



File Code: 1570-1

Date: May 21, 2009

Dear Sir or Madam,

Frank Church- River of No Return Wilderness (FC-RONRW) Management Plan was signed in November of 2003. Following signing of the plan it was brought to the attention of the Forest Service there were a number of items that were incorrect, vague or unclear. In order to correct the situation changes have been made to the Management Plan. These changes are corrections of error and/or clarification of the Plan contents and have been made through Errata. They do not change any decisions.

A description of each correction or point of clarification and the specific change follows. These corrections and clarifications have also been made in the Management Plan. Both the Errata and updated Management Plan are available through links on the Salmon-Challis National Forest web site <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/> or they can be accessed directly at: <http://www/fs/fed/us/r4/sc/fcronr/fcronrindex.shtml>.

#### **Clarification #1 - Aviation**

Airstrip management for Dewey Moore, Mile-High, Simonds, and Vines landing strips will continue to be consistent with use for emergencies only. Forests will work with the Idaho Division of Aeronautics to determine the appropriate level of maintenance for these landing strips to ensure their availability for emergency use and develop management plans to implement any future actions. The definition of emergency use only in the management plan will be removed to address liability issues.

#### **Changes to Management Plan:**

Management Plan, pg 2-12, D. Objectives. Edit 9 to read:

9. The Forest Service, in consultation with the State of Idaho and Federal Aviation Administration, will define an appropriate maintenance standard for the four emergency use only airstrips along Big Creek, with the understanding that conditions will not be enhanced at these locations over what existed in 1980. An O&M Plan will be developed and implemented to identify the maintenance needs and the hazardous conditions on these airstrips.

Management Plan, pg 2-12, E. Standards and Guidelines, 3. Edit 3 to read:

3. Manage Dewey Moore, Mile-High, Simonds and Vines airstrips for "emergency use only". The Forest Service will use only designated public use airstrips for non-emergency aircraft landings. These emergency use-landing areas will not be included on wilderness maps.(S)

Management Plan, Glossary pg L-5, delete:

~~**Emergency Use Only.** A designation that may be in this context assigned to landing strips within the FC-RONRW. Emergency use constitutes an unplanned event. Landing~~



~~of aircraft on strips with this designation will only occur when associated with unplanned events.~~

### **Clarification #2 – Corridor Portal**

A recreational powerboat permittee can leave the Wild River corridor to a portal, such as Corn Creek, and return using the same permit.

### **Changes to Management Plan:**

Replace on Pg 2-70 Non-commercial Power Boating Permits # 3 with:

3. Any powerboat use of a day constitutes full use of the day. The day after one permitted boat leaves the river corridor another permitted boat can launch in its place. (S)
  - a. For this purpose the definition of “river corridor” does not prevent a private recreational jet boater from going outside of the Wild River section to Vinegar Creek, Spring Bar, or Corn Creek launch portals.
  - b. Returning to these launch sites for provisions or camping does not terminate a “permitted trip”.

### **Clarification #3 – Group Size**

Grouping up is allowed as long as the party size does not exceed thirty, or exceed the designated capacity of a campsite. Clarification has been made that more than 3 jet boats may beach together.

### **Changes to Management Plan:**

Pg 2-69 Power Boating Regulations:

2. Year-round party size is limited to a maximum of 30 people.
  - a. Party size limit pertains to people traveling together.
  - b. Party size limit pertains to people stopping for lunch.
  - c. Party size limit pertains to people camping together.
  - d. Party size for people camping together cannot exceed 30 or the camp capacity if less than 30.

Pg 2-70 Non-commercial Power Boating Permits:

3. During the Control Season no more than 3 powerboats may travel together in the same group. (S)

### **Clarification #4 – Group Size Outside Controlled Season**

More than 3 boats are allowed to travel together as long as the capacity limit of 30 is not exceeded.

### **Changes to Management Plan:**

Pg 2-70 Non-commercial Power Boating Permits:

7. Outside the Control Season, there is no limit to the number of powerboats that may travel together in a group. (S) Provided:
  - a. Group size is limited to 30 people.
  - b. Length of stay is limited to 10 days.

**Clarification #5 – Kicker-Motor Conflicts**

The Plan direction which managed kicker-motors under powerboat regulations, was identified as inconsistent with the intent of CIWA and 1978 powerboat use determinations.

Section 13 is unclear, indicating monitoring that is not planned to take place and direction that could not be implemented. The Forest Service will delete this direction in the Plan and concentrate on resolving conflicts as appropriate.

**Delete from Management Plan:**

Pg 2-68 Float boating regulations:

~~13. Float boat use of kicker motors will be monitored. If increasing conflicts with non-motorized float boats or other motorized boating occurs, float boats with kicker motors will be considered powerboats and will be regulated according to powerboat management direction. (S)~~

**Clarification #6- Landing Strip Regulations**

Regulation for landing strips within the Middle Fork Salmon corridor includes all visitors, not just aviators.

**Changes to Management Plan:** Replace on Pg. 2 -13, 9d with:

9d. Visitors using airstrips in river corridors (Bernard, Indian Creek, Mahoney, Wilson Bar) must pack out human waste where a public toilet is not provided. (S)

**Clarification #7 – Variable Trip Length (Middle Fork Salmon River)**

Variable Trip Length is intended to set a maxim length of stay associated with small, medium, and large float parties. Trip lengths less than the maximum will continue to be allowed.

**Changes to Management Plan:**

Replace on Pg 2-57 Restrictions and Policies - All with:

3. Both commercial and non-commercial boaters can choose, under a variable trip length option, their party size with a corresponding maximum length of stay that could vary between six and eight days (Table 2.6). (S)

Table 2.6 Variable Trip Length of Stay by Party Size - Middle Fork Salmon River

	Party Size	Length of Stay
Non-Commercial	21 - 24	Up to 6 days
	11 - 20	Up to 7 days
	21 - 24	Up to 8 days
Commercial	21 - 30	Up to 6 days
	11 - 20	Up to 7 days
	2 - 10	Up to 8 days

**Clarification #8 – Split Trip Requirements**

Split trip requirements on the Middle Fork Salmon River regarding group integrity was clarified given the fact that some party participants prefer to fish or make side trips while others prefer to travel directly to camp. Group integrity is required at launch and at campsites.

**Changes to Management Plan:**

Replace on Pg. 2 - 60 Restrictions and Policies - All (Middle Fork) with:

- 12. A permitted group must launch and camp together each night.

**Clarification #9 – Deadhead Policy**

The deadhead policy has been refined over the last several years to work more smoothly and with minimal effect on other float boat visitors. The wrong policy was inadvertently placed in the Plan. The following is the correct policy.

**Changes to Management Plan:**

Replace on Pg 2-60 Restrictions and Policies - All (Middle Fork) with:

- 17. Dead heading generally occurs when the river is too high or too low to safely operate trips from Boundary Creek. The following conditions must be met: (G)
  - a. Only one boatman will be authorized by craft, with the exception of one additional swamper needed for safety on sweep boats.
  - b. The deadhead is to be conducted in one day. The group may stay at Airplane Camp to avoid congestion at Indian Creek launch beach. The exception to a one-day deadhead relates to extremely low water conditions that necessitate trips starting from Thomas Creek rather than Indian Creek. Permission must be granted on a case-by-case basis from the District Ranger for a 2-day deadhead to Thomas Creek.
  - c. Deadhead groups must leave Boundary Creek prior to 9 a.m. to ensure ramps and launches are not crowded or impacted.
  - d. Deadheads are to be conducted in a professional manner. Stops at hot springs and other popular areas are not allowed.

**Clarification #10 – Variable Trip Length (Salmon River)**

Variable Trip Length is intended to set a maximum length of stay associated with small, medium, and large float parties. Trip lengths less than the maximum will continue to be allowed.

**Changes to Management Plan:**

Replace on Pg 2-67 Float Boating Regulations (Commercial and Non-commercial) with:

- 3. During the control season, both commercial and non-commercial float boaters can choose, under the variable trip length option, their party size with a corresponding length of stay (Table 2.9). (S)

Table 2.9 Variable Trip Length of Stay by Party Size - Salmon River

	Party Size	Length of Stay
Commercial and Non-Commercial float boaters	21 - 30	Up to 6 days
	11 - 20	Up to 7 days
	1 - 10	Up to 8 days

### **Clarification #11 – Kicker Motors**

The direction of restricting kicker motors to a maximum of 2/party and horsepower to 10hp or less was changed from a standard to a guideline with provisions for approving on a case-by-case basis more or larger kicker motors due to safety issues.

#### **Changes to Management Plan:**

Replace on Page 2 - 67 Float Boating Regulations (Commercial and Non-commercial) with:

12. A maximum of 2 kicker motors are allowed per float boat party. No float boat travel upriver is allowed with kicker motors except as needed for landing, rescue, or safety.

Motors cannot exceed 10 horsepower. (G) Provided:

a. With prior approval by the District Ranger, exception may be granted to the 2 kicker motor limit per party and to the 10 horsepower limit. Exceptions would be made based on safety concerns.

~~13. Float boat use of kicker motors will be monitored. If conflicts with float boats or other motorized boating occurs conflicts will be resolved based on the nature of the conflict. (S) Provided:~~

~~a) Resolution will focus on the user group or individuals that are creating the conflict.~~

### **Clarification #12 – Trails Objectives**

Trails emphasis was changed to eliminate biased language so the importance and long history of horse travel within the Wilderness was recognized.

#### **Changes to Management Plan:**

Replace on Pg. 2 - 86. Trails Objectives 3 and 4 with:

3. Trails designated as Secondary trails have a Level 2 management objective.

4. Trails designated as Way trails have a Level 1 management objective.

(Refer to Appendix H and Trails Handbook 2709.18 and to R1 Supplement to FSM 2353 pages 4 - 6 for maintenance objectives, definitions, and standards.)

### **Clarification #13 – Appendix A**

Appendix A was corrected to include the 1964 Wilderness Act as titled and not the Wyoming Wilderness Bill.

#### **Changes to Management Plan:**

The Forest Service agrees this error needs to be corrected. The 1964 Wilderness Act will be inserted as Appendix A.

### **Clarification #14 – Appendix G**

Appendix G of the Plan was expanded to include the full text of Judge Hogan's ruling and the 1998 Letter of direction from the Regional Foresters to the FC-RONR Board of Directors. These are additional documents that are important to understanding the significance of the 1998 Court ruling.

#### **Changes to Management Plan:**

The Forest Service added these two documents to Appendix G.

**Clarification #15 - Irretrievable**

The definition of "irretrievable" was corrected in the Glossary to eliminate biased language.

**Changes to Management Plan:**

Replace on Pg L - 8 Glossary - definition of irretrievable with:

The loss of production, harvest, or commitment of renewable natural resources due to other activities.

If you need additional information please contact the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Coordinator Renee Snyder at 208-756-5290 or by e-mail at reneesnyder@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

*/s/William A. Wood*  
WILLIAM A. WOOD  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Suzanne C Rainville  
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Liz Close