM's of livestock use within the roadless area. Cattle use was increased by about 300 AUMs with the conversion of the Gilmore allotment from sheep use. Range improvements within the roadless area boundary amount to 31 water developments, 82.4 miles of fence, and one stock bridge on McKim Creek.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 25,700 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area is rated as high. Mineral production of record includes gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, and molybdenum. There is one producing mine within the roadless area boundaries. There are also a number of patented mining claims. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work in this roadless area, with some expanding their claim activity. The area currently contains no active mining operations. Roads in Ennis Gulch, Fred and Mary Draw, and Allison Creek access mining claims and mineral exploration activity. Oil and gas potential for the area varies from none to moderate. This roadless area contains 308,500 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area includes 12 tracts of private land totaling 2,088 acres.

Roads and Trails: There are several mining access roads within the area. Dairy Lake, Mill Creek, and Basin Lake are under special use permit for irrigation water storage purposes. Parts of the area are used by four outfitter and guide permittees.

Heritage: Numerous prehistoric and historic cultural resources are known to exist in this roadless area. It is likely that several of the historic sites would warrant further investigation for their suitability for inclusion on the National Register.

Disturbances: Known fire occurrence is light in the area. Understory fuels are generally sparse and there is little potential for large fires. Western spruce budworm periodically kills understory Douglas-fir seedlings and saplings and occasionally kills the tops of larger trees in portions of the area. Larger diameter stands of lodgepole at lower elevations may be killed in the next mountain pine beetle epidemic. Dwarf mistletoe is common in lodgepole pine.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Lemhi Range Management Theme Salmon	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	9,300	0
Backcountry	153,500	92,300	150,700
GFRG	0	49,100	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	2,800	2,800
Total Acres	**153,500**	**153,500**	**153,500**

Lemhi Range Management Theme Challis	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	155,000	154,500	154,500
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	500	500
Total Acres	**155,000**	**155,000**	**155,000**

Lemhi Range Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	9,300	0
Backcountry	308,500	246,800	305,200
GFRG	0	49,100	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	3,300	3,300
Total Acres	**308,500**	**308,500**	**308,500**

Little Horse #514

7,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Little Horse Roadless Area is 35 air miles northwest of Salmon, Idaho on the North Fork Ranger District. The area is bounded on the north by the Oreana Ridge Road (067), on the west and south by the Long Tom Ridge Road (123) and on the east by the Frank Church -- River of No Return Wilderness. Access can be gained from the forest roads.

The area is dissected by Little Horse Creek drainage, which includes several small drainages. The topography is a result of the dendritic pattern that Little Horse Creek has developed. Side slopes range from 30 to 60 percent. Horse Creek Butte is the highest point in the roadless area at over 8,300 feet; the lowest point is located at 6,000 feet. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees are contrasted by winter lows of 40 degrees below zero. Granite of the Idaho Batholith and the Metamorphosed Border Zone bedrock forms the soils. The soil textures range from sandy loams to sand. Most of the area is timbered with Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. The ecosystem represented in this roadless area is the western spruce/fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: This area is natural appearing. Human influence on the natural integrity of this area is nonexistent. Visitors would find this area to be apparently natural.

Undeveloped Character: No intrusions were identified in this area.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to size, proximity to the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness, good topographic screening, very good vegetative screening, and lack of off-site intrusions, this area offers a high opportunity for solitude. The existence of some diversity and the lack of developed recreation facilities combine with the previous factors to provide a high opportunity for primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: The scenery in this roadless area is considered common for the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. There are no special features.

Manageability: Separated by road corridors from two other roadless areas, Oreana and Sheepeater, on the north and east, and contiguous with the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness on the west, Little Horse Roadless Area is bordered by developed lands on the south. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area. Size is not an important factor.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Minor resident fishery may exist in Little Horse Creek. The lower reach may also provide rearing habitat for anadromous fish. Fishing use is expected to be very light and quality would be fair.

Wildlife: This area is currently below its habitat potential for big game because of the excessively high cover component and corresponding lack of forage. Mule deer and elk use the entire area during the summer, but use is centered on the few natural meadow complexes. Mountain goats occur in the lower portions of this area on sparsely timbered rocky outcrops and ridge points. Elk rutting activity occurs on the flatter, densely timbered benches along the south side of Oreana Ridge.

Water: Little Horse Creek watershed produces a high amount of water, as the area receives over 40 inches of precipitation a year. Erosive granitic soils dominate the area, and streams carry a naturally high amount of sediment. Water quality is considered excellent throughout the area. All water produced in this area enters Horse Creek, and eventually the Salmon River.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current limited recreation use, estimated at less than 100 recreation visitor days in 1982, is related mostly to hunting. Current low recreation use is not expected to significantly change, due to rugged terrain and lack of attractions in the area

Timber: An estimated 38.6 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .6 million board feet.

Range: With the exception of a small amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by livestock.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential is unknown. There is no known potential for currently leasable minerals. The area contains no active mining operations. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work in this roadless area. This roadless area contains 7,600 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private land within the area.

Roads and Trails: The area contains no trails, and the only road is a 0.1 mile prospecting road north of Dish Pan Spring.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is unknown.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is light. As the lodgepole pine and whitebark pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or overstocking.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Little Horse Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	7,600	0	7,600
GFRG	0	7,600	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**7,600**	**7,600**	**7,600**

Long Tom #521

20,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Long Tom Roadless Area is approximately 35 air miles northwest of Salmon, Idaho on the North Fork Ranger District. Access to the area can be gained along the Salmon River road, from the road along Long Tom ridge, and from the road along the ridge to Corn Lake.

The area is bounded on the south and southwest by the Salmon River road, on the north by the Corn Lake road, on the east by the Long Tom ridge road, and is adjacent to the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness on the northwest. The area is dissected by small drainages that flow directly into the Salmon River. Wheat Creek, Corn Creek, and Bear Basin Creek are the major drainages. The slopes along the Salmon River are steep (more than 70 percent) and form a portion of the Wild and Scenic River corridor. The higher country consists of moderately dissected mountain slopes (20 percent to 60 percent). Elevations range from 3,000 feet to over 8,000 feet. The steep slopes adjacent to the Salmon River have numerous rock outcroppings and near surface bedrock. The Border Zone rocks that have been altered by the intrusion of the Idaho Batholith form the bedrock from which the sandy loam textured soils have been formed. The vegetation on the steep canyon slopes is a sagebrush and grass community. The higher elevations are timbered with ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir. Western ponderosa and grand fir/Douglas- fir are the two ecosystems found in this area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is essentially natural appearing. Man's activities have had no overall influence on the area's natural integrity. The specific sites that have been impacted are on the perimeter, and could easily be deleted. Most visitors would find this roadless area to be apparently natural.

Undeveloped Character: There is a small amount of mining activity and logging along the edge of the roadless area. Three intrusions were identified in the area during the inventory process. These total 300 acres and are located near Corn Lake in the northeast corner of the roadless area at the head of Corn Creek and in the southeast part of the roadless area below Long Tom Lookout. These are all road corridors (loops on existing roads) that were erroneously included in original inventories. Also, a timber sale was made in the southeast corner of the roadless area in 1983 covering approximately 1,200 acres. These areas no longer meet roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to size, proximity to existing wilderness, very good topographic screening, good vegetative screening, high diversity, good distance from core to perimeter, and lack of developed recreation facilities, this area provides a very high opportunity for solitude and for primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are few and are related to the rugged terrain.

Special Features: This roadless area contains outstanding scenery, particularly along the Salmon River Breaks. About 1,900 acres are within the designated Wild and Scenic River corridor along the Salmon River.

Manageability: The roadless area is bordered by the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness on the west and north, the Salmon Wild and Scenic River on the south, and a road corridor on the east. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Only a minor amount of fish habitat is found within the area. Most streams are small, with high channel gradients and boulder cobble substrates. Corn Creek provides habitat for resident trout and a minor amount of steelhead habitat in the extreme lower end. Fishing pressure is very light, and quality fair. Inland redband trout, pacific lamprey, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: This extremely rough, rocky area contains approximately one mile of vertical relief from the Salmon River up to Long Tom Mountain. High quality summer and winter range areas for bighorn sheep and mountain goats are present throughout the area. Elk and mule deer are present yearlong. Black bear and mountain lion are abundant. A wide variety of small birds and mammals ranging from blue grouse to pike inhabit the area.

Water: The area contains several small stream drainages directly tributary to the main Salmon River. Water yield in the area is generally fair, as annual precipitation averages 25 inches or less. Soils in the area are dominated by granitics, resulting in generally high natural sedimentation rates; however, water quality is usually excellent throughout the entire area.

Botanical: Lemhi penstemon (*Penstemon lemhiensis*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Current use is primarily related to hunting (100 recreation visitor days in 1982). Recreation use is very light. Patterns of use or numbers of users are not likely to be affected by designation or non-designation of the area as wilderness.

Timber: An estimated 59.2 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .9 million board feet.

Range: With the exception of a moderate amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by domestic livestock. Most of the use by horses occurs during the big game hunting seasons and is largely confined to scattered riparian meadows and open parks.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 200 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This area has an undefined potential for cobalt and copper. The Salmon Canyon Copper Mine (minor production) is located in the extreme southeastern portion of the roadless area. This area would require further study to adequately assess hardrock mineral potential. This roadless area contains 20,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private lands within the area.

Roads and Trails: This area includes two trails totaling 8.8 miles, and one forest road totaling 1.0 miles. Part of the area is used for outfitter and guide purposes.

Heritage: There is a high potential for cultural resources and related research in a band adjacent to the Salmon River. The remainder of the roadless area has low potential.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is high, with potential for large fires. Mountain Pine Beetle is present in some of the lodgepole pine. A major outbreak could occur in the roadless area because of the age, size, and location of the lodgepole pine. Endemic levels of Douglas-fir beetle are present in the Douglas-fir, and endemic levels of western pine beetle in the ponderosa pine. Dwarf mistletoe is present in some widely scattered stands of lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Long Tom Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	13,400	0
Backcountry	20,400	800	18,500
GFRG	0	4,300	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,900	1,900
Total Acres	**20,400**	**20,400**	**20,400**

McEleny #505

3,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The McEleny Roadless Area is located on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District and is 35 air miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho. It is bounded by the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness on the north, east, and west, and on the south by the Yellowjacket Creek, Forest Road 112, and an area of mining activity.

Dissected by small drainages tributary to Yellowjacket and Hoodoo Creeks, the area's topography is a result of the dendritic drainage pattern that these small streams developed. The slopes are between 50 and 70 percent along Hoodoo Creek and Yellowjacket Creek, and 30 to 50 percent along and near the ridges. Elevations range from 5,500 feet to over 8,900 feet. Glaciation has developed a small cirque pocket at the head of Black Eagle Creek. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation of 15 to 25 inches falls mostly as snow. Soils are derived from quartzite bedrock; textures range from sandy loams to loamy sand. Most of the area is covered with Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine, with talus and rock outcroppings at the higher elevations. The western spruce-fir and grand fir/Douglas-fir ecosystems are represented.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Man's influence on the natural integrity of this roadless area is high, with numerous mines and associated roads throughout the area.

Undeveloped Character: Several intrusions were identified in this roadless area during inventory review. A 900 thousand board foot timber sale was sold in 1982. Numerous roads associated with mining activities, and a water line/spring development is also present. These intrusions, totaling 2,100 acres, no longer meet roadless area criteria and will not be further considered for wilderness.

Opportunities for Experience: Human impacts are obvious in many sections. Although dense vegetative screening exists, the area's small size offers little opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation. Opportunities for challenging experiences are rare.

Special Features: The scenery and features in this area are considered common for the Salmon National Forest.

Manageability: The roadless area is adjacent to the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness on the west, north, and east, and separated from Duck Peak Roadless Area by a road corridor on the south. Logical and manageable boundaries would be difficult to develop for this area, the remnant of a much larger roadless area that was included in the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness. This portion was deleted in order to develop a manageable boundary for the wilderness. Size is not a factor, as it is contiguous with existing wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no known fisheries or fish habitat in this area.

Wildlife: This small area provides some summer big game habitat, but is most important as transitional spring-fall range for mule deer and elk. The lower elevations are primarily occupied by sagebrush communities, and opportunities to manage habitat by logging are very limited.

Water: The area is located in a moderate precipitation zone in drainages tributary to Yellowjacket Creek. Watershed conditions are generally good, but small areas in and adjacent to the roadless area have been mined. The area contributes generally excellent quality water to the Middle Fork of the Salmon River

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation use, estimated as inconsequential in 1982, is limited to an occasional hunter. Current low recreation use is not expected to change.

Timber: An estimated 13 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 0.1 million board feet per year.

Range: With the exception of a small amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by livestock.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,900 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Portions of the area have been significantly altered by mining activity. The hardrock mineral potential of this area is rated high. Past mineral production includes gold, silver, copper, and zinc. The area contains five past producing mines; several patented mining claims, and associated low standard access roads. Non-patented mining claim owners continue assessment work, with some expanding their claim activity. This roadless area contains 3,500 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area includes two tracts of private land, one at Black Eagle Mine and one in lower Hoodoo Creek, totaling 54 acres. Outfitter and guide permittees do not currently use the McEleny Roadless Area.

Roads and Trails: The area includes 0.4 mile of trail and 0.3 mile of non-system trail, and 0.2 mile of unauthorized road.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is unknown. The area's numerous mining-related structures have not been evaluated for historic significance.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is light. As the lodgepole and whitebark pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic in the lodgepole stands in the upper part of the area. The Douglas-fir in the lower elevations has been repeatedly attacked by western spruce budworm, which kills much of the understory Douglas-fir. Occasionally, the tops of the larger trees are killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger trees.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

McEleny Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	3,500	0	3,500
GFRG	0	3,500	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**3,500**	**3,500**	**3,500**

Musgrove #517

8,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Musgrove Roadless Area is approximately 20 miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. It is bounded on the north by a road to the Blackbird Mine and by logged areas, on the east by a timber sale and associated roads, on the south by Forest Road 012 along Porphyry Creek, and on the east by Forest Road 059 along Musgrove Creek. The forest roads provide access to the roadless area.

Musgrove Creek's headwaters dissect this land, which has slopes ranging from 20 to 60 percent. Blackbird Mountain, at 9,000 feet, is the highest point in the area; the lowest point is at 6,000 feet. Temperatures range from summer highs of 90 degrees Fahrenheit to winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation of 20 to 35 inches falls mostly as snow. Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine cover much of the area, with sagebrush and grass common on south aspects. Western spruce/fir and grand fir/Douglas-fir are the ecosystems represented. Soils are formed from quartzite bedrock, and textures vary from sandy loam to loamy sand.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area has a modified forested appearance. Man's influence on the natural integrity of this roadless area has been high, and is readily apparent. The majority of the roadless area has been affected, with little feasibility of correction.

Opportunities for Experience: The roadless area offers a moderate opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation, but opportunities for challenging experiences are rare.

Special Features: The scenery in this roadless area is considered common for the Salmon-Challis National Forest and there are no special features or attractions. There are no known special attractions or features in the area.

Manageability: Road corridors separate Musgrove from the South Panther and Duck Peak Roadless Areas on the northwest and southeast. It is adjacent to the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness on the southwest and west, and is bordered by developed lands on the northeast, east and south. Due to past road construction activities, the roadless area has been split into several areas. Logical and manageable boundaries cannot be developed for this roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Only a minor amount of fish habitat is found in the headwaters of the Musgrove Creek drainage. Habitat is similar to that of other high gradient streams. Fishing pressure is very light and quality is fair. Bull trout, Chinook salmon and steelhead habitat are present in limited amounts.

Wildlife: The big game cover/forage ratio, in the upper portion of the Musgrove Creek drainage, is nearly optimum on the north side, and almost entirely covers on the south (north facing slopes). This area is key elk summer range and is also an elk calving area. The heavy cover in the area is utilized by big game during hunting season. Mule deer, black bear and mountain lion occur in the area in normal densities. Blue grouse are particularly abundant on the north side of the area.

Water: The roadless area includes the headwaters of the West Fork of Blackbird Creek and Musgrove Creek, within the Panther Creek drainage. Watershed conditions are generally excellent, and precipitation of about 30 inches a year results in excellent quality water. Downstream uses have included mining activities in the Blackbird drainage.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation use, less than 100 recreation visitor days in 1982, is limited almost entirely to hunting. Current low recreational use is not expected to change significantly, due to the lack of attractions in the area.

Timber: An estimated 28.6 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .4 million board feet.

Range: A small portion of the Forney cattle and horse allotment extends into the roadless area. Due to topographic features and the small amount of suitable range, grazing use within the roadless area is insignificant. There are no structural range improvements.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 300 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential in unknown. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work, with some expanding their claim activity. The area currently contains no active mining operations. This roadless area contains 8,200 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private land within the area.

Roads and Trails: There are no trails within the area. The area of intrusion includes one mile of forest road. There is an additional 4.4 miles of non-system road within the area.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered low, and for historic cultural resources is considered moderate due to past mining activity.

Disturbances: The area may receive some outfitter and guide use by permittees from adjoining areas. Fire occurrence is light. As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking. Western spruce budworm is periodically killing some of the understory Douglas-fir, especially on the drier sites. Occasionally the tops of the larger trees are being killed. The Douglas- fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir; however, many of the higher hazard stands are being logged.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Musgrove Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	8,200	0	8,200
GFRG	0	8,200	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**8,200**	**8,200**	**8,200**

Napias #515

9,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Napias Roadless Area is seven air miles northwest of Salmon, Idaho, on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. The area is bounded on the east by Forest Road 023, on the south by a powerline and the old Leesburg Road, and on the west by the Salmon Mountain Road (020) and logging activity. Access to the area can be gained from the forest roads.

The area is dissected by the headwaters of Moose Creek and Napias Creek, and lies in the basins of both creeks at elevations between 7,000 and 8,000 feet. Slopes range from 15 to 50 percent. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation of 20 to 35 inches falls mostly as snow. Soils are formed from granite and quartzite bedrock. Textures range from sand to sandy loams. Lodgepole pine is the major tree species, with some Douglas-fir. Grassy, wet meadows occur throughout the area. The ecosystems are grand fir/Douglas-fir and western spruce-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is essentially natural appearing. Man's influence on the natural integrity of this area has been low. The area would be apparently natural to most visitors. However, there are mining related impacts that would be apparent to some visitors.

Undeveloped Character: One mineral related intrusion (access road) was identified in the southwest corner of the area. This road corridor does not meet roadless area criteria and has been removed from the inventory.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to size, surroundings, lack of topographic screening, small distance from core to perimeter and lack of diversity, this roadless area provides only low opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: The scenery in this roadless area is considered common for the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. There are no special attractions or features.

Manageability: Road corridors separate Napias from four other roadless areas on the north, west, south, and southeast. Napias is bordered by developed lands on the east. Size would not be a factor in developing logical boundaries for this area. However, manageable boundaries would be extremely difficult due to terrain and the surrounding roads.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This area contains a small amount of fish habitat, primarily confined to upper Napias Creek. Past placer mining has adversely influenced certain sections of Napias Creek and several of its tributaries. Fishing use is light and quality would be rated as fair. Bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead, Inland redband trout, pacific lamprey, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: The dense, homogeneous lodgepole pine and mixed conifer timber on this area provides good security cover for mule deer and elk. However, the area is currently below habitat potential for both species due to the scarcity of natural openings or forage areas. Some wet areas with old growth spruce and/or mixed conifer timber are present, but overall wildlife habitat diversity is low for small birds and mammals. Pine marten and snowshoe hares are present in moderate numbers.

Water: The area is located in the headwaters of the Napias Creek drainage to the south, and the Moose Creek drainage to the north. Water yield is moderate. Watershed conditions are generally good in the area, but several areas have been significantly impacted by mining and other land management activities. Especially impacted have been the stream channel bottoms. These areas are continuing to stabilize with time.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation use, estimated at less than 100 recreation visitor days in 1982, is considered extremely light and is related to hunting. Current low recreation use is not expected to change, due to the lack of attractions in the area.

Timber: An estimated 46.3 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .7 million board feet.

Range: Approximately 300 AUM's of grazing use in the area result from portions of the Diamond-Moose and Williams Basin-Napias Creek Cattle and Horse Allotments. The majority of the suitable range is in fair condition. There is one water development.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential is high. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work, with some expanding their claim activity. The area has been a past producer of lode and placer gold, but there are currently no active mining operations. This roadless area contains 9,300 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private lands in this area. The area was previously used, but is not now used, for outfitter and guide purposes. The area may include additional trails used for prospecting access.

Roads and Trails: This area includes 9.9 miles of trails, and two roads totaling 2.9 miles not located within intrusions.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered low, but the potential for historic cultural resources is considered high.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is very light in this area. As the lodgepole pine and whitebark pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic, especially in the lower elevation lodgepole stands. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Napias Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	9,300	0	9,300
GFRG	0	9,300	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**9,300**	**9,300**	**9,300**

Napoleon Ridge #501

51,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Napoleon Ridge Roadless Area is located approximately 10 air miles north of Salmon, Idaho. The area is bounded on the north by a portion of the Salmon Wild and Scenic River, on the east by Forest road 020 along Napoleon Ridge; on the south by Forest Road 023, on the west by Forest Road 032 along Pine Creek. The Pine Creek Road also separates the roadless area to the west, which was included as a part of the Stormy Peak-Dump Creek Roadless Area. Access to this area can be gained from the forest roads adjacent to the area.

The area is dissected by four major drainages, Pine Creek, Moose Creek, East Boulder Creek, and Dump Creek. The topography is steep, 70 percent or greater slopes, along the Salmon River. Above 6800 feet the topography is relatively flat, forming a large basin. Elevations range from about 4,000 feet to over 8,300 feet at Point of Rocks. Granite from the Idaho Batholith is the bedrock from which the soils are derived, resulting in loamy sand to sand textured soils. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 35 degrees below zero. The vegetation along the Salmon River Breaks is Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine, with openings of sagebrush and grass. The vegetation at higher elevations is lodgepole pine, with large grassy meadows along the streams. The ecosystems are western spruce-fir, grand fir/Douglas-fir, and western ponderosa pine.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: This area is substantially natural appearing, but is bordered by lands that have been intensively logged on the east and west. It is separated from three other roadless areas by road corridors on the south. Man's influence on the natural integrity of this area has been very low. The mining-related impacts that exist are long term in nature, with little feasibility of correction; however, they comprise a small percentage of the area. Existing timber activities have fragmented the area. This roadless area would be apparently natural to most visitors, but some impacts are apparent.

Undeveloped Character: Nine intrusions totaling 2,300 acres were identified within the inventoried boundaries. Five of these have resulted from two timber sales and the other four are road corridors.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to small size, small distance from perimeter to core, only moderate topographic and vegetative screening and lack of diversity, the area provides little opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation. Opportunities for challenging experiences are rare.

Special Features: Although there is outstanding scenery along the Salmon River Breaks, the scenery in the remainder of the area is considered common for the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. About 3,100 acres are within the designated Wild and Scenic River corridor along the Salmon River.

Manageability: Due to the area's shape, the existing intrusions and fingers caused by road corridors and the terrain in the southern two-thirds of the roadless area, it would be virtually impossible to develop logical and manageable boundaries for this area. Mitigation by boundary change would be difficult at best. Size is a factor with this roadless area, as portions no longer meeting minimum size requirements for wilderness designation have been isolated by intrusions and portions remaining are in long, narrow bands.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Pine Creek has anadromous fish habitat. Several streams contain populations of resident trout. Stream habitats are generally characterized by moderate to high channel gradients with associated plunge pool holding areas. Habitat condition is good to excellent. Anadromous fish production potential is moderate. Fishing use in most streams is very light. Bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead, Inland redband trout, pacific lamprey, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Wildlife habitat diversity in this area ranges from the harsh river breaks along the main Salmon River and lower Pine Creek, to the homogeneous lodgepole pine stands on Upper East Boulder Creek. The lower elevations of this area provide key big game winter range, particularly on the east side of the Pine Creek drainage. Forage is limiting on the higher summer range areas, and logging these sites could increase big game habitat potential by creating a more favorable cover/forage ratio. Old growth timber in the mid-elevational zone provides abundant habitat for cavity nesters and other species such as pileated woodpeckers and pine marten. Bighorn sheep are common in the northwestern portion, where mountain goats are occasionally observed. The western portion provides high quality mountain lion habitat. The upper portion of the Virginia Gulch drainage currently offers near optimum summer habitat for elk and mule deer. Bald eagle also occur in this roadless area.

Water: The area has small and moderate size drainages directly tributary to the Salmon River and Panther Creek. Hot Springs Creek has a natural hot spring used extensively for recreational bathing. Most of area is in good to excellent hydrologic condition; however, past mining has had an extensive impact in this area. In the late 19th century, the upper Moose Creek watershed was diverted into the smaller Dump Creek channel. The resulting erosion and channel cutting in Dump Creek formed an enormous chasm. Other impacts from mining are seen in Boulder Creek. Water yield from this area is generally low to moderate, as annual precipitation is usually less than 20 inches.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation use estimated at 200 recreation visitor days in 1982 includes hunting and firewood gathering. Current low recreation use related to hunting is not expected to significantly change in the future. Firewood gathering would be prohibited should the area be classified wilderness.

Timber: An estimated 170.6 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 1.9 million board feet.

Range: Portions of Napoleon Gulch, Pine Creek and Diamond-Moose cattle and horse grazing allotments are within the roadless area. Napoleon Gulch grazing allotment has not been used for several years. Pine Creek is grazed by domestic horses and contributes approximately 150 AUM's of use each year. Diamond/Moose C&H allotment contributes approximately 1,000 AUM's. There are no structural improvements on either allotment.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 14,600 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: A small eastern portion of this area was rated as high hardrock mineral potential. Past mineral production from the eastern area includes gold and silver. There are six patented mining claims within the eastern area. Mineral potential in the eastern area includes gold, silver, copper, and molybdenum. Large portions of the additional area have an unknown hard rock mineral potential. Past mineral production from this additional area includes lode and placer gold. Known mineral potential for portions of this additional area include gold, thorium, rare earths, and uranium. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work. Some claimants are currently expanding their claim activity. This roadless area contains 51,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is one special use permit within the area for irrigation water purposes in lower Maxwell Gulch. The area previously has been, but is not now, used for outfitter and guide purposes. The area includes 152 acres of private land situated in five separate tracts.

Roads and Trails: The area includes ten trails totaling 38 miles, and four segments of forest roads totaling 2.5 miles.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered high along the Salmon River, moderate to low throughout the remainder of the roadless area.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is moderate. As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter, there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow

growth due to dwarf mistletoe or overstocking. Western spruce budworm periodically kills some understory Douglas-fir, especially on the drier sites. Occasionally the tops of the larger trees are killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir. Similar mortality occurs in the old ponderosa pine due to the western pine beetle. Dwarf mistletoe is causing serious deterioration in many Douglas-fir stands.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Napoleon Ridge Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	51,400	9,900	0
GFRG	0	38,400	48,300
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	3,100	3,100
Total Acres	**51,400**	**51,400**	**51,400**

Oreana #516

7,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Oreana Roadless Area is 32 air miles northwest of Salmon, Idaho, on the North Fork Ranger District. The area is bounded on the north by a Forest Road (065) along Horse Creek and mining road in Horse Creek, on the east by the Horse Creek Pass Road (044), on the south by past timber activities near Tincup Hill and the Oreana Ridge Road (067), and on the west by the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness. Access to the area can be gained from the three bordering roads.

The area is dissected by the small drainages that flow into Horse Creek. The side slopes range from 30 to 60 percent. The topography is a result of the dendritic drainage pattern that Horse Creek has developed. Oreana Lookout, at over 8,000 feet, is the highest point in the area; the low point is at 6,000 feet. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 below zero. Idaho Batholith granite bedrock has resulted in loamy sand to sand textured soils. Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine cover the area. The ecosystem represented is western spruce-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is substantially natural appearing. The area would appear natural to most visitors. Man's influence on the natural integrity of the area has been very low. The existing timber related impact could be mitigated by deletion.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to size, proximity to existing wilderness, good topographic screening, very good vegetative screening and lack of off-site intrusions, this area offers a high opportunity for solitude. The existence of some diversity and the lack of-developed recreation facilities combine with the previous factors to provide a high opportunity for primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: The scenery is considered common for the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest, and the area has no special features or attractions.

Manageability: The Oreana Roadless Area is separated by a road corridor from the Little Horse and Sheepeater Roadless Areas on the south; is adjacent to the Frank Church -- River of No Return Wilderness on the west and northwest; and is bordered by developed lands on the northeast and east. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area. Boundary modification would be necessary to delete a timber related intrusion on the east. Size is not a factor.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Only minimal fisheries are found within the area. Upper Horse Creek provides the most significant amount of fish habitat, where rainbow trout and bull trout are found. The lower portions of the drainage provide a substantial amount of anadromous fish habitat. Fishing use is moderate, and quality would be good to excellent. Bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead habitat is present.

Wildlife: The steep, moist slopes along Oreana Ridge provide good summer habitat for big game. However, the lower elevations are covered by dense lodgepole pine steeds, with some Douglas-fir on the drier ridge tops and south slopes, and thus offer limited summer forage. Mule deer and elk use the entire area, but current habitat conditions for these species is below site potential. With the exception of a few natural meadows and old burns, habitat diversity for all wildlife species is fairly low and could be improved by timber harvesting activities.

Water: Located in the headwaters of Horse Creek, the area's high water yield results from an average annual precipitation greater than 40 inches. Geology in the area is dominated by granitic rock, and the soils are quite erosive and subject to movement. Previous logging activities in the area have demonstrated that this area is highly sensitive to disturbance. While streams carry a high natural level of sediment, water quality is generally excellent.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation use is considered extremely light and is related to hunting. Use was estimated at less than 100 recreation visitor days in 1982. Current low recreation use is not expected to significantly change, due to terrain and the lack of attractions in the area.

Timber: An estimated 36.9 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .5 million board feet.

Range: With the exception of a small amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by livestock.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 200 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Hardrock mineral potential is unknown, but there are documented occurrences of gold, silver, and molybdenum within the area. There is no current mineral activity in this roadless area. This roadless area contains 7,600 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private lands within the area.

Roads and Trails: The area includes 4.1 miles of trail, 2.4 miles of forest road, and 3.9 miles of non-system trail used for prospecting access. Part of the area is used for outfitter and guide purposes.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is unknown. Historic cultural resource potential is low.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is very light. As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic, especially in the lower elevation lodgepole stands. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Oreana Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	7,600	0	7,600
GFRG	0	7,600	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**7,600**	**7,600**	**7,600**

Perreau Creek #511

8,200 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Perreau Creek Roadless Area lies approximately six air miles and nine road miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho, on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. Roads bounding and providing access to the area are the Baldy Mountain Road on the north, the Williams Creek Road on the south, and the Salmon River Mountain Road on the west. Access also can be gained by an old mining road that penetrates the area and follows along Perreau Creek.

Perreau Creek is the primary drainage for the area, but a portion of the southern part drains into Williams Creek. Elevations range from 4,500 to 8,800 feet. Topography varies from very steep side slopes at the lower end of the drainage, to moderately gentle slopes at the head of the drainage. Large areas of quartzite talus rock are found in parts of the area south of Baldy Mountain. Sandy loam soils are derived from the quartzite bedrock. The clay loam soils found on the area's south half are formed from Challis volcanic bedrock. The climate is typical of high mountain locations, with extreme temperature variations from winter to summer. Annual precipitation varies from 15 inches in the lower elevations to 25 inches in the higher elevations. Much of the precipitation is in the form of snow.

Much of the area is timbered with Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine, with the south facing slopes at the lower elevations being covered by sagebrush and grass. The area is in the grand fir/Douglas-fir Forest section of the Rocky Mountain Forest province.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is essentially natural appearing. There has been only minor influence by man on the natural integrity of this area, and most visitors would find the area to be apparently natural.

Undeveloped Character: One mining access special use road intrusion was identified in the eastern portion of the area. The road goes up Perreau Creek entering the roadless area near the Forest boundary and exits near Baldy Mountain.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to size, low topographic screening, moderate vegetative screening, and lack of diversity, the area offers moderate opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: The area contains limited amounts of outstanding scenery in the canyon bottoms. The remainder of the area would be considered common for the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

Manageability: The roadless area is bordered on the south by a road corridor and lands that have been intensively managed for timber harvest; on the west by a road corridor and lands proposed for intensive timber management; on the north by a road corridor that leads to an electronics site (outside the roadless area), and on the east by Bureau of Land Management administered lands. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this roadless area. Sufficient size would remain after deletion of intrusion.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Perreau Creek contains habitat suitable for maintaining a substantial cutthroat trout population, but habitat condition is currently below optimum because of high sedimentation. Fishing use is light to moderate, with the majority of users being area youth. Fishing is classed as good. Bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead habitat is present.

Wildlife: Lynx (T) occur in this roadless area. This small area is characterized by rough, steep slopes, with patches of Douglas-fir interspersed with sagebrush covered openings. Mule deer and elk occur in this area during all seasons of the year, but habitat potential for deer exceeds that for elk due primarily to the vegetative capability of the land.

Water: The Perreau Creek watershed is an important source of surface and ground water irrigation supplies to downstream landowners and ranchers. Channel conditions are fair to good in lower Perreau Creek, while in the upper reaches of the watershed hydrologic conditions are excellent. This roadless area contains 8,200 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Lemhi penstemon *(Penstemon lemhiensis)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation uses estimated at 400 recreation visitor days in 1982 include hunting, fishing, hiking, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, and trailbike riding. Recreation use is expected to rise due to the proximity of the area to Salmon, Idaho.

Timber: An estimated 17.6 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated potential annual yield of .3 million board feet.

Range: Much of the area is within the Williams Basin/Napias Creek Grazing allotment. Three permittees are allowed approximately 1,500 AUM's of livestock use. Most of the suitable range is in fair to good condition. There are a number of existing water developments and fences.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 2,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area is rated as high. Past mineral production includes gold and copper, and tungsten occurrences have been reported in the northwestern portion. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work, but there are no active mineral operations. This roadless area contains 8,200 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is a private tract of approximately 87 acres within the area, part of which has potential for recreation subdivision development.

Roads and Trails: The area includes 8.4 miles of trails, and 1.3 miles of special use permit mining access road.

Heritage: Little is known about the existence of prehistoric cultural resources in the area. The potential for such is considered moderate, with little likelihood of historic resources.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is very light. Mountain pine beetle is present in some of the lodgepole pine stands. Although not a problem at this time, there is potential for a major outbreak of mountain pine beetle due to the age, size, condition, and location of the lodgepole pine in the roadless area.

There are endemic levels of Douglas-fir beetle present in the Douglas-fir. Some stands of Douglas-fir are infected with dwarf mistletoe, which will continue to spread to uninfected trees.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Perreau Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	8,200	0	0
GFRG	0	8,200	8,200
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**8,200**	**8,200**	**8,200**

Phelan #508

13,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Phelan Roadless Area is eight air miles west of Salmon, Idaho, on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. It is bounded on the east by Forest Road 020, on the north by the old Leesburg road, on the west by logging roads and logging, and on the south by Forest Road 021 along Moccasin Creek. Access to the area can be gained via forest roads.

The area is in the Leesburg Basin and is dissected by Sharkey Creek, Rabbit Creek, Pony Creek, and Phelan Creek. Slopes are relatively gentle, between 15 and 50 percent. Elevations range from 6,500 feet to over 8,800 feet at Phelan Mountain. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 degrees below zero. Soils are formed from quartzite and volcanic bedrock. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir cover most of the area, although some grassy meadows occur throughout. The ecosystem is western spruce-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is essentially natural appearing. Man's influence on the natural integrity of this area has been very low, with the existing affected area a result of logging. The affected portion could be deleted by a boundary change. Most visitors would find this roadless area apparently natural.

Opportunities for Experience: Although this area has relatively gentle topography and is not large in size, its very dense screening contributes to a high opportunity for solitude. Lack of diversity and the above factors result in a low opportunity for primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: This area contains no special attractions or features.

Manageability: This roadless area is separated by road corridors from five other roadless areas, Napias, Jesse Creek, Perreau Creek, South Deep Creek, and Haystack Mountain on the north, east, and south, and is bordered by developed lands on the west. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Many of the streams within this area have been influenced by past placer mining. Only a very minor amount of fish habitat is present within this area, which provides no appreciable amount of fishing. Bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead habitat is present in small amounts.

Wildlife: Mule deer and elk occur throughout, but limited forage keeps their numbers below potential. Phelan Ridge serves as a rutting area for elk. The entire area provides dense lodgepole-mixed conifer timber needed for security cover during hunting seasons.

Water: The area extends across several tributaries of Napias Creek and receives moderate precipitation of up to 30 inches a year. Watershed conditions are generally excellent, as is water quality. Towards the south end of the area, roads in volcanic soils have resulted in some unstable watershed conditions. To the north, small mining and exploration activities have caused soil disturbance in the past, but have stabilized. This roadless area contains 100 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation use estimated at 5,400 recreation visitor days in 1982 includes hunting, firewood gathering, snowmobiling, and cross country skiing.

Timber: An estimated 47 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 0.67 million board feet.

Range: The entire roadless area contributes 150 grazing AUM's annually to the Williams Basin-Napias Creek Cattle and Horse Allotment. Condition of the suitable range is mostly good. There are no structural improvements.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area is rated as unknown. The area formerly produced placer gold, but there are now no active mining operations. Mining claim owners do continue their assessment work. This roadless area contains 13,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private land within the area, and no authorized special use permits have been issued.

Roads and Trails: No roads or trails exist within the area.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric and historic cultural resources is unknown.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is very light. As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Phelan Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	13,000	0	13,000
GFRG	0	13,000	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**13,000**	**13,000**	**13,000**

Sal Mountain #513

14,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Sal Mountain Roadless Area is seven air miles south of Salmon, Idaho on the Salmon-Cobalt Ranger District. The area is bounded primarily by the Forest boundary on the north, east and west. On the southwest, the divide between Haynes Creek and Withington Creek form the boundary. Forest Road 014 along Twelvemile Creek forms the southwest boundary. Access to the area can be gained from the Twelvemile, Withington Creek, and Haynes Creek roads.

The area is dissected by Withington Creek, Haynes Creek and Twelvemile Creek. Slopes are from 30 to 70 percent; elevations range from 4,600 feet, to over 9,500 feet at Sal Mountain. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter lows of 40 below zero. Annual precipitation, mostly in the form of snow, is from 15 to 30 inches. Quartzite and volcanic bedrock forms the loamy sand to loamy clay textured soils. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir cover much of the area. Sagebrush and grass meadows occur throughout the area. The ecosystems represented are sagebrush and western spruce-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The majority of the acres in this roadless area are in a natural condition. However, numerous intrusions are scattered throughout. Man's influence on the natural integrity of this roadless area has been high. Intrusions are scattered throughout the roadless area and there is little feasibility of correction.

Undeveloped Character: Seven intrusions totaling 3,500 acres were identified within the inventoried boundaries. Three of these are mining-related road corridors located near the forest boundary in Tenmile and Twelvemile Creeks, and the Harmony Mine access road in Withington Creek, Kadletz Creek and Twelvemile Creek.

Opportunities for Experience: The roadless area is impacted in many sections, with the impacts readily apparent to visitors. The area offers only moderate opportunities for solitude due to moderate size, little topographic or vegetative screening, moderate distance from core to perimeter, and the existence of permanent intrusions. Due to these factors and lack of diversity, the area has a moderate opportunity for primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: There is a limited amount of outstanding scenery in the vicinity of Sal Mountain and in the Haynes Creek Canyon. The remainder of the roadless area is considered common for the Salmon National Forest.

Manageability: The roadless area is bordered by lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management on the west, north, and east. It is bordered by developed National Forest System lands on the south. Due to existing intrusions, it would be extremely difficult to develop logical and manageable boundaries for this roadless area. Size is a factor, as portions of the roadless area have been isolated by intrusions and no longer meet minimum size requirements.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No known fisheries occur in this area.

Wildlife: This area contains high quality summer range for mule deer and elk. Some areas of excess cover exist in the upper portion of the area, but topography and presence of surface rock precludes most habitat management opportunities. The lower elevations provide key winter range areas for mule deer, elk, and antelope. Antelope summer range is also present at the lower elevations. The area around Tule Lake is an elk calving ground. A small bighorn sheep herd occupies Sal Mountain, and a few mountain goats may still be present in Haynes Creek. Mountain lions are present, and black bear are common throughout the area.

Water: The area contains several small tributaries of the Salmon and Lemhi Rivers. Water yields are relatively low in this area, and much of the streamflow is used by irrigators. Watershed conditions are generally good; however, historic mining and roading activities have resulted in some localized watershed instability and water quality problems. Stream channel projects have been completed to stabilize these problem areas. This roadless area contains 8,100 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Current recreation uses include backpacking, trailbike riding, and hunting. Use was estimated at approximately 200 recreation visitor days in 1982. Current low recreation use is not expected to change significantly, due to the lack of attractions in the area.

Timber: An estimated 23.6 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of .3 million board feet.

Range: Much of the roadless area is within the Twelvemile Cattle and Horse Allotment. Approximately 400 AUM's of use occur on the roadless area. The majority of the suitable range is in fair condition. Approximately three miles of fence and two water developments are located within the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 2,300 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has moderate to high potential for gold and copper. Mining claim owners continue to do assessment work. The area currently contains no active mining operations. This roadless area contains 14,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area includes two tracts of private land totaling 131.2 acres. Part of the area is used under an Outfitter and Guide permit.

Roads and Trails: The area includes 5.9 miles of trails, and the intrusion areas include 14.8 miles of roads.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered moderate. Several historic structures are known to exist in the area, but their significance has not been determined.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is light. Much of the area contains non-commercial Douglas-fir or brush growing in talus rock. Dwarf mistletoe is a serious problem in the few commercial stands of Douglas-fir.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Sal Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	14,000	0	14,000
GFRG	0	14,000	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**14,000**	**14,000**	**14,000**

Sheepeater #520

35,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Sheepeater Roadless Area lies approximately 30 air miles northwest of Salmon, Idaho, on the North Fork Ranger District. The area is accessed by trails at the mouths of Owl Creek and Cove Creek, and near the Pine Creek Bridge on the Salmon River. Roads on Beartrap Ridge, Tincup Hill, and below Blue Nose Lookout lead to the area.

The area is bounded on the north and northwest by a road along Long Tom Ridge, Tincup Hill, and Blue Nose; on the northeast by Forest Road 043 and a timber sale and associated roads; on the south and southeast by the Salmon River road; on the west by the ridge between East Butte Creek and Swamp Creek; and on the southwest by the ridge between Ebenezer Creek and Owl Creek. The slopes along the Salmon River and the lower reach of Owl Creek are steep (more than 70 percent) with many rock outcroppings. The higher elevations have broad rounded ridges with slopes of 30 to 40 percent. The slopes into the major drainages are from 40 to 60 percent. Owl Creek and the East Fork of Owl Creek, along with their tributaries, form the major drainages. Elevations are from 3,000 feet at the mouth of Owl Creek, to over 8,000 feet at Beartrap Lookout. The bedrock is the granite of the Idaho Batholith and the altered sediments of the Border Zone. Soils formed from these bedrocks range in texture from loamy sands to sandy loams. The vegetation on the south slopes is sagebrush and grass, with scattered stands of ponderosa pine. The higher elevations and cooler slopes have Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. The ecosystems represented are western ponderosa, western spruce-fir, and grand fir/Douglas-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: From high vantage points the area appears modified, primarily through timber harvest activities. Pockets remain where this modification is not noticeable. The area is surrounded by other areas of similar road and harvest densities. Past and current activities have influenced the area's natural integrity; these impacts will last for many years and are readily apparent to visitors.

Undeveloped Character: Seven intrusions were identified within the area during the inventory process. Five of the impact areas are in the Owl Creek drainage, one in Cover Creek, and one in Boulder Creek.

Opportunities for Experience: Intrusions have reduced opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Manageability: Past timber activities and associated roading have complicated the development of logical and manageable boundaries, but sufficient acres are left to meet minimum size requirements.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Boulder Creek and Owl Creek drainages provide the only fish habitat within the area. Boulder Creek contains a resident population of cutthroat trout. Past mining activity has adversely influenced habitat in the upper portion of the drainage. Owl Creek contains both resident trout and anadromous steelhead trout. Habitat condition is good to excellent. Only a minor amount of fishing occurs in Boulder Creek and quality would be rated as fair. Owl Creek provides a moderate amount of good to excellent fishing. The anadromous fish production potential is substantial. Bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead, Inland redband trout, pacific lamprey, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: This extremely rugged area contains high quality mountain goat and bighorn sheep habitat in the lower, or river breaks, zone. This portion of the area also serves as winter range for those two species plus mule deer and elk. Limited numbers of mule deer summer throughout the entire area, and the upper elevations provide summer elk habitat. Habitat potential for mule deer and elk could be improved in the northern portion by breaking up the homogeneous lodgepole stands and creating quality forage openings. The lower portion of the area is very near habitat potential for big game, and cover reduction would not be desirable.

Water: The area is located within several drainages tributary to the main Salmon River. Precipitation ranges from highs of 45 to 50 inches in the headwaters along the forest boundary, to approximately 15 inches adjacent to the Salmon River. The area is dominated by granitic soils, resulting in relatively high natural sediment rates. Generally, watershed conditions are excellent, as is water quality. Small scale mining activities have occurred in several parts of the roadless area; however, watershed conditions are stabilizing in most of these areas.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation use at present is considered light (200 recreation visitor days in 1982) and is primarily related to hunting. Designation as wilderness would neither restrict current use nor significantly increase use, due to the lack of features or attractions in the area.

Timber: An estimated 128.2 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume have an estimated potential yield of 2.9 million board feet. A sale was sold in the East Fork of Owl Creek in 1983.

Range: With the exception of a small amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by domestic livestock. Portions of one horse allotment receive minimal use.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 9,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Sheepeater Roadless Area has an undefined potential for gold and molybdenum associated with Tertiary intrusive activity. There has been minor past gold production and extensive exploration for molybdenum. This area would require further study to adequately assess hardrock mineral potential. There is about 35,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are private lands in lower and upper Owl Creek and Upper Spring Creek. The area includes four separate tracts of private lands (patented mining claims) totaling 246 acres.

Roads and Trails: The roadless area includes five trails totaling 32.1 miles, 11 roads totaling 19.0 miles, and 10 roads within the intrusion totaling 27.4 miles. The area also includes several miles of prospecting/mining access roads.

Heritage: The greatest potential for cultural resources occurs in a relatively narrow band adjacent to the Salmon River and in major drainages. The bulk of the roadless area has moderate potential.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is high in the area, with some fires of over 100 acres. Mountain pine beetle is endemic in some of the lodgepole pine. Age and size conditions and proximity to other lodgepole pine areas increases the potential for a major outbreak of the mountain pine beetle. There are endemic levels of Douglas-fir beetles present in the Douglas-fir and western pine beetles in the ponderosa pine. Dwarf mistletoe is present in some widely scattered stands of lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Sheepeater Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	35,400	6,500	33,500
GFRG	0	27,000	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,900	1,900
Total Acres	**35,400**	**35,400**	**35,400**

South Deep Creek #509A

12,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

This southern part of the initial inventoried Deep Creek Roadless Area was separated from the northern portion by a timber sale and associated roads. This southern part is now a separate roadless area, South Deep Creek #509A.

The South Deep Creek Roadless Area is 10 air miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. It is bounded on the north by a timber sale and associated roads, on the east and south by Forest Road #020, on the southwest by Forest Road #099. The area can be accessed by forest roads.

Little Deep Creek is the major drainage. Slopes range from relatively gentle (15 to 30 percent) at the higher elevations, to steep slopes adjacent to Little Deep Creek. Elevations range from 5,000 feet to over 8,000 feet near Swan Peak. Summer high temperatures of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit contrast with winter low temperatures of 40 degrees below zero. The 15 to 30 inches of annual precipitation occurs mainly as snow. Soils textures are loamy sand and sandy loam. Quartzite forms the bedrock. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir cover much of the area. Sagebrush and grass meadows are scattered throughout the area. Western spruce fir, grand fir/Douglas-fir are the ecosystems.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Most of the area is essentially natural appearing. Past and current activities have a high influence on the area's natural integrity.

Opportunities for Experience: This area has dense vegetative screening, but because of the small size, small distance from core to perimeter, and gentle topography, the opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation experiences are only low. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are fair.

Special Features: There are no special features or attractions.

Manageability: Recent roading into and around this area has made development of logical and manageable boundaries difficult. The boundary could not be expanded in any direction due to existing roads, and deleting impacted areas would leave an area for which logical boundaries would be impossible to delineate.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This area contains the headwater reaches of Deep, Little Deep, and Pepper creeks. All three streams contain resident trout populations. The streams are small with moderate to high gradients. Fishing use is light. Lower Deep Creek was historical anadromous fish habitat. Bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead habitat is present.

Wildlife: Big game summer habitat potential is high, but existing low numbers of mule deer and elk reflect an unbalanced cover/forage ratio. South Deep Creek Roadless Area is also characterized by old growth Douglas-fir stands along the ridge tops, and thus provides excellent habitat for pileated woodpecker and other species. Pine marten are abundant along drainages. The upper elevations of this area are very rocky, non-productive areas occupied primarily by sparse whitebark pine stands.

Water: The area is located predominantly in the Deep Creek drainage, a major tributary of Panther Creek. Generally, the upper watersheds are in excellent condition and produce excellent quality water. The lower reaches of these streams are adjacent to roads, which have historically caused stream sedimentation. However, most streams are in generally good condition.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation use was estimated at 400 recreation visitor days in 1982 and is related to big game hunting. Hunting use is not expected to change significantly.

Timber: An estimated 23.2 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 0.21 million board feet.

Range: The entire roadless area is within the Williams Basin - Napias Creek Cattle and Horse Allotment, contributing 245 AUM's annually to the allotment. Condition of the suitable range is mostly good, although small areas of fair and poor condition range do exist. Structural improvements are limited to one water development.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area's hardrock mineral potential is rated high. Past mineral production includes gold, cobalt, and copper from the nearby Blackpine Mine. No active mining operations currently exist. This roadless area contains 12,600 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Roads and Trails: There are 10 miles of trails and 3.6 miles of non-system trails within the intrusion. There are 26.6 miles of forest roads within the intrusion and 1.4 miles of unauthorized road. Outside the intrusion are 8.2 miles of forest roads and 4.6 miles of unauthorized roads.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric or historic cultural resources is low.

Landownership and Special Uses: An electronic site is located about one-half mile west of the private land at the Blackpine Mine.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is light. As the lodgepole pine increase in diameter there is an increasing hazard of a major mountain pine beetle epidemic. However, many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or over stocking. Western spruce budworm is periodically killing some of the understory Douglas-fir, especially on the drier sites. Occasionally the tops of the larger trees are being killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older larger Douglas-fir.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

South Deep Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	12,600	0	12,600
GFRG	0	12,600	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**12,600**	**12,600**	**12,600**

South Panther #504A

6,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The South Panther Roadless Area is located on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. During the initial review of inventoried roadless areas, the South Panther Roadless Area was considered part of the West Panther Roadless Area. Construction of the powerline from Salmon to the Blackbird Mine divided this area from the West Panther Roadless Area.

The South Panther Roadless Area is approximately 23 air miles due west of the City of Salmon. The area is bounded on the northwest and southwest by the Blackbird powerline and on the north and east by Panther Creek. The topography consists of broad rounded ridges and a dendritic drainage pattern formed by Quartz Gulch. Elevations range from 4,000 feet at Panther Creek to 8,000 feet. Quartzite forms the bedrock and soil textures are loamy sand. Most of the area is timbered with Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. The ecosystem is grand fir/Douglas-fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The South Panther Creek Roadless Area contains no intrusions, and none are planned. The area is essentially natural appearing. Human influence on the natural integrity of the roadless area has been moderate. Visitors would find the interior of the roadless area to be apparently natural.

Opportunities for Experience: The area's small size, short distances from core to perimeter, lack of topographic screening and diversity limit the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation experiences. Opportunities for challenging experiences or encountering serious hazards are rare.

Special Features: There are no special features or attractions. It is not known if the area represents any unique ecosystems.

Manageability: Logical and manageable boundaries exist for this roadless area. Size is a factor as the roadless area is near the minimum size required. The powerline corridor forms two boundaries. The South Panther Roadless Area is directly north of the Cobalt Townsite. The roadless area receives light use which is primarily hunting related.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead habitat is present.

Wildlife: Mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep are year-round residents here, where they spend winters along the Panther Creek face. Black bear and mountain lion are also abundant. Mixed stands of old growth ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir provide high quality habitat for cavity nesting birds and mammals.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation uses are extremely light and are related to big game hunting. Use was estimated as insignificant in 1982. Current inconsequential recreation use is not expected to change.

Timber: An estimated 36 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 0.40 million board feet.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 3,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area's hardrock mineral potential is rated high. No mineral production has occurred from this area. Mining claim owners are continuing to do assessment work. Cobalt-copper deposits occur throughout the south half of the roadless area. This roadless area contains 6,300 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: There are no known prehistoric or historic cultural resources in the area. Prehistoric cultural resources potential is considered low throughout the roadless area. Historic structures exist within the roadless area, but have no been evaluated for their significance.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is moderate. Endemic levels of mountain pine beetle and Douglas-fir beetle occur within the roadless area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

South Panther Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	6,300	2,600	6,300
GFRG	0	3,700	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**6,300**	**6,300**	**6,300**

Taylor Mountain #902

46,600 Acres Salmon
16,800 Acres Challis
63,400 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Taylor Mountain Roadless Area is approximately 16 air miles southwest of Salmon, Idaho, on the Challis and Salmon/Cobalt Ranger Districts. The area is bounded on the southwest by the Panther Creek Road (055) and on the northeast by the Copper Creek-Swan Peak Road (099). The east boundary cuts across the Iron Creek and Hat Creek drainages. The west boundary cuts across the Iron Creek and Hat Creek drainages. The west boundary cuts across the drainages of Opal Creek, Moyer Creek, Salt Creek, and Woodtick Creek. Access to the area can be gained from roads along Panther Creek, Moyer Creek, and Copper Creek, from the Salmon River Mountain road to Iron Lake, and from roads in the Hat Creek and Iron Creek drainages.

Dissected by the headwaters of Moyer Creek, Woodtick Creek, Hat Creek, and Iron Creek, elevations of the area range from 5,500 feet along Panther Creek to over 9,000 feet at Taylor Mountain. Low elevation slopes are between 20 and 50 percent. Mid-elevation slopes are from 50 to 70 percent, and the upper elevation slopes are up to and over 70 percent. Much of the country above 7,000 feet is typical of alpine glaciated topography, with lakes formed in the cirque basins. Rains occurring in the spring and fall, together with winter snows, bring average annual precipitation to 40 inches. Summer highs of 80 to 90 degrees are contrasted by winter lows of 35 degrees below zero. Challis volcanic bedrock on the lower elevations forms loamy clay to clay-like loam textured soils. Higher elevation quartzite bedrock forms the loamy sand textured soils.

Much of the mid to high elevational country is covered with stands of Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, with some subalpine fir at the higher elevations. The vegetation on the lower slopes is sagebrush and grass, with scattered stands of Douglas-fir. The ecosystems occurring in this area are sagebrush steppe, grand fir/Douglas-fir, and western spruce/fir.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area contains man-made elements such as fences, water developments, and terracing. Visitors would find the interior of the roadless area to be apparently natural.

Opportunities for Experience: There is little or no opportunity for challenging experiences, some opportunity for primitive recreation, and good opportunity for solitude due to the size of the roadless area.

Special Features: The roadless area's scenery is considered common for the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

Manageability: Taylor Mountain is separated from the Camas Creek Roadless Area on its western boundary by the Morgan Creek/Panther Creek Road corridor and is bordered on the north and east boundaries by lands of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. On the south, the area is bordered by Bureau of Land Management administered lands. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this roadless area. Size is not a factor; existing and proposed intrusions related to timber harvest could easily be deleted by boundary changes.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are several lakes within this area that provide suitable habitat for resident trout. One lake contains a population of Arctic grayling which are found in only one other area on the Salmon-Challis National Forest. Several streams within the area provide habitat for trout. Habitat conditions within the lakes and streams are generally excellent. Fishing use in the lakes is moderate to light. Opal Lake and the Hat Creek Lakes receive the major portion of recreational use. The quality of lake fishing is

excellent. Stream use is light and fishing quality is fair. This roadless area overlaps steelhead, Chinook summer salmon, and bull trout priority watersheds.

Wildlife: This area contains both key elk summer and winter range for the 200-250 animals in the Moyer Creek elk herd. Mule deer and black bear are commonly observed, and mountain goats are present within the area. The cover forage ratio on the upper portion of the Moyer Creek drainage is heavy to cover, thus big game habitat quality is below optimum. Wolverine and lynx may also occur in this roadless area.

Water: The area lies within the headwaters of several streams tributary to Panther Creek, as well as the headwaters of two large drainages which are directly tributary to the Main Salmon River. Landforms in much of the area are typical of glaciated terrain and several small glacial lakes are found in the area. Water yield is moderate in the area. Watershed conditions in the area are generally excellent, as is water quality.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: Recreation uses estimated at 2,700 recreation visitor days in 1982 include hunting, fishing, backpacking, and horseback riding. The highly scenic Hat Creek Lakes area in the southern portion of the area receives the heaviest use. Patterns, types, and amounts of recreation use are not expected to change. The greatest potential for recreation opportunities occurs in the vicinity of the Hat Creek Lakes.

Timber: An estimated 122 million board feet of sawtimber within the area have an estimated potential annual yield of 1.6 million board feet per year. This potential would be reduced by other resource needs, such as wildlife habitat, watershed, recreation, etc., and the cost of logging on steep slopes, the marginal quality of the sawtimber, and the high cost of building roads.

Range: Portions of five cattle and horse grazing allotments fall within the boundary of the roadless area, including Deer-Iron, Hat Creek, Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin, Forney, and Williams Basin-Napias Creek. Approximately 3,000 AUMs of use are permitted within the boundary of the roadless area, which includes fifteen water developments and 18.4 miles of fence. The majority of the suitable range is rated as good, with small amounts of excellent, fair, and poor condition range.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area is rated as high. There has been no mineral production from this area; however, mining claim owners are continuing assessment work. A high potential for gold and silver deposits is associated with the volcanics of the Van Horn Peak cauldron complex. The Blackbird cobalt-copper trend passes through the northernmost portion of the area. This roadless area contains 63,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private lands within the area. Part of the area has previously been (but is not now) under permit for outfitter and guide purposes.

Roads and Trails: This area includes seven trails for a total of 18.9 miles, and two forest roads within intrusion areas for a total of 5.3 miles. There also is 0.6 mile of unauthorized road, and a special use ditch permit of 0.5 mile within the intrusion area.

Heritage: Little is known about the existence of prehistoric cultural resources. Potential is considered moderate in major drainage bottoms and along the Salmon River Mountain road, and low elsewhere. The potential for the existence of historic cultural resources is unknown, though the Thunder Mountain Trail (mining related) passes along the north edge of this roadless area.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is light in the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Taylor Mountain Management Theme Salmon	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	46,600	21,600	46,600
GFRG	0	25,000	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**46,600**	**46,600**	**46,600**

Taylor Mountain Management Theme Challis	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	16,800	16,800	16,800
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**16,800**	**16,800**	**16,800**

Taylor Mountain Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	63,400	38,400	63,400
GFRG	0	25,000	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**63,400**	**63,400**	**63,400**

West Big Hole #943

84,400 Acres Salmon (Idaho)
132,900 Acres Beaverhead-Deerlodge (Montana)
217,300 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The West Big Hole Roadless Area is approximately 10 air miles northeast of Salmon, Idaho. The entire area is bounded on the east by the Continental Divide. The Divide is the boundary between Idaho and Montana and also the boundary between the Salmon-Challis National Forest and the Beaverhead National Forest. The area is divided into two parts where the Forest boundary is separated by lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The Salmon-Challis portion of this roadless area is located on the North Fork Ranger District.

The southern portion of the area is bounded on the east by the forest boundary and on the south by the Kenney Creek road. The western portion of the area is bounded by the forest boundary, the ridge between Tower Creek and Fourth of July Creek, Fourth of July Creek from Fourth of July to Stein Mountain and back to Magpie Canyon, then northwesterly around the slope to Wagonhammer Creek, the Wagonhammer Creek road to Highway 93, northwest and northerly across the slope above Highway 93, the ridge south at Bill's Canyon east to the head of Silverleads Creek, north along Stein Gulch to Sheep Creek. The north boundary is a ridge between Little Sheep Creek and Lick Creek. Access to the area can be gained from the roads up the several drainages that have their headwaters in the area.

The area is dissected by many streams that drain into the Lemhi, the Salmon, and the North Fork of the Salmon Rivers. Elevations range from approximately 5,600 feet to over 10,200 feet at Freeman Peak. Glaciation has formed broad U-shaped valleys at the heads of the major drainages; however, there was very little cirque development. Many high rocky peaks and rocky ridges occur throughout the area. This high country is typical of alpine glaciated country. Average annual precipitation is between 15 and 35 inches, falling mostly as spring and fall rains or winter snow. Summer high temperatures of 80 and 90 degrees at the lower elevations are contrasted by high elevation winter lows of 40 degrees below zero. Quartzite bedrock forms the area's loamy sand to sandy loam textured soils.

Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir at the lower elevations are replaced by lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce and some whitebark pine at the higher elevations. Grassy openings and wet meadows are scattered throughout the area. Rock outcroppings and talus slopes occur on the high peaks and ridges. The three ecosystem types represented in the area are western spruce-fir, grand fir/Douglas-fir, and alpine meadows and barren.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is essentially natural appearing. There has been virtually no influence by man on the natural integrity of this roadless area, with the exception of a timber sale in the Carmen Creek drainage and near the head of Little Silverleads Creek and a few scattered mining related impacts.

Existing roads up Carmen, Freeman, Pratt and Wimpey Creeks effectively provide access to the interior of the roadless area. Mining impacts are very apparent in the head of Wimpey Creek and especially Pratt Creek where there remain numerous buildings and other structures from past activities. Visitors would find this roadless area to be natural appearing, except in areas of past extensive mining.

Undeveloped Character: Several intrusions were identified in the area through public and in-service input. There are seven road corridors: 1) Pratt Creek, 2) Wimpy Creek, 3) Freeman Creek, 4) Eagle Mountain, 5) Bradley Gulch, 6) Sandy Creek, and 7) Kenney Creek associated with mineral and timber activities and private land access. These roads have beer and will continue to be periodically maintained. There are six intrusions associated with timber sale activity: Two of these are in the Carmen Creek drainage, one is in the Black Tail Creek drainage, one in Silverleads, one in Dry Gulch, and one in Sheep Creek. These intrusions total 2,000 acres. The areas directly impacted by these activities no longer meet roadless area criteria and those portions of the roadless area will not be considered further for wilderness.

Opportunities for Experience: This area provides a very high opportunity for solitude based on its large size, distance from core to perimeter, topographic and vegetative screening. Only the existence of some permanent offsite intrusions prevents it from being rated as outstanding. The area also provides very high opportunities for primitive recreation due to the above factors and a high degree of diversity and minimal developed recreation facilities. The area offers many opportunities for challenging experiences due primarily to terrain features.

Special Features: The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Corridor passes through this roadless area. The area contains significant amounts of outstanding scenery. Two Research Natural Areas, Kenney Creek (1,600 acres) and Davis Canyon (1,100 acres) are within the roadless area boundaries. The Davis canyon site contains an excellent representation of an elk sedge meadow. About 2,000 acres are within the Salmon River Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: During public involvement, input was received that the "jeep road" separating the West Big Hole and the Silverleads Roadless Areas was not a road, but a trail along the old phone line. This was verified and the inventory was adjusted by combining the Silverleads Roadless Area with West Big Hole The entire area is now identified as West Big Hole. The area is contiguous with the West Big Hole Roadless Area on the Beaverhead National Forest on the east, and lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management on the south. It is bordered by developed National Forest System lands on the west and north.

Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for this roadless area. Boundary changes would be necessary, as the existing roadless area has been virtually cut in two by a timber related intrusion. Size is not a factor with this roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: This area contains significant anadromous fish habitat in Sheep Creek, which is in essentially pristine condition. In addition, numerous other streams provide habitat for resident trout. Present habitat condition in these other streams is excellent. Three mountain lakes within the area have the potential to support fish. Fishing use of most area streams is light, with quality rated as fair to good. The anadromous production potential is substantial. Bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead habitat is present.

Wildlife: This large area is bounded on the east by the Continental Divide and consists primarily of rugged high-elevation lands, with numerous peaks in excess of 9,500 feet high. Mountain goats are found in much of the area, as are wolverines, fishers, marmots and pikas. This area contains the entire upper portion of the Sheep Creek drainage and the Goldstone Pass-Kenney Creek area, both of which are considered "core" areas of paramount importance to the migration corridor for interstate mule deer and elk herds. It also contains areas of key big game range in Little Sheep Creek, Stein Culch, and Kenney Creek. Black bear and mountain lion are particularly numerous in the Sheep Creek portion of this area, but are found throughout. Resident elk are present in small numbers in most drainages and resident mule deer occur throughout the area. Bighorn sheep are occasionally observed, but actual status of this species is not known. Wildlife habitat diversity is very good, primarily due to the broad range of elevations and habitat types inherent to this area. The Silverleads-Wagonhammer portion of the area is key big game winter range for mule deer and elk. Very few elk or deer summer in this area. Peregrine falcon and flammulated owl also occur in this roadless area.

Water: The southern portion of the roadless area produces essential irrigation supplies for numerous ranchers and residences. Stream conditions are generally good, and the area produces excellent quality water. A pipeline has been constructed for transporting water in the Wimpey Creek area.

Botanical: Flaexible alpine collomia *(Collomia debilis var. camporum)* and Lemhi penstemon *(Penstemon lemhiensis)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area. The elk sedge meadow in Davis Canyon represents a unique vegetative community.

Recreation: Recreation use was estimated at 3,100 recreation visitor days in 1982 and is primarily related to hunting and backpacking with limited trail bike riding. Recreation use in this roadless area is expected to increase significantly in the future as implementation of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail proceeds. Increases will be primarily in backpacking, hiking, and horseback riding, with some increase in hunting as access is improved.

Timber: Approximately 28 percent of the area is potentially suitable timberland. An estimated 139.4 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 1.5 million board feet. The volume is composed primarily of Douglas-fir at lower elevations and lodgepole pine at higher elevations. Alpine fir and Engelmann spruce also occur as minor components.

One sale of approximately two million board feet was sold in the center of the roadless area in Carmen Creek in 1981. A small intrusion on the northwest border resulted from part of a cutting unit from a 1968 timber sale that was erroneously included in the original roadless evaluation. Several cutting units of a 5.3 million board feet sale in 1975 intrude at the head of little Silverleads Creek. A 3.9 million board feet sale which was sold in 1981 in the head of Wagonhammer Creek has had no activities started to date.

Range: Six cattle and horse grazing allotments extend into the roadless area along the western and southern boundaries. The six allotments are Sheep Creek, Burns Basin, Fourth of July Creek, Carmen Creek, Pattee Creek, and Sandy Creek. Very little suitable range is actually within the boundary of the roadless area. In total, the roadless area contributes fewer than 750 AUM's of permitted use each year. There are approximately 4.5 miles of fence and 13 water developments within the roadless area boundary.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 18,600 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The hardrock mineral potential of this area is rated as high. Past mineral production from this area includes silver, gold, lead, zinc, and copper. There are numerous patented mining claims and associated low standard access roads within the area. Mining claim owners are continuing assessment work in this roadless area. This roadless area contains 84,400 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Parts of the area have been, but are not now, under permit for outfitter and guide purposes. There are two tracts of private land in upper Fourth of July Creek and two tracts in Gold Star Gulch, totaling 36.7 acres and 13.6 acres, respectively.

Roads and Trails: Roadless area lands in the North Fork of the East Fork of Tower Creek, for a length of 0.6 mile, are under permit to Thomas Conrad for culinary and irrigation water purposes. The roadless area also includes 31.6 miles of trail, 3.8 miles of which are within the upper Carmen Creek intrusion. There are also 3.3 miles of the historic Lewis and Clark Trail in the Silverleads-Wagonhammer portion of the area.

Heritage: Little is known of the existence of prehistoric cultural resources. The potential would be considered moderate in major drainage bottoms and low elsewhere. There are known historic resources scattered throughout the roadless area, but none have been evaluated for significance.

Disturbances: Much of the area contains high elevation (non-commercial) timber types, which are less susceptible to insect attack. However, there is an increasing hazard of a mountain pine beetle epidemic in the lower elevation lodgepole stands. Many lodgepole stands have slow growth due to dwarf mistletoe or overstocking. Western spruce budworm periodically kills some understory Douglas-fir, especially on drier sites. Occasionally, tops of larger trees are killed. The Douglas-fir beetle periodically kills small groups of the older, larger Douglas-fir. Dwarf mistletoe is causing serious deterioration in many Douglas-fir stands north of Kirtley Creek.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

West Big Hole Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	26,000	20,500
Backcountry	84,400	43,900	61,000
GFRG	0	11,600	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	2,900	2,900
Total Acres	**84,400**	**84,400**	**84,400**

West Panther Creek #504

32,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The West Panther Creek Roadless Area is approximately 23 air miles due west of the City of Salmon on the Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District. It is bounded on the northwest and west by the Frank Church -- River of No Return Wilderness, on the south by Blackbird Ridge and the lower one from Salmon to Blackbird Mine, and on the east by Panther Creek. Access can be gained to the area at the mouths of Clear Creek and Big Deer Creek along the Panther Creek Road, and from a mining road near the Blackbird Mine.

During the Forest Planning review of inventoried roadless areas, the powerline was considered as an intrusion into the West Panther Creek Roadless Area that separated a portion of the area in the southeast corner from the rest of the roadless area. This non-contiguous area is now being evaluated as a separate roadless area, South Panther #504a. Another non-contiguous area to the southwest is separated by the powerline and does not meet the 5,000 acre wilderness criteria. This area is no longer considered for wilderness potential.

The area is dissected by one major stream, Big Deer Creek, and two smaller drainages, Little Deer Creek and Quartz Gulch. Several small drainages feed directly into Big Deer Creek and Panther Creek. The sideslopes along Panther Creek and the lower reach of Big Deer Creek are steep (+70 percent) with many rock outcrops and near surface rock, and talus slopes. Remaining slopes are from 20 to 60 percent. The lowest point in the roadless area is along Panther Creek, which is 3,500 feet; the highest point is located along Blackbird Ridge, and is over 9,000 feet. Big Deer Creek forms a boundary between the granite bedrock to the north and the quartzite bedrock to the south. Granitic bedrock forms loamy sand textured soils; quartzite forms sandy loam textured soils. Much of the area is timbered with lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, and ponderosa pine. Sage and grass occupy the open hillsides. Western ponderosa, the western spruce-fir, and grand fir/Douglas-fir are the ecosystem types represented in the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area is essentially natural appearing. The overall influence of man's past activities or natural integrity has been low to moderate. The primary existing impacts are a mining impact in the Big Deer Creek Drainage and a powerline corridor in the southern tip which cannot be corrected. The powerline corridor could easily be deleted from any proposed wilderness by a boundary modification. One portion of the area is "split" by the powerline and no longer meets size qualifications for consideration as wilderness. Most visitors would find the majority of this roadless area to be apparently natural.

Undeveloped Character: Mining related access road intrusions totaling 886 acres were identified within the southern portion of the roadless area from the Blackbird Mine properties to Big Deer Creek and approximately one mile up Indian Creek. The Cobalt Townsite and Blackbird Mine powerline corridors cross the southeastern end of the roadless area and split it into three separate parcels. The southwestern parcel is less than 5,000 acres. This isolated portion of the roadless area and the road intrusion portion no longer meet roadless area criteria and will not be considered further for wilderness. The southeastern tip split off by the powerline is greater than 5,000 acres and is a new roadless area #504A South Panther Creek.

Opportunities for Experience: Due to large size, good topographic and vegetative screening, proximity to existing wilderness, high diversity and lack of developed recreation facilities, there is a very high opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation. Few opportunities for challenging experiences exist.

Special Features: The roadless area's scenery is considered common for the Salmon portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

Manageability: The roadless area is bordered on the west and north by the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness; by mining activities and lands managed intensively for timber harvest on the south; and separated by a road corridor from the Jureano Roadless Area on the east. Logical and manageable boundaries could be developed for a large portion of this roadless area. Size does not affect consideration of this area for wilderness, as it is adjacent to the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Fish habitat is limited to the upper reaches of Panther Creek and Big Deer Creek because of mining induced pollution further downstream. Conditions previously were considered good to excellent. Fishing use in Upper Big Deer Creek is light and quality would be high.

Wildlife: Mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep are year-round residents, wintering along the Panther Creek face. Natural mineral licks which occur in the Lick Creek and Mud Lick Creek areas are frequented by these big game species. Black bear and mountain lion are also abundant. Mixed stands of old growth ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir between Lick Creek and Indian Creek provide high quality habitat for cavity nesting birds and mammals.

Water: The small drainages in this area are in an excellent hydrologic condition and produce moderate to large volumes of excellent quality water. However, several streams have been significantly impacted by historic mining activities. Acid mine drainage has severely damaged the water quality of Blackbird Creek, lower Big Deer Creek, and lower Panther Creek, making these streams no longer favorable fish habitat.

Botanical: Lemhi penstemon *(Penstemon lemhiensis)* a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area.

Recreation: During 1982 an estimated 6,200 recreation visitor days of recreation use occurred in the Panther Creek Roadless Area, primarily related to hunting, backpacking, and horseback riding. Recreation use at present is considered moderate and is primarily related to hunting and wilderness access. There would likely be a slight increase should this area become designated as wilderness, as it provides early and late season access to the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness.

Timber: An estimated 194 million board feet of sawtimber growing stock volume within the area have an estimated annual potential yield of 2.1 million board feet.

Range: With the exception of a small amount of recreational horse use, the area is not grazed by livestock.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 7,500 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area's hardrock mineral potential is rated high. No mineral production has occurred from this area, which lies immediately adjacent to the Blackbird Mine, a major past producer of cobalt, copper and gold. Mining claim owners are continuing to do assessment work. Numerous cobalt-copper occurrences lie throughout the south half of this roadless area. This roadless area contains 32,500 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: The area includes two tracts of private land totaling 51 acres in Birch Creek and Little Deer Creek.

Roads and Trails: This area includes six trails totaling 39 miles. There are 1.2 miles of forest road and 5.6 miles of 69 KV powerline within the intrusion and guide permits are issued for the area.

Heritage: The potential for prehistoric cultural resources is considered high adjacent to Panther Creek, and moderate to low throughout the remainder of the roadless area. Historic structures exist within the roadless area, but they have not been evaluated for their significance.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence is moderate. Some Douglas-fir stands in the lower portions of Big Deer Creek are infested with dwarf mistletoe, and there are endemic levels or Mountain Pine Beetle and Douglas-fir Beetle within the roadless area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

West Panther Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	32,500	4,600	32,500
GFRG	0	27,900	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**35,400**	**35,400**	**35,400**

Blackhorse Creek #039

7,700 acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Blackhorse Creek Roadless Area includes the small northwestern portion of what was the Buttercup Mountain Roadless Area in the 1987 Sawtooth Forest Plan. During the Forest Plan Revision roadless area inventory update, the Buttercup Roadless Area was divided into three separate areas because the existing roads that separate them were considered to be too highly developed to meet wilderness standards.

The Blackhorse Creek Roadless Area is located in Camas County, within the Fairfield Ranger District, about 13 miles north of Fairfield, Idaho. It is bordered on the north and west by the Ketchum-Featherville Road (Forest Road 227) and on the southwest and southeast by the Little Smoky Creek Road (Forest Road 015).

The topography is very steep over much of the area. Precipitation averages from 16 to 20 inches. The elevations range from around 6,200 feet to over 8,400 feet. The slopes are generally vegetated up to the ridgelines with Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, and some lodgepole pine on the northern and eastern slopes. The southern and western slopes are vegetated with mountain shrub-sagebrush-grass communities. The brush communities include snowberry, bitterbrush, and sagebrush. Aspen is present but it is in decline due to fire exclusion and conifer encroachment.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural integrity and apparent naturalness are rated low because of mining activities, improved and unimproved roads along the borders, interior exclusions, and range management activities. The area includes 0.5 mile of unauthorized roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude are moderate, due primarily to the area's small size. The Ketchum-Featherville and Little Smoky Creek Roads can be seen from portions of the area. The distances from the center of the area to the boundary are generally less than two miles. Topographic relief, with numerous small and steep draws, does provide some opportunity for solitude. Opportunities for primitive recreation and challenging experiences are both rated moderate.

Special Features: Numerous old cabins exist from past mining activities.

Manageability: The boundary, as inventoried, would be difficult to manage because of many road intrusions, adjacency to numerous roads and timber sale areas, and irregular private land property boundaries. Although boundaries could be established that would improve overall wilderness qualities, an acreage reduction would occur.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: A few tributaries to Little Smoky Creek are thought to provide habitat for threatened bull trout. Occupied or historic habitat for redband trout may exist over most the area. Isolated pockets of brook trout are also present. No streams are considered strongholds for any fish species of concern.

Wildlife: Deer and elk are relatively common. Known nesting areas of northern goshawk, a Region 4 sensitive species, lie within the area. Habitat for threatened Canada lynx exists. Habitat exists for several Region 4 sensitive species, including wolverine, boreal owl, Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, flammulated owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, and spotted frog. Probable sightings of gray wolves have been reported. Grey wolves are considered an experimental non-essential population in this area. Black bear, cougar, bobcat, and pine martin are also present.

Water: Primary drainages within this area include tributaries to Little Smoky Creek, Blackhorse Creek, and Carrie Creek. Water from this area is used primarily for downstream aquatic habitat, irrigation, and hydropower generation. There are no lakes within the area.

Botanical: There are no known threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species present. Aspen is in decline due to a lack of fire, encroachment of conifers, and disease. There are no inventoried sites of noxious weeds in this roadless area.

Recreation: The predominate recreation uses are motorized trail bike riding, mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, big-game hunting and snowmobiling. Fishing opportunities are poor.

Timber: The current standing volume of timber is 30,099,000 board feet, equivalent to 56,700 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 3,000 acres of the roadless area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 1,200 acres of the roadless area are considered to have low timber productivity; 2,800 acres have moderate productivity; and 200 acres have high productivity.

Range: One sheep allotment covers about 25 percent of the grazed area and one cattle allotment covers the remaining 75 percent. Both allotments are managed under deferred rotation systems. There is a high level of structural grazing improvements on the cattle allotment, and a low level on the sheep allotment. Of the current allotments, 1,800 (23 percent of the roadless area) acres are considered capable for cattle grazing, and 100 acres (less than 1 percent) are considered capable for sheep grazing.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 600 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There are 19 registered mining claims, no leases, and no withdrawals within the roadless area. Two semi-active mines, some patented mining properties, and numerous mining prospects exist on the edge of the highly mineralized northern half of the area. The potential for energy or leasable minerals is low. This roadless area contains 7,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or state lands within the roadless area. Two special use permits have been issued for outfitter and guide services within the roadless area. Short-term special uses within the area have been increasing.

Roads and Trails: Motorized use comprises about 60 percent of the overall recreation use. There is one motorized trail (280) within the roadless area, which is about 6 miles in length.

Heritage: The area contains some historic sites associated with mining activities. A small number of American Indian cultural sites have also been identified within the area.

Disturbances: Wildfire has not been a significant factor within the roadless area. Dwarf mistletoe infections in Douglas-fir are common throughout the area.

ALTERNATIVES DESIGNATIONS

Blackhorse Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	7,700	7,700
Backcountry	7,700	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**7,700**	**7,700**	**7,700**

Black Pine #003

44,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Black Pine Roadless Area is located about 45 miles southeast of Burley, Idaho in Cassia County. The primary access includes Interstate 84, Idaho State Highway 81 from I-84 to Malta, Idaho; Utah State Highway 42 from I-84 on the south to the Utah-Idaho state line; and Raft River Highway District Highway 30 (formerly U.S. 30) from the Utah-Idaho state line to Malta. Several developed roads penetrate the area from all four sides. This area includes much of the Black Pine Division of the Minidoka Ranger District.

The major physiographic feature is the Black Pine Mountain Range. This range extends north and south through the area for about 17 miles and is comprised of limestones, calcareous sandstones, shales, and quartzites. Topography ranges from gently sloping lands around the base of the mountains to steep dissected slopes at the higher elevations. The flatter foothills occur primarily below 5,800 feet. The valley soils are deep alluvium and loess deposits that vary in depth and productivity. The mountain slope soils also vary from shallow, droughty soils to deep, moist soils. The soils in general are quite erodible. Elevations range from 4,960 feet at the southwest corner to 9,385 feet atop Black Pine Peak.

Vegetation types are sagebrush, juniper, aspen, mountain shrub, and conifer. The sagebrush type generally occurs on south and west exposures and extends from the boundary to the top of the mountain. The juniper type occurs on the foothill lands. The browse type occurs on the northeast and southwest edges. Conifer timber, Douglas-fir and subalpine fir, is generally confined to the north and east exposures and has experienced extreme insect mortality. There are scattered small patches of aspen and mountain mahogany.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural integrity and apparent naturalness are low. There are numerous intrusions into the area from unimproved roads, and there are livestock water developments, fences, and revegetation projects. There is evidence of past mining activities in upper Black Pine Canyon. The large open pit of Black Pine Gold Mine now exists in the Black Pine Division just southeast of the roadless area. The area includes 12.3 miles of unauthorized roads and 19.3 miles of forest roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude are moderate. Overall topographic screening is moderate and vegetative screening is low. The distance from perimeter to core of the area is less than 2 miles in most places. There are many off-site intrusions, primarily roads and highways. The unit is clearly visible from Interstate 84 on the north and east sides, and the Raft River Highway District Highway 30 on the west. The opportunities for primitive recreation experiences are low except for the higher elevations. There are few opportunities for challenging experiences.

Special Features: The Pole Canyon Research Natural Area is located within the area (200 acres).

Manageability: The location of the boundaries would make this area difficult to manage. Some of the boundary coincides with the Forest boundary, but most of it follows no distinct features. Although there is some opportunity to improve manageability through changes to boundaries, acreage would be substantially reduced and intrusions would likely still occur.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Yellowstone cutthroat trout populations are considered to be strong in Eight Mile Creek and present but depressed in Six Mile Creek. The Eight Mile Creek population is thought to be the most pure strain on the Sawtooth National Forest. Both of these streams are on the west side of the roadless area. Six Mile Creek also contains rainbow trout. No threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive fish species are known to exist within the area.

Wildlife: There are no known threatened or endangered wildlife species present. Habitat exists for Region 4 sensitive species, including Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, and Columbia sharp-tailed grouse. This area is important summer range for mule deer. Large numbers of deer winter at lower elevations in the southern one-third of the area. There is habitat for other common species of wildlife such as sage grouse, forest grouse, hawk, golden eagle, badger, cougar, bobcat, and coyote. This is one of the few places on the forest used by ferruginous hawks and Columbia sharp-tailed grouse. Grey wolves are considered an experimental, non-essential population in this area.

Water: The roadless area includes portions of all drainages of this mountain range. This area contributes small quantities of water for down stream irrigation. Eight Mile and Six Mile Creeks are the only perennial streams. Other drainages run water seasonally from snow melt and summer storms. Water quality is considered high in approximately 1,300 acres of the area, and fair over most of the remaining area. Water quality in Eight Mile and Six Mile Creeks is fair during periods of low flow and poor during high flows.

Botanical: The Region 4 sensitive plant, Desert Buckwheat (*Eriogonum desertorum*), is known to exist in this area. Small populations of black henbane, whitetop, and Canada thistle, and Dyers Woad have been identified within the roadless area. Their combined acreage is less than one percent of the roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use of the area is minor and primarily limited to big game and small game hunting in the fall. Fishing in this area is considered to be poor because of the small number of streams containing trout and because of the small size of the trout. There are no permanent recreation developments, and there is little opportunity for any intensive development of recreation sites.

Timber: The current standing volume of timber is estimated to be 56,000 thousand board feet, equivalent to 109,100 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 5,800 acres of the roadless area are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 300 acres are considered to have low timber productivity and 5,500 acres have moderate productivity.

Range: This entire roadless area is allocated to livestock grazing. It contains portions of six cattle allotments and one sheep allotment, which are managed under deferred rotation systems. Numerous range improvements are present, including fences, corrals, water developments, and pipelines. Livestock range revegetation projects have occurred within the area. An estimated 10,400 acres (24 percent of the roadless area) are classified as capable for cattle grazing, and 100 acres (less than 1 percent) are considered capable for sheep grazing.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 12,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals: The southern two-thirds of the Black Pine Range have been explored for gold deposits since the late 1800s. The area has high potential for occurrence and development of low-grade gold deposits. There is little or no potential for the occurrence of leasable solid minerals (coal and phosphate), and mineral materials (sand, gravel, and building stone). The roadless area has in the past been leased for oil and gas but has not been explored. The area has a low potential for development of oil and gas resources. This roadless area contains 44,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is one 120-acre parcel of private land within the roadless area boundary. A number of other parcels of private land adjoin the boundary. One outfitter and guide operation is permitted within the area.

Roads and Trails: The trail system in the area consists of about 20 miles of old, unmaintained trails and stock driveways, all of which are open to motorized travel.

Heritage: There is a moderate level of prehistoric sites and historic mining sites within the area.

Disturbances: Fire activity has been minimal in this area. Through the late 1980s and early 1990s, a Douglas-fir bark beetle epidemic killed much of the Douglas-fir in the Black Pine Division. One large sale

and several smaller sales removed salvage timber from approximately 1,500 acres. Helicopters were used to remove salvage timber from the roadless area.

ALTERNATIVES DESIGNATIONS

Black Pine Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	44,000	43,800	43,800
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	200	200
Total Acres	**44,000**	**44,000**	**44,000**

Boulder-White Clouds #920

322,700 Acres Sawtooth
139,300 Acres Challis
462,000 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Most of the Boulder-White Clouds Roadless Area is within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area of the Sawtooth National Forest. A large portion is on the Ketchum Ranger District of the Sawtooth National Forest, and on the Lost River and Yankee Fork Ranger Districts of the Challis portion of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The Sawtooth is the lead forest for the roadless area evaluation. The Boulder-White Cloud Roadless Area is also commonly known as the "White Clouds."

This roadless area is adjoined by three Bureau of Land Management roadless areas, known as Wilderness Study Areas. They all adjoin the eastern portion of this roadless area. The Boulder Creek Wilderness Study Area is 1,930 acres in size; the Jerry Peak Wilderness Study Area is 46,150 acres; the Jerry Peak West Wilderness Study Area is 13,530 acres. The total Bureau of Land Management acreage adjoining this roadless area is 61,610 acres.

This large roadless area is located north of Ketchum, Idaho, east of the upper Big Wood River Valley, east of the Sawtooth Valley, south of the Salmon River, and west of the East Fork Salmon River. The boundary is 3 miles north of Ketchum, 2 miles east of Stanley, and 28 miles south of Challis, Idaho. This area is located in Blaine and Custer Counties. Primary access is by way of State Highway 75 from Ketchum to Stanley and east down the Salmon River, the East Fork Salmon River Road, U.S. Highway 93 in the Big Lost River Valley, and Trail Creek out of Ketchum. From these highways and roads, which are mostly adjacent to the roadless area, access is provided on numerous developed roads of various standards, many of which were originally constructed for mining purposes.

The Boulder-White Clouds Roadless Area consists mostly of high, steep, rugged ridges and peaks that make up the mountain ranges, the U-shaped valleys, and over-steepened slopes. Elevations range from 6,200 feet along the Salmon-Challis National Forest boundary at Herd Creek to 11,815 feet atop Castle Peak. A majority of the area is over 8,000 feet and several other peaks exceed 11,000 feet. The mountain ranges of the White Cloud Peaks and Boulder Mountains are rocky, barren, and very steep. Soils across the area vary from moderately to highly erodible. The northwestern portion of the area has long, steep, bisected slopes that have not been glaciated. The eastern portion of the area on the Salmon-Challis National Forest receives little moisture, being in the rain shadow of the major peaks. Slopes are more rolling and stable with a vegetative cover of grass and sagebrush. Trees occur only in the more moist north slopes and higher elevations.

Vegetation on the remaining area is typical of mountain slopes in central Idaho. South slopes at lower elevations are generally sagebrush and grass. As elevations increase, the tree density increases. Above 8,000 feet, tree stands become a mixture of Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce (limited to the creek bottoms), and whitebark pine. Patches of aspen are scattered throughout. Limber pine and whitebark pine are found in the high cirque basins and near timberline. North slopes tend to have solid stands of trees except where soils are thin. The area contains many meadows, which are very important to wildlife.

Mountain peaks are spectacular and colorful, especially the White Cloud Peaks, which show the forces of nature with their folded and faulted strata. The White Cloud Peaks area has numerous cirque basins with high quality lakes and clear mountain streams.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: As a whole, the area has very high natural integrity, showing little impact by man. The apparent naturalness is extremely high. The Big Lost River drainage portion, outside of the main high peaks area, has a moderate level of natural integrity and appearance. Past activities have included sagebrush spraying, prescribed burning, historic logging, historic mining, and the construction of fences

and water developments to better manage livestock. Long-term campsites occur in some locations. The area includes 12.4 miles of unauthorized and 19.6 miles of forest roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude are very high. The rugged mountains provide a high degree of topographic screening. Vegetation, though not dense, also provides good screening. An exception to these screening factors is the rolling non-timbered slopes in the eastern portion of the area. In these areas, there is little tree cover to provide screening, but there are some long, V-shaped canyons. Distances from the center of the area to the perimeter provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, as does the fact that there are no permanent off-site intrusions. Opportunities for solitude are reduced on the Big Lost River portion of the area due to the ease of public access and high hunter use in the fall.

Opportunities for primitive recreation are also outstanding. Numerous activities can take place with little impact on other users. The screening by both vegetation and topography enhances primitive recreation potential. Self-reliance and challenge are found in many activities. More than 150 peaks are over 10,000 feet in elevation. The mountains are precipitous and many areas are devoid of trails, making access more challenging.

Special Features: Castle Peak, Boulder Peaks, White Clouds Peaks, and numerous high mountain lakes are special features to the area. Segments of the North Fork Big Wood River (5.5 miles), West Fork North Fork Big Wood River (4.3 miles), Little Boulder Creek (7.0 miles), Boulder Chain Lakes Creek (4.4 miles), Germania Creek (12.5 miles), South Fork East Fork Salmon River (5.9 miles), West Fork East Fork Salmon River (5.4 miles), Warm Springs Creek (21.4 miles), West Pass Creek (6.0 miles), Salmon River (0.4 mile), East Fork Salmon River (4.4 miles), and Trail Creek (10.0 miles) are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. An estimated 34,700 acres will be established as a special management corridor to protect the outstandingly remarkable values.

Some old mining cabins, the remains of an old fire lookout site, and other old developments are of historic interest. Horton Peak and Lookout Mountain are two historic fire lookouts in the area.

Manageability: The portion of the roadless area within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area is managed to protect and preserve the natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, and fish and wildlife values, and enhance their associated recreational values. Management options are, therefore, limited.

As inventoried, the area would be difficult to manage. Boundaries are complex and irregular, with many indentations and sections that run across slopes and drainages. Boundary modifications would be necessary to enhance manageability and form logical boundaries should the area become wilderness. One section of state-owned land is located on the Big Lost River portion of the area. Other than that, there are only a few very small parcels of private land within the boundary that could complicate wilderness management. The boundary could be changed slightly to exclude them.

There are numerous access locations available due to the area's large size. Historic and current patterns of motorized use would present some difficulty in enforcing a non-motorized use policy. Approximately half of the designated roads and trails on the Big Lost River side are open to motorized vehicles, and most of this portion is open to snowmobile use. The majority of this portion of the area is also open to the retrieval of legally-taken game with motorized vehicles.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Fish species present in the Salmon River and Wood River portions of the area include Chinook summer salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, Wood River sculpin, rainbow trout, and brook trout. Spring and summer spawning runs of Chinook summer salmon, and spawning runs of steelhead trout occur in some of the tributaries to the Salmon River. Bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout occur as both resident populations, and as adults moving up some of these streams from the Salmon River to spawn. Sockeye salmon move up the Salmon River, which adjoins the roadless area. The salmon and steelhead travel approximately 900 miles from the mouth of the Columbia River to spawn in these waters. Wood River sculpin is on the Region 4 sensitive species list.

The Big Lost River fishery is primarily a hatchery rainbow trout population. Some natural rainbow trout reproduction occurs; however, this is supplemented throughout the summer with catchable hatchery fish. Brook trout, whitefish, and shorthead sculpin are also found in streams. Whirling disease, prevalent in the Big Lost River and its tributaries, is having an impact on natural production. There are no threatened, endangered or Region 4 sensitive species in the Big Lost River drainage.

Wildlife: Habitat for wolverines, pygmy nuthatch, spotted bat, and spotted frogs may also occur here. Sixty species of mammals have been reported within the area. Grey wolves are considered an experimental/non-essential population in this area and are known to occur here. The area is within the range of the Canada lynx, a threatened species, and lynx has been sighted here. Habitat also occurs for bald eagle, fisher, northern goshawk, boreal owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, and great gray owl. Big game animals are common and include elk, mule deer, moose, mountain goat, antelope, bighorn sheep, black bear, and cougar. The East Fork Salmon River drainage contains key big game winter habitat.

Water: The area contains numerous mountain lakes and large streams, which drain into the Salmon River, East Fork Salmon River, Big Lost River, or Big Wood River. This water supports important fish, wildlife, and recreation resources on the forest. It provides for aquatic habitat, irrigation, hydropower, and other important uses off the forest. Water from streams on the Big Lost River side is stored in Mackay Reservoir for irrigation use in the lower valley. Water quality is generally very high.

Botanical: White Cloud milkvetch (*Astragalus vexilliflexus nubilus*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area. In the Salmon River and Big Wood River portions of the area, spotted knapweed is present on an estimated 160 acres, and yellow toadflax on 33 acres. In the Big Lost River portion, localized populations of noxious weeds include leafy spurge, diffuse knapweed, and spotted knapweed. Unique pockets of whitebark pine occur here. The whitebark pine in this area is still free of white pine blister rust, which has infested most other areas in the west.

Recreation: Portions of this area receive heavy recreation use, including both non-motorized and motorized dispersed activities. These activities include hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, motorbike riding, snowmobiling, camping, big game hunting, and fishing. Fishing opportunities are good in some areas.

Timber: The current standing volume of timber is estimated to be 1,821,100 thousand board feet, equivalent to about 3,536,100 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 112,200 acres are classified as tentatively suited timberlands. There are 143,900 acres considered to have low timber productivity; 83,600 acres, moderate productivity, and 35 acres, high productivity.

Range: Approximately 80 percent of the roadless area is grazed by livestock. The area contains all or portions of eight cattle allotments and one cattle/horse allotment (primarily on the eastern side and at the lower elevations), and ten sheep allotments (one is inactive). They are grazed in deferred rotation systems. There are a moderate number of grazing facilities in the eastern portion of the area, consisting primarily of fences and water developments. There are 14,800 acres of land (32 percent of the roadless area) classified as capable for cattle grazing, and 12,700 acres (3 percent) capable for sheep grazing.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 44,500 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There is high potential for the occurrence of locatable resources, specifically gold, silver, lead, zinc, tungsten, and molybdenum. Development potential is rated as moderate. There are approximately 100 mining claims located primarily within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area portion of the roadless area. The Sawtooth National Recreation Area is Congressionally withdrawn from mineral entry subject to valid existing rights.

Activity on the mining claims has been limited to assessment work in the 1990s, due to low metals prices. There is low potential for the occurrence and development of leasable solid minerals (coal and phosphate) and oil and gas resources. There is also low potential for the development of mineral

materials (sand, gravel, and building stone). This roadless area contains 462,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is one State-owned section of land in the northwest portion and a few other small parcels of private land within the roadless area. Permitted special uses consist of nine outfitter and guides engaging in summer pack trips, day rides, big-game hunting, fishing, backcountry skiing, and snowmobiling.

Roads and Trails: The developed trail system consists of 54 trails for a total of 323 miles. All but about 15 miles are open to mountain bikes. Trails currently open to motorized cycles total 118 miles.

Heritage: Some prehistoric American Indian campsites have been identified from the lithic scatters left after tool making. Some of the old mining cabins, the remains of one old fire lookout site, and other old developments are of historic interest. Horton Peak and Lookout Mountain are two existing historic fire lookouts within the area. The probability of finding new archaeological sites is moderate.

Disturbances: There have been no large fires in recent years. Some past sagebrush burning has occurred in the east side of the White Cloud Mountains, north of the North Fork Big Lost River Road. Douglas-fir beetle and mountain pine beetle infestations have occurred within the area. High intensity thunderstorms and high spring floods often impact drainages. Landslides are rare but they also cause some damage.

ALTERNATIVES DESIGNATIONS

Boulder-White Clouds Management Theme Sawtooth	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	158,900	115,500
Primitive	0	43,900	87,300
Backcountry	322,700	84,500	84,500
GFRG	0	700	700
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	34,700	34,700
Total Acres	**322,700**	**322,700**	**322,700**

Boulder-White Clouds Management Theme Challis	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	35,200	115,800
Primitive	0	84,900	0
Backcountry	139,300	19,200	23,500
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**139,300**	**139,300**	**139,300**

Boulder-White Clouds Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	194,100	231,300
Primitive	0	128,800	87,300
Backcountry	462,000	103,700	108,000
GFRG	0	700	700
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	34,700	34,700
Total Acres	**462,000**	**462,000**	**462,000**

Buttercup Mountain #038

56,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Buttercup Mountain Roadless Area includes the large eastern portion of what was the Buttercup Mountain Roadless Area in the 1987 Sawtooth Forest Plan. That area has been broken into three separate areas. Existing roads that separate these areas are considered to be too highly developed to meet wilderness standards.

This roadless area is located in Blaine and Camas Counties, and is within both the Fairfield and Ketchum Ranger Districts. It is located about 3 miles southwest of Ketchum and 9 miles northeast of Fairfield, Idaho. It is bordered on the north by the Ketchum-Featherville Road (Forest Road 227) and on the west by the Little Smoky Creek, Liberal Creek and Willow Creek Roads (Forest Roads 015, 096, and 017). The southern and eastern borders are the forest boundary with the exception of the area south of Greenhorn Creek and east of the North Fork of Deer Creek and Kinsey Creek.

The area around Buttercup Mountain is rugged terrain, and in other parts of the area, the topography is often very steep. The elevations range from around 5,800 feet to over 9,000 feet.

The slopes are generally vegetated up to the ridgelines with Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, and some lodgepole pine on the northern and eastern slopes. The southern and western slopes feature mountain shrub-sagebrush-grass communities, including snowberry, bitterbrush, and sagebrush. Some aspen is present but it is in decline due to conifer encroachment and lack of fire.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural integrity and apparent naturalness are rated low because of mining activities, range management activities, and improved and unimproved roads along the borders and interior exclusions. The area includes 9.9 miles of unauthorized and 4.7 miles of forest roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude are moderate. The Little Smoky, Willow Creek and Ketchum-Featherville Roads can be seen from many parts of the area. Due to the road intrusions, the distances within the roadless area to roads are generally less than 2 miles. Topographic relief, with numerous small and steep draws, does provide some opportunity for solitude. Primitive recreation opportunities are moderate, and opportunities for challenging experiences are moderate.

Special Features: Buttercup Mountain (9,075 feet in elevation) and Mahoney Butte (7,904 feet) are prominent features within this area. There are other special geological, scenic, or cultural resource features throughout the area. Some old cabins exist from past mining activities.

Manageability: The boundary, as inventoried, would be difficult to manage because of the many road intrusions and the adjacency to numerous roads and timber sale areas. Numerous boundary changes could be made that would improve overall wilderness qualities; however, acreage reductions would occur.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Wood River sculpin, a Region 4 sensitive species, are thought to be present in most of the area streams. Occupied or historic habitat for redband trout may exist over most the area. Isolated pockets of brook trout are also present.

Wildlife: Big-game winter range exists in Deer Creek and Willow Creek. Deer and elk numbers are relatively high. Moose have been transplanted to Willow Creek and have spread throughout the area. Upper areas of Buttercup Mountain provide nesting sites for the peregrine falcon. Known nesting areas of the Region 4 sensitive species, northern goshawk, lie within the area. Habitat for other sensitive species include boreal owl, Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, flammulated owl, boreal owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, wolverine, and spotted frog. Habitat for Canada lynx exists in this roadless area.

Probable sightings of gray wolves, considered an experimental/non-essential population in this area, have been reported. Black bear, cougar, bobcat, and pine martin are also present.

Water: Major drainages within this area include Little Smoky Creek, Willow Creek, Greenhorn Creek, and Deer Creek. Runoff from this area provides an important source for water for irrigation on the Camas Prairie and the Wood River Valley. It also supplies storage water for local reservoirs. Water quality is considered high in only about 400 acres of the area. There are no lakes within the area.

Botanical: This area is within the geographic range of Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*), a threatened plant species, but no individuals of the species have been found in or near the area. Bugleg goldenweed (*Haplopappus insecticruris*), a Region 4 sensitive species, is found here. Aspen is in decline due to a lack of fire, encroachment of conifers, and disease.

Noxious weed infestations of spotted knapweed (about 9 acres), diffuse knapweed, and Canada thistle occur in the area, but less than one percent of the area acreage is affected. Noxious weed populations are thought to be decreasing on the west side of the area, and static or increasing on the east side. Cheat grass has been increasing in recent years on the lower, drier sites, especially after disturbances. Areas of old forest are scattered throughout the area.

Recreation: The predominant recreation uses are motorized trail bike riding, mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, big game hunting, backcountry skiing and snowmobiling. A few miles of groomed snowmobile trail lie within the roadless area. Access across private lands on the southern flank is limited. Fishing opportunities are fair.

Timber: The current standing volume of timber is estimated to be 308,400 thousand board feet, equivalent to 581,000 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 35,700 acres are classified as tentatively suited for timber harvest. An estimated 1,700 acres are considered to have low timber productivity; 35,000 acres, moderate productivity; and 400 acres, high productivity.

Range: Six sheep allotments cover about one-third of the roadless area, and two cattle allotments cover the remaining two-thirds. Of the roadless area's 56,700 acres, 1,900 acres (3 percent) are considered capable for cattle grazing; and 9,000 acres (16 percent), are capable for sheep grazing. The sheep allotments are managed under a deferred rotation grazing system, while the cattle allotments are managed under a deferred rotation system. There is a high level of structural grazing improvements on the cattle allotments, and a low level on the sheep allotments. Some established sheep trails used for grazing allotment access exist within the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 9,800 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There are 21 registered mining claims, no leases, and no withdrawals within the roadless area. Two semi-active mines, some patented mining properties, and numerous mining prospects exist in the highly mineralized areas around Buttercup Mountain, Dollarhide Summit, Carrie Town, and Deer Creek. The potential for leasable minerals is low. This roadless area contains 56,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or State lands within the roadless area. Eight special-use permits have been issued for outfitter and guide services within the roadless area. Short-term special uses within the area have been increasing

Roads and Trails: Motorized use comprises about 60 percent of the overall recreation use. The non-motorized uses are more predominant in the east end of the area. There are 15 system trails within the roadless area, comprising about 37 miles. All of these trail miles are open for motorized use.

Heritage: The area contains some historic sites associated with mining activities. A small number of American Indian cultural sites have also been identified within the area.

Disturbances: Wildfire has not been a significant factor within the roadless area. Only a small area, 100 acres, has been burned by wildfire since 1960. Two prescribed burns, totaling 1,000 acres, have been

conducted. Douglas-fir mistletoe is common throughout the area. Deer Creek has been damaged by major floods several times, most recently in the spring of 1984.

ALTERNATIVES DESIGNATIONS

Buttercup Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	56,300	56,300
Backcountry	56,700	0	400
GFRG	0	400	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**56,700**	**56,700**	**56,700**

Cache Peak #007

26,500 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Cache Peak Roadless Area is located 26 air miles southeast of Burley, Idaho in Cassia County. The primary access is by the Independence Lake and Almo Park Roads (Forest Roads 728 and 727). The roadless area comprises much of the southern portion of the Albion Division of the Minidoka Ranger District.

The topography in some of the canyons is steep, rough, and rocky, with slopes varying from 10 to 70 percent. The higher reaches of the range have been glaciated. Cache Peak is the highest peak south of the Snake River in Idaho and is composed of metamorphic gneisses, mica schists, and quartzites. These are some of the oldest rocks in the state, age-dated at 2.4 billion years.

Four mountain lakes range in size from 4 to 15 acres. The soil is quite erodible. Elevations range from 5,800 to 10,339 feet. The area supports a variety of vegetation types, including pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, mountain brush, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, aspen, and mixed conifer/aspen types.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity of the area is good, with only a small percentage of the area affected by livestock grazing and associated facilities. The natural appearance of most of the area is high. The area includes 9.3 miles of unauthorized and 10.1 miles of forest roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude are low due to limited topographic and vegetative screening. The opportunities for primitive recreation are moderate. There are few opportunities for challenging experiences.

Special Features: The area contains a small portion of Castle Rocks, a noted formation associated with the City of Rocks National Historic Reserve. Cache Peak is the highest mountain in Idaho south of the Snake River, and Independence Lakes are the only example of paternoster lakes this far south in the state.

Manageability: The eastern and southern boundaries of the roadless area are the forest boundary. The west side is located along a broad ridge. Less-defined boundaries exist on the north and northwest portions, cutting across drainages and ridges. Boundaries could be modified to create an area with manageable boundaries and still retain a suitable acreage.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Some of the streams in the area contain Yellowstone cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and brook trout. Independence Lakes contain grayling and California golden trout. Mill Creek contains leatherside chub. The leatherside chub, a native species that has become rarer throughout much of its range, is considered a species of concern by the State of Idaho. No known threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species are known to exist within the area.

Wildlife: There are no known threatened or endangered wildlife species present. This area provides habitat for the northern goshawk, Townsend's big-eared bat, and flammulated owl. The area is summer range for mule deer. There have been a number of elk sightings, and an occasional moose is sighted. The lower elevations on the south end provide winter range for mule deer and elk. There is habitat for common species of wildlife such as sage grouse, forest grouse, hawks, golden eagle, cougar, bobcat, coyote, badger, and beaver. Grey wolves are considered an experimental/non-essential population in this area.

Water: This area includes the headwaters of Almo, Stines, Dry, Mill, Waterfall, Chokecherry, and Grape Creeks, and Green Canyon. The watershed value is moderate, providing relatively small amounts of water for irrigation off the forest. Water quality is generally fair during periods of low flow and fair to poor during high flows. Four natural lakes, the Independence Lakes, are located on the east side of Mount Independence. Water on the forest is used primarily for fish, wildlife, and recreation.

Botanical: Davis' wavewing (*Cymopterus davisii*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area. Some introduced species of grasses and forbs have been seeded in conjunction with range revegetation projects and fire rehabilitation. Small populations (totaling less than 10 acres collectively) of spotted knapweed, musk thistle, Canada thistle, and leafy spurge have been identified within the roadless area. This area contains many patches of old forest scattered throughout.

Recreation: Recreation use is moderate, except in the lake basin, where it is heavy. Primary activities include big game and small game hunting, and fishing, hiking, and backpacking around Cache Peak. Fishing in Independence Lakes is considered good. Fishing opportunities throughout the rest of the area are marginal due to the small size of the trout. Both motorized and non-motorized recreation use occurs. About 2,000 acres around Cache Peak and Independence Lakes are closed to off-highway vehicle use except for snowmobiles. The area contains one minimally developed campground in conjunction with the developed trailhead to Independence Lakes.

Timber: The area contains about 85,700 thousand board feet of standing timber, equivalent to 166,300 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 9,400 acres are classified as tentatively suited timberlands. About 8,500 acres are considered to have low productivity; 900 acres, moderate productivity; and no acres, high productivity.

Range: Portions or all of eight cattle allotments occur within the area. They are managed under rest and deferred rotation systems. There is a low level of livestock grazing facilities present, consisting primarily of fences and water developments. About 90 percent of the area is grazed; the area encompassing the lake basin is not grazed. An estimated 6,400 acres (24 percent of roadless area) are classified as capable for grazing by cattle, and 1,900 acres (7 percent) are considered capable for sheep grazing.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 12,500 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has a moderate potential for the occurrence and development of locatable uncommon variety building stone, locally referred to as “Oakley stone.” There is low potential for the occurrence and development of other locatable metal commodities such as gold, silver, copper and lead, or for mineral materials such as sand, gravel and other building stone. There is low to no potential for the occurrence of oil and gas, or leasable solid minerals (coal and phosphate). This roadless area contains 26,500 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private land within the area. Several parcels of private land border the perimeter. There are two permitted outfitter and guide operations.

Roads and Trails: The trail system in the area consists of five trails totaling an estimated 36 miles, of which 22 miles are open to motorized travel.

Heritage: The presence of cultural sites is moderate near springs. The potential for finding additional sites is probable. Views from the higher promontories include an overview of the City of Rocks National Historic Reserve, an area established to protect trail remnants and a significant camp area located on the historic Salt Lake to California Trail.

Disturbances: Only 100 acres have been affected by wildfire in recent times. Approximately 3,700 acres of prescribed burning to help revegetate livestock range have occurred, but this burning has not significantly changed the natural integrity. Moderate impacts to lodgepole pine stands have occurred from mountain pine beetles and dwarf mistletoe.

ALTERNATIVES DESIGNATIONS

Cache Peak Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	26,500	7,100	7,100
GFRG	0	19,400	19,400
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**26,500**	**26,500**	**26,500**

Cottonwood #010

11,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Cottonwood Roadless Area is located about 30 air miles southeast of Twin Falls, Idaho, in Cassia County. The primary access is by Highway 30, and the Foot Hills Road from just east of Murtaugh, Idaho to Oakley, Idaho. It is located in the northeast corner of the Cassia Division of the Sawtooth National Forest, on the Minidoka Ranger District. The area is composed of volcanic rhyolite ash flows that overlie older limestones and quartzites. The canyons contain some high, vertical rhyolite cliffs. The soil is moderately erodible. Elevations range from 7,200 feet at the southwest end of the area to 5,000 feet where Big Cottonwood Creek leaves the forest boundary. The higher elevations on the west side contain a few stands of lodgepole pine with heavy grass-brush ground vegetation between stands. Lower elevations, to the north and east, support stands of sagebrush, juniper, and mountain mahogany.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity of the area is high. The natural appearance is moderate with the existence of livestock grazing facilities and some primitive roads now being used as trails. The area includes 0.6 mile of unauthorized and 6.5 miles of forest roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude are low because of the area's relatively small size, short distances from the perimeter, and the effects of highly used adjacent areas. A large number of people could be attracted to this area, as it is very accessible to a large population base, further reducing the feeling of solitude. Opportunities for primitive recreation are also moderate due to the lack of diversity and challenging experiences.

Special Features: Special features include the bighorn sheep population that inhabits the cliffs of Big Cottonwood canyon.

Manageability: The topographic features would provide a manageable boundary for wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Big Cottonwood Creek and some tributaries contain Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Big Cottonwood Creek and Sawmill Creek provide important spawning habitat for cutthroat trout. Trout habitat has improved significantly since 1988, when riparian systems were implemented in the lower portions of Big Cottonwood Creek, and since the total rest from livestock grazing in recent years. No known threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive fish species are known to exist within the area.

Wildlife: The only known threatened or endangered species present is the wintering bald eagle. This area provides habitat for the northern goshawk, Townsend's big-eared bat, flammulated owl, and spotted frog. The area is summer range for mule deer, and for California bighorn sheep, introduced in this canyon beginning in 1986. The lower elevations also provide winter range for mule deer and bighorns. Rio Grande turkeys have been introduced into this canyon beginning in 1988. There is habitat for common species of wildlife such as sage grouse, forest grouse, hawks, golden eagle, cougar, bobcat, and coyote. Grey wolves are considered an experimental/non-essential population in this area.

At the mouth of the canyon, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game has established the Big Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Management Area. They are managing this area to provide habitat for wildlife, especially bighorn sheep, turkey, mule deer, cutthroat trout, pheasant, and partridge. The Wildlife Management Area also controls access into the canyon at this point.

Water: This roadless area includes most of the area draining into Big Cottonwood Creek. Big Cottonwood Creek provides water for irrigation, including the Big Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Management Area. Water quality is good and improving. As much as 400 acres are considered as having high water quality. None of this water reaches the Snake River by way of the original channel to Dry Creek. Water not used for irrigation is intercepted by irrigation ditches and goes to the Murtaugh Reservoir.

Botanical: There are no known threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species present. Canada thistle is a problem in lower Big Cottonwood Creek, below the forest boundary, but to date the roadless area has been free of noxious weeds.

Recreation: Recreation use is low but increasing, consisting primarily of hunting, fishing, and some off-highway vehicle use. Horseback riding and mountain biking are increasing. Many spectacular views of the Oakley Valley exist from some of the high ridges. Fishing opportunities are fair.

Timber: The roadless area contains an estimated 1,162 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 2,334 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 300 acres are classified as tentatively suited timberland, and all roadless area acres are considered to have low timber productivity.

Range: The entire area is within the Cottonwood cattle allotment. This allotment is now vacant because the use was waived back to the Forest Service by the former permittee. There is a moderate amount of remnant fence and a small number of water developments within this allotment. There are approximately 5,000 acres (43 percent of roadless area) classified as capable for grazing cattle.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 100 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There is low potential for the occurrence and development of locatable minerals, leasable solid minerals (coal and phosphate). The area has moderate potential for development of mineral materials (rhyolite building stone). The roadless area is potentially valuable for oil and gas resources but has low development potential at this time. The area contains 11,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There is no private or State land in the roadless area. The only special use permitted within this area is one cougar-hunting guide.

Roads and Trails: The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has acquired the private land at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Creek, and has closed the lower trail access to motorized vehicles. Motorized vehicles can still access the area from Cave Canyon to the north and several trail accesses in the south and west portions of the area. All of the roadless area is open to motorized use. A number of undeveloped four-wheel drive roads exist on ridges and in canyon bottoms. The Big Cottonwood Creek trail system consists of one trail totaling about 8 miles. There are also a number of non-system trails, which are not maintained but receive extensive use.

Heritage: This entire area was historically used by American Indians. Evidence of use exists throughout the area, consisting primarily of the lithic scatters left after tool making.

Disturbances: Fire has played a moderate role in this area. The most significant fire since 1960 was the 1988 Poison Fire that burned 2,000 acres, across the canyon in the center of this area. Primarily grass and brush lands were burned.

ALTERNATIVES DESIGNATIONS

Cottonwood Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	11,300	11,300	11,300
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**11,300**	**11,300**	**11,300**

Elk Ridge #019

9,400 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Elk Ridge Roadless Area is located in Camas County, about 8 miles north of Fairfield, Idaho, in the Fairfield Ranger District of the Sawtooth National Forest. It is bounded by Couch Summit Road (Forest Road 094) on the west, Little Smoky Creek on the north, and Wells Summit Road (Forest Road 095) on the east. The perimeter of the area is fairly accessible.

The granitic slopes are generally vegetated up to their crests with Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine on the northern and eastern slopes, and with mountain brush-sagebrush-grass on the southern and western slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Both the natural integrity and apparent naturalness rate as low because of the visibility of management activities and structural improvements that alter natural characteristics. The existence of some unimproved roads prevents a higher rating.

Opportunities for Experience: The opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation are low. The topographic and visual screening rate is low to moderate, and the distance from the perimeter to the core is only around one mile in most places. The area's close proximity to roads and all-terrain vehicle trails also diminish these opportunities. Opportunities for challenging experiences are limited.

Special Features: There are no notable special features in this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageable boundaries would be very difficult to establish because numerous developed roads penetrate theroadless area. The combination of size and shape of the area does not provide an opportunity to establish definable boundaries.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Threatened bull trout and Region 4 sensitive Wood River sculpin may occur in area streams. Rainbow trout are common in streams over most the area. Isolated pockets of brook trout are also present.

Wildlife: Mule deer, elk, and black bear are found within the area. Small mammals include beaver, muskrat, mink, badger, weasel, and red squirrel. Predators include cougar, coyote, and bobcat. The roadless area includes marginal winter range for deer and elk. It contains suitable habitat for peregrine falcon. Habitat for Canada lynx, a threatened species, is found in the area. The area provides habitat for northern goshawk, wolverine and fisher, flammulated owl and boreal owl, great gray owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, and spotted frog. Grey wolves are considered an experimental/non-essential population in this area.

Water: Runoff from this area provides an important source for water for irrigation on the Camas Prairie. Water also flows to the South Fork Boise River and is used primarily for downstream aquatic habitat, irrigation, and hydropower generation.

Botanical: There are no known threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species present. Spotted knapweed is known to occur on 1 acre, or less than 1 percent of the roadless area. Old forest is scattered throughout.

Recreation: The area receives a minimal amount of dispersed recreation use, mostly in the forms of hunting, snowmobiling, and all-terrain vehicle riding. Fishing opportunities are fair.

Timber: The roadless area contains an estimated 28,300 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 54,300 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 4,400 acres are classified as tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 500 acres are considered to have low timber productivity; 4,300 acres, moderate productivity; and 100 acres, high productivity.

Range: Portions of three cattle allotments, all managed under deferred rotation grazing systems, cover the entire roadless area. Sheep are allowed 10 days of use for travel to other sheep allotments. There are two cow camps within the roadless area located near the eastern and southeastern boundaries. There is a high level of developed improvements (water) and fences within the area. There are 2,200 acres (24 percent of roadless area) classified as capable for cattle grazing.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 3,400 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There are no registered mining claims, no leases, and no withdrawals within the roadless area. Presently, there are no mining activities. The potential for locatable minerals is low. There is no potential for leasable minerals. This roadless area contains 9,400 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no tracts of private land within the area. Permitted special uses within the roadless area include two outfitter and guide permits and a Sheriff's Department communication site on Elk Ridge.

Roads and Trails: Motorized use comprises approximately 80 percent of the overall recreation use. There are no system trails within the roadless area but groomed snowmobile trails are used in the winter.

Heritage: No cultural resources have been found.

Disturbances: An estimated 45 acres have been affected by wildfire since 1960.

ALTERNATIVES DESIGNATIONS

Elk Ridge Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	9,400	9,400
Backcountry	9,400	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**9,400**	**9,400**	**9,400**

Fifth Fork Rock Creek #023

16,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Fifth Fork Rock Creek Roadless Area is located about 18 miles south of Twin Falls, Idaho, in Twin Falls County. The primary accesses are by the Indian Spring Road, (Forest Road 544) south of Kimberly, Idaho, and by the Rock Creek Highway (County Road G-3) and west on the Oakley-Rogerson Road (Forest Road 500). The roadless area is located in the Cassia Division of the Minidoka Ranger District.

The area is composed of canyons eroded in rhyolite flows, with surrounding mountains and bench lands. The roadless area includes most of the area draining into the Fifth Fork, Little Creek, and Rock Creek. The soil is moderately erodible. Elevations range from 4,700 feet where Fifth Fork leaves the Forest boundary, to about 7,200 feet on the south end of the roadless area.

Mixed stands of lodgepole pine, subalpine fir and aspen dominate the higher elevations in the southern end of the roadless area, along with some open meadows. The lower elevation areas to the north are dominated by sagebrush-grass communities. Some juniper occurs in the northeast corner.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity of the area is moderate, due to the heavy livestock grazing and the presence of facilities for grazing. The natural appearance is low with high evidence of impacts from grazing, some primitive roads, and some evidence of past fire suppression and rehabilitation activity. The area includes 0.2 mile of unauthorized and 12.2 miles of forest roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude are good near the center of the area and moderate near the edges. Adjacent areas receive heavy use, including all kinds of motorized uses. Opportunities for primitive recreation are good. The area contains large, steep canyons, creating good diversity and challenging experiences.

Special Features: Fifth Fork contains the only known strong population of redband trout on the Forest.

Manageability: The topographic features would provide a manageable boundary for wilderness on the east, north and west boundaries. On the south end, much of the roadless area boundary crosses ridges and canyons, creating a less manageable boundary. Some adjustments from the inventoried boundary would be desirable.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Fifth Fork contains redband trout and brown trout in the main creek and a few minor tributaries. Little Creek contains redband trout. Rock Creek contains redband, Yellowstone cutthroat, rainbow, and brown trout. Redband trout are currently being studied by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine whether they warrant federal listing. No currently designated threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive fish species are known to exist within the area.

Wildlife: This area is mule deer summer range, and the north end of the area also provides mule deer winter range in low snow years. There is habitat for other common species of wildlife such as sage grouse, blue and ruffed grouse, hawks, golden eagle, cougar, bobcat, coyote, badger, and beaver. Elk numbers are slowly building on the Cassia Division, and elk are seen occasionally in this and nearby areas. There are no known threatened or endangered wildlife species present. This area provides habitat for northern goshawk, flammulated owl, and Columbia sharp-tailed grouse. Grey wolves are considered an experimental/non-essential population in this area. The area has bighorn sheep habitat. Mountain bighorn sheep were native to the area but were extirpated in the last century. Beginning in December 1986, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game made five California bighorn sheep introductions in Big Cottonwood and Dry Creek drainages. Some of the sheep moved west and are now located in an area adjacent to this roadless area.

Water: Fifth Fork contributes a significant quantity of water to Rock Creek, at a point about 1.5 miles below the forest boundary. Little Fork contributes a relatively small quantity to Rock Creek 0.25 mile below the forest boundary. Rock Creek leaves the forest with a substantial flow of water. Water quality from Fifth Fork is fair during periods of low flow and poor during periods of high flow. Water quality from Little Creek and Rock Creek is generally good, with increased sediment during periods of high flow. Water from this area is used primarily for downstream aquatic habitat, irrigation, and hydropower generation.

Botanical: There are no known threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species present. Some introduced species of grasses and forbs have been seeded in small portions of burned areas after wildfires. Noxious weeds have been increasing on forest and non-forest lands in this area. However, only small populations (less than 1 acre) of Scotch thistle have been identified within the roadless area. Very little old forest occurs within this area.

Recreation: Recreation use in the area is moderate. The major uses are off-road vehicle riding, upland bird hunting, and big game hunting. Horseback riding and mountain biking are also popular. Fishing opportunities are moderate in Rock Creek, but poor in Fifth Fork and Little Creek because of the small size of the trout. Most use occurs in the fringes of the area.

Timber: The roadless area contains an estimated 6,400 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to approximately 12,900 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 1,100 acres are tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 1,100 acres are considered to have low timber productivity; however, no acres are considered to have moderate or high productivity.

Range: The entire roadless area is allocated to livestock grazing. Most of the area is grazed by cattle and lies within two of nine deferred grazing units of one cattle allotment. There is a moderate amount of fence and a small number of water developments within the roadless area. The very eastern portion of the area lies within one sheep allotment used by bands of sheep rotating through this and other allotments to the south and east. There are 2,800 acres (17percent of roadless area) classified as capable for cattle grazing, and 7,500 acres (45 percent) capable for sheep grazing.

Minerals and Energy: There has been no recorded mineral activity in this area. No precious or base minerals are known to exist. There is low potential for the development of mineral materials (building stone) due to the remote location. The roadless area is prospectively valuable for oil and gas resources but has low development potential at this time. This roadless area contains 16,600 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: No private or State lands occur in the roadless area. The only special use permitted within this area is one cougar-hunting guide.

Roads and Trails: The roadless area contains three system trails totaling 9 miles, of which 6 miles are open to motorized travel. It also contains some wheel-track roads that are currently open to motorized use. Most of the perimeter of this roadless area is bordered by roads open to motorized vehicles.

Heritage: This entire area was historically used by American Indians. Evidence of use exists throughout the area, consisting primarily of the lithic scatters left after tool making.

Disturbances: Fire has played a moderate role in this roadless area, with three fires totaling an estimated 6,000 acres burned in recent years. About 1,000 acres burned in the Sagehen and Buckbrush Flats areas in 1981. Primarily grass, sage and bitterbrush were burned. An extensive bark beetle epidemic in the 1960s and 1970s killed large numbers of lodgepole pine trees.

ALTERNATIVES DESIGNATIONS

Fifth Rock Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	8,600	8,600
Backcountry	16,600	0	0
GFRG	0	8,000	8,000
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**16,600**	**16,600**	**16,600**

Hanson Lakes #915

39,900 Acres Sawtooth
13,500 Acres Challis
17,600 Acres Boise
71,000 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Hanson Lakes Roadless Area is located within the Sawtooth National Recreational Area of the Sawtooth National Forest, the Yankee Fork Ranger District of the Salmon-Challis National Forest, and the Lowman Ranger District of the Boise National Forest.

The Hanson Lakes Roadless Area has also been previously known as the Sawtooth Addition and Ten Mile -East. It is contiguous to the north end of the Sawtooth Wilderness; lies south of and adjacent to State Highway 21; east of Canyon Creek; and north of the South Fork Payette River. It is 9 miles west of Stanley. It is entirely within Custer County. In addition to access from State Highway 21, there is access from the Grandjean, Stanley Lake, Elk Meadows, Trap Creek, Vader Creek, and Thatcher Creek Roads.

The Sawtooth Mountain Range runs southeast to northwest through the area, terminating near Highway 21. The landform is heavily glaciated, with steep mountain slopes, cirque basins, and U-shaped valleys. The area on the west side is strongly dissected and has heavily timbered V-shaped valleys, canyons, and moraines that drain steeply into Canyon Creek. The east side is a large morainal area of rolling terrain, wet meadows, small pocket lakes, and dry benches. Twelve high mountain lakes are found in the cirque basins. Elevations range from 5,000 feet at the mouth of Canyon Creek to 9,290 feet near Hanson Lakes on the Payette River-Salmon River divide. The east side has a colder environment than the west.

The lower slopes on the east side are dominated by lodgepole pine with intermixed Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, and aspen. Higher elevations are dominated by whitebark pine and subalpine fir in open stands. On the west side, the lower elevations contain ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and sagebrush-grass communities. The higher elevations have primarily lodgepole pine and subalpine fir. Except for a number of wet meadows and the areas above timberline, the area is predominantly tree-covered. The soils are generally moderately erodible.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: As a whole, the area has a very high natural integrity, showing little impact by man. Some cattle and sheep grazing occurs on low-elevation grassy areas. Some of the creeks and meadows have been degraded in the past by cattle grazing. However, changes in the grazing system have resulted in this area being rested from cattle grazing for a number of years, restoring most of the natural appearance.

The surrounding area is relatively undeveloped and natural appearing. Small timber harvests are located in the lodgepole pine periphery, and a larger cutting area is located on Elk Mountain. The area includes 3.3 miles of unauthorized and 0.8 mile of forest roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation experiences are outstanding. The area has high topographic and vegetative screening. The distance from the center to the perimeter is about 4 miles. Diversity and opportunities for challenge are high. Much of the area is remote and contains few trails. Highway 21 can be seen and heard from those areas adjacent to the eastern boundary, and from nearby higher-elevation areas. Adjacency to the Sawtooth Wilderness enhances many of the roadless area's attributes.

Special Features: High cirque basins and mountain ridges are prominent, as is the gorge of Canyon Creek along the southwest corner. Mt. Zumwalt at 8,812 feet is a special feature in the western portion. Elk Meadow is a special feature. About 200 acres of the Bear Creek Research Natural Area lies within the roadless area. Segments of Fishhook Creek (1.2 miles), Goat Creek (2.1 miles), Elk Creek (10.9 miles), Stanley Lake Creek (5.8 miles), Redfish Lake Creek (0.2 mile) are eligible for Wild and Scenic River

designation. An estimated 8,600 acres will be included in the special management corridors surrounding these stream segments.

Manageability: The area lacks definable boundaries on the east side; however, the large size would allow for boundary adjustments without much of an acreage reduction. The area between Redfish Lake and Stanley Lake lacks easily definable boundaries. The Wilderness boundary is now along a trail in that area. The western boundary would be a quite manageable offset from State Highway 21. In keeping with the legislated intent of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, development options are limited. Management direction for the National Recreation Area is to preserve and protect the natural, scenic, and fish and wildlife values of the area, and enhance their associated recreational values.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Fish species present include Chinook summer salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, redband trout, rainbow trout, and brook trout. Spring and summer spawning runs of Chinook summer salmon, and spawning runs of steelhead trout, occur in some of the tributaries to Valley Creek and Marsh Creek. Bull trout occur as both resident populations, and as adults moving up some of these streams from the Salmon River, Middle Fork Salmon River, and the South Fork Payette River to spawn. The strong Canyon Creek bull trout population may provide an important source of colonizers to other areas of suitable bull trout habitat within the South Fork Payette River. Cape Horn Creek is considered a stronghold stream for bull trout. Salmon and steelhead travel approximately 900 miles from the ocean to spawn in these waters. Several of the alpine lakes have been stocked with westslope cutthroat trout and rainbow trout by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Wildlife: Lynx, bald eagle, wolverine, and fisher have been sighted in the area. Gray wolves are considered an experimental/non-essential population in this area. This roadless area provides habitat for Northern goshawk, white-headed woodpecker, flammulated owl, boreal owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, and great gray owl.

Big-game animals include elk, mule deer, mountain goat, moose, black bear, and cougar. Numerous other species of non-game animals and birds are present. The Boise Forest portion of the roadless area provides an estimated 1,600 acres of winter range for deer and elk along the lower elevations of the South Fork Payette River.

Water: This area contributes substantial quantities of water to Valley Creek, Salmon River, Middle Fork Salmon River, and the South Fork Payette River. Major drainages include portions of Fishhook, Meadow, Goat, Iron, Crooked, Stanley, Elk, Trap, Swamp, Cape Horn, Marsh, Bench, North Fork Canyon, South Fork Canyon, and Bear Creeks. This water provides for aquatic habitat, irrigation, hydropower, and other important uses off the Forest. Water quality is generally very good, with 9,500 acres noted as producing high quality; however, most drainages have excessive fine sediment from the naturally steep, erodible granite geology. This roadless area contains 10,400 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Stanley Thlaspi *(Thlaspi idahoense var. aileeniae*) a sensitive plant species occurs in this roadless area. A small infestation of rush skeletonweed (0.02 ac.) is known to exist within the roadless area. Much of the timbered area is old forest.

Recreation: Recreation use is light when compared to the Sawtooth Wilderness. Most use occurs on the Sawtooth National Recreation Area portion. A fair amount of use (primarily fall hunting) occurs along State Highway 21 and in the Grandjean area. Uses in the area consist primarily of hiking to Bridalveil Falls, Hanson, Bench, Martin, Elizabeth, Kelly, and Zumwalt Lakes for fishing and camping, and fall hunting. Several of the trails receive heavy use from people accessing the Sawtooth Wilderness. Mountain bike use is also popular on the Bench Creek and Elk Meadows Trails. Telemark skiing is popular in the Cooper Mountain area. Fishing opportunities are good.

Timber: The roadless area includes an estimated 347,500 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 688,200 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 40,400 acres are classified as tentatively suited

timberlands. An estimated 2,700 acres are considered to have low productivity; 12,200 acres, moderate productivity; and 400 acres, high productivity.

Range: Some sheep grazing occurs at lower elevations on the north end of the area, totaling about 5 percent of the area. The Boise National Forest portion of the area contains one active and one vacant sheep allotment. Much of the lower elevations along the southeast side are in a cattle grazing allotment. However, changes in the grazing system have resulted in this area being rested from cattle grazing for a number of years. Few grazing facilities exist in the area. There are 900 acres of land classified as capable for cattle grazing, and 3,600 acres for sheep grazing.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 4,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There is low potential for the occurrence of locatable minerals, leasable solid minerals (coal and phosphate), mineral materials (sand, gravel and building stone), and oil and gas resources. The area within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area has been congressionally withdrawn from mineral entry. No recorded mineral activity has occurred within this area. The area around Cooper Mountain was actively explored in the 1960s and 1970s for gold. The claims were dropped in the early 1970s. There is a moderate potential for the occurrence of rare earth minerals along the South Fork Payette River but development potential is low. This roadless area contains 71,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: No State or private lands occur within the area. One outfitter provides black bear and cougar hunting trips in the area and another provides deer and elk hunting trips, summer pack trips, and trail rides.

Roads and Trails: There are 16 developed trails totaling 53 miles; 19 miles are open to motorized vehicles.

Heritage: There are no known significant cultural resources present and the possibility of locating any is low.

Disturbances: Recent fire activity has been negligible. Bark beetles are present in high levels. In Canyon Creek, an outbreak of spruce budworm has been followed by Douglas-fir bark beetles. During periods of high-intensity rain, extreme erosion and soil displacement occurs in the Canyon Creek, Bear Creek and Camp Creek drainages.

ALTERNATIVES DESIGNATIONS

Hanson Lakes Management Theme Sawtooth	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	15,100	15,100
Primitive	0	2,500	2,500
Backcountry	39,900	13,700	13,700
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	8,600	8,600
Total Acres	**39,900**	**39,900**	**39,900**

Hanson Lakes Management Theme Challis	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	13,500	13,500	13,500
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**13,500**	**13,500**	**13,500**

Hanson Lakes Management Theme Boise	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	13,600	13,600
Primitive	0	3,800	3,800
Backcountry	17,600	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	200	200
Total Acres	**17,600**	**17,600**	**17,600**

Hanson Lakes Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	28,700	28,700
Primitive	0	6,300	6,300
Backcountry	71,000	27,200	27,200
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	8,800	8,800
Total Acres	**71,000**	**71,000**	**71,000**

Huckleberry #016

7,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Huckleberry Roadless Area is located within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and is 8 miles south of Stanley, Idaho. This roadless area lies west of the Sawtooth Valley between Hell Roaring Creek and Redfish Lake. It is bounded on the west by the Sawtooth Wilderness and on the east by private lands and Decker Flats Road (Forest Road 210). The southern boundary is just north of Hell Roaring Creek Road (Forest Road 315). Access is from State Highway 75 and Hell Roaring Road, Mays Creek Road, and Decker Flats Road.

The area is in the Sawtooth Moraines Lands Group. It is dominated by prominent lateral moraines and undifferentiated morainal material. The lateral moraines have steep, benchy slopes, while the undifferentiated areas have gentle slopes with hummocky topography. Soils are deep, but contain high volumes of rounded cobble and are poorly defined. Erodibility is low. Productivity for timber and forage is low due mainly to climatic limitations and the rocky soils. The area contains portions of Redfish Lake Creek, Decker Creek, and Hell Roaring Creek drainages. Elevations range from 6,600 feet at Redfish Lake to 7,800 feet.

Vegetation is primarily lodgepole pine. A few small parks and meadows are present. These openings are in wet creek bottoms or on the south side of the lateral moraines.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity is high. The construction and maintenance of about 20 miles of trail, and minor amounts of timber harvest (primarily firewood) along the Hell Roaring Creek Road, are the only physical developments or human- caused impacts in the area. To the visitor, after leaving the trailhead, lakeshore, or road, the area appears natural. In terms of natural integrity and appearance, there is no discernable difference between this area and the adjacent Wilderness, except that one gets closer to human activities on the eastern edge of the roadless area.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude and primitive outdoor recreation are moderate to high. Distances to the core of the area are less than 2 miles. Vegetative screening is high due to the tree density. Topographic screening is low, with most screening occurring in the hummocky areas. Diversity is lacking and there is little challenge. Motorized use on Redfish Lake influences those on the north side of the moraine, which slopes to the lake. Within this area one can hear the sounds of vehicles traveling on the highway in the Sawtooth Valley.

Special Features: The area has a unique geology in that the morainal deposits represent two glacial periods, Early and Late Bull Lake. The scenic quality of the area is typical of the scenic Sawtooth Valley. The Huckleberry Fens area, located southeast of Redfish Lake, includes bog environments containing a number of rare plants. The Redfish Lake Moraine Research Natural Area (1,500 acres) was established on the east side of Redfish Lake to preserve a large alpine glacier lateral moraine that includes cold springs, rocky lakeshore habitat, and Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir plant communities. Hell Roaring Creek (0.4 mile) is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. A special management corridor (an estimated 1,000 acres) will be established to protect its outstandingly remarkable values.

Manageability: Boundaries would be quite manageable. The western boundary is the Sawtooth Wilderness. The northwest boundary is Redfish Lake. The eastern boundary follows roads most of the way. The southern boundary is the Hell Roaring Creek Road. There could be some difficulty controlling motorized use from the adjoining area in the areas with gentle terrain. Some of the area has historically been open to motorized use.

In keeping with the legislated intent of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, development options are limited. Management direction for the National Recreation Area is to preserve and protect the natural, scenic, and fish and wildlife values of the area, and enhance their associated recreational values.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Fish species present include Snake River sockeye salmon, Chinook summer salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, kokanee salmon, rainbow trout, and eastern brook trout. Spring and summer spawning runs of Chinook summer salmon, and spawning runs of steelhead trout occur in Hell Roaring Creek, Lower Huckleberry Creek, and Bull Moose Creek. Bull trout occur as both resident populations and as adults moving up stream from the Salmon River to spawn in Upper Huckleberry Creek and Bull Moose Creek. Upper Huckleberry Creek and Bull Moose Creek also contain westslope cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and brook trout. Sockeye salmon spawn in Redfish Lake. Kokanee salmon are resident in Redfish Lake. Sockeye and Chinook summer salmon, and steelhead, travel about 900 miles from the Columbia River mouth to spawn in these waters. Sockeye salmon are an endangered species, while Chinook summer salmon, steelhead, and bull trout are threatened. The westslope cutthroat trout is a Region 4 sensitive species.

Wildlife: Gray wolves are considered an experimental/non-essential population in this area. This area provides habitat for threatened Canada lynx, bald eagle, fisher, northern goshawk, boreal owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, and great gray owl. Habitats also occur here for other Region 4 sensitive species, including wolverine, Townsend's big eared bat, spotted bat, and spotted frog.

The area contains deer and elk summer range. Due to the dense timber, there are few openings to provide summer forage. Black bear, cougar, and numerous species of non-game wildlife and birds are present. This roadless area provides connectivity between areas on all sides for wildlife.

Water: This area contributes water to the Salmon River system. The watershed condition is excellent and water quality is good. This water provides for aquatic habitat, irrigation, hydropower, and other important uses off the forest.

Botanical: A Region 4 proposed sensitive species, Blandow's helodium (*Helodium blandowii*), is known to be present in this area. This roadless area contains the Huckleberry Fens portion of the Sawtooth Peatlands Research Natural Area. There are no known occurrences of noxious weeds in this roadless area. The forested areas are almost entirely old forest.

Recreation: Recreation use is generally light. Other than big-game hunting, most use occurs from those traveling on trails to the Sawtooth Wilderness. Most use occurs on the Hell Roaring Trail on the south edge of the roadless area.

Timber: The current standing volume of timber is estimated to be 60,100 thousand board feet, equivalent to 119,000 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 5,900 acres are classified as tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 5,800 acres are considered to have low timber productivity; 1,600 acres, moderate productivity; but no areas have high productivity.

Range: No livestock are grazed within the area because of the dense timber stands.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 2,600 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There is low potential for the occurrence of locatable minerals, leasable solid minerals (coal and phosphate), mineral materials (sand, gravel, and building stone), and oil and gas. This roadless area contains 7,700 acres of high geothermal potential. The area has been congressionally withdrawn from mineral entry. No recorded mineral activity has occurred within this area.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or State lands within the area. Some private lands border it on the east. Five outfitter and guides hold permits for day rides, hunting, scenic trips, and fishing trips.

Roads and Trails: One trail is open to motorized trail cycles but receives very little use. The trail system consists of five trails that pass through the area totaling 20 miles.

Heritage: No significant cultural resources have been found, and the potential to find sites is low to moderate.

Disturbances: Fire occurrence has been insignificant. Mountain pine beetles continue to kill increasing numbers of trees.

ALTERNATIVES DESIGNATIONS

Huckleberry Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	7,700	5,200	5,200
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	2,500	2,500
Total Acres	**7,700**	**7,700**	**7,700**

Liberal Mountain #040

10,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Liberal Mountain Roadless Area includes a small southwestern portion of what was Buttercup Mountain Roadless Area in the 1987 Sawtooth Forest Plan. That area has been broken into three separate areas. Existing roads that separate them were considered to be too highly developed to meet wilderness standards. This roadless area is located in Camas County, within the Fairfield Ranger District, about 7 miles north of Fairfield, Idaho. It is bordered on the south by the Forest boundary, on the west by the Basalt Creek Road (Forest Road 095), on the north by a portion of the Liberal Creek Road (Forest Road 018), and on the east by a portion of the Willow Creek Road (Forest Road 017).

The topography is very steep over much of the area. The elevations range from around 5,800 feet to 8,272 feet on Liberal Mountain. The slopes are generally vegetated up to the ridgelines with Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, and some lodgepole pine on the northern and eastern slopes. The southern and western slopes are vegetated with mountain shrub-sagebrush-grass communities. The brush communities include snowberry, bitterbrush, and sagebrush. Some aspen is present but it is in decline due to fire exclusion and encroachment of conifers.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural integrity and apparent naturalness are rated low because of mining activities, improved and unimproved roads along the borders and interior exclusions, and range management activities. The area includes 0.6 mile of unauthorized and 0.9 mile of forest roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude are moderate, due primarily to the area's small size. The Little Smoky, Basalt Creek, and Willow Creek Roads can be seen from portions of the area. The distance from the center of the area to the boundary is generally less than 2 miles. Topographic relief with numerous small and steep draws, does provide some opportunity for solitude. Primitive recreation opportunities are moderate, and opportunities for challenging experiences are moderate.

Special Features: No significant special features occur in this roadless area.

Manageability: The boundary, as inventoried, would be difficult to manage because of the many road intrusions and adjacency to numerous roads and timber sale areas. Boundaries could be established that would improve overall wilderness qualities; however, an acreage reduction would occur.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: A few tributaries to Little Smoky Creek are thought to provide habitat for bull trout, a threatened species. The Willow Creek drainage has habitat for Wood River sculpin, a Region 4 sensitive species. Occupied or historic habitat for redband trout may exist over most the area. Brook trout are also present in isolated pockets.

Wildlife: Deer and elk are relatively common. Moose occur in some of the main drainages from past introductions. Habitat exists for Canada lynx, a threatened species, fisher, northern goshawk, boreal owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, and great gray owl. Habitat for wolverine, Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, flammulated owl, and spotted frog may also occur within the area. Probable sightings of gray wolves have been reported. Gray wolves are considered an experimental/non-essential population in this area. Black bear, cougar, bobcat, and pine martin are also present.

Water: Primary drainages within this area include Liberal, Cannonball, Wardrop, Sampson, and Big Deer Creeks, and tributaries to Willow Creek. Runoff from this area provides an important source for water for irrigation on the Camas Prairie and also provides water for the Boise River system used primarily for downstream aquatic habitat, irrigation, and hydropower generation. There are no lakes within the area.

Botanical: This area is within the geographic range of the threatened plant, Ute ladies'tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*), but no individuals of the species have been found in or near the area. Bugleg goldenweed

(*Haplopappus insecticruris*), a Region 4 sensitive species, is found here. Aspen is in decline due to a lack of fire, encroachment of conifers, and disease. Noxious weed infestations of spotted knapweed and Canada thistle occur in the area but less than one acre is affected. There are numerous stands of old forest scattered throughout the area.

Recreation: The predominant recreation uses are motorized trail bike riding, mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, big-game hunting, and snowmobiling. A few miles of groomed snowmobile trail lie within the area. Motorized use comprises about 60 percent of the overall recreation use. Fishing opportunities are poor.

Timber: The roadless area contains an estimated 31,800 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 61,200 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 6,700 acres are classified as tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 400 acres are considered to have low timber productivity; 6,400 acres, moderate; and 300 acres, high.

Range: The area contains two cattle allotments that are managed under deferred rotation systems. There is a high level of structural grazing improvements on these allotments. The entire roadless area is allocated to cattle grazing. There are 1,700 acres (16 percent of roadless area) classified as capable for cattle grazing.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 4,700 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There are 25 registered mining claims, no leases, and no withdrawals within the roadless area. The potential for leasable minerals is low. This roadless area contains 10,600 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or State lands within the roadless area. Two special-use permits have been issued for outfitter and guide services within the area.

Roads and Trails: There are two system trails within the roadless area, totaling about 8 miles. All of these trail miles are open for motorized use

Heritage: The area contains some historic sites associated with mining activities. A small number of American Indian cultural sites have also been identified within the area.

Disturbances: Wildfire has not been a recent significant factor within the roadless area. Douglas-fir mistletoe is scattered throughout the area.

ALTERNATIVES DESIGNATIONS

Liberal Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	8,700	8,700
Backcountry	10,600	0	0
GFRG	0	1,900	1,900
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**10,600**	**10,600**	**10,600**

Lime Creek #937

83,600 Acres Sawtooth
13,500 Acres Boise
97,100 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Lime Creek Roadless Area is located on the Fairfield Ranger District of the Sawtooth National Forest and the Mountain Home Ranger District of the Boise National Forest. This roadless area is located 10 miles northwest of Fairfield, Idaho, in Camas County. Access is by way of the Couch Summit Road (Forest Road 094), north of Fairfield; the Ketchum-Featherville Road (Forest Road 227) along the northern boundary; and the South Fork Boise River Road (Forest Road 156) downstream from Featherville. Numerous trails access the area.

Subalpine and glacial associated lands comprise most of this area, which contains the headwaters of Boardman, Deadwood, Deer, Lime, and Soldier Creeks. The highly erodible character of the steep granite slopes restricts use. The roadless area is of great importance for its snowpack and resulting water production. Elevations range from 4,400 feet along the South Fork Boise River to over 10,000 feet at Smoky Dome. Open sagebrush-grass communities dominate the south and westerly aspects, while moderate to dense stands of Douglas-fir and sub-alpine fir occupy north and easterly aspects at higher elevations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Evidence of man's activity exists in the forms of permitted grazing, grazing developments, and heavy recreation use. The trail to the Iron Mountain Lookout is well developed. The area includes 1.7 miles of unauthorized and 3.7 miles of forest roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude vary within the roadless area. The large size and varied terrain of the area provide some opportunities for solitude. However, the terrain tends to concentrate use largely along trails and more easily accessible areas. Most activity occurs near the heavily used developed sites close to Anderson Ranch Reservoir and the heavily roaded area near Sprout Mountain. Opportunities for primitive recreation are moderate to low because of the relatively small amount of rugged terrain and relatively few high mountain lakes. The limited access and high rattlesnake populations make the fishing experience along Lime Creek a challenge.

Special Features: The ten-mile-long Soldier Mountain chain includes a number of high peaks, including Smoky Dome and Iron Mountain. The South Fork Boise River (2.6 miles) is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. A special management corridor (an estimated 1,700 acres) will be established to protect its outstandingly remarkable values.

Manageability: The boundary, as inventoried, would be difficult to manage for wilderness values due to adjacent timber sale areas and excluded roads that penetrate the defined area. The south and west boundaries primarily border other land ownerships, which could complicate accessibility. Historic and current patterns of motorized recreation use would also contribute to management difficulties. Establishment of a manageable boundary would result in a substantial reduction in acreage.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Lime Creek offers historic spawning and rearing habitat for bull trout, a threatened species. The Camas Creek watershed provides habitat for the Wood River sculpin, a Region 4 sensitive species. Kokanee salmon travel up the lower reaches of the tributaries of the South Fork Boise River to spawn. Kokanee from Anderson Ranch Reservoir use the lower 4 to 5 miles of Lime Creek for spawning. Deer Creek crosses the northwest corner of the roadless area and is one of the few streams in the South Fork Boise River drainage with a natural population of westslope cutthroat trout, a Region 4 sensitive species. Rainbow and brook trout are common in several streams within the area. Lime Creek is known to support a strong population of native redband trout. Smoky Dome Lake contains golden trout.

Wildlife: Habitat exists for threatened bald eagle, threatened Canada lynx, fisher, northern goshawk, white-headed woodpecker, flammulated owl, boreal owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, and great gray owl. Gray wolves are considered an experimental/non-essential population in this area. The area may also contain habitat for wolverine, Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, mountain quail, and spotted frog. There are two elk feeding grounds near the South Fork Boise River. One lies within the roadless area and one lies just outside.

This area provides habitat for numerous species of big game, small game, and predatory animals. Mule deer, elk, and black bear are found within the area. Small mammals include beaver, muskrat, mink, pika, badger, weasel, and red squirrel. Predators include cougar, coyote, and bobcat. The roadless area includes winter ranges for deer and elk.

Water: Numerous miles of perennial streams within the roadless area fall within the South Fork Boise, Lime Creek, and Camas Creek watersheds. Lime Creek is a major drainage that flows west into Anderson Ranch Reservoir on the South Fork Boise River. Water from this area is used primarily for downstream aquatic habitat, irrigation, and hydropower generation. The area includes about a half dozen high-elevation mountain lakes.

Botanical: Giant helleborine (*Epipactis gigantea*) and Least Phacelia *(Phacelia minutissima)* two sensitive plant species occur in the area. Noxious weeds found within the roadless area include leafy spurge (569 acres), spotted knapweed (24 acres), diffuse knapweed, rush skeletonweed, and Canada thistle. These populations appear to be staying at about the same level. Scattered pockets and slopes of old forest occur across the area.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation is the predominant use of the roadless area and includes activities such as big-game hunting, horseback riding, all-terrain vehicle and trail bike riding, hiking, mountain biking, and backpacking. Winter recreation uses include snowmobiling and snowcat skiing. Approximately 75 percent of all recreation use is motorized use. Fishing is good in Lime Creek, which is very popular with local fishermen.

Timber: The roadless area contains an estimated 370,900 thousand board feet, equivalent to 731,100 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 49,500 acres are classified as tentatively suitable timberlands. An estimated 2,700 acres are considered to have low timber productivity; 34,400, moderate productivity; and 13,300 acres, high productivity.

Range: There are portions of seven sheep allotments and six cattle allotments within the roadless area. The sheep allotments are managed under a rest rotation grazing system, while the cattle allotments are managed under a deferred rotation system. There is a high level of structural improvements on the cattle allotments, and a low level of structural improvements within the sheep allotments. One designated and several historic sheep driveways lie within the area. There are 11,900 acres of land (12 percent of roadless area) classified as capable for cattle grazing, and 8,000 acres (8 percent) capable for sheep grazing.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 7,600 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There are a few inactive mines within the area. There are six registered mining claims, no leases, and no withdrawals within the roadless area. The potential for locatable minerals and leasable minerals is low. This roadless area contains 95,100 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: No State or private lands are located within the roadless area. Five special-use permits have been issued for uses within the roadless area. These uses include three hunting outfitter and guide permits, a snowcat skiing permit, and a radio repeater permit on Iron Mountain for the Camas County Sheriff's Department.

Roads and Trails: There are 18 system trails within the roadless area, comprising an estimated 97 miles of trail. All of these trails are open for motorized use.

Heritage: The area has low cultural resource sensitivity. Surveys in adjoining and overlapping areas, in similar topographic situations, show the area to be characterized by a low site density.

Disturbances: Fire activity has been minimal in recent years. One fire of 40 acres has been recorded since 1960. Spruce budworm and Douglas-fir tussock moth populations have returned to endemic levels after killing many trees in the early 1990s. Mountain pine beetle and Douglas-fir beetle epidemics are still active in localized areas. Most insect activity has occurred on the north-facing slopes above the South Fork Boise River and upper Lime Creek, affecting about a third of the roadless area.

ALTERNATIVES DESIGNATIONS

Lime Creek Management Theme Sawtooth	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	81,900	81,900
Backcountry	83,600	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,700	1,700
Total Acres	**83,600**	**83,600**	**83,600**

Lime Creek Management Theme Boise	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	13,500	13,500
Backcountry	13,500	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**13,500**	**13,500**	**13,500**

Lime Creek Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	95,400	95,400
Backcountry	97,100	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,700	1,700
Total Acres	**97,100**	**97,100**	**97,100**

Lone Cedar #011

6,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Lone Cedar Roadless Area is located 37 air miles southeast of Twin Falls, Idaho, in Cassia County. The primary access is by the Goose Creek Road south of Oakley, Idaho at Coal Banks Creek and the Rodeo Creek Road (Forest Road 533) in Trapper Creek. This area is located in the Cassia Division of the Sawtooth National Forest, on the Minidoka Ranger District.

The area is comprised of volcanic rhyolite ash flows that overlie older limestones and quartzites. There are many rhyolite ledges and cliffs throughout the area. Trapper Creek has especially vertical walls. The soil is very erodible, composed primarily of volcanic ash. Elevations range from 6,400 feet on the west end to 4,800 feet on Trapper Creek at the Forest boundary.

The vegetation types vary with elevation. At the lower elevations on the east end, a mixed stand of sagebrush and juniper dominates. Mountain mahogany stands occur on the west end at the higher elevations. Some juniper occurs on the slopes of Trapper Creek. The ground vegetation varies from bunch grass types on the east to grass-brush types on the west.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity of the area is low due to impacts from past vegetative manipulation, livestock grazing, livestock grazing facilities, and past fire suppression activities. The natural appearance is moderate for the same reasons. The area includes 0.2 mile of unauthorized and 1.7 miles of forest roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude are low since the surrounding area receives all forms of motorized recreation use. Off-site intrusions are visible (Lower Goose Creek Reservoir, Trapper Creek and Lone Cedar Roads, and Trapper Creek watershed projects). The distance from the perimeter to the center is less than one mile. Opportunities for primitive recreation are also moderate due to the lack of diversity and challenging experiences.

Special Features: Special features include several lines of high, vertical cliffs, composed of white volcanic ash stone in Ibex Hollow. Other volcanic ash stone outcrops have eroded into unusual cone shapes.

Manageability: Manageable boundaries exist on the east end in the form of the forest boundary, along Trapper Creek on the north, the Rodeo Creek Road along the west end, and Lone Cedar Creek on the south side. A portion of the southwest boundary is not well defined.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Trapper Creek contains rainbow trout, brook trout, and leatherside chub. The leatherside chub, a native species that has become rare throughout much of its range, is a species of concern for the State of Idaho. No fish occur in Lone Cedar Creek. No known threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species are known to exist within the area.

Wildlife: There are no known threatened or endangered wildlife species present. This area is summer range for mule deer. There is habitat for other common species of wildlife such as sage grouse, forest grouse, hawks, golden eagle, beavers, cougar, bobcat, and coyote. Gray wolves are considered an experimental/non-essential population in this area.

Water: This area includes the country draining into Lone Cedar Creek from the north, and the slopes draining into Trapper Creek from the south. It contributes small quantities of water to the Lower Goose Creek Reservoir for irrigation off the forest. Water quality is fair. Virtually all sediment from these drainages is eventually trapped in the reservoir.

Botanical: There are no known threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species in the roadless area. Some introduced species of grasses and forbs have been seeded in large portions of burned areas after

wildfires. Noxious weeds have been increasing on forest and non-forest lands in this area. However, only small populations of black henbane and Canada thistle, about three acres each, have been identified in the roadless area. Although the acreage is small, most of the forested area is old forest.

Recreation: The small amount of recreation is dispersed and primarily related to big and small game hunting, with minor amounts of off-road vehicle use. Fishing opportunities are fair in Trapper Creek.

Timber: The roadless area contains an estimated 73 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to 141 hundred cubic feet. No portion of the roadless area is considered tentatively suited timberland.

Range: This entire area is within portions of two cattle allotments, both grazed in a deferred rotation system. These portions of both allotments contain a moderate amount of fence, and they contain a small number of stock water developments. There are 3,900 acres (57 percent of the roadless area) of land classified as capable for cattle grazing.

Minerals and Energy: There is low potential for the occurrence and development of locatable minerals, and leasable solid minerals (coal and phosphate). The area has a high potential for the occurrence of, and a moderate potential for development of, mineral materials (rhyolite building stone). There is a recent proposal to remove lichen-covered rhyolite building stone from this area. The roadless area is prospectively valuable for oil and gas resources but has low development potential at this time. This roadless area contains 6,800 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or State lands within this roadless area. The only special use permitted is one guide who hunts cougars.

Roads and Trails: There are few established trails and no constructed trail system. All roads on the perimeter are open to motorized vehicle use, except for the brief mule deer buck hunt in the fall.

Heritage: This entire area was historically used by Native Americans. Evidence of use exists throughout the area, consisting primarily of lithic scatters left after tool making.

Disturbances: Fire has recently played a major role in this area. Much of the southern two-thirds was burned in the 1981 Lone Cedar fire, and follow-up controlled burns to remove additional sagebrush and juniper. A portion of the area has been chained to take down juniper snags and scarify the soil, and then seeded to grasses, forbs, and shrubs. The 1992 Trapper fire burned a small acreage of juniper and sagebrush in the northwest corner. Since 1960, five wildfires have consumed 2,600 acres of vegetation. During some years, this area is hit by high-intensity thunderstorms, resulting in large debris flows on the steep slopes of Trapper Creek. The lower reaches of Lone Cedar Creek are deeply entrenched as a result of past livestock use in conjunction with these severe storms.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Lone Cedar Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	6,800	0	0
GFRG	0	6,800	6,800
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**6,800**	**6,800**	**6,800**

Mahogany Butte #012

21,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Mahogany Butte Roadless Area is located 38 air miles southeast of Twin Falls, Idaho, in Cassia County. Road access is by way of Trapper Creek, Goose Creek at Coal Banks Creek, or from Nevada by way of Piney Creek. It is located in the Cassia Division of the Minidoka Ranger District of the Sawtooth National Forest. The boundaries are the Nevada state line, the Badger Gulch Road, the Trout Creek Pass Road, the Trout Creek Road, the Piney Creek Road, and the Beaverdam Creek Road.

The area is characterized by wide canyons with a combination of very steep and gentle slopes, containing only a few large rock outcrops. High ridge tops and gentle mountains, with some gentle plateau areas, dominate the high country. The geology consists of volcanic ash flow rhyolite on the southern end of the area overlying carbonaceous shales, phosphate, and limestone. The Phosphoria formation, carbonaceous shales, and underlying limestone are exposed in the north half of the area. The soil is moderately erodible in the western and northern two thirds of the area, and highly erodible volcanic ash soil in the south and eastern one third. Elevations range from about 5,200 feet at the Nevada border to 7,208 feet on Mahogany Butte.

Small stands of lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and aspen dominate north exposures on the north end of the area. Small timbered areas also occur on the west side. Most of the area is at lower elevations, and supports primarily grass and brush land, with some pockets of mountain mahogany.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity of the area is low due to a number of unimproved roads, the impacts of heavy livestock grazing, and the presence of grazing facilities. The natural appearance is low with the evidence of impacts from grazing, primitive roads, and some evidence of past fire suppression activity. A large increase in the number and size of beaver ponds in portions of Trout Creek has added to the natural beauty of these areas in recent years. However, these have been achieved through fencing, which detracts from the naturalness of the area. The area includes 10.3 miles of unauthorized and 23.6 miles of forest roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude over much of the area are low because of the area's relatively small size and the effects of motorized use on adjacent areas. It is also beneath a commercial and military flyway. Opportunities for primitive recreation are also moderate due to the lack of diversity and challenging experiences.

Special Features: Significant ecological features in the area include the large springs, which are the beginning of permanent water flow in Trout Creek and the large rock pinnacles in Swanty Creek. Another significant feature is Phantom Falls, a 50-foot water fall on Fall Creek.

Manageability: The current boundaries of this area would create a manageable area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Trout Creek contains Yellowstone cutthroat trout and rainbow trout, and includes important year-round and spawning habitat for Yellowstone. The leatherside chub, a native species that has become rare throughout much of its range, is considered a species of concern by the State of Idaho. It is known to have historically occurred in Trout Creek and possibly Jay Creek and Beaverdam Creek; however, its present status is unknown. The leatherside chub is known to be present in Trapper Creek and possibly Fall Creek within the roadless area. Fall Creek also contains rainbow trout and brook trout. No known threatened or endangered fish species are known to exist within the area.

Wildlife: There are no known threatened or endangered wildlife species present. Grey wolves are considered an experimental/non-essential population in this area. The area provides summer range for mule deer, and there is habitat for other common species of wildlife such as sage grouse, forest grouse,

hawks, golden eagle, cougar, bobcat, coyote, beaver, and badger. Elk numbers are slowly building on the Cassia Division, and elk have been seen here occasionally. This unroaded area connects low-elevation winter ranges and the higher timbered areas of cover for mule deer and elk.

Water: This area includes large portions of Piney Creek, Trout Creek, Jay Creek, Beaverdam Creek, and Fall Creek. It contributes a moderate amount of water to the Goose Creek system, all of which is caught in Lower Goose Creek Reservoir. This water is used for irrigation in the Oakley Valley.

Botanical: There are no known threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species present. Some introduced species of grasses and forbs have been seeded in small portions of burned areas after wildfires. Noxious weeds have been increasing on forest and non-forest lands in this area. However, only 6 acres of black henbane have been identified within the roadless area. Although the acreage is small, most of the forested area is in an old forest condition.

Recreation: Recreation use is primarily hunting and off-highway vehicle use in the fall. Fishing opportunities in Trout Creek and Fall Creek are fair. Moderate trail bike use occurs on a number of undeveloped roads. Snowmobiling is popular in the higher elevation areas to the north. There is no opportunity for intensive recreation development.

Timber: The current standing volume of timber is estimated to be 4,192 thousand board feet, equivalent to or 8,354 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 700 acres are classified as tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 700 acres are considered to have low timber productivity.

Range: This entire area is allocated to livestock grazing. The northern portion is grazed primarily by sheep, with a small number of cattle. There is a small amount of fence and a small number of water developments within the area. The southern and eastern portions are grazed by cattle in a separate allotment. This portion of the roadless area contains a large amount of fence, stock ponds, and developed springs for stock water. These allotments are both managed in a deferred rotation system. There are 11,900 acres of land (56 percent of the roadless area) classified as capable for cattle grazing, and 4,900 acres (23 percent) capable for sheep grazing.

Minerals and Energy: There is low potential for the occurrence and development of locatable minerals. Exploration for low-grade gold resources occurred in the 1980s but they have not proven to be valuable enough to warrant further exploration or development. The mining claims have been abandoned. The area has moderate potential for the occurrence of solid leasable minerals (coal and phosphate) but a low development potential. This low rating is based on the limited reserves of both phosphate and carbonaceous shale, located in a remote location. The shale, locally thought to be coal, was used (with limited success) to heat homes around the turn of the century. A 3,000-acre "coal" reserve still exists within the area.

There is low potential for the occurrence and development of mineral materials (building stone. The roadless area is prospectively valuable for oil and gas resources but has low development potential at this time. This roadless area contains 21,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: All of the land within the roadless area is in National Forest ownership, except for one 80-acre parcel on Trout Creek. This inholding could add complexity to wilderness management. The only special use permitted within this area is one guide who hunts cougars.

Roads and Trails: Undeveloped trails exist to varying degrees throughout the area. The only developed trail is the 2-mile trail to Phantom Falls in Fall Creek, which is not suitable for motorized travel. Much of the perimeter of this roadless area is bordered by roads that are open to motorized vehicles.

Heritage: This entire area was historically used by American Indians. Evidence of use exists throughout the area, consisting primarily of the lithic scatters left after tool making.

Disturbances: Fire has recently played a significant role in this roadless area. The 1959 Jay Creek fire burned a large acreage in the southeast corner, on the Nevada border. The 1992 Trapper Fire burned a

small portion of the north end of the area. In 1995, the upper Beaverdam Creek drainage burned in the eastern portion of the area. In 1997, a small fire burned in Willow Creek. With these and other smaller fires, an estimated 5,700 acres have burned since 1960.

An extensive bark beetle epidemic in the 1960s and 1970s killed large numbers of lodgepole pine trees in the small timbered area in the north and western portions of the area. The subalpine fir component is experiencing mortality from insects, disease, and other environmental factors.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Mahogany Butte Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	21,000	0	0
GFRG	0	21,000	21,000
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**21,000**	**21,000**	**21,000**

Mount Harrison #006

30,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Mount (Mt.) Harrison Roadless Area is located 15 air miles southeast of Burley, Idaho in Cassia County. The primary access is by the Howell Canyon Road (Forest Road 549) south of Albion, Idaho. It is located in the Albion Division of the Minidoka Ranger District. The boundaries generally follow the forest boundary, except where they follow the roads, some of which penetrate deep into the interior.

The geology of the area consists of metamorphic gneisses, mica schists, and quartzites that are some of the oldest rocks in the state, with age dates at 2.4 billion years. Much of the area is steep and rocky. Water from the area is important for recreation uses, in-stream flows for trout, wildlife, and downstream irrigation and hydropower uses. Elevations range from about 5,500 feet to 9,263 feet on Mt. Harrison.

Douglas-fir, subalpine fir and aspen are found on the northerly slopes with sage-grass and mountain brush communities on southern aspects.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity of the area is rated moderate to high. The natural appearance is rated as low as a result of livestock grazing impacts, grazing facilities, the existence of low-standard roads, past fire suppression activity, and recreation developments. The area includes 8.0 mile of unauthorized and 23.6 miles of forest roads.

Opportunities for Experience: The opportunities for solitude are considered low, mostly because of the intrusions, including the highly developed Howell Canyon, which almost divides the area, and the short distance from the perimeter to the interior. Opportunities for primitive recreation experiences are limited, due to the lack of diversity and few challenging experiences.

Special Features: A bout 300 acres of the Mt. Harrison Research Natural Area lies within this roadless area.

Manageability: Manageable boundaries would be difficult to establish. Boundary modification would not enhance the area's wilderness characteristics.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Some streams in the area contain Yellowstone cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and brook trout. No known threatened, endangered or Region 4 sensitive fish species are known to exist within the area.

Wildlife: Although there are no known threatened or endangered wildlife species present, the area provides habitat for threatened Canada lynx. This area may also provide habitat for northern goshawk, Townsend's big-eared bat, flammulated owl, and boreal owl. Grey wolves are considered an experimental/non-essential population in this area. The area is summer range for mule deer. The lower elevations on the west side provide winter range for mule deer. There is habitat for other species of wildlife such as sage grouse, forest grouse, hawks, golden eagle, cougar, bobcat, coyote, badger, and beaver.

Water: This area contains portions of most of the drainages that run outward from Mt. Harrison. Water quality is generally fair during periods of low flow and fair to poor during high flows. Water from this area is used primarily for downstream aquatic habitat, irrigation, and hydropower generation. Maintenance of minimum water flow from this portion of the roadless area is important.

Botanical: Christ's Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja christii*) and Davis' wavewing *(Cymopterus davisii)* two sensitive plant species occur in the area also occurs here. Minor populations of Engelmann spruce and limber pine occurs within the area, and they are rare in extreme southern Idaho. Aspen is in decline from conifer encroachment due to the lack of fire. Some introduced species of grasses and forbs have been seeded in conjunction with range revegetation projects and fire rehabilitation. Noxious weeds have been

increasing on forest and non-forest lands in this area. However, only small populations of Canada thistle (4 acres) and medusa head (0.4 acre) have been identified within the roadless area. Small amounts of old forest are scattered across the timbered portions of the area.

Recreation: This area is used extensively for various types of recreation. Big-game hunting in the fall is a major use. Some small-game hunting also occurs. Fishing opportunities are marginal due to the small size of the trout and the few scattered streams containing trout. Dispersed uses include hang gliding, groomed snowmobile trails, and horseback riding. The paved Howell Canyon Road allows easy access for off-road vehicle use and hiking in summer, and cross-country skiing in the winter. The adjacent developed portions of Howell Canyon include the Pomerelle Ski Area, the Lake Cleveland Recreation Area, the Thompson Flat Campground and summer homes, and the Mt. Harrison Fire Lookout. Visitors to the Mount Harrison lookout have an excellent view of the roadless area.

Range: About 90 percent of the roadless area is allocated to livestock grazing. Portions or all of six cattle allotments are located within the area. They are managed in rest and deferred rotation systems. There are a small number of livestock grazing facilities, consisting primarily of fences and water developments. There are 10,600 acres of land (35 percent of the roadless area) classified as capable for cattle grazing.

Timber: The current standing volume of timber is estimated to be 68,000 thousand board feet, equivalent to 132,800 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 6,800 acres are classified as tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 400 acres are considered to have low timber productivity; 800 acres, moderate productivity; and no acres, high productivity.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 17,100 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area has moderate potential for the occurrence and development of locatable uncommon variety building stone locally referred to as "Oakley stone." There is moderate potential for the occurrence of other locatable metal commodities such as gold, silver, copper, and lead, but development potential is low. There was historic development of underground lead, silver and copper deposits on the southern edge of the roadless area. Production was limited due to the remote location and type of deposits. There is low potential for development of mineral materials (sand, gravel, and other building stone). Potential for the occurrence and development of oil and gas leasable solid minerals (coal and phosphate) is low. The Howell Canyon area was withdrawn from mineral entry in 1996 to protect a Research Natural Area, a rare plant species, and ski area capital improvements. This roadless area contains 30,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private lands within the area. Some parcels of private land adjoin the boundary. The area is used by two outfitter and guide operations. It also contains one electronic site used by four permittees.

Roads and Trails: The area contains 15 miles of trail, all of which are open to motorized vehicles.

Heritage: There are a moderate number of cultural sites within the area. The probability of finding others is likely.

Disturbances: The 1996 Elba Fire, which burned about 4,700 acres of the area, is the only significant fire that has occurred in recent years. Mountain pine beetle and Douglas-fir beetle damage has occurred to timber.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Mount Harrison Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	7,700	7,700
Back Country Restoration	30,000	0	0
GFRG	0	22,000	22,000
SAHTS	0	0	0
Existing Special Areas	0	300	300
Total Acres	**30,000**	**30,000**	**30,000**

Pettit #017

3,100 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Pettit Roadless Area is located within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, 16 miles south of Stanley, within Custer and Blaine Counties. The roadless area lies on the west side of the Sawtooth Valley between the Hell Roaring Creek Road and Pettit Lake. The east side is near the private land in the Sawtooth Valley. The west side borders the Sawtooth Wilderness. Access is from State Highway 75 and the Pettit Lake, Yellow Belly, and Mays Creek Roads.

The terrain is dominated by prominent glacial lateral moraines and portions of end moraines. Pettit and Yellow Belly Lakes are morainal lakes adjacent to the roadless area. The only other lake in the area is McDonald Lake, about a half mile west of Yellow Belly Lake. Soils are deep and well developed. The soil surface is very cobbly, as is the soil profile. Elevations range from 7,000 feet on the valley floor to 7,900 feet at the Wilderness boundary. Vegetation is predominantly dense lodgepole pine. A few small park-like openings occur.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity is moderate. The construction and maintenance of 6 miles of trail are man-made developments in the area. The Mays Creek Road, a two-track road that is still visible, is within the area. There is also some evidence of past timber cutting activity. However, the area appears natural to the visitor upon leaving the trailhead, lakeshore, or road. The area includes 2.1 miles of forest road.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for primitive recreation are low. Opportunities for solitude are moderate, but the range of opportunities is low. There are few areas more than a mile from existing roads. The fact that the area abuts the Sawtooth Wilderness adds to the solitude, however. Motorized boat use on Pettit Lake influences solitude, because users are aware of the boat sights and sounds. The vegetative screening and topographic screening by the moraines provide some solitude.

Special Features: Scenic features within the area include views of the Sawtooth Peaks, Yellow Belly Lake, and Pettit Lake. Pettit Lake Creek (0.1 mile) and Yellowbelly Lake Creek (0.8 mile) are eligible for designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers. Special management corridors (a total of 1,000 acres) will be established to protect their outstandingly remarkable values.

Manageability: Although low development intrusions exist, the boundaries would be quite manageable. The boundary generally follows roads, lakeshores, and the existing wilderness boundary. If this area were not adjacent to the Sawtooth Wilderness, its small size would not meet wilderness criteria. Since the area is in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, management options for development are limited. Management direction for the National Recreation Area is to preserve and protect the natural, scenic, and fish and wildlife values of the area, and enhance their associated recreational values.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Fish species present include Chinook summer salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and brook trout. Use by spring and summer Chinook summer salmon and steelhead may occur in Mays Creek and Yellow Belly Creek, tributaries to Alturas Lake Creek and the Salmon River. Bull trout occur as both resident populations and as adults moving up streams from the Salmon River to spawn. Chinook summer salmon and steelhead travel approximately 900 miles from the mouth of the Columbia River to spawn in these waters.

Wildlife: Gray wolves are known to inhabit the roadless area and are an experimental/non-essential population in this area. The area provides habitat for threatened Canada lynx, bald eagle, northern goshawk, boreal owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, and great gray owl. Habitat is thought to be present for wolverine and spotted bat. Habitat for Townsend's big-eared bat, flammulated owl, and

spotted frog is unknown. The area contains deer and elk summer range. Due to the dense timber, there are few openings to provide summer forage.

Water: The main streams within the area are portions of Mays Creek, and the creeks draining to Yellow Belly and Pettit Lakes. This area contributes water to the Salmon River system. The watershed condition is excellent and water quality is good. This water provides for aquatic habitat, irrigation, hydropower, and other important uses off the forest. Approximately 1,600 acres are considered as producing high-quality water.

Botanical: Idaho douglasia (*Douglasia idahoensis*), and Buxbaum's sedge, Region 4 sensitive species, occur here. There are no inventoried sites of noxious weeds. Most of the area is old forest.

Recreation: Fishing, backpacking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and camping are the typical activities pursued by those traversing the area. Little use occurs within the area other than on the trails or along the lakeshore. Fishing opportunities are good. Some of the trails receive heavy use by people accessing the Sawtooth Wilderness. The dense stands of lodgepole pine present a scenic foreground view to the towering Sawtooth Range. Enjoying scenery is a recreational pursuit occurring both within and outside the area.

Timber: The roadless area contains an estimated 17,300 thousand board feet, equivalent to about 34,400 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 2,000 acres are classified as tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 1,900 acres are considered to have low productivity; 100 acres, moderate productivity; and 0 acres, high productivity.

Range: No livestock are grazed within the area because of the dense timber stands.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,000 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There is low potential for the occurrence of locatable minerals, leasable solid minerals (coal and phosphate), mineral materials (sand, gravel, and building stone), and oil and gas. The area has been Congressionally withdrawn from mineral entry. No recorded mineral activity has occurred within this area. About 3,100 acres are high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private lands or permitted special uses within the area.

Roads and Trails: The Pettit Lake Trail and the Pettit Lake Cutoff Trail are the two major access trails to the Sawtooth Wilderness. The area contains four developed trails totaling 13 miles, all of which are closed to motorized vehicles.

Heritage: No significant cultural resources have been found, and the potential to find sites is low.

Disturbances: Recent fire occurrence has been rare. Bark beetles continue to kill scattered patches of trees.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Pettit Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	3,100	2,100	2,100
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,000	1,000
Total Acres	**3,100**	**3,100**	**3,100**

Pioneer Mountains #921

119,600 Acres Sawtooth
172,500 Acres Challis
292,100 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

More than half of the Pioneer Mountains Roadless Area is within the Lost River Ranger District of the Salmon-Challis National Forest, while the remainder is on the Ketchum Ranger District of the Sawtooth National Forest. The Sawtooth is the lead forest for this roadless area evaluation. The roadless area is adjoined by two Bureau of Land Management roadless areas, known as Wilderness Study Areas, on the southern boundary of this roadless area. The Little Wood River Wilderness Study Areas is 4,265 acres, while the Friedman Creek Wilderness Study Areas is 9,773 acres (total of 14,038 acres).

The Pioneer Mountains Roadless Area is located 20 miles southwest of Mackay, Idaho and 5 miles east of Ketchum, Idaho, in Custer and Blaine Counties. It extends for 38 miles in a northwest to southeast direction. It is bounded generally by the Wood River Valley on the southeast, the Trail Creek Road on the northwest, the East Fork Big Lost River on the northeast, and the National Forest boundary to the south. Primary access is by way of State Highway 75 in the Wood River Valley, the Trail Creek Road, the East Fork Big Lost River Road, the Antelope Creek Road, the Muldoon Creek Road, and the Little Wood River Road.

The mountainous terrain varies from alpine basins, flats and benches, to steep, rocky walls topped by mountain peaks. Glacial cirques with vertical relief of 3,000 to 4,000 feet are found at the base of many peaks. The Pioneer Range is the second highest in Idaho, with Hyndman Peak the highest point at 12,009 feet. The lower elevations of the area are near 6,000 feet. There are gentle, rolling hills in the eastern portion of the area. There are numerous lakes and streams.

Vegetation at the lower elevations consists of Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and aspen scattered within a sage-grass community. Spruce and wet sedge meadows occur in parts of the eastern portion of the roadless area. At higher elevations, vegetation changes to subalpine forest and then to alpine meadows under the barren mountain summits.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Natural integrity and appearance are rated very high in the central high peaks area, and high to moderate in the rest of the area. The large size, variation of topography, quality of the scenery, and visual screening enhance the natural integrity. There are, however, some localized impacts from past roading and mining activities, and livestock grazing facilities. The Big Lost River portion contains three major road intrusions, reducing the distance from roads to less than 4 miles in most areas. These road intrusions reduce the natural integrity and appearance in those areas, although the topography and visual screening minimize the effects. The area includes 22.3 miles of unauthorized roads and 10.7 miles of forest roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are very good in the central high peaks area because of the distance from the boundaries, the rugged terrain, and topographic and vegetative screening. They are good, moderate, or low in the rest of the area. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are reduced in the Big Lost River portion where the three main roads intrude into the area. Challenging experiences are readily available in the central high peaks area, including technical and non-technical climbing, and cross-country travel opportunities. There are many high peaks, the mountains are precipitous, and many areas are devoid of trails.

Special Features: Hyndman Peak at 12,009 feet is a special feature of the area. There are also many other spectacular high peaks, cirque basins, and mountain lakes. The area in general is very scenic. Pioneer Cabin is a well-known historic feature. On the Big Wood River side, segments of North Fork Hyndman Creek (4.6 miles), Muldoon Creek (2.3 miles), and Box Canyon Creek (3.4 miles) are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. Special management corridors (an estimated 3,600 acres) will be established to

protect their outstandingly remarkable values. Several Research Natural Areas occur in this roadless area including the Iron Bog Research Natural Area, 400 acres; Smiley Mountain Research Natural Area (3,100 acres; and Surprise Valley Research Natural Area, 1,500 acre. One special interest limber pine area also occurs here.

Manageability: The boundary as presently inventoried would be difficult to manage. Because of the size of the area, a boundary could be established that would enhance manageability and form logical boundaries, although an acreage reduction would result. Boundaries on the west side would be more easily established because there are fewer intrusions. Boundaries could be modified to exclude the areas rated good or better for locatable minerals, and most of the areas rated moderate. The fact that most of the area is currently open to motorized and mechanized uses would complicate manageability. Heli-skiing is currently available in some areas. There are seven parcels of non-forest land within the boundary on the Big Lost River side of the area and one on the Big Wood River side, which would complicate manageability.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Fish species present in the Wood River drainages include Wood River sculpin, rainbow trout, brook trout, and westslope cutthroat trout (in mountain lakes). The Region 4 sensitive species, Wood River sculpin, occurs in the Big and Little Wood River drainages.

The Big Lost River fishery is primarily a hatchery rainbow population. Some natural rainbow production occurs, however this is supplemented throughout the summer with catchable hatchery trout. Brook trout, mountain whitefish, and shorthead sculpin are also found in the streams. Whirling disease, which affects natural reproduction, is prevalent in the Big Lost River and its tributaries. The mountain lakes in this area support a variety of fish. There are no threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive fish species in this drainage.

Wildlife: Grey wolves are considered an experimental/non-essential population in this area. The roadless area provides habitat for threatened Canada lynx. The Region 4 sensitive species, wolverine is known to be present. The area provides habitat for northern goshawk, flammulated owl, boreal owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, great gray owl, and fisher. Habitat is uncertain for Townsend's big-eared bat, likely for spotted bat, and unknown for spotted frog. The area supports big game such as mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, and mountain goats. The higher elevations contain historic bighorn sheep range, and sheep are occasionally sighted. Blue grouse are common, along with spruce grouse and various species of songbirds. Black bear and cougar are present.

Water: The area contains numerous mountain lakes, and large and small streams that drain into the Big Lost River, Big Wood River, and Little Wood River drainages. Water quality varies from good to poor across the area, the best occurring in high cirque basins. The water from this area provides for aquatic habitat, irrigation, hydropower, and other important uses off the forest.

Botanical: There are no known threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive species present. Proposed sensitive plants, Mt. Shasta sedge (*Carex straminiformis)*, wedge-leaf saxifrage (*Saxifraga adscendens oregonensii*), and nodding saxifrage *(Saxifraga cernua*), are known to exist here, while park milkvetch (*Astragalua leptaleus*) and petalless campion (*Silene uralensis montana*) may possibly be present. The Iron Bog Research Natural Area occurs within the roadless area. One special interest limber pine area occurs here. This is an area of high botanical diversity. Noxious weeds have not been a serious problem. There are some occurrences of Canada thistle and spotted knapweed (five acres). Stands and pockets of old forest occur throughout the roadless area.

Recreation: The current recreation use and potential of the area is tied to dispersed forms such as hunting, back packing, mountain climbing, cross-country hiking, mountain biking, off-road vehicle use, trail riding, fishing, cross-country skiing, helicopter skiing, and snowmobiling. The area is currently not heavily used. Fishing opportunities are good in some areas.

Timber: The area contains 348,200 thousand board feet of standing timber volume, equivalent to about 658,500 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 35,400 acres are classified as tentatively suited timberlands. About 12,800acres are considered to have low productivity; 34,700 acres, moderate productivity; and 700 acres, high productivity.

Range: This area contains portions or all of six cattle and 19 sheep allotments. They are managed under deferred rotation systems. Most of the cattle allotments on the Big Lost River side have been intensively developed with numerous fences, water developments and past vegetative treatments. Portions of the cattle allotments on the Big Wood River side have been developed with fencing and water developments. There are 42,200 acres of land that are classified as capable for cattle grazing, and 63,000 acres capable for sheep grazing.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 35,300 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area has a long history of mineral exploration and mining. There are numerous mining claims and some operating mines. Approximately three quarters of the area is rated moderate or better in locatable mineral potential. There was heavy exploration for locatable minerals in the 1980s, but most of that activity has ended. This roadless area contains 289,100 acres of high and 3,000 of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are eight parcels of private land scattered across the area. They are mainly associated with patented mining claims, and the acreage involved is small. Special-use permits have been issued within the area for 11 outfitter and guides. Services include snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, hiking, trail rides, mountain biking, wagon rides, hunting, fishing, llama packing, technical mountain climbing, photography, and heli-skiing.

Roads and Trails: The developed trail system consists of 40 trails totaling 181 miles, 40 miles of which are open to motorized travel.

Heritage: The area contains a number of old buildings associated with mining, and the remains of a few old trapper cabins. Pioneer Cabin is a well-known historic building.

Disturbances: The incidence of man-caused and lightning caused fires has been light, with four wildfires totaling 400 acres since 1960. Prescribed burning and sagebrush spraying has occurred on portions of the sagebrush community. The effects of these treatments are still visible. Timber stands have sustained infestations of spruce budworm, tussock moth, and mountain pine beetle. Dwarf mistletoe infection is widespread.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Pioneer Mountains Management Theme Sawtooth	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	58,400	58,400
Primitive	0	28,700	28,700
Backcountry	119,600	7,900	7,900
GFRG	0	21,000	21,000
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	3,600	3,600
Total Acres	**119,600**	**119,600**	**119,600**

Pioneer Mountains Management Theme Challis	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	49,600	49,600
Primitive	0	70,000	0
Backcountry	172,500	47,900	117,900
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	5,000	5,000
Total Acres	**172,500**	**172,500**	**172,500**

Pioneer Mountains Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	108,000	108,000
Primitive	0	98,700	28,700
Backcountry	292,100	55,800	125,800
GFRG	0	21,000	21,000
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	8,600	8,600
Total Acres	**292,100**	**292,100**	**292,100**

Railroad Ridge #922

42,900 Acres Sawtooth
7,900 Acres Challis
50,800 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The majority of the Railroad Ridge Roadless Area is within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area of the Sawtooth National Forest. The remainder is within the Lost River Ranger District of the Salmon-Challis Forest. The Sawtooth is the lead forest for the roadless area evaluation. This area is located 20 miles due east of Stanley, just south of Clayton, and 20 miles southwest of Challis in Custer County. The roadless area is bounded on the west by the Slate Creek Road. The southern boundary is 150 feet from the Jim Creek and Big Boulder Creek Roads. The National Forest boundary (both Sawtooth and Salmon-Challis) forms the north and east boundaries. Primary access is by way of State Highway 75, Slate Creek Road, and East Fork Salmon River Road.

This area has a variety of land types. The south end consists of weakly and moderately dissected glaciated lands. Railroad Ridge, with a high elevation at 9,600 feet, is a remnant of a glacial moraine from the Nebraskan Ice Age. The north and east ends of the roadless area consist of the Challis Mountain land type with Challis Volcanic flows forming the mountains. The area is moderately to strongly dissected, forming canyons with colorful outcroppings of rock and many areas of boulder fields and rock slides. The lowest elevation is at 6,000 feet along the Salmon River. Soils are shallow and moderately erodible, with low to moderate fertility. Water quality is good but many drainages or segments suffer from excessive fine sediment.

The vegetation in the higher elevation area to the south is characteristic of an alpine zone. Vegetation over the rest of the area is primarily a mixture of whitebark pine, Douglas-fir, sagebrush, and grass.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Numerous range improvements are present, including water developments and fences, but they are not major detractions to the natural beauty of the area. Sagebrush and grass prescribed burning has occurred on the east side. Grazing is quite intensive. A number of old mining roads and four-wheel drive roads are present on the western side of the area. The trail up French Creek was formerly a road. A small electronic site has been constructed near Potaman Peak just inside the roadless area boundary, where two small buildings and a tower exist. The visibility of these developments and roads reduces the natural integrity to moderate. The broken topography and the fact that most four-wheel drive roads were not constructed, leads to a moderate apparent naturalness rating. The area includes 9.3 miles of unauthorized and 13.0 miles of forest roads.

Opportunities for Experience: A high degree of solitude occurs due to the topographic screening and difficulty of access, although vegetative screening is minimal. Distance to the core from the perimeter rarely exceeds 3 miles, but one should be able to feel secluded and alone. The dissected and broken topography makes this area appear larger than it is. There are opportunities for primitive recreation. Other than hiking and some limited camping, there are few summer activities, or opportunities for challenge.

Special Features: Railroad Ridge has scenic and scientific values due to its unique plant communities and geology. Whitebark pine stands occur here with trees up to 1,100 years old. These trees are free of white pine blister rust, which has infested most areas of the west. An estimated 1,000 acres will be established as a special management corridor to protect the outstandingly remarkable values of the adjacent Salmon River, which is eligible for designation as a Wild and Scenic River.

Manageability: That portion of the roadless area within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area is managed to protect and preserve the natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, and fish and wildlife values, and enhance their associated recreational values. The east and most of the north boundaries follow the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Challis National Forest boundaries. These boundaries could be

located on the ground, but do not follow terrain features, and cut across numerous ridges and drainages. The west boundary is Slate Creek and Silver Rule Creek. The southern boundary is on Big Boulder Creek Road and would be a manageable boundary. Historic and current patterns of motorized use would present some difficulty in enforcing a non-motorized use policy. Access to the east portion of the boundary is limited by a lack of access through private land.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Chinook summer salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout are threatened fish species found in several creeks that drain from into the Salmon River. Sockeye salmon, an endangered species, travel up the Salmon River, which adjoins this roadless area. Habitat for westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout is also found in the area. Salmon and steelhead travel approximately 900 miles from the mouth of the Columbia River to spawn in these waters. Rainbow trout and brook trout inhabit Big Lake Creek and French Creek. Sullivan Lake does not contain fish because of winterkill.

Wildlife: Gray wolves, an endangered species whose population in this area is considered experimental and non-essential, are known to use this and adjoining areas. Habitat exists for Canada lynx, a threatened species, bald eagle, fisher, northern goshawk, boreal owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, and great gray owl. Habitat for Townsend's big-eared and spotted bats, flammulated owl, and spotted frog is unknown. Big-game animals are common and include elk, mule deer, mountain goat, antelope, bighorn sheep, black bear, and cougar. The eastern portion contains big-game winter range. This roadless area connects habitat within it, and on all sides, for both wildlife and fish.

Water: Big Lake Creek, French Creek, Big Boulder Creek, and Slate Creek are the four major drainages. Sullivan Lake is within the area, and Jimmy Smith Lake is on the boundary. Landslides formed both lake bodies. This area contributes relatively small amounts of water to the Salmon River and the East Fork Salmon River. This water contributes to downstream uses such as aquatic habitat, irrigation, and hydropower.

Botanical: White Cloud milkvetch (*Astragalus vexilliflexus nubilus*) a sensitive plant species occurs in the roadless area. Noxious weeds include a small population of Dalmatian toadflax near Livingston Mill in Big Boulder Creek and a population of yellow toadflax (15 acres) in Mill Creek. Scattered pockets and slopes of old forest occur across the area.

Recreation: Recreation use is relatively low. Summer use consists of hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, motorized cycle riding, and four-wheel drive vehicle use. Fall hunting accounts for a majority of the use. Fishing opportunities are moderate. This area is valued for the primitive recreation opportunity it provides. The absence of lakes and well-maintained trails ensures that use levels are low, solitude is readily available. Wildlife viewing opportunities are outstanding.

Timber: The current standing volume of timber is estimated to be 180,100 thousand board feet, equivalent to about 354,200 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 26,000 acres are classified as tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 8,900 acres are considered to have low timber productivity; and 23,600 acres, moderate productivity.

Range: This area contains portions or all of two cattle grazing allotments managed in a rest rotation system. The entire roadless area is allocated to livestock grazing. There are a large number of grazing facilities in the eastern portion of the area, consisting primarily of fences and water developments. There are 4,600 acres of land (9 percent of the roadless area) classified as capable for cattle grazing. No acreage is identified as capable for sheep grazing.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 8,600 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There is low potential for the occurrence and development of leasable solid minerals (coal and phosphate) and oil and gas resources. There is also low potential for the development of mineral materials (sand, gravel, and building stone). There is a high potential for the occurrence of locatable minerals (lead, zinc, and silver), but a low potential for development due to the lack of geologic

information to verify reserves and the present cost to develop a mine in a remote location. The Sawtooth National Recreation Area is congressionally withdrawn from mineral entry. Claims that pre-date the creation of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area exist in and adjacent to this area. This roadless area contains 42,900 acres of high geothermal potential.

Land Ownership and Special Uses: One 640 acre section of State land, used for grazing purposes, occurs within the roadless area. There are no permitted special uses within the roadless area.

Roads and Trails: The area contains six system trails totaling about 40 miles, of which 17 miles are open to motorized vehicles.

Heritage: There are only a few known cultural sites, and the potential to locate others is low.

Disturbances: Fire activity has been low. Mountain pine beetles are currently attacking small pockets of whitebark pine and lodgepole pine. Douglas-fir beetles are also active. High intensity thunderstorms and spring floods often impact several drainages. Landslides are rare but they also cause some damage.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Railroad Ridge Management Theme Sawtooth	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	42,900	41,900	41,900
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,000	1,000
Total Acres	**42,900**	**42,900**	**42,900**

Railroad Ridge Management Theme Challis	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	7,900	0
Backcountry	7,900	0	7,900
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**7,900**	**7,900**	**7,900**

Railroad Ridge Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	7,900	0
Backcountry	50,800	41,900	49,800
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	1,000	1,000
Total Acres	**50,800**	**50,800**	**50,800**

Smoky Mountains #914

304,100 Acres Sawtooth
42,900 Acres Boise
347,000 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Smoky Mountains Roadless Area is located in Camas, Elmore, and Blaine Counties in south central Idaho, extending along a north-south axis for about 20 miles. The area is about 45 miles wide. The center of this area is about 25 miles north of Fairfield, Idaho. The eastern border is about 2 miles west of Ketchum, Idaho, and the western border is approximately 50 miles east of Boise, Idaho. This area includes portions of the Fairfield and Ketchum Ranger Districts and the Sawtooth National Recreation Area of the Sawtooth National Forest, and the Mountain Home Ranger District of the Boise National Forest. The roadless area can be accessed from the south by the Ketchum-Featherville Road, from the northeast by State Highway 75, from the northwest by the Middle Fork Boise/Yuba River Road, from the west by the James Creek Road, and from numerous side roads off of these main ones.

This area contains the headwaters of the South Fork Boise River on the west, the Big Wood River on the east, and the Salmon River on the north. Water is relatively abundant throughout the area with many springs, perennial streams, and a small number of high mountain lakes. Topography is broken with numerous steep slopes and talus rock slides. Elevations range from 5,000 to 10,174 feet. The western and central portions are characterized by glaciated granitic peaks, valleys and slopes. Rocky cirques, U-shaped valleys, and scoured side slopes are also common.

Vegetation is characteristic of the subalpine plant community. Scattered stringers of Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine interspersed with occasional Engelmann spruce and whitebark pine exist throughout most of the area. The lower elevations in the western portion of the area contain moderate to dense timber stands. Ponderosa pine stands occur along the lower portions of the South Fork Boise River. Aspen is scattered throughout the Smoky Mountains at low to moderate elevations. Non-forested vegetation is characterized by the sagebrush-grass-sedge plant community in the dryer areas. Open sagebrush-grass communities dominate the south and westerly aspects, while moderate to dense stands of Douglas-fir and subalpine fir grow on north and easterly aspects at higher elevations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity of this area is largely intact. The high scenic qualities that are found in many parts of the area contribute to a high level of natural appearance, although evidence of roads does exist. The area includes 5.7 miles of unauthorized and 20.4 miles of forest roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude are very high because of the roadless area's large size and varied topography. A significant portion of this roadless area exceeds five miles from the nearest road. Numerous opportunities for primitive recreation exist. There are many opportunities for challenging experiences due to the long distances on trails and the rugged topography. Visual intrusions include developments on Bald Mountain, of the Sun Valley Ski Area, which are visible from many high locations within the eastern portion of the roadless area.

Special Features: Spectacular scenery is found throughout the area. Bluff Creek Canyon is spectacular and scenic. Blue Clay Creek contains large areas of blue clay-like formations. There are also large areas of barren granite badland-like areas. Castle Creek contains large castle-like spires. A large band of mineralized granite dissects Warm Springs Creek. It is a distinctive geologic feature known as the Rooks Creek Stock of the Idaho Batholith. The area also contains many high glacial cirque basins and high-elevation alpine lakes. Segments of Alpine Creek (0.9 mile), Alturas Lake Creek (7.5 miles), Beaver Creek (0.9 mile), Big Wood River (1.1 miles), Elk Creek (2.6 miles), the Salmon River (4.1 miles), and the South Fork (3.0 mile) and Middle Fork (0.2 mile) Boise River are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. Special management corridors (an estimated 9,600 acres) will be established to protect their outstandingly remarkable values.

Significant cultural resources associated with early day mining and travel can be found throughout the area. These occur especially around Vienna and Carrietown historical sites, between Rocky Bar and Atlanta, in Placer Creek, West Fork Warm Springs Creek, Rooks Creek, and Beaver Creek. There are also other old buildings and corrals within the area.

Manageability: The boundary, as inventoried, would be difficult to manage because of the many road intrusions and adjacency to numerous roads and timber sale areas. Numerous boundaries could be established that would improve overall wilderness qualities; however, an acreage reduction would occur. The fact that most of the area is currently open to motorized and mechanized uses would complicate manageability. Heli-skiing is currently available in many areas. Several small parcels of private land within the boundary would complicate management or require boundary adjustments to exclude them.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Steelhead, sockeye, and Chinook are present in the Salmon River drainages. The Salmon and Boise River watersheds within this area are occupied bull trout habitat. This roadless area is a stronghold for bull trout. The Wood River sculpin, a Region 4 sensitive species, occurs in the Big Wood River watershed. Sawtooth Valley has kokanee salmon in a number of streams. Brook trout, rainbow trout, westslope cutthroat trout, whitefish, and mountain suckers are common in streams throughout the area. Golden trout can be found in Baker Lake. Kokanee salmon migrate up the South Fork Boise River, which adjoins the roadless area.

The Middle Fork Boise River also flows on the northwestern boundary of theroadless area. The area has an important subpopulation of bull trout in the Yuba River and tributaries. A small isolated subpopulation is also found in Elk Creek on the southwest corner of the area. Both Elk Creek and Yuba River are priority bull trout watersheds. The Yuba population is connected to nodal habitat in the Middle Fork Boise River, and migration to the lower river area is being restored with the construction of a fish ladder in Kirby Dam. Redband and rainbow trout, and whitefish also inhabit these streams.

Wildlife: Suspected wolverine denning sites are also located within the area. Major big-game species include elk, mule deer, black bear, and mountain lion. Moose are seen occasionally. The area provides habitat for a small population of mountain goats, which can be found in high, isolated areas year-round. It also provides a large, important area of connectivity with adjoining areas for many wildlife species. Grey wolves are considered an experimental/non-essential population in this area. Their presence has been confirmed within the roadless area.

Habitat exists for threatened Canada lynx, fisher, bald eagle, northern goshawk, white-headed woodpecker, flammulated owl, boreal owl, northern three-toed woodpecker, and great gray owl. Habitat for Region 4 sensitive species including Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, and spotted frog may also occur within the roadless area. Black bear, cougar, and bobcat are present. Prairie falcons also nest within the area.

Water: Portions of the Big Smoky Creek, Warm Springs Creek, Baker Creek, and Yuba River drainages, and drainages of tributaries to the Salmon River lie within the roadless area. The South Fork Boise River bisects a portion of the area. The roadless area contains approximately 30 high-elevation lakes. Water from this area is used primarily for downstream aquatic habitat, irrigation, and hydropower generation. Approximately 200 acres are considered to have high water quality.

Botanical: Giant helleborine (*Epipactis gigantea*) and Bug Goldenweed *(Haplopappus insecticruris)* two sensitive plant species occur in the roadless area. The area contains the upper portions of the unique Vat Creek bogs.

Noxious weed infestations of leafy spurge (1,600 acres), spotted knapweed (2 acres), diffuse knapweed, rush skeletonweed, St. Johnswort (1 acre) and Canada thistle occur in the area, but less than 1 percent of the area is affected. Noxious weed populations are thought to be increasing in the South Fork Boise River

drainage. One leafy spurge infestation of approximately 700 acres occurs along the South Fork Boise River near the west end of the area.

Recreation: Hiking, mountain biking, motorized trail biking, fishing, big-game hunting, mountain climbing, and horseback riding are the primary summer uses. Snowmobiling, backcountry skiing, and helicopter skiing are the predominant winter activities. Approximately two-thirds of the use is motorized.

Timber: The current standing volume of timber is estimated to be 1,596,800 thousand board feet, equivalent to about 3,030,200 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 177,300 acres are classified as tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 67,700 acres are considered to have low productivity; 150,700 acres, moderate productivity; and 10,200 acres, high productivity.

Range: There is one vacant allotment covering about 3 percent of the roadless area, two cattle allotments covering about 3 percent of the area, and 15 sheep allotments covering about 94 percent of the area. There is a low level of structural grazing improvements within the roadless area boundary. Most allotments are managed under deferred rotation systems. Several are under rest rotation systems. There are active sheep trails used to access sheep allotments within the area. There are 700 acres of land (less than 1 percent of the roadless area) classified as capable for cattle grazing, and 44,900 acres (13 percent) capable for sheep grazing.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 37,700 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There are about 70 registered mining claims and no energy leases. Several mining claims are active. The only withdrawal is the Sawtooth National Recreation Area portion of the roadless area. It has been withdrawn from mineral entry but some valid claims still exist from before the establishment of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Approximately 100,000 acres are rated with a moderate or better potential for locatable minerals, with 40,000 to 50,000 acres rated good or better. This roadless area contains 347,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are a few tracts of private land scattered throughout the area. They are mainly associated with patented mining claims, and the acreage involved is small. Thirteen special-use permits have been issued for uses within the roadless area. They include one helicopter skiing operation, one yurt camping operation, and others conducting hunting, fishing, trail horse rides, lama hiking, mountain biking operations, and snowmobiling tours.

Roads and Trails: There are 70 system trails within the roadless area comprising an estimated 380 miles of trail. About 270 of these miles of trail are open for motorized use. Important put-and-take fisheries occur in Baker Creek and Warm Springs Creek.

Heritage: Several cultural resources associated with early day mining and travel can be found throughout the area. These occur especially around Vienna, Carrietown, and Spanishtown historical sites, between Rocky Bar and Atlanta, in Placer Creek, West Fork Warm Springs Creek, Rooks Creek, and Beaver Creek. The area is part of the South Boise Historic Mining District. There are also other old buildings and corrals within the area.

Disturbances: Recent fire activity has been relatively low. The last significant fire was approximately 800 acres in 1992. Total number of acres burned since 1960 is 2,600. Tussock moths were active in conifer stands in 1994 and 1995 on less than 5 percent of the area. Mountain pine beetles are active in lodgepole pine stands near Alturas Lake and Beaver Creek. Dwarf mistletoe has had significant impacts in the Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine throughout the area. High-intensity thunderstorms and spring runoff scour stream channels and create large debris flows in some drainages periodically. Major avalanches occur periodically in some drainages, which denude sizeable areas of trees and create large debris piles.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Smoky Mountains Management Theme Sawtooth	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	191,900	191,900
Backcountry	304,100	102,600	102,600
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	9,600	9,600
Total Acres	**304,100**	**304,100**	**304,100**

Smoky Mountains Management Theme Boise	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	42,800	42,900
Backcountry	42,900	0	0
GFRG	0	100	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**42,900**	**42,900**	**42,900**

Smoky Mountains Management Theme Total	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	234,700	234,800
Backcountry	347,000	102,600	102,600
GFRG	0	100	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	9,600	9,600
Total Acres	**347,000**	**347,000**	**347,000**

Sublett #005

7,100 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Sublett Roadless Area is located 35 air miles east of Burley, Idaho in Cassia County. The primary access is by Interstate 84 and the South and North Hegler Canyon Roads (Forest Roads 564 and 565). The roadless area is located in the Sublett Division of the Minidoka Ranger District, between the South and North Hegler Canyon Roads. The topography is gentle in the canyon bottoms with canyon slopes ranging from 15 to 65 percent. The geology is composed of siltstones, limestones and quartzites. Soils are some of the most stable on the forest. The area contains three springs and one intermittent stream. Elevations range from 5,200 to 7,500 feet.

Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine grow on the north and east slopes. South and west slopes are predominantly sagebrush and mountain brush types.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity is moderate to high, and the natural appearance is moderate to high. There has been a low level of management activity in this area. The area includes 1.8 miles of unauthorized and 0.8 mile of forest roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are low. It is less than 1.5 miles from the perimeter to the center of the area in most places. Opportunities for primitive recreation are also poor due to the lack of diversity and challenging experiences.

Special Features: There are no significant special features.

Manageability: Manageability would be difficult due to the small size. Most of the boundaries would follow roads or the National Forest boundary. The southern third is located across slopes and drainages, making a very poor boundary. Moving the boundary would not significantly improve manageability.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: There are no fish present in the roadless area.

Wildlife: There are no known threatened or endangered wildlife species present. Grey wolves are considered an experimental/non-essential population in this area. One Canada lynx was trapped in this area in recent years; Canada lynx are now listed as a threatened species. No specific acreage has been identified as habitat for Canada lynx. Habitat may be present for sensitive species including Townsend's big-eared bat, northern goshawk, and Columbia sharp-tailed grouse.

The south and west slopes provide feed for mule deer during winter months. The north end of the area is closed to snowmobiling due to key winter range. Summer range along with winter range is provided for the Sublett Division big-game herd. Elk numbers are building on and adjacent to the Sublett Division. This roadless area is becoming more important as summer and winter range for elk. There is habitat for other species of wildlife such as sage grouse, forest grouse, hawks, golden eagle, badger, cougar, bobcat, and coyote.

Water: The area is drained to the northwest by North and South Hegler Canyons. Side canyons drain east and west into the two main canyons. This area contributes little water for uses off the forest. Almost no surface flow leaves the forest, and its primary contribution is probably to ground water. The little water that is on the roadless area is important to wildlife. Water quality is generally good.

Botanical: There are no known threatened, endangered, and sensitive species present. Noxious weeds have been increasing on forest and non-forest lands in this area. However, only small populations of diffuse and spotted knapweed, musk thistle, whitetop, and Canada thistle have been identified within this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation consists of dispersed uses, primarily mule deer hunting and upland bird hunting. Some off-highway vehicle use occurs, as well as some winter snowmobiling where it is allowed. Five miles of road are groomed for snowmobile trails in winter. Much of the area is bordered by roads that are open to motorized vehicles.

Timber: The current standing volume of timber is estimated to be 25,800 thousand board feet, equivalent to 49,900 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 2,500 acres are classified as tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 32 acres are considered to have low productivity; 2,000 acres, moderate productivity; and 500 acres, high productivity.

Range: This entire area is allocated to livestock grazing. It contains portions or all of two cattle and two sheep allotments. They are managed under rest and deferred rotation systems. There have been few facilities developed for livestock grazing in the past, although some future developments are planned. There are 900 acres of land (12 percent of the roadless area) classified as capable for cattle grazing, and 300 acres (less than 1 percent) capable for sheep grazing.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 200 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There is low potential for the occurrence and development of locatable minerals and mineral materials (building stone). There is a moderate potential for the occurrence of phosphate, a leasable solid mineral resource. However, due to the limited resource, lack of geologic information to verify the resource, and distance from a processing facility (Pocatello), the development potential is low. The roadless area is prospectively valuable for oil and gas resources but has low development potential at this time. This roadless area contains 7,100 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or State lands within the boundary. There is one permitted outfitter and guide operation in this area.

Roads and Trails: There is no developed trail system.

Heritage: Few cultural resources are known to exist, and site density is expected to be moderate to low

Disturbances: There has been minimal fire activity in the area since 1960. The recent Douglas-fir bark beetle infestation has caused high mortality.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Sublett Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	7,100	7,100
Backcountry	7,100	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**7,100**	**7,100**	**7,100**

Third Fork Rock Creek #009

14,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Third Fork Rock Creek Roadless Area is located about 24 miles southeast of Twin Falls, Idaho, in Cassia County. The primary access is by the Rock Creek Highway (County Highway No. G-3), south of Hansen, Idaho. It is located in the Cassia Division of the Minidoka Ranger District.

The area is composed of canyons eroded in volcanic rhyolite flows, with surrounding mountains and bench lands remaining. The soil is moderately erodible. Elevations range from 4,420 feet where Rock Creek leaves the Forest to 7,708 feet at Pike Mountain.

Mixed stands of lodgepole pine, subalpine fir and aspen dominate the higher elevations in the southern portion of the area, along with some open meadows. The lower elevation areas to the north are dominated by sagebrush-grass communities with small stands of other shrubs scattered throughout.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity of the area is moderate, due to the heavy livestock grazing and the presence of facilities for grazing. The natural appearance is low with high evidence of impacts from grazing, some primitive roads now being used as trails, and some evidence of past fire-suppression activity. The area includes 3.1 miles of unauthorized and 6.0 miles of forest roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude are moderate because of the area's narrow shape, short distances from the perimeter, and the effects of highly used adjacent areas. Opportunities for primitive recreation are also moderate due to the lack of diversity and challenging experiences.

Special Features: There are no significant special features within the roadless area.

Manageability: The topographic features would provide a manageable boundary for wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Third Fork contains redband trout, Yellowstone cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and brown trout in the main creek and its small tributaries. No known threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive fish species are known to exist within the area.

Wildlife: There are no known threatened or endangered wildlife species present. Grey wolves are considered an experimental/non-essential population in this area. Habitat for the northern goshawk, a Region 4 sensitive species, may be present as well as for Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, and flammulated owl. This area is summer range for mule deer. There is habitat for other species of wildlife such as sage grouse, forest grouse, partridge, hawks, golden eagle, cougar, bobcat, coyote, badger, and beaver. Elk numbers are slowly building on the Cassia Division, and elk have been seen occasionally in this area. This unroaded area connects low-elevation winter ranges and the higher timbered areas of cover for mule deer and elk.

Since 1986, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game has introduced California bighorn sheep five times in the Big Cottonwood and Dry Creek drainages to the east. Some of these sheep and their offspring have been observed in the northern portion of this roadless area. Most of this area is potential habitat for bighorns. Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep were native to the Cassia Division.

Water: This roadless area includes most of the drainages of the First Fork, Second Fork, and Third Forks of Rock Creek; Harrington Fork Creek; and slopes that drain directly into the east side of Rock Creek. It contributes approximately half of the water that leaves the Forest in Rock Creek. It is an important contributor to down stream irrigation. Water quality is generally good, with periods of increased sediment load during high flow. Water from this area is used primarily for downstream aquatic habitat, irrigation, and hydropower generation.

Botanical: There are no known threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species present. Some introduced species of grasses and forbs have been seeded in small portions of burned areas after wildfires. Noxious weeds have been increasing on Forest and non-Forest lands in this area. However, only small populations of knapweed and Canada thistle have been identified within this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use in the area is heavy. The major use is off-highway vehicle riding. Horseback riding and mountain biking are also popular. Some snowmobile use occurs, primarily in the higher-elevation areas. Fishing opportunities are poor because of the small size of the trout. Most of the perimeter of this roadless area is bordered by roads open to motorized vehicles. The Pike Mountain historic lookout site, and developed interpretive scenic overlook, is on the western edge of the roadless area. It is accessible by all motorized vehicles.

Timber: The current standing volume of timber is estimated to be 9,300 thousand board feet, equivalent to about 18,600 hundred cubic feet. An estimated 1,600 acres are classified as tentatively suited timberlands. An estimated 1,600 acres are considered to have low productivity.

Range: The entire roadless area is allocated to livestock grazing. Most of this area is grazed by sheep. A small portion of the east side is grazed by cattle. These allotments are grazed in a deferred rotation system. There is a small amount of fence and a small number of water developments within these allotments. There are 1,200 acres of land (less than 1 percent of the roadless area) classified as capable for cattle grazing, and 9,800 acres (69 percent) capable for sheep grazing.

Minerals and Energy: There has been past interest in mineral resources in this area. Exploratory drilling for low-grade gold resources occurred in the lower Third Fork and Wahlstrom Hollow areas, but it has not proven to be valuable enough to justify further exploration or development. The claims were relinquished after a limited amount of test drilling. There is a moderate potential for development of mineral materials (rhyolite building stone). The roadless area is prospectively valuable for oil and gas resources but has low development potential at this time. This roadless area contains 14,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no private or State lands within the roadless area. The only special-use permitted within this area is one guide who hunts cougars.

Roads and Trails: The Third Fork trail system is the primary off-road vehicle system on the Minidoka Ranger District. Construction and maintenance work has been contributed by local trail bike clubs, with much of the construction financed by the State of Idaho off-road vehicle funds. Other volunteers, including local horse user clubs, have contributed time to trail construction and maintenance. The Third Fork trail system consists of nine trails totaling approximately 30 miles, all of which are open to motorized vehicles.

Heritage: This entire area was historically used by American Indians. Evidence of use exists throughout the area, consisting primarily of lithic scatters left after tool making. Evidence also demonstrates that fishing occurred in Rock Creek and Third Fork for salmon that historically came into this area from the Pacific Ocean via the Snake River.

Disturbances: Fire has recently played a significant roll in this roadless area. A number of timber stands burned in the head of Third Fork in a 1974 wildfire. A large fire in 1987 burned primarily grassland in the Harrington Fork and Lower Third Fork Areas. In 1988, a fire burned timber and grassland in the First Fork drainage. With these and other smaller fires, an estimated 14,000 acres have burned since 1960. The burned timber stands have regenerated to thick stands of lodgepole pine. Most grassland areas have been successfully regenerated to grasses, forbs and shrubs.

The extensive bark beetle epidemic in the 1960s and 1970s killed large numbers of lodgepole pine trees. The 1974 wildfire burned many of these stands within this roadless area. The summer after the 1987 Harrington Fire, a high-intensity thunderstorm caused a large debris flow in the Dry Fork of Harrington

Fork, and a number of other small debris flows or gullies in lower Harrington Fork. These have now stabilized.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Third Fork Rock Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	7,900	7,900
Backcountry	14,300	0	0
GFRG	0	6,400	6,400
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**14,300**	**14,300**	**14,300**

Thorobred #013

6,100 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Thorobred Roadless Area is located about 40 air miles south of Twin Falls, Idaho, in Cassia County. The primary access is from the north via Rock Creek Canyon and Monument Peak, or from the south from Nevada up Piney Creek. It is located in the Cassia Division of the Sawtooth National Forest, on the Minidoka Ranger District. The southern end is on the forest boundary (the Nevada state line).

Canyons eroded in volcanic rhyolite ash flows comprise most of the area, with surrounding gentle ridges and bench lands. Many large rhyolite bluffs and cliffs occur within the canyons. The soil is fairly stable. The watershed value is moderate, providing water primarily for irrigation off the Forest.

Elevations range from 6,000 to 7,000 feet. Most of the area is in grass and sagebrush with small stands of aspen and conifers. Surrounding areas are similar except for an increase in aspen and conifer timber to the north.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The natural integrity of the area is moderate due to the presence of some past and present heavy livestock grazing and the presence of grazing facilities. The natural appearance is moderate with high evidence of impacts from grazing, grazing facilities, and some primitive roads. The area includes 1.4 miles of unauthorized and 7.1 miles of forest roads.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunities for solitude are moderate because of the area's small size, the lack of topographic and vegetative screening and the effects of highly used adjacent areas. The roadless area is also within a commercial and military flyway. Opportunities for primitive recreation are also moderate due to the lack of diversity and challenging experiences.

Special Features: There are no significant special features within the roadless area.

Manageability: The topographic features would provide a manageable boundary for wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Goose Creek and lower Thorobred Creek support Yellowstone cutthroat trout, a native species. Goose Creek contains leatherside chub, a species of concern by the State of Idaho. Leatherside chub is a native species whose numbers have been declining over much of its range; however, their status is unknown. No known threatened, endangered, or Region 4 sensitive fish species are known to exist within the area.

Wildlife: There are no known threatened or endangered wildlife species present. Grey wolves are considered an experimental/non-essential population in this area. This area may provide habitat for the northern goshawk, Townsend's big-eared bat, and Columbia sharp-tailed grouse; all Region 4 sensitive species. T he area is summer range for mule deer. There is good habitat for other common species of wildlife such as sage grouse, forest grouse, hawks, golden eagle, cougar, bobcat, coyote, badger, and beaver. Elk numbers are slowly building on the Cassia Division, and elk have been seen occasionally in this area. This area connects low-elevation winter ranges and the higher timbered areas of cover for mule deer and elk.

Water: This area includes virtually all of the East and West Forks of Thorobred Creek, and a portion of the Goose Creek drainage. The roadless area contributes a small quantity of water to Goose Creek. The water is used for downstream irrigation off the Forest. All of this water that is unused to that point is impounded in the Lower Goose Creek Reservoir and used for irrigation in the Oakley Valley. Water quality is fair during periods of low flow and poor during periods of high flow due to high sediment production and bank damage.

Botanical: There are no known threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species present. Noxious weeds have been increasing on forest and non-forest lands in this area. However, only small populations of Canada thistle have been identified within this roadless area.

Recreation: Recreation use consists primarily of hunting and off-highway vehicle use. Goose Creek provides a marginal opportunity for fishing, since trout numbers are low. There is no opportunity for intensive recreational development. Much of the perimeter of this roadless area is bordered by roads open to motorized vehicles.

Timber: The current estimate of standing volume is 2,100 thousand board feet, equivalent to about 4,200 hundred cubic feet. The area includes 400 acres of tentatively suited timber. An estimated 400 acres are considered to have low productivity

Range: This entire area is allocated to livestock grazing. Most of the area lies within the western unit of the Goose Creek cattle allotment. It is grazed every year in a deferred rotation system, along with four other units and two Bureau of Land Management units. This area contains a moderate amount of fence and a few stock ponds. The small western portion of the roadless area that lies west of Goose Creek is within the Little Piney sheep allotment. It is grazed by sheep bands in a rotation with other allotments to the north. The only development is the fence between the sheep and cattle allotments. There are 4,100 acres of land (68 percent of the roadless area) classified as capable for cattle grazing, and 100 acres (less than 1 percent) capable for sheep grazing.

Minerals and Geology: There is low potential for the occurrence and development of locatable minerals, leasable solid minerals (coal and phosphate), mineral materials (building stone), and geothermal resources. The roadless area is prospectively valuable for oil and gas resources but has low development potential at this time. This roadless area contains 6,100 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: No State or private lands are located within the roadless area. The only special use permitted within this area is one guide who hunts cougars.

Roads and Trails: Access consists of constructed and unimproved roads on much of the perimeter, and a few unimproved roads within the area. No developed trail system exists.

Heritage: This entire area was historically used by American Indians. Evidence of use exists throughout the area, consisting primarily of lithic scatters left after tool making.

Disturbances: This area has a past history of significant fire activity. Since 1960, the area has seen wildfire affecting an estimated 5,800 acres.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Thorobred Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	6,100	6,100	6,100
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**6,100**	**6,100**	**6,100**

Bald Mountain #614

17,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Bald Mountain Roadless Area is located approximately four miles directly west of Swan Valley. It is separated from other roadless areas to the south by Fall Creek Road. It includes the northern portion of the Caribou Range.

Jeep trails extend into the headwaters of Pritchard Creek and Garden Creek. A low standard trail system also exists, providing access from Fall Creek on the south through Porcupine Creek, the headwaters of Pritchard Creek

The area is within the Rocky Mountain Province and is a part of the Caribou Range. Elevation ranges from about 5,500 to approximately 7,700 feet. Slopes are fairly steep and the terrain is broken and dissected by numerous drainages. Vegetative type varies from large open areas of grass, brush and aspen to scattered patches of conifer (mostly Douglas fir). Continuous stands of Douglas fir are located on the north facing slopes and heads of Garden Creek and Pritchard Creek. The entire area is within the sagebrush steppe ecosystem and the Douglas-fir ecosystem.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Influence on natural integrity by physical developments is moderate; influence on apparent naturalness is moderate. Although mineral related development, fences, and primitive roads have affected the area, many of the developments are separable.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude is low and opportunity for primitive recreation is low. Vegetative and topographic screening exists over much of the area but the area is small, adjacent to a major gravel road. Opportunities for challenging experiences are rare.

Special Features: No special features exist.

Manageability: Boundaries are fairly-well defined. Range improvements that were constructed using bulldozers have altered wilderness character in soma areas. Boundary modification would improve wilderness qualities. There are no adjacent contiguous roadless areas.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Fishing for resident cutthroat trout is good in Pritchard Creek. Garden Creek also contains resident cutthroat trout of unknown quantity.

Wildlife: The area is important summer and winter range for elk and deer. It also contains elk calving areas. Grizzly bear occur in this roadless area.

Water: The area receives a fair snow pack which largely drains into dry farm areas. The southern portion drains into Fall Creek. There are no unusual features about the water potential in this area.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: The area receives a moderate amount of dispersed recreation use, mainly associated with hunting in the fall.

Timber: The timber stands on the roadless area are mostly on the north and east facing slopes. The southern and western slopes are mostly sagebrush, grass, aspen, and other brush types. The timbered slopes vary from aspen areas to lodgepole pine with some Douglas-fir stands. There is potential to harvest about .3 million board feet of timber per year.

Range: This area provides summer range for five sheep allotments. The area being largely a brush vegetative type is well suited to this use. Each allotment supports about 1,000 head, usually from June 16 or July 1 to August 31.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 3,200 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 17,000 acres of medium geothermal potential. Oil and gas and geothermal leases have been issued, but have since expired. A phosphate deposit in the area has been investigated; no development is planned.

Heritage: Significant cultural resources have not been identified.

Disturbances: Physical developments such as primitive roads, fences and evidences of mining exploration have affected only about 25 acres.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Bald Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	17,000	15,400	15,400
GFRG	0	1,600	1,600
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**17,000**	**17,000**	**17,000**

Garfield Mountain #961

43,300 Acres Targhee (Idaho)
48,900 Acres Beaverhead-Deerlodge (Montana)
92,200 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Garfield Mountain Roadless Area is situated 22 air miles north of Dubois, Idaho. It extends along the Continental Divide from Medicine Lodge Pass on the west to Headquarter Creek, just west of Monida Pass. Approximately 43,300 acres are located on the Targhee portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, and 48,900 acres are located in Montana, on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Some primitive roads lie within the roadless area, primarily as short extensions on the existing road system. Few designated trails exist. One trail follows the Continental Divide through the roadless area; another links the headwaters of Middle Creek with the east and west forks of Indian Creek to the east.

The area is within the Rocky Mountain Forest Province. It is part of the Beaverhead Mountains. Elevation ranges from about 7,500 to 10,100 feet. Relief is moderately rugged. The entire area is within the Douglas-fir forest and the western spruce-fir forest ecosystems.

Vegetation on the higher areas is sparse. Below the slide rocks are alpine types of vegetation consisting of fingers of limber and lodgepole pine. Some aspen is abundant in the Modoc – Pleasant Valley area. The bulk of lower areas are open grass-sage with fingers of Douglas-fir and mountain mahogany up the canyons and on northern slopes.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Wilderness characteristics are enhanced by the presence of a contiguous area to the north on the Beaverhead National Forest. Influences on natural integrity by physical developments are moderate; influenced on apparent naturalness is moderate. Natural integrity is broken by fences and off-road vehicle trails. Ponds, stock watering troughs and off-road vehicle use have a moderate influence on naturalness.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude is moderate; opportunity for primitive recreation is low. Topographic and vegetative screening reduces the opportunity for solitude. Permanent off-site intrusions are visible but distance obscures effect,

Special Features: There are no special scenic landmarks.

Manageability: Boundaries are fairly well defined. Management would be compatible with adjacent lands. Coordination with Beaverhead National Forest for their portion of Garfield Mountain Roadless Area and Bureau of Land Management would be necessary. The area is adjacent to Targhee National Forest lands to the east and west. Beaverhead National Forest lands are adjacent to the north and land administered by the Bureau of Land Management form the southern boundary. There are adjacent private lands on the northeast boundary and several State of Idaho lands are contiguous to the south.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: High mountain lake and wild resident trout fisheries are present.

Wildlife: Deer, elk, and moose use the higher elevations for summer range and lower reaches for winter range. Mountain goats inhabit the area. Antelope also use the area for summer range. Numerous species of small mammals and birds also inhabit the area. Rocky Mountain wolf are believed to pass through the area, none are verified sightings. Sage grouse are abundant at lower elevations.

Water: Watershed values are high. Streams that run year long are an important source of irrigation water for farms and ranches below the forest boundary.

Botanical: Centennial rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus parryi spp. montanus*) a sensitive plant species occurs in the roadless area. Ecological diversity is low to moderate as there are no extreme variations between elevation, temperature, or moisture.

Recreation: Recreational use is increasing, consisting mainly of hunting, camping, and snowmobiling. Some hiking, horseback riding, and off-road vehicle use also occurs.

Timber: The area is not a heavy timber producer. However, there are volumes of Douglas-fir that could be harvested. There is a potential for .5 million board feet of timber per year.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,100 acres of WUI.

Range: There are parts of five sheep and four cattle allotments within the area. Some sagebrush spray and burning projects have been carried out to improve range conditions. Currently the area provides about 3,900 animal unit months (AUM's) of grazing. There is a potential to increase grazing by about 400 AUM's. Permittees have over $80,000 invested in range improvement.

Minerals and Energy: There are commercial deposits of travertine, a building stone presently being mined on the roadless area. The area has been entirely covered by leases or applications for oil and gas leases, but those leases have expired. The area lies within the overthrust belt and has structures similar to the producing overthrust oil and gas fields in southwestern Wyoming and northeastern Utah. One exploration well was drilled in the head of West Indian Creek with negative results. There are no utility corridors in the area. This roadless area contains 43,300 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no special uses that are incompatible with wilderness.

Heritage: Significant cultural resources are not known to exist.

Disturbances: Part of the area is within the High Country Fire Management Area where some wildfire will be allowed to burn under certain prescribed conditions.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Garfield Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	8,500	8,500
Backcountry	43,300	14,500	14,500
GFRG	0	19,800	19,800
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	500	500
Total Acres	**43,300**	**43,300**	**43,300**

Garns Mountain #611

95,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Garns Mountain Roadless Area includes most of the area known as the Big Hole Mountains. The southeast boundary is State Highway 31 from Swan Valley to Victor, Idaho. All other boundaries generally follow the forest boundaries. It is located approximately 17 air miles ease of Idaho Falls and about 7 miles west of Driggs, Idaho.

The area is within the Rocky Mountain Forest Province, and the sagebrush steppe ecosystem and the Douglas-fir ecosystem. Elevation ranges from about 6,500 feet to 8,999 feet at Garns Mountain. Slopes are relatively gentle on the north in the Grand View Point area. Toward the southern part of the area, slopes are steep and the terrain is pronounced and rugged.

Vegetation varies with elevation, lower slopes have scattered aspen and lodgepole pine interspersed with some sagebrush and grass on southwest slopes. Middle elevations are primarily covered with lodgepole pine. Douglas and alpine fir are more prevalent at higher elevations. Pine grass and huckleberry are the principal grass and shrub species.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: The area retains its natural integrity and natural appearance due to the lack of people and location to a population center and has a variety of outdoor opportunities in spring and fall when other areas are inaccessible.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude is very high because of the area's large size. Opportunity for primitive recreation is very high and is provided by trails vegetation, terrain, wildlife, and water. Some terrain is difficult, a few cliffs exist which could provide challenging experiences.

Special Features: The area contains the Burns Creek National Recreation Area; 500 acres of a Research Natural Area; and approximately 2,300 acres are within the eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor along the South Fork of the Snake River. About 100 acres are in Management Prescription 8.1 Concentrated Development Area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No threatened, endangered or sensitive fish species occur in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Lynx and bald eagles, threatened species, and northern goshawk, peregrine falcon, and trumpeter swan, R4 sensitive species occur in this roadless area. The area provides summer and winter range for elk, deer, and moose as well as elk caving areas.

Water: The north and west forks of Pine Creek as well as Burns Creek are major water suppliers to the South Fork of the Snake River. Otherwise, the area is a fair water producer from normal winters snow pack. Very little water drains to the east into Teton Basin. The area has an abundance of small springs.

Botanical: Ute ladies'-tresses *(Spiranthes diluvialis)* a threatened species occurs in this roadless area. Ecological diversity is high due to elevation, moisture, and temperature variations. Numerous open meadows are in the area.

Recreation: The area provides a moderate amount of recreation use. Hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, commercial and noncommercial cross country skiing and ski towing, snowmobiling, and motorbike riding are the main activities. Recreational gold-panning occurs in Burns Creek and sever other smaller drainages in this roadless area. Many people form communities in the Teton Basin use the area. There are several potential developed recreation sites where facilities could be constructed.

Timber: Commercial Douglas-fir is available in the roadless area; however, this timber is usually of poor form, short, and is in scattered patches. Slopes are generally over 40 percent. Lodgepole pine is also

available. Much of it is dead and dying due to a heavy infestation of the mountain pine beetle. There is a potential to harvest about 3.9 million board feet of timber per year.

Range: Currently the area provides about 4,800 AUMs of grazing. There is potential to increase the use by about 600 AUMs. Permittees have about $62,000 invested in range improvements.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 18,900 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Several gold and silver claims along the Snake River on the western edge of the roadless area have been worked, but none are of commercial importance. Oil and gas leases cover much of the area. No wells have been drilled. The area lies within the overthrust belt and has structures similar to the producing overthrust oil and gas fields in southwestern Wyoming and northeastern Utah. However, no discoveries have been made to date.

This roadless area contains deposits of coal and phosphate, both of good quality. This roadless area contains 95,600 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no non-compatible special uses. The area contains the Burns Creek NRA.

Roads and Trails: Primitive roads extend into the roadless area for short distances at many points along the boundary. Roads in Fleming Canyon on the south and Mahogany Creek on the east and Hinckley Creek on the west penetrate the area the farthest. An extensive trail system exists and provides access to the entire area.

Heritage: Petroglyphs have been found along the South Fork of the Snake River and in Black Canyon.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Garns Mountain Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	95,600	90,800	90,800
GFRG	0	9	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	4,800	4,800
Total Acres	**95,600**	**95,600**	**95,600**

Lionhead #963

16,900 Acres Targhee (Idaho)
32,800 Acres Gallatin (Montana)
49,700 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Lionhead Roadless Area straddles the Continental Divide where it forms the boundary between Montana and Idaho, and between the Gallatin National Forest (Montana) and Targhee portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest (Idaho). Approximately 32,800 acres are located in Montana on the Gallatin National Forest. The 16,900 acres in Idaho are located within Fremont County, Idaho, on the Targhee portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

The area is within the Rocky Mountain Forest Province. It is part of Henry's Lake Mountains. Elevation ranges from about 6,500 to 10,240 feet. Terrain is fairly steep and rugged with the mountains rising abruptly from Henry's Lake Flat. The area is within the Douglas-fir forest and the western spruce-fir forest ecosystem.

At lower elevations tree species are generally Douglas-fir, with some subalpine fir and Englemann spruce. Pine grass, low huckleberry, and sage are also prevalent. As elevation increases, subalpine fir increases and Douglas-fir and spruce decrease. At higher elevations limber pine is the major tree species. Small open meadows are common in canyon bottoms.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Influence on natural integrity by physical developments is low; influence of apparent naturalness is very low. The area has been little influenced by physical developments.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude is high; opportunity for primitive recreation is high. Topographic screening enhances the opportunity for solitude. Diverse primitive recreation opportunities exist.

Special Features: There are no special scenic landmarks. A 2,700 Research Natural Area occurs in this roadless area and 2,500 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Manageability: The area is adjacent to the Targhee National Forest lands on the southeast and southwest, the Gallatin National Forest on the north and private, State of Idaho and lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management to the south. The area is contiguous to the Lionhead Roadless Area on the Gallatin National Forest. Boundaries are fairly well defined. Wilderness characteristics are enhanced by the presence of Lionhead Roadless Area on the Gallatin National Forest.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Targhee Creek, an important cutthroat spawning stream, provides 50 percent of the wild cutthroat production of Henry's Lake.

Wildlife: Grizzly bear, lynx, wolverine, and peregrine falcon occur in this roadless area. Elk, moose, and deer are summer residents here, but only the moose attempt to winter in the high elevation alpine fir stands. The area also supports a band of bighorn sheep.

Water: Because of the extremely high elevations, this area is a heavy water producer for the Madison and Henry's Fork rivers. Part of this area adjacent to the Continental Divide has been contour trenched by a watershed rehabilitation project; however, the trenches do not preclude wilderness consideration.

Botanical: Pink agorseris (*Agoseris lackschewitzii*) a sensitive plant species occurs in the roadless area. Elevation extremes contribute to a moderate ecological diversity.

Recreation: Recreation use is undeveloped and of a backcountry nature. Snowmobile use occurs in the winter. There are few opportunities for developed recreation facilities.

Timber: This roadless area contains Douglas-fir, alpine fir, Englemann spruce, and some lodgepole pine timber. All of the area is classed as non-forest or unsuitable forest land. Timber is scattered; of poor quality; and generally located on steep, high elevation slopes. The area has not been managed for timber to date.

Range: No allotments occur in the area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 4,500 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: No known mineral activity has occurred in the area. There are no utility corridors within the area. This roadless area contains 16,900 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no non-compatible special uses.

Roads and Trails: Primitive roads, presently under closure restriction, extend northward into the roadless area from U.S. 191 into the Targhee and Dry Fork drainages from the south. Low standard trails follow both Dry Fork and Targhee Creek to their headwaters. The trail on Targhee Creek provides loop access to numerous lakes lying south of the Continental Divide.

Heritage: No significant cultural resources are known to exist.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Lionhead Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	11,200	11,200
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	16,900	500	500
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	5,200	5,200
Total Acres	**16,900**	**16,900**	**16,900**

Mount Jefferson #962

61,000 Acres Targhee (Idaho)
4,400 Acres Beaverhead-Deerlodge (Montana)
65,400 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Mount Jefferson Roadless Area is south and west of Henry's Lake and extends westward along the Continental Divide to the West Camas Creek area. The eastern end of the area is approximately eighteen air miles from West Yellowstone, Montana and the western end is approximately twenty-five air miles from Dubois, Idaho. Approximately 4,400 acres are located in Montana on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

This area is situated at the top of the Centennial Mountain Range within the Rocky Mountain Forest Province. Elevations range from 7,000 feet to in excess of 10,000 feet at several peaks along the east-west trending Centennial Range. Relief is moderate. Slope gradients range from gentle to moderately steep. The entire area is within the Douglas-fir forest ecosystem and the western spruce-fir forest ecosystem.

Primary vegetative habitat types include alpine turf, which occurs in upper elevations and consists of short growing season grass and forbs, sagebrush/grass, Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine, which occupies the lower slopes. Aspen is abundant.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Influences on natural integrity by physical developments are high; influence on apparent naturalness is moderate. Physical developments tend to divide the area. With the exception of the phosphate prospects and watershed projects most developments little effect naturalness. Even though roads and developments have segmented the area, the segments are contiguous to the Bureau of Land Management primitive area in Montana. When considered in combination with adjacent primitive area lands, the individual segments meet minimum wilderness qualifications.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude is moderate. Topographic and vegetative screening does not contribute to the opportunity for solitude. The opportunity for primitive recreation is enhanced by the Continental Divide Trail. Opportunities for challenging experiences are rare.

Special Features: Slide Mountain is a special scenic landmark, and the Continental Divide Trail is a special feature situated in this roadless area. Approximately 6,800 acres are located in the Bloomington Lake Special Area.

Manageability: This area is bounded to the north by the Bureau of Land Management Centennial Mountain Primitive area, the Sheep Experiment Station and Mount Jefferson Roadless Area on the Beaverhead National Forest. The northern boundary is common with the Continental Divide. The southern boundary generally adjoins Targhee National Forest except south of Mickey's Lake where the area adjoins public and private lands. The existing southern boundary would be difficult to manage because it falls at mid-slope and is difficult to locate on the ground. The northern boundary adjoins primitive uses. These lands are administered by three different Federal agencies. Boundary adjustments which might improve wilderness management would reduce wilderness opportunities.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Little fishing opportunity exists in the area. Some fishing occurs in Aldous and Hancock Lakes, Ching and Cottonwood Creek.

Wildlife: Lynx and bald eagle, threatened species, and great grey owl, wolverine, northern goshawk, peregrine falcon, three toed woodpecker, Williamson's sapsucker, Region 4 sensitive species occur in this roadless area. Elk, deer, bluegrass and moose inhabit the area along with innumerable non-game species. Because of deep snow and dense timber the only ungulate found in the roadless area during the winter would be an occasional moose.

Water: As the roadless area includes some higher elevations, this is a water producing area. Sawtelle and Mount Jefferson reach the 10,000 foot level and normally the snow pack is very heavy. The water from the melting snow filters down to Camas Creek, the Henry's Fork of the Snake River and Mud Lake. A watershed rehabilitation project, consisting of contour trenches, was constructed in the head of Rock Creek in the early 1960's. This roadless area contains 2,500 acres of surface water (municipal water supply).

Botanical: Pink agorseris (*Agoseris lackschewitzii*) a sensitive plant species occurs in the roadless area. The ecological diversity of the area is moderate due primarily to change in elevation and associated climatic changes.

Recreation: Recreation facilities in the area include a trailhead in Ching Creek which accesses Aldous and Hancock Lakes and the Continental Divide Trail (east and west). An other trailhead in Cottonwood Creek at the mouth of Trail Creek accesses Salamander Lake, the Trail Creek trail, Salamander trail, Trail Creek-Ching Creek trail and Continental Divide Trail. Other trails within this area include Spruce Creek, Coal Mine, Table Mountain, Bear Gulch-Table Mountain and Continental Divide Trails. Dispersed recreation is increasing yearly. With the designation and signing of the Continental Divide Trail there has been increased use of all the trails in the area. Use and visits to the three lakes (Salamander, Aldous and Hancock) has also increased. Numerous youth groups visit these sites each year. Other dispersed use activity include hunting, hiking, camping, over night trips, horse back riding, trail bike riding and bird and animal watching. Snowmobile use in the winter months is increasing as the area provides good cross country snowmobiling in areas where no groomed trails currently exist.

Timber: The roadless area is covered with lodgepole stands on about one-half of the area. These stands occur at the lower elevations of the roadless area. The lodgepole is currently intensely infested with mountain pine beetle resulting in extremely high mortality of sawtimber-size trees. The upper one-half of the roadless area varies from some lodgepole stands to some Douglas-fir stands on steeper slopes. At the higher elevations these stands include alpine fir and Engelmann spruce; finally ending in pure limber pine stands. The highest ranges in this roadless area are above timber line.

Range: This area contains portions of three sheep and one cattle allotments. The allotments are grazed through the summer with livestock coming off the forest in the fall. This area presently has a potential to increase livestock use.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 4,800 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area contains phosphate deposits of know commercial quality. Phosphate mining has occurred within the area but is not active at this time due to the transportation costs to the Simplot plant west of Pocatello. The company doesn't expect to renew the operation until their supply pf phosphate in the Soda Springs area is exhausted (50-100 years from now). Some building stone is removed from the area and marketed locally. Several old mines exist which are thought to have been dug for coal and gold; however, no activity has been observed for the past 30 years. No records exist which indicates the presence of any valuable metallic ores in this roadless area. This roadless area contains 38,500 acres of high and 22,500 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no incompatible special uses.

Roads and Trails: Existing primitive roads do exist that have served past resource activities such as range and watershed management as well as timber. The Keg Springs and the East Dry Creek roads cross the area and access lands administered by the Sheep Experiment Station. A major road, the Sawtelle Peak road penetrates the east end of the area accessing a site maintained by the Federal Aviation Administration. The Continental Divide trail follows the divide across the area.

Heritage: Major cultural resource sites are within the area. Table Mountain cultural complex is thousands of acres in size and has numerous sites ranging from obsidian quarry sites to permanent camp and

rendezvous sites. Other smaller sites have been located as areas have been surveyed for clearance for other resource activities over the last planning period.

Disturbances: The Ching Creek drainage contains large concentrations of lodgepole pine stands that are over mature and dead or dying. Recreation use is heavy in this drainage making safety of the visitors a concern as the dead trees are constantly falling to the ground. Fire hazard is also a concern because if a fire should get started the likely hood of losing the whole drainage is very high.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Mount Jefferson Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	41,000	41,000
Backcountry	61,000	13,200	13,200
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	6,800	6,800
Total Acres	**61,000**	**61,000**	**61,000**

Palisades #613

122,000 Acres Targhee (Idaho)
135,300 Acres Bridger-Teton (Wyoming)
257,300 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Palisades Roadless Area on the Targhee portion of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest is contiguous to the Palisades Roadless Area on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The portion of the area in Wyoming (approximately 135,300 acres) was designated as a Wilderness Study area by the Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1984.

The Palisades Roadless Area includes most of the Snake River Range. The southern boundary is U.S. Highway 26/39 between Alpine and Jackson, Wyoming. It is separate from the West Slope Tetons Roadless Area by State Highway 33/22 between Victor, Idaho and Jackson and from the Garns Mountain Roadless Area by State Highway 31 between Victor and Swan Valley. It is approximately 10 air miles southwest of Jackson, Wyoming.

Geographically, the area drains to the east, west, and south into the Snake River. Drainages in this area are, for the most part, well defined with deep canyons. There are some major faults located in this area. Observation Peak (9,972 feet) and Mud Peak (9,503 feet) are located on the boundary between the Targhee and Teton National Forests.

The vegetation types exhibit considerable variety. At the lower elevations, lodgepole pine predominates, with mixtures of subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, and Douglas-fir. In the higher elevations a spruce-fir mixture is dominant, with some scattered lodgepole pine. Ground vegetation varies form a dense grass-brush type to sparse grass on the steeper slopes. Plant communities represented in the area are Douglas-fir forest, western spruce-fir forest, lodgepole pine, and sagebrush steppe.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Opportunities for Experience: The Palisades Roadless Area provides very high potential for solitude by virtue of its size, topographical screening, and vegetative screening. Although the distance from the perimeter to the core of the area is only about three miles, this distance is much greater within the portion of the roadless area on the Targhee. The more remote, essentially unmodified, areas of the Palisades provide exceptional opportunities to experience isolation from the sight and sound of human, independence and closeness to nature. Interaction between users is low.

The element of risk and opportunity for application of outdoor skills can be experienced to varying degrees throughout the Palisades. Fairly large areas with no trails can be found to challenge the map and compass skills of the more intrepid adventures.

Special Features: The Palisades Roadless Area offers spectacular views of mountain peaks interspersed with alpine meadows. A blue pool fed by a cold water spring near the head of Coburn Creek is a local attraction. Upper and lower Palisades Lakes and 800 foot waterfall canyon are also attractions. Approximately 5,500 acres are within an eligible Wild and Scenic River corridor. About 200 acres are in Management Prescription 8.1 which is a concentrated development area.

Manageability: Although the exterior boundaries of this roadless area are quite well defined, timber sales areas in the vicinity of Mosquito Creek and Fall Creek would not qualify it for wilderness. As a result, some boundary modification in the Mosquito Creek-Fall Creek area would be necessary to aid manageability. The area is large enough for a viable wilderness if it were combined with both the contiguous Palisades Roadless Area on both the Bridger-Teton and Targhee National Forests.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species occur in the roadless area.

Wildlife: Harlequin duck, peregrine falcon, and flammulated owl, Region 4 sensitive species occur in this roadless area. There are several bald eagles and osprey that occupy the Snake River area, and their habitat extends, to a limited extent, into the south fringe of the area.

Water: All water originating from these areas is pure and free-flowing. All streams flow into the Snake River.

Botanical: Payson's bladderpod (*Lesquerella paysonii*) a sensitive plant species occurs in the roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 24,700 acres of WUI.

Recreation: Most recreational activities associated with an undeveloped setting can be enjoyed in the Palisades. The area contains approximately 180 miles of trail between both forests. Big game hunting, fishing, horseback riding, backpacking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and camping are experienced in the area.

Minerals and Energy: This roadless area contains 122,000 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Heritage: There are no known historical features within the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Palisades Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	60,200	60,200
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	122,000	53,100	53,100
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	8,700	8,700
Total Acres	**122,000**	**122,000**	**122,000**

Poker Peak #616

19,600 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Poker Peak Roadless Area is located adjacent to the southwest shore of Palisades Reservoir. The Bear Creek-Jensen Creek road forms the other boundary. The roadless area is about four air miles southeast of Palisades townsite. Except for primitive game and stock trails, little access exists.

The area is situated in the Caribou Mountain Range within the Rocky Mountain Forest Province. Elevation ranges form 5,600 feet along the shore of Palisades Reservoir to in excess of 8,400 feet at Poker Peak. The area consists of a single dominate northwesterly-southwesterly trending ridge, draining to the northeast and southwest. Slopes are moderately steep.

Vegetative types range from continuous stands of conifer (a combination of lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and aspen) in drainages draining into Palisades Reservoir and Elk Creek to large areas of grass-brush in the Poker Peak area and on south slopes draining into Jensen and McCoy Creek. The entire area is within the Douglas-fir forest ecosystem.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Influence on natural integrity by physical developments is low; influence on apparent naturalness is moderate. Physical developments such as unimproved roads can often be separated, thereby maintaining the integrity of the area. Developments related to grazing and off-site influence such as boats on the reservoir reduce naturalness.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude is low; opportunity for primitive recreation is low. Solitude is reduced by the small size of the area, poor topographic screening and off-site influences. Vegetative diversity is the single factor positively contributing to the opportunity for primitive recreation. Opportunity for challenging experiences is rare.

Special Features: There are no special scenic landmarks.

Manageability: Area boundaries area well defined. Adjacent landownership and uses would be compatible with wilderness management. This area is bounded by Palisades Reservoir to the northeast. A small parcel of private land is proximal to the boundary in the south. The entire remaining boundary adjoins Targhee National Forest. This area is not contiguous to other roadless area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Fisheries is significant in one of the four creeks that drain into Palisades Reservoir. All streams have spawning and rearing habitat for the fine spotted Snake River cutthroat (a Forest Service sensitive species, and a species of special concern to the Idaho Fish and Game Department).

Wildlife: The area is summer range for a few elk, moose, and deer. Many non-game birds and animals reside in this area as well as those adapted to the shoreline of the reservoir, which includes a dense population of osprey nests. Bald eagles also occur in this roadless area. At least two grouse species are residents. The game animals generally vacate this north and east sloping roadless area during the winter because of heavy snow. The area is good black bear habitat and hunters occasionally report grizzly sighting. A very small amount of big game winter range exists on the south facing slopes along Palisades Reservoir along with essential bald eagle habitat. Wolverine, a Region 4 sensitive species also occurs here.

Water: The area is a fair water producer because of snow pack. All overland flow eventually reaches Palisades Reservoir.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur. The ecological diversity is high. Because the area has strong northeasterly and southwesterly aspects and a considerable range in elevation, numerous plant communities exist.

Recreation: Dispersed recreation use includes horseback riding, hiking, hunting, and motorbike use at a moderate level. Dispersed camping occurs from lake oriented visitors.

Timber: The roadless area consists of timbered slopes on the east and north faces. The south and west slopes are generally not timbered or contain areas of aspen and minor areas of conifers. The timbered eastern and northern slopes contain lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir. Lodgepole is predominant. Potential annual timber yield is approximately .5 million board feet.

Range: Parts of three sheep allotments are in the areas. All run about a thousand head for two months during July and August. The value of existing range improvements is estimated to be $52,000 with a potential to increase to $60,000.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 800 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: The area lies within the overthrust belt and has structures similar to the producing overthrust oil and gas fields in southwestern Wyoming and northeastern Utah. This area has been covered with oil-gas leases which have expired. Prospecting here for gold is more recreational than economical. This activity occurs in all live streams in the area. Placer rather than lode claims are active in this roadless area. No claims of commercial value are known to exist. This roadless area contains 19,600 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Phosphate is present in commercial quantities but is not likely to be developed until Soda Springs area no longer produces. This should not occur for another 50-100 years.

Heritage: Significant cultural resources are not known to exist.

Disturbances: A small portion of this area is within the high country fire management area where some wildfire will be allowed to burn under certain prescribed conditions.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Palisades Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	19,500	19,600
Backcountry	19,600	100	0
GFRG	0	1	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**19,600**	**19,600**	**19,600**

Raynolds Pass #603

7,700 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Raynolds Pass Roadless Area is located directly west of Henry's Lake and is approximately eighteen air miles due west of Yellowstone, Montana. Much of the western most northern boundary is the Continental Divide, which is also the Montana-Idaho State line. Existing transportation is limited to a primitive road in the Kelley Creek drainage, presently closed to automobile use. Numerous sheep and cattle trails cross the area. The Continental Divide Trail also passes through the area.

The area is within the Rocky Mountain Forest Province and is part of Henry's Lake Mountains. Elevation of the area ranges up to 7,500 feet. Slope rise fairly gently from Henry's Lake Flat to the Continental Divide. The entire ecosystem is within the Douglas-fir forest ecosystem.

Sage-grass is the major vegetative habitat type – comprising about one-half of the total area. This type is found along bottom lands of most drainages and intermediate ridges and open parks along the upper portion of the area. Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and aspen are the tree species most common to the area.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Influence on natural integrity by physical developments is very high; influence on apparent naturalness is low. Primitive roads reduce the integrity but have only a low impact on naturalness.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude is low; opportunity for primitive recreation is low. Off-site intrusions and a small core area reduce the opportunity for solitude. Few attractions exist. Opportunities for challenging experiences are rare.

Special Features: There are no special scenic landmarks.

Manageability: The area is bordered by Targhee National Forest land to the north and south, by the Beaverhead National Forest on the west, and by private lands on the east. This adjacent federal land is roaded. Boundaries are fairly well defined, except for removing the limited mining activity; there are few opportunities to improve wilderness characteristics by boundary modification.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: North Fork Deer Creek and Kelly Creek are cutthroat spawning and rearing areas for Henry's Lake and support high densities of cutthroat fry. Duck Creek supports 20 percent of wild cutthroat production to Henry's Lake.

Wildlife: Lynx, wolverine, northern goshawk, trumpeter swan occur in this roadless area. Deer and elk summer here and moose utilize the area as winter range as well. Elk move back and forth across the Continental Divide, especially during the hunting season. Peregrine falcon may occasionally use the area.

Water: The roadless area does not support continuous creeks of importance. Should an overland flow develop, it would contribute to Henry's Lake. Snow pack is heavy and provides the major amount of the annual prescription.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur. Ecological diversity is limited, due to relatively minor variation in moisture, elevation, and temperature.

Recreation: Recreational use is light consisting of only about 2,000 visitor days. There are few opportunities for increases in use. Use consists mostly of trail biking, snowmobiling, hunting, and hiking use is concentrated along the Continental Divide Historical Scenic Trail.

Timber: Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine are the timber species with commercial value. Volumes of Douglas-fir are quite large. Commercial stands of lodgepole pine are primarily located in the Kelly Creek

area. The area has a potential annual yield of about .2 million board feet of timber. Aspen within the roadless area has no commercial value at this time.

Range: Two livestock allotments are delineated in this area, one cattle and one sheep. Cattle are on the range from June 16 through September 30 and sheep use their area for two months during July and August. Permittees have invested about $23,000 in range improvements.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 4,600 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: A building stone – Idaho driftwood is mined adjacent to the area. Claims have been filed within the area for Idaho driftwood. There are also some oil and gas leases. There are no identified utility corridors. This roadless area contains 7,700 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no incompatible special uses.

Heritage: Significant cultural resources have not been identified.

Disturbances: Spruce budworm has infected Douglas-fir stands, especially in the central part of the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Raynolds Pass Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan s(acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	7,700	7,700	7,700
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**7,700**	**7,700**	**7,700**

Two Top #604

7,000 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Two Top Roadless Area is located about six air miles southwest of West Yellowstone, Montana. The eastern boundary is the Continental Divide between Idaho and Montana. The southern boundary is the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way.

This area is within the Rocky Mountain Forest Province and is part of the Henry's Lake Mountains. Elevation ranges from about 7,000 to 8,000 feet. Slopes rise fairly rapidly from Henry's Lake Flat. The entire area is within in Douglas-fir forest ecosystem.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Influence on natural integrity by physical developments are high, influence on apparent naturalness is moderate. Natural integrity is broken by a primitive road which divides the area in half. Primitive roads and mineral related development moderately influence apparent naturalness.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude is moderate; opportunity for primitive recreation is moderate. Distance form perimeters to the core of the area, access, and off-site intrusions provide only a moderate opportunity for solitude. An opportunity for primitive recreation exists but few attractions exist to enhance it. Opportunities for challenging experiences area rare.

Manageability: The area is bounded on the north and south by Targhee National Forest Lands; on the east by the Gallatin National Forest and by private lands on the west. Adjacent National Forest lands are not roadless. Boundaries are fairly well defined. There are limited opportunities to improve natural integrity and apparent naturalness through boundary modification to remove evidence of vegetation manipulation and range improvement.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Creeks in this roadless area are small and do not support fisheries of consequences.

Wildlife: The area provides summer range for elk, some deer, and moose. Moose winter on the south and west slopes and in alpine fir stands. Grizzly bear inhabit the area and peregrine falcon may occasionally use the area.

Water: The area is a good water producer because of its heavy snow pack. Most drainages are free flowing streams to the meadows of Henry's Lake Flat and the Henry's Fork of the Snake River.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur. Ecological diversity is moderate. Most mid elevation range plant communities occur.

Recreation: Recreation use is heavy – about 60,000 visitor days per year. Primary use is snowmobiling.

Timber: The area contains significant volumes of lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir sawtimber.

Range: The area has been divided into three sheep allotments and one cattle allotment.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 1,300 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: There are placer and lode claims in this roadless area for the mineral varacite, a substitute turquoise gem material. Production volume is not known; however, on-site activity is occurring. There are some oil and gas leases and applications. There are no utility corridors within the area, but the Reas Pass corridor is adjacent to the roadless area. This roadless area contains 7,000 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no incompatible special uses.

Roads and Trails: A low standard road extends into the roadless areas on the west at Garner Canyon for approximately one mile. The Two Top National Recreation Trail and the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail pass through the area.

Heritage: Cultural resources are unverified, but may be present.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Two Top Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	7,000	7,000
Backcountry	7,000	0	0
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**7,000**	**7,000**	**7,000**

West Slope Tetons #610

800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The West Slope Tetons Roadless Area is generally the west slope of the Teton Range. Most of the east boundary is adjacent to Grand Teton National Park. The north boundary is the Ashton-Flagg Ranch Road, and the south boundary is the Teton Pass Highway. It is about five miles directly east of Driggs, Idaho, and eight air miles northwest of Jackson, Wyoming.

A trail system exists in much of the roadless area; many trails provide access to the Grand Teton National Park that borders the area on the east. Many of the trails are poorly located with segments hazardous to the user. Others are causing soil erosion problems and should be reconstructed.

The area is situated on the west flank of the Teton Range within the Rocky Mountain Forest Province. Elevations range from in excess of 7,000 feet to less than 6,500 feet. The area is characterized by broad westward sloping ridges separated by westerly flowing canyons. The entire area is within the Douglas-fir ecosystem and the western spruce-fir forest ecosystem.

Vegetation varies depending on elevation. At lower elevations stands of Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, alpine fir, and spruce predominate. At higher elevations scattered patches of limber pine, subalpine fir and white bark pine are more common. Ground vegetation varies from heavy grass-brush types at lower elevations to sparse grass-forb types at higher elevations.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Influence on natural integrity by physical developments is low; influenced on apparent naturalness is low. Although timber harvest and road construction have occurred on the western margin of the area, development has little affect on the natural integrity or apparent naturalness.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude is high; opportunity for primitive recreation is high. Vegetation, terrain, waterways, and trails compliment one another creating a very high opportunity for primitive recreation.

Manageability: Management as wilderness would be compatible with the adjacent Jed Smith Wilderness. Boundary modification could be effectively utilized to separate conflicting uses along the entire western margin. The size of the area coupled with the adjacent Jed Smith Wilderness provides a good opportunity for potential wilderness.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species occur in this roadless area.

Wildlife: Grizzly bear habitat is located north of Birch Creek. Most of the area is considered to be elk summer range. Some elk calving areas and elk winter range exists along the western margin of the area.

Water: The area is a heavy water producer feeding substantial flows into Fall River and Teton River. Snow generally accumulates to great depths and is metered into the creeks according to summer temperatures. Small lakes are not uncommon and small creeks are common at very high elevations.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: The area has limited opportunities for developed recreation. It does provide excellent opportunities for backcountry type uses such as horseback riding and backpacking.

Range: The area is grazed extensively by sheep for two or two and one-half months between July and September. Some drainages or parts thereof have been temporarily closed to grazing. There are five small cattle allotments in this area which are mainly bottom lands at the mouth of the major drainages.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 600 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: Minerals activity at the present time is oil, and this roadless area contains 800 acres of medium geothermal potential. A talc claim near Rammel Mountain contains high quality material but is not developed. Limestone of good quality is located over a large portion of the Teton Creek-Darby Creek and Fox Creek drainages. A commercial operation near the mouth of Fox Creek adjacent to the boundary of this roadless area was in production for 30 years.

Landownership and Special Uses: Future land use has been authorized for Big Valley Corporation to expand the ski area via special use permit in accordance with the Grand Teton Master Plan. No utility corridors exist within the area.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

West Slope Tetons Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	200	0
Backcountry	800	500	700
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	100	100
Total Acres	**800**	**800**	**800**

Winegar Hole #347

3,800 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Winegar Hole Roadless Area is located immediately south of Yellowstone National Park, southeast of Fall River and north of Boone Creek on the Ashton-Flagg Ranch road. A low standard trail system exists, providing access in the Boone Creek area.

The area is within the Rocky Mountain Province. Elevation of most of the area is about 6,350 feet. Terrain is relatively gentle with few major changes in elevation. Landforms are glacial in origin. The entire area is within the Douglas-fir Forest ecosystem.

Vegetation is diverse with riparian types (sedges, willows, and meadow grasses) associated with the many lakes and streams. These habitats are surrounded by extensive stands of lodgepole pine. Aspen, Douglas-fir and alpine fir are also present.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Influence on natural integrity by physical developments are moderate; influence on apparent naturalness is moderate. A small timber sale and associated road and a portion of a larger sale have occurred in the western-most portion of the area.

Opportunities for Experience: Opportunity for solitude is moderate; opportunity for primitive recreation is moderate. Vegetation screening and diversity, lakes, ponds and streams contribute.

Special Features: Grizzly bear frequently inhabit the area; the area has been classified as grizzly Situation 1 habitat. The area has no special landmarks.

Manageability: The area is surrounded by the Targhee National Forest. It is contiguous to the Winegar Hole Wilderness directly to the east of Wyoming. Because the area is relatively flat with few well defined landmarks, boundaries are not well defined. The area is adjacent to a wilderness area.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: Ponds, seeps, meadows, shallow lakes and streams furnish habitat for trumpeter swans, sandhill cranes and loons. Some of the larger lakes and streams support populations of trout.

Wildlife: Trumpeter swan and common loon occur in this roadless area. Wildlife that occupies the area includes elk, moose, deer, grizzly and black bear. The area is important elk summer range and small part is used as an elk calving area. It is also important grizzly bear habitat.

Water: There is fairly high ecological diversity due to the many ponds and lakes.

Botanical: No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur.

Recreation: The area receives light dispersed recreation use mainly associated with hunting, and there is limited potential for developed recreation facilities.

Timber: There is no timber harvest planned for most of the roadless area. However, there are stands of lodgepole and Douglas-fir that could be harvested. Approximately 1,100 acres have been affected by timber management activity in the western-most portion of the area.

Range: There are portions of two grazing allotments. A small segment of the Fall River Ridge Allotment occurs north of Fall River. Approximately 3,000 AUMs occur on this allotment. South of Fall River is a portion of the squirrel meadows sheep and goat allotment that was closed in 1990 due to grizzly bear/sheep conflicts.

Minerals and Energy: There are geothermal and oil and gas lease applications in much of the area. However, leasing is deferred by the Island Park geothermal EIS until it can be ascertained that

exploration would not harm the geothermal features in Yellowstone National Park. This roadless area contains 3,500 acres of high and 300 acres of medium geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: There are no incompatible special uses.

Heritage: No known cultural resources are known to exist.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Winegar Hole Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	2,600	
Primitive	0	100	2,700
Backcountry	3,800	400	400
GFRG	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	700	700
Total Acres	**3,800**	**3,800**	**3,800**

Big Canyon #853

14,100 Acres Wallowa-Whitman
14,100 Acres Total

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Big Canyon Roadless Area is north of the Pittsburg Landing Road. Its northern edge is the Nez Perce National Forest boundary. It extends from the Snake River to the Salmon-Snake River Divide. The entire unit is National Forest System land. The much dissected topography is mostly covered with bunchgrasses except for the upper reaches of Big Canyon Creek. Most of the land is steep.

Access to Big Canyon is the Pittsburg Road, associated four-wheel drive roads. The river also provides access.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: Much of the area is unnatural in appearance because of the extent of man's activities.

Opportunities for Experience: There is low opportunity for solitude and little recreation opportunity exists. Views of the Snake River and geologic formations are available.

Special Features: The area is known to contain threatened or endangered plant species.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: No anadromous fish are known to occur. Big Canyon and Jones Creeks probably support resident rainbow trout populations in their lower reaches.

Wildlife: Hairy woodpecker, mountain quail, northern flicker, pileated woodpecker, and flammulated owl occur in this roadless area. The area supports many of the wildlife species indigenous to the roadless area including deer, elk, bear, cougar, and numerous game and non-game species. Lower elevations are deer and elk winter range No threatened or endangered animals are known to inhabit the area.

Botanical: Macfarlane's Four-o'clock *(Mirabilis macfarlanei)* a threatened species occurs in this roadless area. Broad-fruit mariposa *(Calochortus nitidus),* Banks monkeyflower *(Mimulis clivicola)* and Bartonberry *(Rubus bartonianus)* three sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 7,300 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: One property has been identified with mineral resources and the area has favorable potential for additional discoveries; however, it is withdrawn from further mineral entry. No power withdrawals, existing or proposed impoundments or irrigation systems are located in the area. Downstream uses include irrigation and power generation. There is limited opportunity for improvement. This roadless area contains 14,100 acres of high geothermal potential.

Landownership and Special Uses: Pittsburg Landing has until recently been privately owned as has portions of Big Canyon Creek. This land and adjacent National Forest System land was grazed from the beginning of the century. Some soil and range has been affected. There are ranch buildings still in use in Big Canyon Creek and at Pittsburg Landing. Numerous fences have been constructed. Pastures have been tilled and range structures built.

Heritage: Numerous prehistoric Indian sites occur.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Big Canyon Management Theme Wallowa-Whitman	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Backcountry	14,100	14,100	14,100
General Forest	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**14,100**	**14,100**	**14,100**

Klopton Creek-Corral Creek #854

21,300 Acres

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

The Klopton Creek Roadless Area lies between the Pittsburg Landing Road and the Hells Canyon Wilderness. The area is generally steep, dissected terrain with the exception of some benchlands north of Sawpit Saddle. The northern fourth of the area is grassland. The rest is moderately dense to dense forest land. The face above the river is generally the steepest and rockiest.

Much of the area has been grazed. Numerous cabins exist as remnants of earlier homesteads and ranches. Some picnic tables and toilets have been located along the Snake River. Some water diversion structures have been constructed at Big Bar and Sheep Creek along the Snake River. Numerous fences have been built throughout. Extensive prospecting has occurred at the Blue Jacket Mine adjacent to Cow Creek Saddle. An unimproved road goes from Cow Creek Saddle to Kirkwood Creek on the river and serves the active Kirkwood Ranch. Numerous clearcuts are located adjacent to the area in Sawpit Saddle and Dutch Oven Ridge.

ROADLESS CHARACTERISTICS

Natural Integrity: People can reach the area via the Pittsburg Landing Road, the river, and several roads. Most of the roads traverse the Snake-Salmon Divide. Several trails cross the area.

Opportunities for Experience: Many opportunities exist for solitude and primitive recreation. Topographic screening is high throughout the area while vegetation gives excellent screening in the middle and southern portions. The area itself is very natural appearing but off-site activities do intrude. Most of the area is scenic with excellent views available of the river and the Hells Canyon Wilderness. Some endangered or threatened plant species are known to occur. Although many of man's activities are noticeable, the effect is generally restricted to immediate sites.

RESOURCES

Fisheries: The lower reaches of Corral, Klopton, Kirby and Kirkwood Creeks probably contain resident populations of rainbow trout. No anadromous fish are known to use these streams. Bull trout, Chinook summer/fall salmon, steelhead, inland redband trout, pacific lamprey, and westslope cutthroat habitat overlaps this roadless area.

Wildlife: Hairy woodpecker, mountain quail, northern flicker, Townsend's big eared bat, whiteheaded woodpecker, and flammulated owl occur in this roadless area. Many of the wildlife species indigenous to the roadless area including deer, elk, bear, cougar, and other game and non-game occur. The lower elevations are used as winter range and the upper elevations as summer range.

Botanical: Broad-fruit mariposa *(Calochortus nitidus),* Spacious monkeyflower *(Mimulis ampliatus)* two sensitive plant species occur in this roadless area

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): This roadless area contains 7,300 acres of WUI.

Minerals and Energy: No producing mines exist. However, the Blue Jacket Mining Group does contain a substantial resource and extensive exploration is being conducted by the owners. Several other mining properties are in the area which has a very high mineral potential. No power withdrawals, existing or proposed impoundments or irrigation systems are located in the area, which contributes high quality water to the Snake River and is used downstream for irrigation and power generation. There is limited opportunity for improvement. Some historical water diversion structures have been developed at Big Bar and Sheep Creek. This roadless area contains 21,300 acres of high geothermal potential.

Heritage: Numerous historic and prehistoric sites occur, primarily along the Snake River and its larger tributaries.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS

Klopton Creek-Corral Creek Management Theme	2001 Roadless Rule (acres)	Existing Plan (acres)	Idaho Roadless Rule (acres)
Wild Land Recreation	0	0	0
Primitive	0	0	0
Back Country Restoration	21,300	21,300	21,300
General Forest	0	0	0
SAHTS	0	0	0
Forest Plan Special Areas	0	0	0
Total Acres	**21,300**	**21,300**	**21,300**

Please recycle this document when it is ready to be discarded.