



Management Area 06. Upper South Fork Boise River Location Map

Management Area 6 Upper South Fork Boise River

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

Management Prescriptions - Management Area 6 has the following management prescriptions (see map on preceding page for distribution of prescriptions).

Management Prescription Category (MPC)	Percent of Mgt. Area
3.1 – Passive Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial & Hydrologic Resources	30
3.2 – Active Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial & Hydrologic Resources	24
4.1c – Maintain Unroaded Character with Allowance for Restoration Activities	41
5.1 – Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Forested Landscapes	4
6.1 – Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Shrubland & Grassland Landscapes	1

General Location and Description - Management Area 6 is comprised of Forest Service administered lands within the upper South Fork Boise River and Big Smoky Creek drainages (see map, preceding page), which lie just south of the Sawtooth NRA. The management area is an estimated 139,900 acres, including several small private land inholdings that, together, make up about 1 percent of the area. These inholdings are primarily along the South Fork Boise River corridor. The area is surrounded by lands administered by the Sawtooth National Forest, including the Sawtooth Wilderness and National Recreation Area to the north. The primary uses and activities in this area have been mining, livestock grazing, and dispersed recreation.

Access - The main access to the area is from the south via Forest Road 094 from Fairfield, or from the west via Forest Road 227, along the South Fork Boise River from Featherville. Both of these roads are well maintained. Other roads in the area are generally dirt-surfaced, steep, and rough. The density of classified roads is estimated at 0.2 miles per square mile. Total road density for area subwatersheds ranges between 0 and 1.2 miles per square mile. Roads are confined to the southern portion of the management area, and along the South Fork Boise River/Ross Fork corridor. An estimated 17.5 miles of existing roads have been closed to public motorized access during hunting season in the last two decades. Most closures were related to reducing big-game (primarily elk) vulnerability. This area has an extensive network of trails, many of which are open to both motorized and non-motorized use.

Special Features - The management area is considered an important stronghold and recovery area for bull trout. A portion of the Smoky Mountain roadless area comprises an estimated 89 percent of the management area. This area lies adjacent to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Skillern Hot Springs occur within the area.

A portion of the South Fork Boise River is eligible for Wild and Scenic River status. This river segment has a Recreational classification, and is an estimated 14.1 miles long, with an associated river corridor of 4,502 acres.

Air Quality - This management area lies within Montana/Idaho Airsheds ID-21 and Camas County. Particulate matter is the primary pollutant of concern related to Forest management. The closest ambient air monitors are located in Idaho City and Mountain Home. These are used to obtain current background levels, trends, and seasonal patterns of particulate matter. The Sawtooth Wilderness and the Craters of the Moon National Monument are the closest Class I areas. Visibility monitoring has been expanded for these areas.

Between 1995 and 1999, emissions trends in Camas County improved for PM 10. While the PM 2.5 trend for Camas County indicated an improving trend, annual emissions showed increases. The discrepancy in PM 2.5 trend was due to a peak year of emissions caused by wildfires. The most common source of particulate matter in the counties was fugitive dust from unpaved roads and agricultural activities such as tilling. In addition to Forest management activities, crop residue and ditch burning may contribute to particulate matter emissions. The amount of burning for agricultural-related uses was low in Camas County (an estimated 3,000 acres). There were no point sources located within Camas County.

Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources – Elevations range from around 5,400 feet on the South Fork Boise River to 10,174 feet atop Baker Peak. Management Area 6 lies within two major subsections: Smokey Mountain Trough Lands and the Upper South Fork Boise River Streamcut Lands. These feature a mixture of glaciated mountains, fluvial mountains, glacial outwash and depositional lands. Slope gradients range between near vertical to 45 percent in the glaciated and fluvial mountains, and 0 to 35 percent in the outwash and depositional lands. Granitic rock from the Idaho batholith dominates the surface geology. Soils generally have moderate to high surface erosion potential, and moderate to low productivity. Subwatershed vulnerability ratings range from low to high, with the majority being high (see table below). Geomorphic Integrity ratings for the subwatersheds vary from moderate (functioning at risk) to low (not functioning appropriately) (see table below). Localized areas have impacts from roads, mining, grazing, and dispersed recreation. These impacts include accelerated erosion, upland compaction, and stream bank and channel modification.

The management area is comprised of the Upper South Fork Boise River and Big Smoky Creek Watersheds, which drain south and west into the South Fork Boise River Subbasin. The main streams in the area are South Fork Boise River, Big Smoky Creek, Ross Fork, Johnson Creek, Bear Creek, West Fork, North Fork, and Big Peak Creek. Numerous small, alpine lakes are located in the area, mainly in the northwest portion. Water Quality Integrity ratings for all subwatersheds in the area are moderate (functioning at risk) (see table below). The primary impact is accelerated sediment from roads, mining, grazing, and dispersed recreation. This impact is amplified by the fact that natural sediment levels are relatively high. There are currently no impaired water bodies listed under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act or TMDL-assigned subwatersheds associated with this management area.

Subwatershed Vulnerability			Geomorphic Integrity			Water Quality Integrity			No. 303(d) Subs	No. Subs With TMDLs	No. Public Water System Subs
High	Mod.	Low	High	Mod.	Low	High	Mod.	Low			
8	3	1	0	7	5	0	12	0	0	0	0

Anadromous fish species no longer occur within this area because downstream dams have blocked migration routes to and from the ocean. Bull trout, a Threatened species, occur in the management area, although populations are likely well below historic levels. Strong local populations of bull trout still occur in the Ross Fork Creek, Emma-Axolotl, and Johnson Creek subwatersheds, and substantial bull trout populations occur in Bear Creek and in most of the Big Smoky subwatersheds. Cutthroat, rainbow, and redband trout have been introduced in high-elevation lakes. Native redband trout are common throughout area streams, and introduced brook trout occur in isolated areas. Kokanee salmon, introduced to Anderson Reservoir, migrate upstream to spawn within the management area. Overall, aquatic habitat is functioning at risk in localized areas due primarily to sedimentation impacts. Native fish populations are at risk due to the presence of introduced fish species. The Bear Creek, Emma-Axolotl, Ross Fork, Johnson Creek, Paradise Creek, Narrow-Bluff, West Fork Big Smokey Creek, and Upper Big Smokey Creek subwatersheds have been identified as important to bull trout recovery, and as high-priority areas for restoration.

Vegetation - Vegetation is naturally fragmented throughout much of the area, with islands of coniferous forest surrounded by open shrubland and sagebrush/grass communities. Lower and mid-elevations feature sagebrush/grasslands on south and west aspects. North and east aspects support Douglas-fir communities. Lodgepole pine occurs at these elevations in cold air drainages and frost-pockets. The subalpine fir zone occupies higher elevations. Sites within this zone are generally dry and support Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir. Engelmann spruce occurs infrequently and is restricted to small areas that stay moist throughout the year or along waterways. Whitebark pine is found at the highest elevations interspersed with alpine meadows, rock bluffs, and talus slopes.

An estimated 42 percent of the management area is non-forested, or covered by grasslands, shrublands, meadows, rock, or water. Much of this area is comprised of the mountain big sagebrush, montane shrub, or alpine meadows vegetation groups. The main forested vegetation groups are Warm Dry Subalpine Fir (30 percent), High Elevation Subalpine Fir (10 percent), and Cool Dry Douglas-Fir (16 percent). Aspen and lodgepole pine are minor but important components in the Warm Dry Subalpine Fir and Cool Dry Douglas-Fir groups.

The Montane Shrub and Mountain Big Sagebrush groups are functioning at risk due to fire exclusion and historic grazing and trailing impacts, which have altered structure and species composition. Older, closed-canopy structure dominates. Alpine Meadows are not functioning properly in some areas because of historic sheep grazing impacts that have removed or set back the sedge component.

The High Elevation Subalpine Fir group is functioning at risk due to fire exclusion that has allowed the more shade-tolerant subalpine fir to dominate, to the detriment of the whitebark pine component. The Warm Dry Subalpine Fir and Cool Dry Douglas-Fir groups are functioning at risk because fire exclusion has resulted in older, more decadent stands with more climax species and less early seral species, particularly aspen and lodgepole pine. Aspen is present in pure

stands and mixed with Douglas-fir; however many stands are dying out or being replaced by conifers. Older aspen stands are infected with leaf blight and fungus, and are not regenerating sufficiently to replace themselves. Fire hazard is increasing in conifers stands due to increasing mortality from mistletoe, Douglas-fir tussock moth, and bark beetles, and increasing fuel loads.

Riparian vegetation is functioning at risk in localized areas due primarily to grazing impacts and fire exclusion. In scattered or isolated areas, sedges are being replaced by less desirable grass species due to livestock grazing. Aspen and willow communities are becoming old and decadent, and are not regenerating adequately due to fire exclusion and livestock grazing. Snag levels are likely at historic levels in most areas due to limited access for fuelwood gathering.

Botanical Resources - Giant helleborine orchid, a Region 4 Sensitive species, is known to occur in this management area. Bugleg goldenweed, a Region 4 Sensitive species, is found in adjacent management areas, and potential habitat may exist within this management area. No federally listed or proposed plant species are known to occur in the area, but potential habitat exists for Ute ladies'-tresses and slender moonwort. Ute ladies'-tresses, a Threatened species, may have moderate to high potential habitat in riparian/wetland areas from 1,000 to 7,000 feet. Slender moonwort, a Candidate species, may occur in moderate to higher elevation grasslands, meadows, small openings in spruce and lodgepole pine, and open rocky outcrops.

Non-native Plants – Few noxious weeds and exotic plants have been found within the management area. However, 11 percent of the area has high susceptibility to invasion by noxious weeds and exotic plant species.

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

Subwatershed	Road-related Activities	Livestock Use	Timber Harvest	Recreation & Trail Use	ATV Off-Road Use
Skunk-Elk	Yes	No	No	No	No
Emma-Axolotl	Yes	No	No	No	No
Skillern-Calf	Yes	No	No	Yes	No

Wildlife Resources (Updated as part of the 2012 WCS amendment) - Because most of this management area lies above 5,500 feet, the terrestrial and avian wildlife to be found are generally high-elevation species. The cool shrublands and forests provide big game summer range but are generally too high for winter range. However, there is one elk winter feeding site along the South Fork Boise River that keeps elk in the area all winter long. Elk were eliminated in this area near the turn of the century and re-introduced in the 1930s. Douglas-fir forests at lower elevations provide habitat for Region 4 Sensitive species, including northern goshawk, flammulated owl and Townsend’s big-eared bat, and other species of management concern including pileated woodpecker. Peregrine falcon and mountain goats use the rocky bluffs that extend up the steep canyonlands. High-elevation subalpine fir forests provide habitat for boreal owls, three-toed woodpeckers, fisher, wolverine, and ESA listed Canada lynx as well as summer range for deer, elk, black bear, and mountain lion. Mountain goat habitat is also found in the

high-elevation subalpine forests however, populations appear to be declining in recent years. Habitat for spotted frogs can be found in montane and subalpine lakes, ponds and wetlands. Riparian and adjacent forested areas provide habitat for moose. Much of the area provides nesting and foraging habitat for migratory land birds, and general habitat for wide-ranging mammals such as elk, bear, and wolves. This area is within the Central Idaho Wolf Recovery Area and wolf packs have established in this area since reintroduction.

Terrestrial habitat is functioning at risk in some areas due primarily to human-caused disturbance, introduction of invasive species, grazing impacts, and long-term fire exclusion. Increasing recreation has increased disturbance to wildlife populations year-round and there are localized concerns with elk and mountain goat winter range and wolverine winter denning habitat. The level of human disturbance is moderate but could be affecting wildlife movement patterns. Introduced non-native species have potential to affect sagebrush communities and other habitats. Current livestock grazing in some areas is not allowing localized areas of historic grazing impacts to recover. Long-term exclusion of fire has altered some habitats so that they no longer function as they did historically.

Idaho's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) was completed in 2005 and provides a framework for conserving State designated 'Species of Greatest Conservation Need' (SGCN) and the habitats upon which they depend. The Forest assisted the State in identifying focal areas, or areas known to be important for SGCN. The northwest portion of the Management Area falls within the Sawtooth designated focal area, or biologically important area. This designation was given to the area due to its exceptional diversity of SGCN based on species' richness models and is identified as core habitat for terrestrial wildlife species including wolverine and mountain goat.

Recreation Resources - The South Fork Boise River corridor has two Forest Service developed campgrounds, one summer camp, and several residences. The rest of the management area provides high-quality dispersed recreation opportunities year-round, including hunting, backpacking, horseback riding, mountain biking, motorbiking, snowmobiling, and helicopter skiing. Overall use is increasing, particularly off-road vehicle and snowmobile use. The area lies within Idaho Fish and Game Unit 43. Many of the recreation users come from the Magic Valley (Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding) and Mountain Home. Most of the trails in the area are open to some form of motorized use. Many of these trails were pioneered by sheepherders and were not designed to any standard. Opportunities exist to reconstruct or relocate trails to increase public safety and reduce impacts to wildlife, water quality, and fish habitat. Portions of the Idaho Centennial Trail lie within this management area. Recreation special uses include three outfitter and guide operations, helicopter skiing, and two cabins.

Cultural Resources - Cultural themes in this area are mining and Forest Service Administration. Few prehistoric sites have been recorded in the drainage, but Shoshone may have used the area as a travel way and resting area at local hot springs during seasonal migrations from the Camas Prairie to the Salmon River. Historic placer, hydraulic, and hard rock mining began in the drainage in the 1870s, a result of the mining boom in the Boise Basin to the west. The early Forest Service guard station at Big Smoky is a CCC era compound and is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Timberland Resources - Of the estimated 66,700 tentatively suited acres in this management area, 2,900 acres have been identified as being suited timberlands, or appropriate for timber production. This represents about 2 percent of the Forest's suited timberland acres. The suited timberland acres are found in MPCs 5.1 and 6.1, as shown on the map displaying the MPCs for this management area. Lands within MPC 3.1, 3.2, and 4.1c are identified as not suited for timber production. Past timber production was fairly high in the roaded portions of the area, but activities have decreased in recent years and are now primarily limited to small salvage sales in roaded areas. Future opportunities for vegetation management may be limited by roadless conditions and concerns for listed species habitat, visual quality, and economic efficiency. Forest products such as fuelwood, posts, and poles are collected in designated areas.

Rangeland Resources - The management area contains all or portions of eleven sheep allotments. This area provides an estimated 18,000 acres of capable rangeland, which represents about 3 percent of capable rangeland on the Forest.

Mineral Resources - Considerable hard rock, placer, and recreational suction dredge mining has occurred in this management area, and most of the roads in the area were originally constructed to access mining claims. Although current mining activity is low, many claims still exist and the potential for mineral development is considered moderate to high.

Fire Management - Prescribed fire has been used to improve habitat conditions and reduce activity-generated fuels. No large wildfires have occurred in the management area in the last 15 years. There are no National Fire Plan communities in this area, but Skunk-Elk is considered a wildland-urban interface subwatershed due to residential development adjacent to the Forest. Historical fire regimes for the area are estimated to be 100 percent mixed 1 or 2. Only 2 percent of the area regimes have vegetation conditions that are highly departed from their historical range. However, 50 percent of the area regimes have vegetation conditions that are moderately departed from their historical range. Wildfire in these areas may result in larger patch sizes of high intensity or severity.

Lands and Special Uses – Non-recreational special use authorizations include one elk feed shed, two roads that access private property, two spring developments with pipelines, and two irrigation ditches.

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

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

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers	General Standard	0601	Manage the South Fork Boise River eligible corridor to its assigned classification standards, and preserve its outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing status until the river undergoes a suitability study and the study finds it suitable for designation by Congress, or releases it from further consideration as a Wild and Scenic River.

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers	Vegetation Standard	0659	Mechanical vegetation management activities, including salvage harvest, shall retain all snags >20 inches dbh and at least the maximum number of snags depicted in Table A-6 within each size class where available. Where large snags (>20 inches dbh) are unavailable, retain additional snags \geq 10 inches dbh where available to meet at least the maximum total number of snags per acre depicted in Table A-6. ¹ (Added as part of the 2012 WCS amendment)
	Vegetation Guideline	0602	In Recreational corridors, mechanical vegetation treatments, including salvage harvest, may be used as long as the ORVs are maintained within the river corridor.
	Fire Guideline	0603	Prescribed fire and wildland fire may be used in any river corridor as long as ORVs are maintained within the corridor. (Modified as part of the 2012 WCS amendment)
	Fire Guideline	0604	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize the impacts of suppression activities on the river classifications and ORVs.
MPC 3.1 Passive Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Hydrologic Resources	General Standard	0605	Management actions, including salvage harvest, may only degrade aquatic, terrestrial, and watershed resource conditions in the temporary time period (up to 3 years), and must be designed to avoid resource degradation in the short term (3-15 years) and long term (greater than 15 years).
	Vegetation Standard	0606	Mechanical vegetation treatments, excluding salvage harvest, may only occur where: a) The responsible official determines that wildland fire use or prescribed fire would result in unreasonable risk to public safety and structures, investments, or undesirable resource affects; and b) They maintain or restore water quality needed to fully support beneficial uses and habitat for native and desired non-native fish species; or c) They maintain or restore habitat for native and desired non-native wildlife and plant species.
	Vegetation Standard	0660	Mechanical vegetation management activities, including salvage harvest, shall retain all snags >20 inches dbh and at least the maximum number of snags depicted in Table A-6 within each size class where available. Where large snags (>20 inches dbh) are unavailable, retain additional snags \geq 10 inches dbh where available to meet at least the maximum total number of snags per acre depicted in Table A-6. ¹ (Added as part of the 2012 WCS amendment)
	Fire Standard	0607	Wildland fire and prescribed fire may only be used where they: a) Maintain or restore water quality needed to fully support beneficial uses and habitat for native and desired non-native fish species, or b) Maintain or restore habitat for native and desired non-native wildlife and plant species. (Modified as part of the 2012 WCS amendment)

¹ This standard shall not apply to management activities that an authorized officer determines are needed for the protection of life and property during an emergency event, to reasonably address other human health and safety concerns, to meet hazardous fuel reduction objectives within WUIs, to manage the personal use fuelwood program, or to allow reserved or outstanding rights, tribal rights or statutes to be reasonably exercised or complied with.

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
MPC 3.1 Passive Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Hydrologic Resources	Road Standard	0608	Road construction or reconstruction may only occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty, or c) To address immediate response situations where, if the action is not taken, unacceptable impacts to hydrologic, aquatic, riparian or terrestrial resources, or health and safety, would result.
	Fire Guideline	0609	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize suppression strategies and tactics that minimize impacts on aquatic, terrestrial, or watershed resources.
MPC 3.2 Active Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Hydrologic Resources	General Standard	0610	Management actions, including salvage harvest, may only degrade aquatic, terrestrial, and watershed resource conditions in the temporary (up to 3 years) or short-term (3-15 years) time periods, and must be designed to avoid degradation of existing conditions in the long-term (greater than 15 years).
	Vegetation Standard	0611	Vegetative restoration or maintenance treatments—including wildland fire mechanical, and prescribed fire—may only occur where they: a) Maintain or restore water quality needed to fully support beneficial uses and habitat for native and desired non-native fish species; or b) Maintain or restore habitat for native and desired non-native wildlife and plant species; or c) reduce risk of impacts from wildland fire to human life, structures, and investments. (Modified as part of the 2012 WCS amendment)
	Vegetation Standard	0661	Mechanical vegetation management activities, including salvage harvest, shall retain all snags >20 inches dbh and at least the maximum number of snags depicted in Table A-6 within each size class where available. Where large snags (>20 inches dbh) are unavailable, retain additional snags ≥10 inches dbh where available to meet at least the maximum total number of snags per acre depicted in Table A-6. ¹ (Added as part of the 2012 WCS amendment)
	Road Standard	0612	Road construction or reconstruction may only occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty, or c) To support aquatic, terrestrial, and watershed restoration activities, or d) To address immediate response situations where, if the action is not taken, unacceptable impacts to hydrologic, aquatic, riparian or terrestrial resources, or health and safety, would result.
	Fire Guideline	0613	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize suppression strategies and tactics that minimize impacts on aquatic, terrestrial, or watershed resources.
MPC 4.1c Undeveloped Recreation: Maintain Unroaded Character with Allowance for Restoration Activities	General Standard	0614	Management actions—including mechanical vegetation treatments, salvage harvest, wildland fire, prescribed fire, special use authorizations, and road maintenance—must be designed and implemented in a manner that would be consistent with the unroaded landscape in the temporary, short term, and long term. Exceptions to this standard are actions in the 4.1c roads standards, below. (Modified as part of the 2012 WCS amendment)

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
MPC 4.1c Undeveloped Recreation: Maintain Unroaded Character with Allowance for Restoration Activities	Vegetation Standard	0662	Mechanical vegetation management activities, including salvage harvest, shall retain all snags >20 inches dbh and at least the maximum number of snags depicted in Table A-6 within each size class where available. Where large snags (>20 inches dbh) are unavailable, retain additional snags ≥10 inches dbh where available to meet at least the maximum total number of snags per acre depicted in Table A-6. ¹ (Added as part of the 2012 WCS amendment)
	Road Standard	0615	Road construction or reconstruction may only occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty.
	Fire Guideline	0616	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize tactics that minimize impacts of suppression activities on the unroaded landscape in the area.
MPC 5.1 Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Forested Landscapes	Vegetation Standard	0663	For commercial salvage sales, retain at least the maximum number of snags depicted in Table A-6 within each size class where available. Where large snags (>20 inches dbh) are unavailable, retain additional snags ≥10 inches dbh where available to meet at least the maximum total number of snags per acre depicted in Table A-6. ² (Added as part of the 2012 WCS amendment)
	Vegetation Guideline	0617	The full range of vegetation treatment activities may be used to restore or maintain desired vegetation and fuel conditions. The available vegetation treatment activities include wildland fire. Salvage harvest may also occur. (Modified as part of the 2012 WCS amendment)
	Fire Guideline	0618	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize impacts to habitats, developments, and investments.
	Road Standard	0619	Road construction or reconstruction may occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty, or c) To achieve restoration and maintenance objectives for vegetation, water quality, aquatic habitat, or terrestrial habitat; or d) To support management actions taken to reduce wildfire risks in wildland-urban interface areas; or e) To meet access and travel management objectives.
	Road Guideline	0664	Public motorized use should be restricted on new roads built to implement vegetation management projects. Effective closures should be provided in road design. When the project is over, these roads should be reclaimed or decommissioned, if not needed to meet future management objectives. (Added as part of the 2012 WCS amendment)
MPC 6.1 Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Shrubland and Grassland Landscapes	Vegetation Standard	0665	For commercial salvage sales, retain at least the maximum number of snags depicted in Table A-6 within each size class where available. Where large snags (>20 inches dbh) are unavailable, retain additional snags ≥10 inches dbh where available to meet at least the maximum total number of snags per acre depicted in Table A-6. ² (Added as part of the 2012 WCS amendment)

² This standard shall not apply to activities that an authorized officer determines are needed for the protection of life and property during an emergency event, to reasonably address other human health and safety concerns, to meet hazardous fuel reduction objectives within WUIs, or to allow reserved or outstanding rights, tribal rights or statutes to be reasonably exercised or complied with

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
MPC 6.1 Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Shrubland and Grassland Landscapes	Vegetation Guideline	0620	The full range of vegetation treatment activities may be used to restore or maintain desired vegetation and fuel conditions. The available vegetation treatment activities include wildland fire. Salvage harvest may also occur. (Modified as part of the 2012 WCS amendment).
	Fire Guideline	0621	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize impacts to habitats, developments, and investments.
	Road Standard	0622	Road construction or reconstruction may occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty, or c) To achieve restoration and maintenance objectives for vegetation, water quality, aquatic habitat, or terrestrial habitat; or d) To support management actions taken to reduce wildfire risks in wildland-urban interface areas; or e) To meet access and travel management objectives.
	Road Guideline	0666	Public motorized use should be restricted on new roads built to implement vegetation management projects. Effective closures should be provided in road design. When the project is over, these roads should be reclaimed or decommissioned, if not needed to meet future management objectives. (Added as part of the 2012 WCS amendment)
Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources	Objective	0623	Restore bull trout habitat by reducing impacts from roads and historical/current livestock grazing within the Bear Creek, Ross Fork, and Paradise Creek subwatersheds to promote recovery of this listed species.
	Objective	0624	Maintain the good bull trout habitat and upland conditions within the Emma-Axolotl, Johnson Creek, Narrow-Bluff, West Fork Big Smokey Creek, and Upper Big Smokey Creek subwatersheds to promote recovery of this listed species.
	Objective	0625	Improve water quality by reducing accelerated sediment from existing mining and system roads in the Bear Creek, Ross Fork, headwaters of South Fork Boise River, Skunk Creek, Fletcher Creek, OP Creek, and Paradise Creek drainages.
	Objective	0626	Improve water quality through reconstruction or relocation of segments of the following trails: Vienna Creek 086, Paradise Creek 070, Emma Creek 063, High Creek 069, Bridge Creek 068, Bass Creek 061, Gold Run-Steep Creek 060, Bluff Creek 077, Big Peak Creek 076, Big Smokey Creek 072, North Fork Big Smokey Creek 074, and Narrow Creek 075.
	Objective	0627	Restore soil conditions (bare ground, erosion, and compaction) caused by historic use on the South Fork Sheep Driveway.
	Objective	0628	Restore riparian vegetation and streambank stability by reducing the effects of dispersed camping and fishing recreation in the South Fork Boise River, Bear Creek, and Emma Creek drainages.
	Objective	0629	Coordinate with the State of Idaho to limit suction dredging in the South Fork Boise River and Big Smokey watersheds to improve water quality and reduce sedimentation.
	Objective	0630	Maintain bull trout stronghold habitat where functioning properly and restore stronghold habitat where degraded in Upper South Fork Boise River including Bear Creek and upstream, and Big Smokey from Big Peak Creek and above.

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources	Objective	0631	Coordinate with the Idaho Department of Fish and game to maintain or restore native fish populations and currently unoccupied habitat by reducing the threat of hybridization and competition from non-native fish species, especially in Paradise Creek.
Vegetation	Objective	0632	Restore the early seral aspen component to desired conditions, as described in Appendix A, to improve visual quality and wildlife habitat.
	Objective	0633	Maintain or restore the whitebark pine component of the High Elevation Subalpine Fir vegetation group to desired conditions, as described in Appendix A.
	Objective	0634	Restore elk sedge, forb diversity, and ground cover within the Alpine Meadows vegetation group due to impacts from historical sheep grazing.
Botanical Resources	Objective	0635	Maintain or restore known populations and occupied habitats of TEPCS species, including bugleg goldenweed and giant helleborine orchid, to contribute to their long-term viability of these species.
	Objective	0636	Emphasize reducing leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, rush skeletonweed, Canadian thistle, and cheatgrass within TEPCS plant species habitat.
	Guideline	0637	Coordinate grassland/shrubland restoration, riparian restoration, prescribed fire, and non-native plant eradication efforts with a Forest botanist to minimize impacts to TEPCS plant species, actual or potential habitat, and pollinators of these plants.
Wildlife Resources	Objective	0638	Coordinate seasonal road closures with Idaho Department of Fish and Game to reduce elk vulnerability and disturbance.
Recreation Resources	Objective	0639	Maintain the Centennial Trail at a level commensurate with its importance and use to help provide a unique trail opportunity and experience.
	Objective	0640	Provide winter habitat security for mountain goats and reproductive denning habitat security for wolverine in the headwaters area of the South Fork Boise River by minimizing disturbance from winter recreation activities. (Modified as part of the 2012 WCS amendment)
	Objective	0641	Improve substandard facilities and tree cover in the South Fork Boise and Canyon Campgrounds to improve the quality of recreation experiences.
	Objective	0642	Develop a dispersed recreation site plan to address soil compaction and vegetation restoration needs in the Bear Creek Transfer Camp area, and between Big Smoky Guard Station and Canyon Campground.
	Objective	0643	Reduce soil erosion and sedimentation associated with off-road vehicles in the Ross Fork Trails, Goat Lake Trail, Big Peak Creek Trail, Paradise Trail, Vienna Creek Trail, Perkons Lake Trail, Emma Creek Trail, High Creek Trail, Bridge Creek Trail, Bass Creek Trail, Gold Run-Steep Creek, Bluff Creek Trail, Big Smoky Creek Trail, North Fork Big Smoky Creek Trail, Little Bear Creek Trail, Johnson Creek Trail, and Narrow Creek Trail.

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description																	
Recreation Resources	Objective	0644	Evaluate and incorporate methods to help prevent weed establishment and spread from recreation and trail use in the Skillern-Calf subwatershed. Methods to consider include annual weed inspection and treatment of trailheads and other high-use areas; and posting educational notices in these areas to inform the public of areas that are susceptible to weed invasion and measures they can take to help prevent weed establishment and spread.																	
	Objective	0645	Achieve or maintain the following ROS strategy: <table border="1" data-bbox="678 520 1386 716"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">ROS Class</th> <th colspan="2">Percent of Mgt. Area</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Summer</th> <th>Winter</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized</td> <td>33%</td> <td>2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Semi-Primitive Motorized</td> <td>46%</td> <td>98%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roaded Natural</td> <td>4%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roaded Modified</td> <td>17%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The above numbers reflect current travel regulations. These numbers may change as a result of future travel regulation planning</p>	ROS Class	Percent of Mgt. Area		Summer	Winter	Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	33%	2%	Semi-Primitive Motorized	46%	98%	Roaded Natural	4%	0%	Roaded Modified	17%	0%
	ROS Class	Percent of Mgt. Area																		
Summer		Winter																		
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	33%	2%																		
Semi-Primitive Motorized	46%	98%																		
Roaded Natural	4%	0%																		
Roaded Modified	17%	0%																		
Standard	0667	Restrict or modify winter recreation activities where conflicts exist with mountain goats and/or wolverine. (Added as part of the 2012 WCS amendment)																		
Cultural Resources	Objective	0646	Restore and maintain the Big Smoky Guard Station, and interpret the site for public education and enjoyment.																	
	Objective	0647	Document the historic mining sites within the area.																	
Timberland Resources	Objective	0648	Provide opportunities for small salvage sales and personal use fuelwood cutting of dead and down trees along existing roads where vegetation and riparian condition outcomes are compatible.																	
Rangeland Resources	Objective	0649	Restore ground cover and stream bank vegetative composition, and reduce sediment contributions in degraded drainages with existing bull trout strongholds by adjusting livestock grazing.																	
	Guideline	0650	Site-specific and annual monitoring of riparian, soil, and hydrologic conditions should be emphasized in degraded drainages with existing bull trout strongholds to ensure trends moving in a recovery direction.																	
Mineral Resources	Objective	0651	Restore and reclaim abandoned mine sites in West Fork Big Smoky and Bear Creek drainages.																	
Fire Management	Objective	0652	Use prescribed fire and/or mechanical treatments within and adjacent to wildland/urban interface area along the South Fork Boise River to manage fuels and reduce wildfire hazards. Develop and prioritize vegetation treatment plans for wildland-urban interface in coordination with local and tribal governments, agencies, and landowners.																	
	Objective	0653	Identify areas appropriate for Wildland Fire, focusing on the Smoky Mountains IRA. Use wildland fire to restore or maintain desired vegetative conditions and to reduce fuel loadings. (Modified as part of the 2012 WCS amendment)																	
	Objective	0654	Coordinate and emphasize fire education and prevention programs with private landowners to help reduce wildfire hazards and risks. Work with landowners to increase defensible space around structures.																	

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
Lands and Special Uses	Objective	0655	Maintain Forest boundary markings to prevent trespass in the Upper South Fork Boise River drainage where the Portland Placer Claim area is currently being subdivided.
Facilities and Roads	Objective	0656	Evaluate and incorporate methods to help prevent weed establishment and spread from road management activities in the Skunk-Elk, Emma-Axolotl, and Skillern-Calf subwatersheds. Methods to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ When decommissioning roads, treat weeds before roads are made impassable. ➤ Schedule road maintenance activities when weeds are least likely to be viable or spread. Blade from least to most infested sites. ➤ Consult or coordinate with the district noxious weed coordinator when scheduling road maintenance activities. ➤ Periodically inspect road systems and rights of way. ➤ Avoid accessing water for dust abatement through weed-infested sites, or utilize mitigation to minimize weed seed transport.
Special Features	Objective	0657	Maintain the undeveloped character of Skillern and other hot springs.
	Guideline	0658	Activities and developments adjacent to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area that would compromise its scenic and recreational values should be avoided.