Appendix G
Land Capability Groups

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LAND CAPABILITY GROUPS AND SUSCEPTIBILITY TO EROSION

This appendix was derived and based on the methodology and information contained in the publication "Land Systems Inventory, Boise National Forest, Idaho" authored by Wendt et al. (1975). The approach outlined in Wendt's publication aggregates certain landtype associations together into what are termed land capability groups. These groups are typically defined as areas that have similar characteristics, suitabilities, potentials, and responses to use. Once aggregated, the landtype capability groups are used to make meaningful resource decisions. They reflect management opportunities and constraints that can be the basis for land use planning decisions. For example, lands that have an inherently high productivity potential for timber and low susceptibility to erosion can be identified as areas with the best opportunity for coordinated timber activities with a maximum return for dollars invested. Conversely, lands that have a high susceptibility to erosion may not be the best place to build new roads or intensively harvest timber.

Figure G-1 is to be used as a starting point for making more definitive decisions about determining or "firming up" individual allotment grazing capacities. For this generally purpose, all the Forest's land capability groups were aggregated into two categories:
1) Those with a high susceptibility to erosion, and
2) Those with low to moderate susceptibility to erosion.

High susceptibility to erosion is defined as the land capability groups (landtype capability groups 6 through 9) that:
➢ Have moderately high-to-high erosion potential,
➢ Have low to moderate forage productivity,
➢ Require a high level of effort to maintain an intensive land use, and
➢ Are ranked as having the greatest erosion hazard in conjunction with intensive management.

The remaining groups (landtype capability groups 1 through 5, and 10) were placed in the low to moderate category.

Rangeland Resources Guideline 1 of this plan can be applied when ground verification of an allotment's grazing capacity occurs. By using the following appendix map and determining whether the conditions outlined in the guideline (i.e., ground cover, slope, soil depth) exist, a decision can then be made as to whether a specific piece of the allotment is included as part of the grazing capacity determination. This process can be documented as part of the allotment's 2210 Analysis and Plans records, and then be used as a basis for term grazing permit adjustment decisions.

LITERATURE CITED

Wendt, George E., Richard A. Thompson, Kermit N. Larson, 1975, *Land Systems Inventory, Boise National Forest, Idaho – A Basic Inventory for Planning and Management*, USDA Forest Service, Boise National Forest

Figure G-1. Land Capability Groups for the Sawtooth National Forest
Landtype Capability Groups - Susceptibility to Erosion