

**Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests
Forest Plan Assessment**

9.0 Recreation

June 2014

Table of Contents

9.0 Recreation	1
9.1 Existing Information	1
9.1.1 Introduction.....	1
9.1.2 Forest Overview.....	1
9.1.2.1 Sustainable Recreation.....	1
9.1.2.2 Scenic Character	4
9.1.2.3 Recreation Opportunity Spectrum	5
9.1.2.4 The Forests’ Recreation Niche.....	12
9.1.2.5 National Visitor Use Monitoring	17
9.1.2.6 Recreation Special Uses and Outfitters.....	20
9.1.2.7 Recreation Access.....	21
9.1.2.8 Recreation Facilities.....	23
9.1.3 Recreation Settings and Opportunities by Subbasin.....	25
9.1.3.1 Palouse River (1).....	26
9.1.3.2 Elk Creek(2).....	29
9.1.3.3 Lower North Fork Clearwater (3).....	32
9.1.3.4 Middle North Fork Clearwater (4).....	34
9.1.3.5 Upper North Fork (5).....	38
9.1.3.6 Kelly Creek (6)	40
9.1.3.7 Lolo Creek/Eldorado (7).....	43
9.1.3.8 Lolo Motorway (8).....	45
9.1.3.9 Middle Fork Clearwater (9)	47
9.1.3.10 Lochsa River (10)	49
9.1.3.11 Upper Lochsa / Lolo Pass (11).....	52
9.1.3.12 Lower Selway (12).....	55
9.1.3.13 Upper Selway River (13)	58
9.1.3.14 Meadow Creek (Selway) (14).....	60
9.1.3.15 South Fork Clearwater (15)	62
9.1.3.16 Red River (16).....	65

9.1.3.17	Hells Canyon—The Island (17)	69
9.1.3.18	Lower Salmon River (18)	70
9.1.3.19	Wind River (19)	74
9.1.3.20	Bargamin (20)	76
9.1.3.21	Special Places in the Forest.....	78
9.1.3.22	Scenic Byways	79
9.2	Informing the Assessment.....	80
9.2.1	Scenic Character	80
9.2.2	Recreation Access	80
9.3	Information Needs and Data Gaps	84
9.3.1	Literature Cited	84

List of Tables

Table 9-1.	Nez Perce-Clearwater recreation-related budget allocation, 2004–2013	4
Table 9-2.	Comparison of 1987 and Existing Acres of Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Settings by Forest.....	10
Table 9-3.	Number of Forest Visits (thousands) in 2006 and 2011 (NVUM 2011).....	17
Table 9-4.	National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) main activity visitors come to the Forest to participate in.....	19
Table 9-5.	Top 20 Activities Visitors Participate In Most.....	20
Table 9-6.	Clearwater National Forest Outfitter and Guide Program Actual Use Average Service Days 2005–2011	21
Table 9-7.	Nez Perce National Forest Outfitter and Guide Program Actual Use Average Service Days 2004–2011	21
Table 9-8.	Recreation Facilities—Number of Facilities by Site Type.....	24
Table 9-10.	Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Palouse River recreation subbasin	27
Table 9-11.	Recreation facilities in the Palouse River recreation subbasin.....	29
Table 9-12.	Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Elk Creek recreation subbasin	30
Table 9-13.	Recreation facilities in the Elk Creek recreation subbasin	31
Table 9-14.	Designated corridors and use areas in Lower North Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin.....	32
Table 9-15.	Recreation facilities in the Lower North Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin ...	34

Table 9-16. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Middle North Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin.....	35
Table 9-17. Recreation facilities in the Middle North Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin ..	37
Table 9-18. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Upper North Fork recreation subbasin.....	38
Table 9-19. Recreation facilities in the Upper North Fork recreation subbasin	40
Table 9-20. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Kelly Creek recreation subbasin	41
Table 9-21. Recreation facilities in the Kelly Creek recreation subbasin.....	42
Table 9-22. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Lolo Creek/Eldorado recreation subbasin.....	43
Table 9-23. Recreation facilities in the Lolo Creek/Eldorado recreation subbasin	44
Table 9-24. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Lolo Motorway recreation subbasin	45
Table 9-25. Recreation facilities in the Lolo Motorway recreation subbasin.....	47
Table 9-26. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Middle Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin.....	48
Table 9-27. Recreation facilities in the Middle Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin	49
Table 9-28. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Lochsa River recreation subbasin	50
Table 9-29. Recreation facilities in the Lochsa River recreation subbasin.....	52
Table 9-30. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Upper Lochsa / Lolo Pass recreation subbasin.....	53
Table 9-31. Recreation facilities in the Upper Lochsa/Lolo Pass recreation subbasin.....	55
Table 9-32. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Lower Selway recreation subbasin	56
Table 9-33. Recreation facilities in the Lower Selway recreation subbasin.....	58
Table 9-34. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Upper Selway River recreation subbasin.....	59
Table 9-35. Recreation facilities in the Upper Selway River recreation subbasin	60
Table 9-36. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Meadow Creek (Selway) recreation subbasin.....	61
Table 9-37. Recreation facilities in the Meadow Creek (Selway) recreation subbasin	62
Table 9-38. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the South Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin.....	63
Table 9-39. Recreation facilities in the South Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin.....	65
Table 9-40. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Red River recreation subbasin.	66
Table 9-41. Recreation facilities in the Red River recreation subbasin.....	68

Table 9-42. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Hells Canyon-The Island recreation subbasin.....	69
Table 9-43. Recreation facilities in the Hells Canyon-The Island recreation subbasin.....	70
Table 9-44. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Lower Salmon River recreation subbasin.....	71
Table 9-45. Recreation facilities in the Lower Salmon River recreation subbasin	74
Table 9-46. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Wind River recreation subbasin.....	75
Table 9-47. Recreation facilities in the Wind River recreation subbasin	76
Table 9-48. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Bargamin recreation subbasin	76
Table 9-49. Recreation facilities in the Bargamin recreation subbasin	77

List of Figures

Figure 9-1. 1987 Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)	8
Figure 9-2. Existing Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS).....	9
Figure 9-3. Winter Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)	12
Figure 9-4. Inventoried Dispersed Campsites.....	16
Figure 9-5. The Niche of Idaho’s Forests	18
Figure 9-6. Recreation Subbasins	25
Figure 9-7. Roads and trails in the Palouse River recreation subbasin.....	29
Figure 9-8. Roads and trails in the Elk Creek recreation subbasin.....	31
Figure 9-9. Roads and trails in the Lower North Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin	34
Figure 9-10. Roads and trails in the Middle North Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin	37
Figure 9-11. Roads and trails in the Upper North Fork recreation subbasin	40
Figure 9-12. Roads and trails in the Kelly Creek recreation subbasin. Note: R (Rural) and U (Urban) are combined as RM (Roaded Modified) when mapped; this is driven by road density.....	42
Figure 9-13. Roads and trails in the Lolo Creek/Eldorado recreation subbasin. Note: R (Rural) and U (Urban) are combined as RM (Roaded Modified) when mapped; this is driven by road density.....	44
Figure 9-14. Roads and trails in the Lolo Motorway recreation subbasin.....	46
Figure 9-15. Roads and trails in the Middle Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin	49
Figure 9-16. Roads and trails in the Lochsa River recreation subbasin.....	51
Figure 9-17. Roads and trails in the Upper Lochsa/Lolo Pass recreation subbasin.....	54
Figure 9-18. Roads and trails in the Lower Selway recreation subbasin.....	57
Figure 9-19. Roads and trails in the Upper Selway River recreation subbasin	59

Figure 9-20. Roads and trails in the Meadow Creek (Selway) recreation subbasin	62
Figure 9-21. Roads and trails in the South Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin.....	64
Figure 9-22. Roads and trails in the Red River recreation subbasin.....	68
Figure 9-23. Roads and trails in the Hells Canyon-The Island recreation subbasin.....	70
Figure 9-24. Roads and trails in the Lower Salmon River recreation subbasin	73
Figure 9-25. Roads and trails in the Wind River recreation subbasin	75
Figure 9-26. Roads and trails in the Bargamin recreation subbasin	77

9.0 Recreation

9.1 Existing Information

9.1.1 *Introduction*

This assessment provides information on many aspects of recreation and focuses on those specifically referenced in the 2012 Planning Rule:

Sustainable Recreation = The set of recreation settings and opportunities on the National Forest System that is ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable for present and future generations.

Recreation Setting = The social, managerial, and physical attributes of a place that, when combined, provide a distinct set of recreation opportunities. The Forest Service uses the recreation opportunity spectrum to define recreation settings and categorize them into six distinct classes: primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, semi-primitive motorized, roaded natural, rural, and urban.

Recreation Opportunity = An opportunity to participate in a specific recreation activity in a particular recreation setting to enjoy desired recreation experiences and other benefits that accrue. Recreation opportunities include non-motorized, motorized, developed, and dispersed recreation on land, water, and in the air.

Scenic Character = A combination of the physical, biological, and cultural images that gives an area its scenic identity and contributes to its sense of place. Scenic character provides a frame of reference from which to determine scenic attractiveness and to measure scenic integrity.

This assessment also includes discussion of Recreation Access (the systems of roads and trails that people travel to certain recreation settings and opportunities) and Recreation Facilities (those developments, such as toilets, picnic tables, fire rings, and cabins within the National Forest that provide user convenience or resource protection).

The assessment presents information at two geographic scales: Forest-wide and subbasin. Section 9.1.2 provides the Forest-wide context of Sustainable Recreation, Recreation Settings, Recreation Opportunities, Recreation Access and Recreation Facilities. Section 9.1.3 provides the same information at a finer scale we call recreation subbasins. Section 9.1.3 provides site-specific, place-based recreation information and allows a reader interested in a specific place to more easily find that information. This section also includes discussion of Special Places within the Forest and Scenic Byways.

9.1.2 *Forest Overview*

9.1.2.1 **Sustainable Recreation**

Sustainable Recreation is defined as the set of recreation settings and opportunities on the National Forest System that is ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable for present and future generations (36 CFR 219.19). To be sustainable means that the recreational settings and opportunities provided are compatible with other Plan components that provide for ecological sustainability, foster healthy social relationships among recreationists and with the

broadier community, and are within the fiscal capability of the planning unit (Draft FSH 1909.12, Chapter 20, pp. 87–88).

The context for evaluating sustainable recreation on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests (Forests) is the Forest's recreation niche, developed through the Recreation Facilities Analysis (RFA) process. In doing so, sustainability is focused on those things the Forests are uniquely poised to provide and framed within a broader landscape. Current conditions and trends will be discussed in each of the three spheres (ecological, social, and economic) of sustainable recreation.

Ecological Considerations and Conditions

The health and resiliency of the Forest's natural resources are critical to the sustained delivery of the its nature-based recreational settings and opportunities. From the jagged peaks of the Bitterroot Mountains to the deep canyons of the Salmon, Selway, and Lochsa rivers, the landscapes of the Forests are remote, rugged, and wild. Productive coniferous forests cover the mountains that stretch from the rolling hills of the Palouse Plateau to the crest of the Bitterroot Mountains. This jumble of mountains is a significant headwaters area of the Columbia River system; running water is everywhere. Populations of wildlife and fish species call this forest home; including big game animals such as elk, deer, and moose; high flyers such as the bald eagle and the osprey; and anadromous fish species such as Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

Without healthy resilient landscapes and habitats, many of the recreation activities that have historically been enjoyed would not be sustainable. The top ten reasons (NVUM 2011) people recreate on the Forests are to gather forest products, relax, drive for pleasure, view natural features, hike, camp, hunt, snowmobile, cross-country ski, and fish. Obvious linkages exist between the types of activities being pursued and the presence and condition of the natural resources. Nationally, nature-based recreation—such as viewing and photographing nature—is by far, the largest growing recreation activity (Cordell 2010). For more detailed information on the condition and trends of the Forest's recreational settings and opportunities, please see below and the Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers sections of this Assessment.

The history of exploration, settlement, and development of the area for forest management created a network of roads and trails which made recreational access to this remote and rugged country possible. This pattern of access, combined with the steepness of the terrain and the difficulty of crossing rocky raging rivers, has a significant effect on when and how people use the forest. Although areas of concentrated use are found along the main river drainages due to the confined nature of the terrain overall, the forest's settings are relatively intact. Abundant and clean water, lush riparian areas, clean air, healthy forests, and diverse wildlife populations, all contribute to sustaining the forest's recreation settings and opportunities. Reference the watershed, wildlife, fisheries, and vegetation sections of the assessment for more detailed information about the Forest's biophysical conditions.

Social Considerations and Conditions

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest serves as a backdrop, workplace, and playground for the small rural communities of central Idaho. Deeply rooted in the culture and traditions of both Native American and early Euro-Americans settlers, the forest's recreation settings and opportunities are enhanced by the many visible and accessible remnants of the past. A network

of historic trails and roads gives visitors a chance to follow in the footsteps of the Native Americans, the Lewis & Clark expedition, and miners in search of gold. Historic cabins and lookouts continue to serve as overnight destinations for today's visitors. Reference the heritage section of this assessment for more detailed information about the condition and trend of the forest's cultural resources.

This rich heritage, combined with the forest's Wilderness, wild rivers, incredible scenery, rich salmon fishery, and diverse game species, characterizes the area's sense of place and contributes to a way of life for inhabitants. Although national and international visitors do come to follow the National Historic Trails, raft on the rivers, or hire outfitters to hunt in the Wilderness, both the communities and vast recreation settings of the forest remain relatively undiscovered due to the rugged and remote nature of the area. Nationally, the Nez Perce-Clearwater has one of the lower visitation levels of national forests in the lower 48 (NVUM 2011). Recreation opportunities continue to compliment and celebrate traditional western values of independence, exploration, and appreciation of the natural and cultural resources. Reference the socioeconomic section (6.0) of the assessment for more information.

Forest visitation is primarily local and regional, with almost 50% coming from within 50 miles of the forest. 81.3% of forest visitors are very satisfied with their recreation experience (NVUM 2011). Visitor safety; minimizing conflicts between uses; responding to the needs of existing and future visitors; creating connections between people and nature; promoting long-term physical and mental health; and instilling a culture of stewardship and appreciation are all important components of a satisfying recreation experience.

Two management tools, Interpretation and education programs and law enforcement, are employed to protect the natural and cultural resources of the forest. Although both management techniques influence visitor behavior, law enforcement is typically a reactive approach, while interpretation and education programs are designed to create an appreciation and understanding as a way to encourage voluntary compliance and deter behavior that would result in negative resource impacts.

Although visitors are becoming more reliant on virtual and instant information, the potential for the forest to deliver key messages and law enforcement information via smart phone media is limited by terrain barriers and lack of cell phone coverage in this mountainous terrain. Therefore the infrastructure that currently delivers the majority of the forests messaging will continue to be an important means to connect with visitors. The forest is making progress in reaching a broader audience and delivering information before, during, and after forest visitation through web site updates, linkages to state and other tourism sites.

Economic Considerations and Conditions

Two aspects of economic sustainability are important. The first is how the forest's recreation program contributes to local economies and the other is the fiscal sustainability of the forest's recreation program. Although related and interdependent, the scales at which economic viability is assessed are different.

The Forest's recreation programs contribute to the economic sustainability of Central Idaho's rural communities. Gathering forest products (e.g., firewood, huckleberries, mushrooms) is the number reason visitors come to the forest (NVUM 2011). Other recreation activities including: driving for pleasure, viewing scenery, hiking, camping, hunting, snowmobiling, cross-country

skiing, and fishing draw visitors to forest year-round. Both jobs and revenue directly and indirectly result from visitors traveling to the forest. The remoteness of the Forests’ recreational settings encourages visitors to stop and buy groceries, gas, and other supplies to support their national forest visit and support their OHV, stock, backpacking, boating, and biking experiences before entering the Forest. More direct jobs and revenue are associated with the forest’s outfitter-guide operations, and other recreation special uses.

Some of the unique attributes of the forest support the potential for communities to host events to attract visitors for the benefit of some of the local communities. For example, the five counties along the Lewis and Clark Trail had an estimated increase of at least \$27 million during the four years of the Bicentennial. A survey of travelers in 2005 conducted by the Idaho state tourism office revealed that, of the travelers whose primary reason for visiting Idaho was the bicentennial, 61 percent came from states other than Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana and California (the top states of origin for Idaho’s travelers overall.)

The fiscal sustainability of the forest’s recreation programs is partially dependent on congressionally appropriated budgets and Regional allocations. Over the past decade, the Forest’s budget to operate and manage recreation-related programs has declined. The three primary fund codes associated with recreation include: CMFC (recreation facilities operations and maintenance, and construction/reconstruction of all facilities, including administrative buildings), CMTL (trails), and NFRW (all other recreation program management). A 26% reduction is revealed when looking at the fund codes combined. When isolating the NFRW fund code, the decline has been much more severe (44% reduction).

Table 9-1. Nez Perce-Clearwater recreation-related budget allocation, 2004–2013

Unit Ltr	Fund	Program Code	2004 Final	2005 Final	2006 Final	2007 Final	2008 Final	2009 Final	2010 Final	2011 Final	2012 Final	2013 Operating
CLW	CMCM	CMFC	\$430.3	\$331.2	\$132.0	\$117.4	\$119.0	\$622.0	\$147.0	\$356.6	\$115.5	\$138.0
		CMTL	\$229.1	\$609.4	\$600.8	\$529.0	\$762.5	\$638.5	\$629.0	\$710.8	\$665.3	\$553.0
	NFNF	NFRW	\$1,141.9	\$1,202.4	\$1,328.9	\$1,047.0	\$1,060.2	\$1,072.4	\$965.0	\$735.8	\$694.8	\$636.0
		CLW Total	\$1,801.3	\$2,143.0	\$2,061.7	\$1,693.4	\$1,941.7	\$2,332.9	\$1,741.0	\$1,803.2	\$1,475.6	\$1,327.0
NEZ	CMCM	CMFC	\$365.4	\$373.5	\$181.6	\$557.2	\$163.0	\$241.4	\$340.0	\$931.4	\$254.0	\$122.0
		CMTL	\$378.0	\$937.4	\$857.4	\$774.1	\$813.1	\$897.9	\$875.0	\$1,018.1	\$835.4	\$934.0
	NFNF	NFRW	\$1,106.6	\$891.3	\$999.7	\$863.4	\$888.4	\$884.2	\$834.0	\$716.2	\$648.8	\$605.0
		NEZ Total	\$1,850.0	\$2,202.2	\$2,038.7	\$2,194.7	\$1,864.5	\$2,023.5	\$2,049.0	\$2,665.7	\$1,738.2	\$1,661.0
			\$3,651.4	\$4,345.2	\$4,100.4	\$3,888.1	\$3,806.2	\$4,356.4	\$3,790.0	\$4,468.9	\$3,213.8	\$2,988.0

Declining budgets, combined with increasing costs, creates an unsustainable trajectory. To help bridge the gap between increasing costs and declining budgets, the forest has pursued two sets of strategies: one relating to decreasing costs and one to increasing revenue. Cost savings have been achieved through workforce adjustments (i.e., eliminated, combined, and/or zoned positions), reduced infrastructure (utilizing RFA and other planning and prioritization efforts), and an increased volunteer workforce. Increased revenue has been achieved through grants and partnerships with other agencies and local communities. The Forest’s ability to raise revenue with facilities fees is limited by the implementation of the Federal Recreation Enhancement Act and the practical realities of the cost of fee collection and the relative low occupancy levels of the developed fee sites across the Forests.

9.1.2.2 Scenic Character

The current condition of the scenic character varies across the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests (Forests). Large areas of the Forests contain naturally evolving landscapes where the

scenery reveals the biophysical features and processes that occur in this geographic area with very limited human intervention. These areas include all the designated Wildernesses and several large expansive areas of Roadless Wilderness. Broad natural landscapes (such as the viewshed of the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark) have been managed to maintain the VQOs laid out in the 1987 Forest Plan, and currently have a natural appearing character.

Other areas of the Forests located in the more heavily roaded portion of landscape do have evidence of human habitation and management. Some of these areas have openings that appear natural, while others have openings that are obviously created by humans. These openings, while obvious, do not dominate the natural character of the landscape and appear in background views or are minor components of the foreground and middleground views from critical travelways or recreation areas. More detailed and placed-based information is provided in the Recreation subbasin section.

Some isolated areas have human impacts that dominate the landscape to the point that they do not meet the VQOs listed in the 1987 Forest Plans. These areas should be identified and improved through landscape restoration efforts.

Since the 1987 Forest Plan, the Forest Service has updated the analysis tool presented in the Visual Management System to the Scenery Management System. The new Forest Plan will be developed using the concepts and terminology outlined in this new analysis system.

9.1.2.3 Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

Summer

The 2012 Planning Rule defines recreation settings as follows:

...the social, managerial, and physical attributes of a place that, when combined, provide a distinct set of recreation opportunities. The Forest Service uses the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) to define recreation settings and categorize them into six distinct classes: primitive (P), semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM), semi-primitive motorized (SPM), roaded natural (RN), rural (R), and urban (U) (36 CFR 219.19).

Similar to land use classifications (e.g., residential, industrial, rural) used in city or county planning efforts, ROS serves as a zoning framework for planning and managing recreation settings and opportunities (existing and desired) across National Forest system lands.

ROS is a planning tool for both managers and visitors. By delineating recreation “habitat” for the different types of recreation opportunities, forests can manage the mix and distribution of settings that best address visitor demands while protecting the resource values important to delivery and sustainability of those recreation settings and opportunities.

Specific ROS classes convey: the physical setting (scenic integrity, and other resource values), mode(s) of transportation, anticipated concentration of people, and levels of management and infrastructure. By zoning recreation settings, the Forests can ensure a sustainable set of recreation opportunities for future generations and visitors can select where they recreate based on what they want to do, what equipment they want to bring, and the type of experience they want.

There are five ROS categories found within the Forests. These categories are defined in the following paragraphs.

Primitive (P)

The Primitive ROS setting is large, remote, wild, and predominately unmodified landscapes. There is no motorized activity and little probability of seeing other people. Primitive ROS settings are managed for quiet solitude away from roads, people, and development and few, if any, facilities or developments exist.

Most of the primitive ROS settings coincide with designated Wilderness boundaries. Portions of four Wilderness Areas fit into this category: Selway–Bitterroot Wilderness (SBW), Frank Church River of No Return (FCRNR), Gospel Hump (GH) and Hells Canyon.

Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)

Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized ROS settings include areas of the Forest managed for nonmotorized use. Mountain bikes and other mechanized equipment are often present. Rustic facilities are present for the primary purpose of protecting the natural resources of the area. These settings are not as vast or remote as the Primitive ROS settings but offer opportunities for exploration, challenge, and self-reliance.

Areas within the Forests that are classified as Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized include the Great Burn Recommended Wilderness Area, Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area, and portions of the Gospel Hump Wilderness Area and many of the Idaho Roadless Rule areas.

Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)

Semi-Primitive Motorized ROS settings areas of the Forests are managed for backcountry motorized use on designated routes. Routes are designed for Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) and other high-clearance vehicles. This setting offers visitors motorized opportunities for exploration, challenge, and self-reliance. Mountain bikes and other mechanized equipment are also sometimes present. Rustic facilities are present for the primary purpose of protecting the natural resources of the area or providing portals to adjacent areas of Primitive, or Semi-Primitive, Non-Motorized areas.

SPM areas on the Forests include areas such as Scurvy Lookout, Musselshell and Musselshell Meadows, Old Sampson, Camp Moosehorn, Clarke Mountain, and Fish Creek on the Clearwater National Forest. Anderson Butte National Recreation Trail (NRT), East Boyd-Roundup-Glover NRT, Western Idaho Centennial/Milner Trail, Boundary Divide Trail, McComas Trail, and Nuggett Point Trail on the Nez Perce National Forest.

Roaded Natural (RN)

The RN ROS setting is often referred to as front country recreation areas. This setting is managed as natural appearing with nodes and corridors of development that support higher concentrations of use, user comfort, and social interaction. The road system is well defined and can typically accommodate sedan travel. System roads also provide easy access to adjacent in Semi Primitive, Motorize and Non-motorized and Primitive areas.

Examples of RN areas within the Forest include the Lochsa and Lower Selway River Corridors with US Highway 12 and the Selway Road providing convenient access to several developed campgrounds and trailheads and the Lolo Pass Visitor Center. The South Fork River Corridor with State Highway 14 and the various campgrounds and trailheads there. The Salmon River Road is another example of Roaded Natural and originates in Riggins and provides access to the

Main Salmon River Corridor, including Carey Creek and Vinegar Creek Boat Ramps, both popular sites for rafting and jet boat recreationists. Almost the entire north end of the Forest (Palouse Ranger District) is a Roaded Natural setting.

Figure 9-1 displays ROS per the 1987 Forest Plans. Existing ROS settings have been mapped for the Forests and are displayed in Figure 9-2. The ROS mapping used the 2007 National protocols, terrain versus standard buffering, and analysis from other forest project efforts such as the Clearwater Travel Management Final Environmental Impact Statement and the Nez Perce Forestwide Travel Management Draft Environmental Impact Statement to describe desired conditions.

There have been changes in the quantity and distribution of the Forests' ROS since the last Forest Planning effort in 1987. Table 9-2 shows the distribution of ROS identified in the 1987 Forest Plans and the 2013 Existing Condition. The values in this table indicate the shift predicted in the Forest Plans to more Roaded Natural acres and opportunities did not happen.

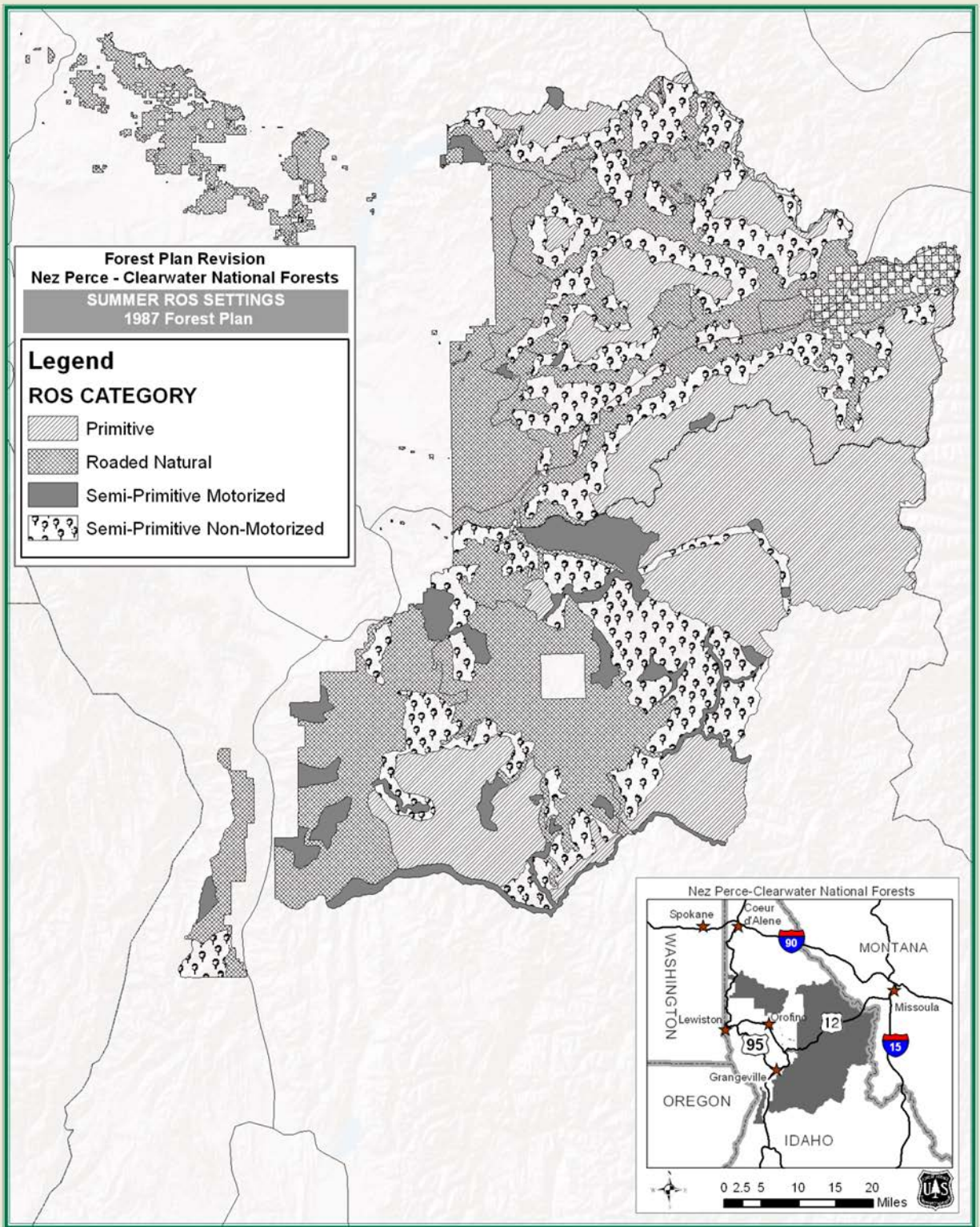


Figure 9-1. 1987 Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)

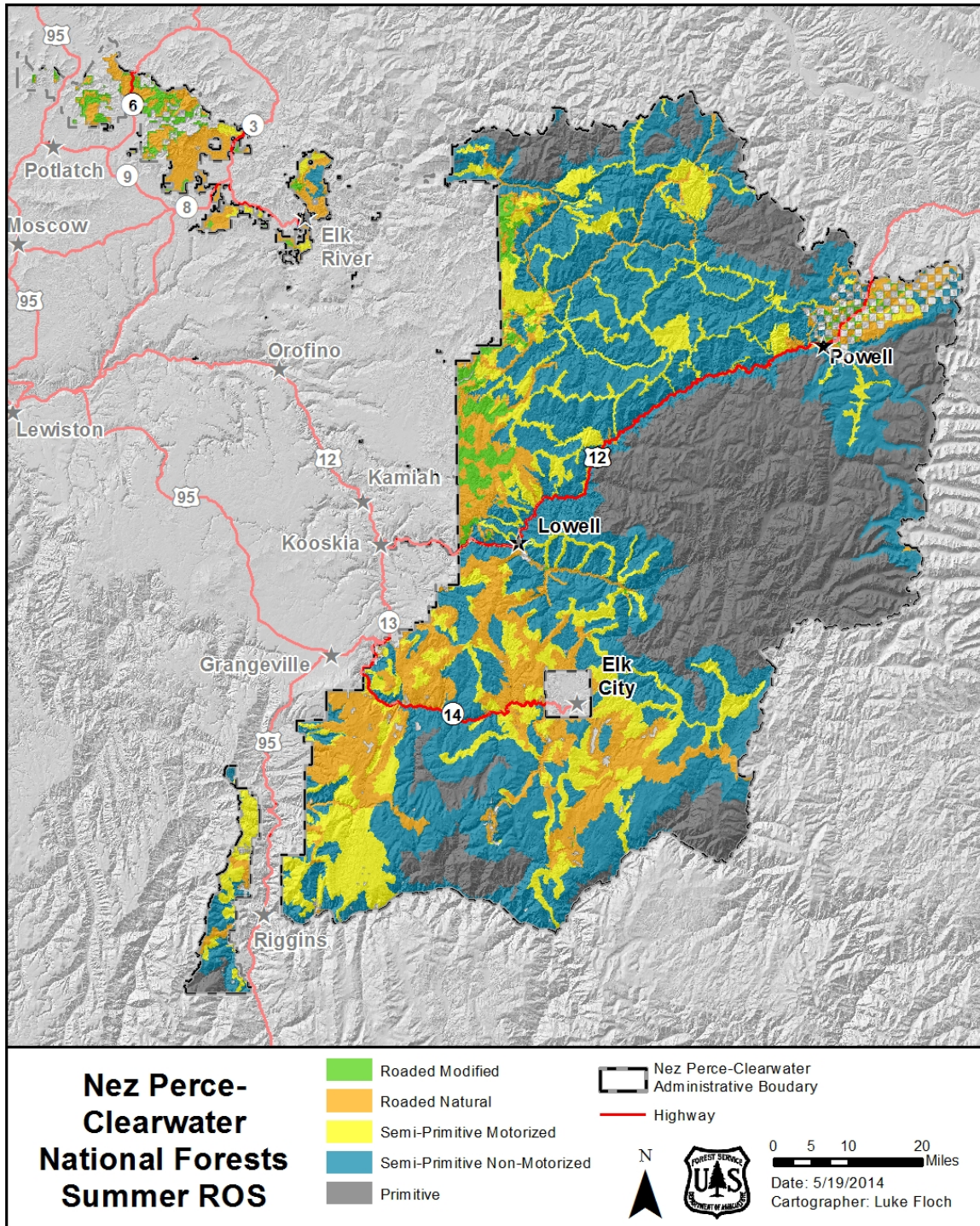


Figure 9-2. Existing Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)

Table 9-2. Comparison of 1987 and Existing Acres of Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Settings by Forest

	Primitive	Semi-Primitive Non-motorized	Semi-Primitive Motorized	Roaded Natural (includes Roaded Modified)	Total
Clearwater National Forest					
1987 Forest Plan (acres)	413,855	517,130	15,952	881,585	1,828,522
Percentage of Clearwater Forest	23%	28%	1%	48%	100%
2014 Existing Condition (acres)	437,825	821,481	229,154	335,988	1,824,449
Percentage of Clearwater Forest	24%	45%	13%	18%	100%
Difference	+1%	+17%	+12%	-30%	
Nez Perce National Forest					
1987 Forest Plan (acres)	838,166	438,143	226,362	637,474	2,140,145
Percentage of Nez Perce Forest	39%	20%	11%	30%	100%
2014 Existing Condition (acres)	695,032	747,375	334,869	331,087	2,108,363
Percentage of Nez Perce Forest	33%	35%	16%	15%	100%
Difference	-5%	+15%	+5%	-15%	
Combined					
1987 Forest Plan (acres)	1,252,021	955,273	242,314	1,519,059	3,968,667
Percentage of Combined Forests	32%	24%	6%	38%	100%
2014 Existing Condition (acres)	1,132,857	1,568,857	564,023	667,075	3,932,812
Percentage of Combined Forests	29%	40%	14%	17%	100%
Difference	-3%	+16%	+8%	-21%	

Winter

The mix and distribution of the Forests' ROS settings change dramatically when snow covers the landscapes. Several roads that are open in the spring/summer/fall are not maintained in the winter. There are other areas where snow enables snowmobiles to access lands that are completely inaccessible during other times of the year.

Five groomed cross-country ski trail systems provide Primitive and Semi-Primitive Non Motorized opportunities at Fish Creek Recreation Area, Musselshell Meadows, Lolo Pass, Elk River Nordic Ski Trails, and Palouse Divide Nordic Ski Area. Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Park N' Ski permits are required at Elk River Nordic Ski Trails and Fish Creek Recreation Area. Lolo Pass Visitor Center sells winter activities passes for parking to access the ski and snowmobile trail system.

The 4 groomed snowmobile trail systems on the Forests include Fish Creek Recreation Area, Lolo Pass/Powell, Elk City/Dixie Area, and Elk River Snowmobile Trail system. Grooming is accomplished in partnership with Idaho Parks and Recreation, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Timberliners, and Missoula Snowgoers, Snodrifters and Valley Cats Snowmobile clubs. Outfitted operations provide snowmobile trips for visitors.

The winter opportunities described above offer cross-country skiing and snowmobiling backcountry experiences. Jerry Johnson, Wier and Stanley Hot springs are popular winter outing destinations on the Forests. Additional groomed snowmobile routes are located off-Forest in the Moscow/Bovil area and the Winchester/Soldiers Meadow area. Winchester Lake Nordic Ski trail (located within the Winchester State Park) offers cross-country skiing opportunities and two yurts for rent. There are no downhill skiing opportunities offered on the Forests. Within North Central Idaho, local downhill skiing opportunities are provided at Cottonwood Butte, Snow Haven, and Bald Mountain. Cottonwood Butte Ski Area (located near Cottonwood, Idaho) offers 4 major groomed runs and several powder-filled trails served by a 3,000 foot T-Bar. Night skiing is offered during the month of January. Snow Haven is a city-owned ski area (located 7 miles from Grangeville) which offers downhill skiing on weekends and some holidays. Bald Mountain, managed by the Clearwater Ski Club (a local volunteer group), provides skiing and snowboarding in the Orofino area.

Down-hill skiing opportunities on adjacent forests include Lost Trail Powder Mountain (located on the Continental Divide on the Montana-Idaho border on the Bitterroot National Forest) offers down-hill skiing fun and adventure 4 days a week (Thursday through Sunday) beginning each December. Brundage Ski Area offers down-hill skiing and guided snowcat skiing. Little Ski Hill (located 2 miles north of McCall) provides night skiing and snowboarding, plus 30 kilometers of groomed cross-country ski trails located at the new facility in Little Bear Basin. The down-hill skiing opportunities listed above complement the backcountry opportunities offered on the Forests.

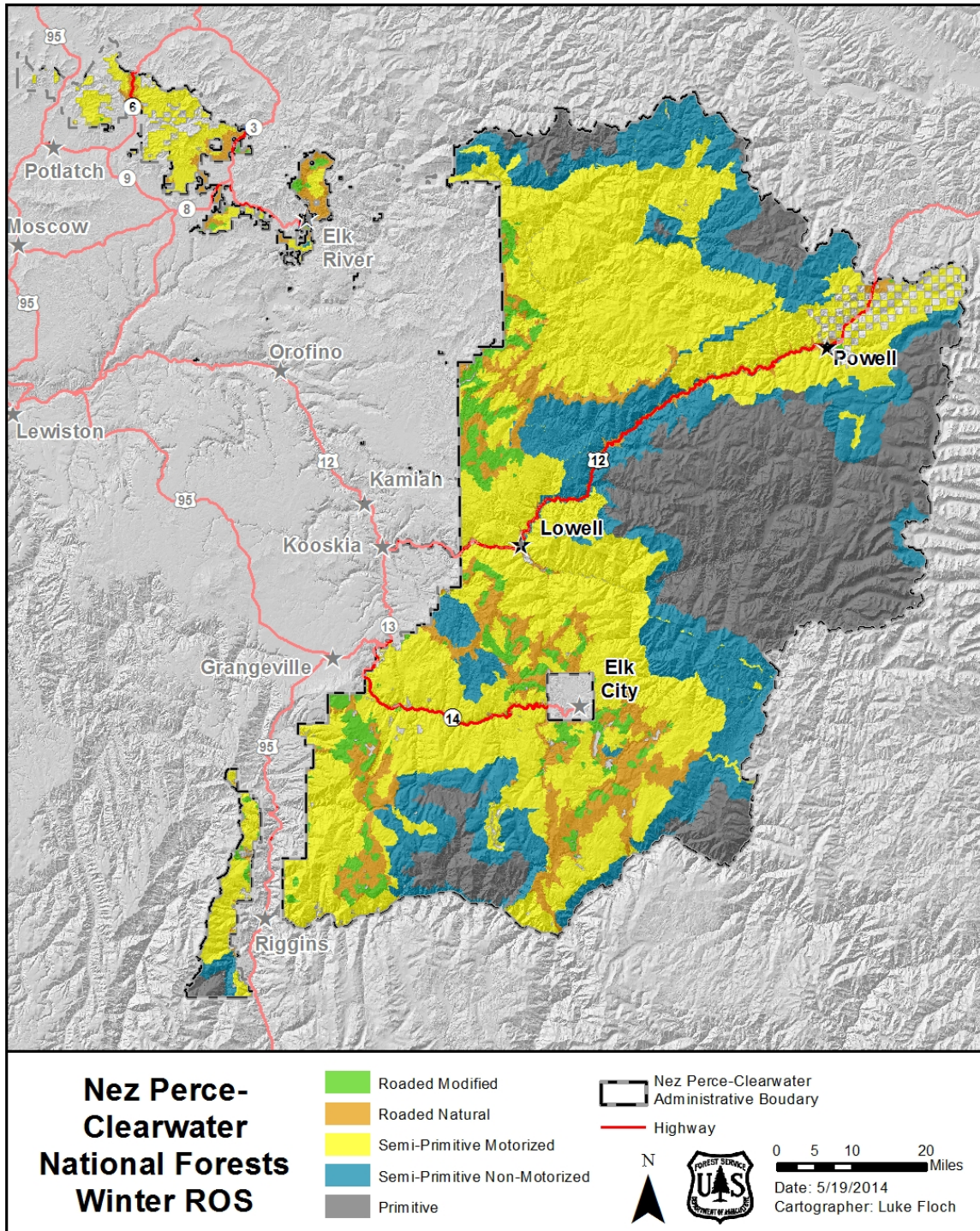


Figure 9-3. Winter Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)

9.1.2.4 The Forests’ Recreation Niche

The Forests’ settings, special places, and recreation opportunities were described in niche statements developed through the Forest Service Recreation Facilities Analysis (RFA) process. The niche product is useful in conveying how the Forests fit into the bigger context, in this case, the state of Idaho. Although not all of the recreation opportunities and settings are described,

those that give the unit its identity, value, and uniqueness are captured. It begins to describe some of the distinctive roles and contributions the Forest have when viewed within a larger context. More recently, the niche statements from individual Forest RFA efforts were merged into one Forest Niche. The descriptions below are adapted from the combined Nez Perce-Clearwater Niche statement.

The landscapes of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest begin in the jagged peaks of the Bitterroot Mountains and flow to the deep canyons of the Salmon, Selway and Lochsa Rivers. Broad coniferous forests cover the mountains that stretch from the rolling hills of the Palouse Plateau to the Camas Prairie. Many wildlife and fish species also call these Forests home; including big game animals (elk, deer, and moose), high flyers (the bald eagle and the osprey), and anadromous fish species (such as Chinook salmon and steelhead trout). Visitors can enjoy the slower pace and uncrowded spaces while learning about nature and the rich human history found here. For the more adventurous, the untrammelled land found in the wilderness provides recreation opportunities while preserving natural landscapes now and into the future.

Across the Forests, nature provides an extraordinary scenic backdrop for camping, hiking, big game hunting, fishing, and boating. Visitors can travel extensive scenic byways, visit interpretive and educational sites that reveal the rich history of the region, reach areas of the backcountry on foot or in a vehicle, and view wildlife in their natural surroundings. Outfitters, guides, and other private partners also offer quality recreation experiences for users who require help with skills and equipment.

A wide range of outfitted opportunities abound on the Forests. Fifty-eight outfitters provide guided opportunities including hunting, fishing (including for anadromous fish), whitewater rafting, kayaking, jet boating, hiking, photography trips, and equestrian trips (including overnight pack trips and day trail rides). Hunting for game birds, turkey, bear in the spring and fall, elk, deer, and predator hunting (including wolves) are available outfitted services.

Among the many discrete places that people recreate on the forest, four broad recreation areas are used to characterize the diversity of recreation settings, or the “niche,” found on the Forests. The recreation designations include Wilderness Expedition and Remote Backcountry, Wild River Corridors, Land to Roam and Ride, and Convenient Connections. Each broad recreation area and their associated recreation opportunities and activities are described in more detail below.

Wilderness Expedition and Remote Backcountry

The Selway-Bitterroot, Gospel Hump, Hells Canyon and Franck Church River of No Return Wilderness areas offer remote, wild settings for camping, hiking, packing, and hunting. The Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area and the Great Burn also provide vast areas of non-motorized backcountry with opportunities for solitude, self-reliance, and a sense of freedom found in few other places. Activities include backpacking and stock use on an extensive system of trails. Typical stays are multi-day expeditions that may include the use of back-country air strips and primitive camping.

Wild River Corridors

Wild and Scenic Salmon, Selway, and Lochsa Rivers provide high quality river recreation experiences for both remote and motorized use. Meandering Red River, the broad and deep

North Fork of the Clearwater, or any of the rivers large and small found here provide unlimited river recreation opportunities. White water rafting and jet boating, primitive camping, and multi-day excursions are available here depending on the river you are visiting. Where access is allowed by passenger vehicle, primitive and developed camping are both available.

Land to Roam and Ride

Large, relatively undeveloped country offers visitors thousands of miles of designated roads and trails to drive, ride, hike, or pack on. Historic ridgeline corridors along the Lolo Trail and Magruder Corridor trace the paths of the Nez Perce, Lewis and Clark, and early traders. These large backcountry areas offer adventure, challenge, and opportunities to spend days exploring without ever following the same route twice. Hiking, horse packing, fishing, hunting, primitive and developed camping, motorized use on designated routes, and overnight stays in historic cabins are popular in this setting.

Convenient Connections

Areas closer to home can be found that provide connections to nature for local visitors. Many day use, overnight sites, and scenic drives are available within minutes of many small communities. Residents can escape to these areas for rest and relaxation near the beautiful mountains and rivers found here. These areas offer hiking, horseback riding and motorized riding on designated routes. Some campground can accommodate larger RVs, and there is rustic river access for whitewater rafting, fishing, hunting, floating, and viewing spectacular river and forest scenery. Groomed snowmobile trails and cross-country skiing are popular as well. Overnight stays in historic cabins are also available here.

Dispersed Camping

The majority of recreation use on the Forests occurs in Primitive dispersed sites, rather than developed facilities. Dispersed recreation sites are typically concentrated in the Forests' RN ROS settings. Most of these Primitive sites are established over time by reoccurring recreational use and tend to be located in areas with desirable characteristics, particularly those with easy access to forest system roads, relatively flat topography, and close proximity to water. Dispersed users are often seeking a more secluded camping experience without the rules and regulations typically associated with developed sites, and tend to be self-sufficient users. National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) Data from 2010 shows that 43% of overnight visitors camped in an undeveloped site and 35% stayed at developed campgrounds on the Nez Perce National Forest. The 2010 NVUM Data also shows that 21% of visitors stayed at an undeveloped camping area and 52% at developed campgrounds on the Clearwater National Forest.

In 2009, USFS Region 1 began developing a standardized protocol for inventorying and monitoring resource conditions of dispersed recreation sites. The Forests supported a large, dispersed recreation program and assisted in the development of the inventory protocol. Since 2010, a majority of dispersed recreation sites across the Forests have been inventoried and entered in to the INFRA database. Areas that show particularly high concentrations of dispersed sites include the following: the North Fork of the Clearwater River and Kelly Creek on the North Fork Ranger District; The North Fork of the Palouse River and Elk Creek on the Palouse Ranger District; the Lochsa River corridor running through the Central Zone; Magruder Road, Crooked River and Newsome Creek on the Red River Ranger District; and the historic Florence area and Gospel Hump Road on the Clearwater Ranger District (Map 7).

The campsites in these areas are highly sought after for a variety of reasons, including the presence of amenities at various locations (vault toilets and fire rings in some cases), no cost for occupancy, fewer agency regulations, access to water-based activities (such as rafting, floating, swimming and fishing), and proximity to hiking, biking, and motorized-use trails. Many dispersed sites hold a significant value for families and friends that traditionally return year after year for activities such as hunting, fishing, horse packing, and OHV riding.

These activities have resulted in much larger site footprints and numerous user-created trails connecting sites. With the concentration of dispersed use along popular waterways, there has been concern with the impact of this use in multiple locations, including in the case of Elk River within the boundaries of a municipal watershed. This concern has led to numerous improvements, and in some cases, to restrictions, on where visitors are allowed to disperse camp. This work has included embedding boulders to restrict direct access to riparian areas, reducing the useable area within dispersed sites, hardening sites with gravel to clearly identify parking locations for vehicles, and installing fencing. While rare, there have been occasions where dispersed sites were decommissioned and removed from use when riparian impacts were unable to be mitigated.

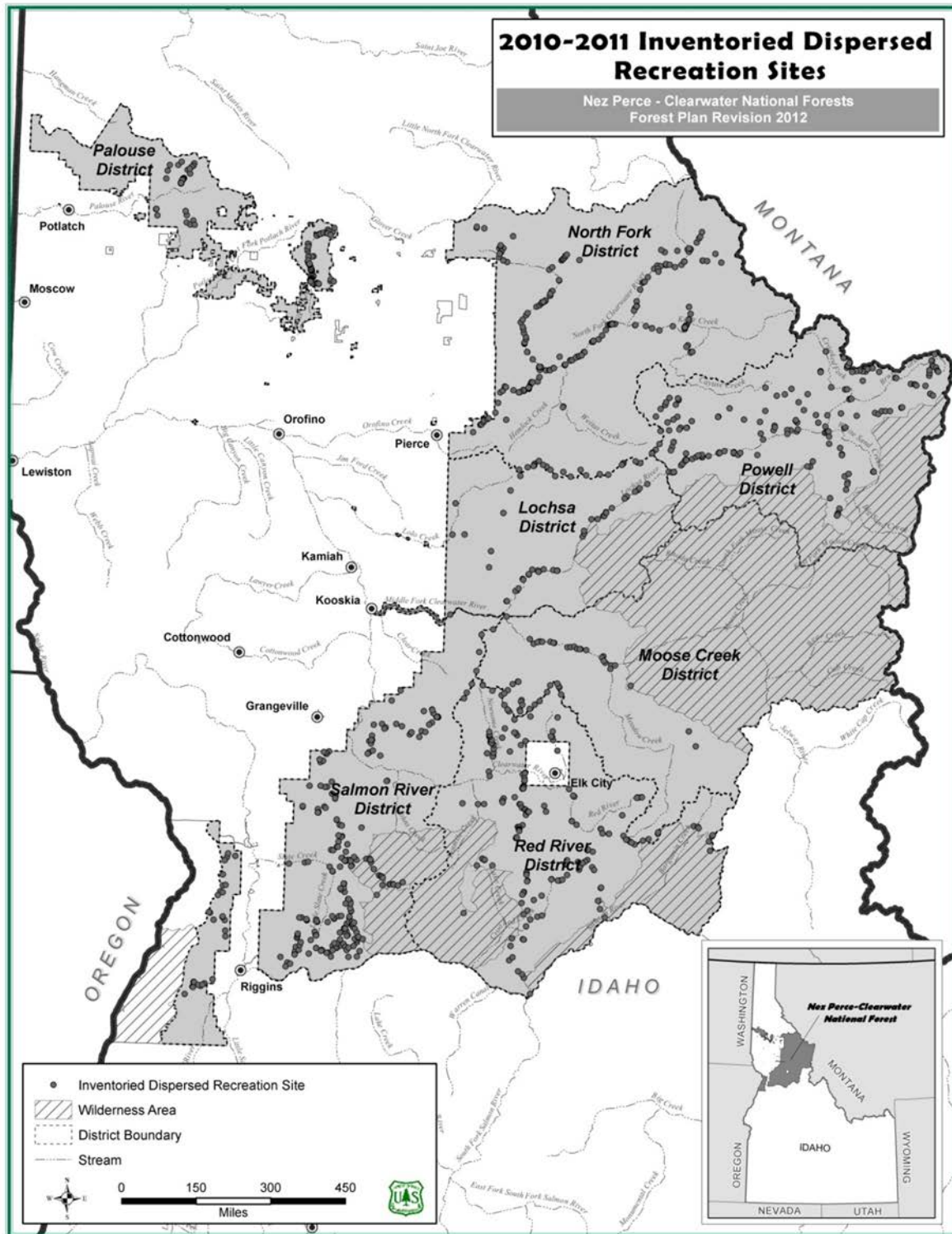


Figure 9-4. Inventoried Dispersed Campsites

9.1.2.5 National Visitor Use Monitoring

Where Visitors Come From

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests (Forests), located in North Central Idaho, are part of a larger network of National Forest System lands (NFS) that occupy over 20 million acres across the State of Idaho.

Figure 9-5 depicts all forests located within the state of Idaho and identifies the recreation niche for each forest.

The Forests contribute in unique and distinctive ways to the recreation settings and opportunities available in region. While many of the Idaho forests are accessible from interstate highways or are adjacent to urban areas (e.g., Boise, Idaho Falls, and Coeur D’Alene), the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forests are more remote and serve smaller, more rural communities (e.g., Grangeville, Riggins, Orofino, Elk City, Moscow, Lewiston, and Clarkston, Washington).

The state of Idaho markets itself as “Adventures in Living” (www.visitidaho.org). The wildlands and wild rivers of the Forests are critical to delivering recreation adventures to residents, local communities, and visitors.

Approximately 440 thousand people visited the Forests in 2006 and 293 thousand in 2011 (NVUM 2011).

Table 9-3. Number of Forest Visits (thousands) in 2006 and 2011 (NVUM 2011)

Visit Type	2006	2011
Total Estimated Site Visits*	690	480
→ Day Use Developed Site Visits	195	155
→ Overnight Use Developed Site Visits	81	70
→ General Forest Area Visits	384	235
→ Designated Wilderness Visits†	29	21
Total Estimated National Forest Visits	440	293

Visitors to the Forests come from near and far with 65%–70% of visitors travelling from within a 100 mile radius to access the Forests. This radius includes all of the communities within and adjacent to the Forest and more distant communities such as Lewiston, Coeur D’Alene, Cottonwood, McCall, Boise, Meridian, and Caldwell, Idaho and Clarkston, Colfax, Spokane and Pullman, Washington and Lolo and Missoula, Montana. Visitors to the Nez Perce National Forest are primarily from Grangeville, ID (40%), Lewiston, ID (15%) and Kooskia, ID (9%). Visitors to the Clearwater National Forest Are from primarily from Missoula, MT (26%), Moscow, ID (17%) and Lewiston, ID (16%). Two to four percent of visitors are from foreign countries (source 2006, 2011 National Visitor Use Monitoring).

Census data indicate population growth for communities within and adjacent to the Forests is neutral to declining, with Kamiah, ID being the exception with 12% growth between 2000 and 2010. Communities in southern Idaho have seen population increases of 40 to over 100%. Recreation Destination map in the R1 GIS library can be used to evaluate surrounding (non-Forest Service) destinations and facilities. This mapping tool is available if needed during the collaborative process.

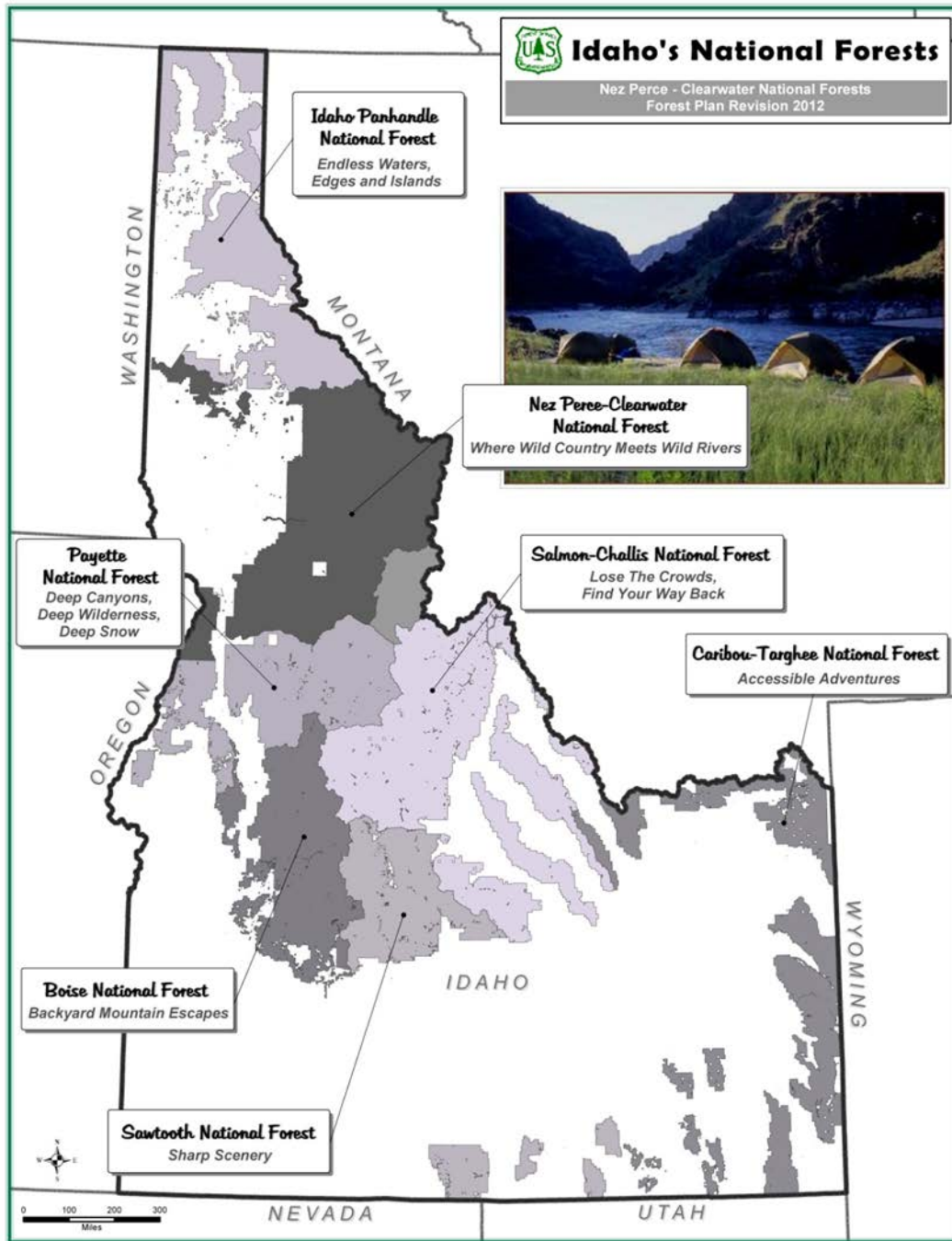


Figure 9-5. The Niche of Idaho’s Forests

What Do Visitors Do?

Table 9-4 lists the 20 activities visitors came to the Forests to participate in the most for 2006 and 2011, and Table 9-5 lists the 20 activities that visitors participated in the most for 2006 and 2011.

Table 9-4. National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) main activity visitors come to the Forest to participate in

Rank	2006 440,000 Visitors		2011 293,000 Visitors	
	Activity	%	Activity	%
1	Hunting	14.4	Gathering Forest Products	13.2
2	Viewing Natural Features	11.5	Relaxing	11.5
3	Hiking / Walking	11.5	Driving for Pleasure	10.6
4	Relaxing	11.3	Viewing Natural Features	10.5
5	Driving for Pleasure	7.3	Hiking / Walking	7.4
6	Some Other Activity	5.0	Developed Camping	7.1
7	Non-motorized Water	4.5	Hunting	6.7
8	Fishing	4.3	Snowmobiling	5.1
9	Cross-country Skiing	4.1	Cross-country Skiing	4.7
10	Other Non-motorized	4.1	Fishing	3.9
11	Gathering Forest Products	3.9	Viewing Wildlife	3.0
12	Viewing Wildlife	3.8	Some Other Activity	2.3
13	Developed Camping	2.9	Visiting Historic Sites	2.0
14	Snowmobiling	2.6	Motorized Trail Activity	1.5
15	Motorized Trail Activity	2.5	Primitive Camping	1.5
16	Primitive Camping	1.5	Picnicking	1.5
17	OHV Use	1.3	Bicycling	1.3
18	Backpacking	1.0	OHV Use	1.2
20	Picnicking	1.0	Non-motorized Water	1.1

Table 9-5. Top 20 Activities Visitors Participate In Most

	2006 440K Visitors		2011 293K Visitors	
	Activity	%	Activity	%
1	Relaxing	46.8	Hiking / Walking	47.4
2	Viewing Natural Features	45.3	Viewing Wildlife	47.4
3	Driving for Pleasure	44.7	Viewing Natural Features	47.3
4	Hiking / Walking	41.9	Relaxing	44.5
5	Viewing Wildlife	40.2	Driving for Pleasure	32.8
6	Gathering Forest Products	26.0	Developed Camping	17.0
7	Developed Camping	15.8	Visiting Historic Sites	15.9
8	Fishing	14.4	Hunting	15.7
9	Nature Study	13.1	Fishing	13.5
10	Visiting Historic Sites	12.6	Primitive Camping	11.8
11	Nature Center Activities	11.6	Picnicking	11.4
12	Picnicking	11.1	Gathering Forest Products	11.1
13	Motorized Trail Activity	10.3	Motorized Trail Activity	10.5
14	Hunting	8.2	Other Non-motorized	10.2
15	Primitive Camping	8.1	Nature Study	9.8
16	OHV Use	7.5	Nature Center Activities	8.1
17	Snowmobiling	5.8	Some Other Activity	7.5
18	Cross-country Skiing	5.0	OHV Use	6.9
20	Bicycling	4.1	Non-motorized Water	5.0

9.1.2.6 Recreation Special Uses and Outfitters

There are 59 Special Use Permits issued for Outfitter and Guide operations on the two forests (33 on the Nez Perce and 26 on the Clearwater). Outfitters and Guides are an extension of the Forest Service and provide recreation access and opportunities that may require specialized skills, equipment or knowledge. Outfitters also provide an important role in assisting people with disabilities access the Forest and to participate in activities they may otherwise be unable.

All outfitter and guide activities are regulated by the Idaho Outfitter and Guide Licensing Board. Idaho regulates the number of outfitters that can provide services in a defined geographic area. In most cases only one will be licensed and permitted to operate in a specified area. Rivers are an exception to this general rule. An MOU has been developed between the State of Idaho and Federal Agencies that outline how the agencies will work together to manage outfitter operations.

Additional outfitter information including specific operating areas and activities can be found at the IDFG [website](http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/ioglb/outfitter.aspx)¹.

Most outfitter operations on the two forests involve hunting and fishing but there are other activities as well including float boating and float fishing, hiking and back packing, horseback riding, biking, interpretive tours, and photography.

¹ <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/ioglb/outfitter.aspx>

Whitewater rafting and float boating occurs on the Salmon, Selway, Lochsa and Middle Fork Clearwater Rivers. Permits for floating the Salmon and Upper Selway are processed through the Four Rivers Lottery System. The Clearwater National Forest issues and administers the rafting permits for the Lower Selway, Lochsa and Middle Fork Clearwater Rivers.

Table 9-6 and Table 9-7 illustrate the actual use of outfitted opportunities offered on both Forests by activity.

Table 9-6. Clearwater National Forest Outfitter and Guide Program Actual Use Average Service Days 2005–2011

Activity Type	Actual Use by Year							Ave. Annual Actual Use
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	
Hunting	2,975	3,232	3,704	3,024	2,542	2,528	2,158	2,880
Hunting/Backpacking	162	193	62	24	5	0	48	70
Hunting/Trail Rides	815	606	1,015	2,436	727	796	885	1,040
Livery Services	0	0	0	0	109	150	107	52
Hiking/Biking	308	0	180	60	24	79	54	100
Rafting	3,022	3,064	3,189	3,429	2,741	2,520	2,539	2,929
Van Tours/Biking	145	124	49	41	40	177	113	98

Estimated by primary activity for each operation
Snowmobiling and fishing were not broken out as separate activities

Table 9-7. Nez Perce National Forest Outfitter and Guide Program Actual Use Average Service Days 2004–2011

Activity Type	Actual Use							Ave. Annual Actual Use
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	
Hunting	5,210	5,121	5,199	4,631	4,127	3,613	2,965	4,539
Hunting/Jet Boat	1,509	1,546	1,159	1,641	1,210	1,187	1,250	1,389
Hiking/Biking	39	69	61	100	18	20	16	42
River/Jet Boat	2,391	2,384	1,957	2,111	1,639	1,877	1,470	1,944
Backpacking	0	0	270	210	234	319	171	150

Note: Estimated by primary activity for each operation. Snowmobiling, trail riding, and fishing were not broken out as separate activities

9.1.2.7 Recreation Access

Access to and through the forest is facilitated year-round, and in a number of ways. Visitors select their access based on their preferred setting, experience, and mode of transportation. Roads, motorized trails, non-motorized trails, rivers, and airstrips penetrate the forest for visitors to walk, bike, boat, ride, drive, or fly to their destination. Strategically placed transportation corridors and entry points facilitate safe reliable access to diverse recreation settings and key destinations across the forest. These managed travel corridors protect the forest's natural and cultural resources, and minimize conflicts between users.

In some cases, the travel routes themselves are the destination. These include historic roads such as the Lolo Motorway, Elk City Wagon Road and the Magruder Corridor Road which provides a popular primitive route between Elk City and Darby, Montana. This unique road enables visitors to experience the settings of the adjacent Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church River of No Return wilderness areas and the roadless areas of East and West Meadow Creek while driving. Historic

trail routes such as the southern Nez Perce Trail are also popular trail destinations. Special designations for travel corridors include: National Historic trails (NHTs) such as the NeeMePoo and the Lewis and Clark NHTs, National Recreation trails, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Scenic Byways. Historic routes and rivers offer visitors the opportunity to trace the footsteps and voyages of past cultures, inhabitants, and explorers. The majority of the transportation network affords visitors the opportunity to view diverse wildlife and spectacular scenery.

Forest access links local communities with forest settings and facilitates backyard recreation opportunities for residents. Three adjacent Forests provide road and trailhead access to the Forests; the Lolo National Forest on the northeast provides opportunities to access the Great Burn Recommended Wilderness area; the Bitterroot National Forest on the east provides access to the Selway-Bitterroot wilderness via numerous trailheads including Paradise which provides river access to the Wild section of the Selway River; and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (St. Joe National Forest) on the north provides access to the Mallard-Larkins primitive area and the upper North Fork area.

Airstrips

The Forest's backcountry airstrips provide unique access to remote backcountry and wilderness settings for local, regional and national visitors where visitors experience facilities that are rustic in nature and compliment the primitive character and other setting attributes sought by visitors. There are 7 public airstrips on the forest; these include 3 airstrips located outside of wilderness areas including Dixie Airstrip at Dixie Guard Station, Orogrande Airstrip in Crooked River, Cayuse Creek Airstrip in the Upper North Fork, and 4 airstrips located in wilderness areas including Wilson Bar in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness near Mackay Bar), and Shearer, Moose Creek, and Fish Lake Airstrips located in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness.

National Historic Trails

Both of the following trails are located within the congressionally designated Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark corridor. The Southern Nez Perce trail is not currently a designated route within the NeeMeePoo NHT system; however, the trail is being considered for nomination to the National Register:

- Lewis and Clark NHT (#25)
- NeeMeePoo NHT (#40 commonly known as the Nez Perce trail)

National Recreation Trails

The following trails are designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as National Recreation Trails:

- Anderson Butte Trail #835
- East Boyd Trail #703 (including Roundtop Trail #310 and Glover Trail #704)
- Meadow Creek Trail #726
- Colgate Licks Nature Trail #1091
- Elk Creek Falls Trail System #740
- Giant Red Cedar Trail #748

White Pine Trail (#224) and Lochsa River Trail (#2 commonly known as the Downriver Trail) need their establishment report and designation verified. DeVoto Cedar Grove Interpretive Trail (#789) is being considered for designation to the NRT system.

The Forest does not have any designated National Scenic Trails.

ROS defines the opportunities and settings across the forest landscape including where varying modes of visitor travel, (backcountry airstrips, roads, trails) are appropriate and where motorized, non-motorized and mechanized (bicycle) travel can occur in order to compliment the desired visitor experience. The specific ROS opportunities including recreational access for each Recreation Subbasin are described within the Recreational Subbasin assessments.

The current Clearwater National Forest Travel Plan addresses access for both summer and winter seasons; the draft Nez Perce National Forest Travel Plan Designated Routes and Motorized Use (DRAMVU) does not address winter season access. The Forest Plan revision may need to address the gaps both seasonally and by mode of travel (motorized, non-motorized, bicycle, other mechanized) not addressed in the current Travel Plan decisions.

9.1.2.8 Recreation Facilities

The majority of the Forest's recreation facilities are located in the RN ROS settings. Exceptions include the remote cabins/lookouts offered in the Forests' rental program. On the Clearwater National Forest, these rentals include Bald Mountain Lookout, Castle Butte Lookout, Cold Springs Cabin, Kelly Forks Cabin, Liz Butte and Liz Creek Cabins, Scurvy Lookout, Walde Mountain Cabin, and the Weitas Butte Lookout and Weitas Butte Cabin. On the Nez Perce National Forest, rental opportunities include the Adams Ranger Station, Jerry Walker Cabin, Lookout Butte Lookout and Meadow Creek Cabin (Meadow Creek is accessed by hiking or horseback). There is also motorized trail access for All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and motorcycles on Meadow Creek Trail 726, Butte Creek Trail 809, and Kirk's Fork Trail 830.

More detailed and place-based information is provided in the Recreation subbasin section. Table 9-8 identifies the number of recreation sites by type on the Forests.

Table 9-8. Recreation Facilities—Number of Facilities by Site Type

Type	Clearwater		Nez Perce		Nez Perce-Clearwater Total Number Reservation System	Total
	Number of Facilities	Facilities with Fees	Number of Facilities	Facilities with Fees		
Campground	24	18	31	11	6	55
Camping Area (Level 2 Facility)	33	–	20	–	–	53
Group Campground	1	–	2	–	1	3
Visitor Centers	2	–	1	–	–	3
Picnic Day Use Site	6	–	6	–	1	12
Pavilion	2	–	1	–	2	3
Cabin/Lookout	12	8	4	3	12	16
Boat Launch	–	–	3	–	–	3
River Access/Boating Site	3	–	3	3 ^a	–	5
Trailheads	20	–	20	–	–	40
Interpretive Sites	6	–	6	–	–	12
Fishing Sites	1	–	2	–	–	3
Snow Park/ Snow Play	–	–	4	–	–	4
Total	110	26	102	17	22	212

^aFee at boating site is for floating permit on Main Salmon River.

9.1.3 Recreation Settings and Opportunities by Subbasin

It is difficult to characterize recreation settings, opportunities and other information for the entire 4 million acres Forest area. The following sections provide more detailed information by recreation subbasin (Figure 9-6). A recreation subbasin is an area comprised of a single or group of watersheds. Each recreation subbasin includes information and discussion of the Scenic Character and Recreation Settings, Access and Facilities present.

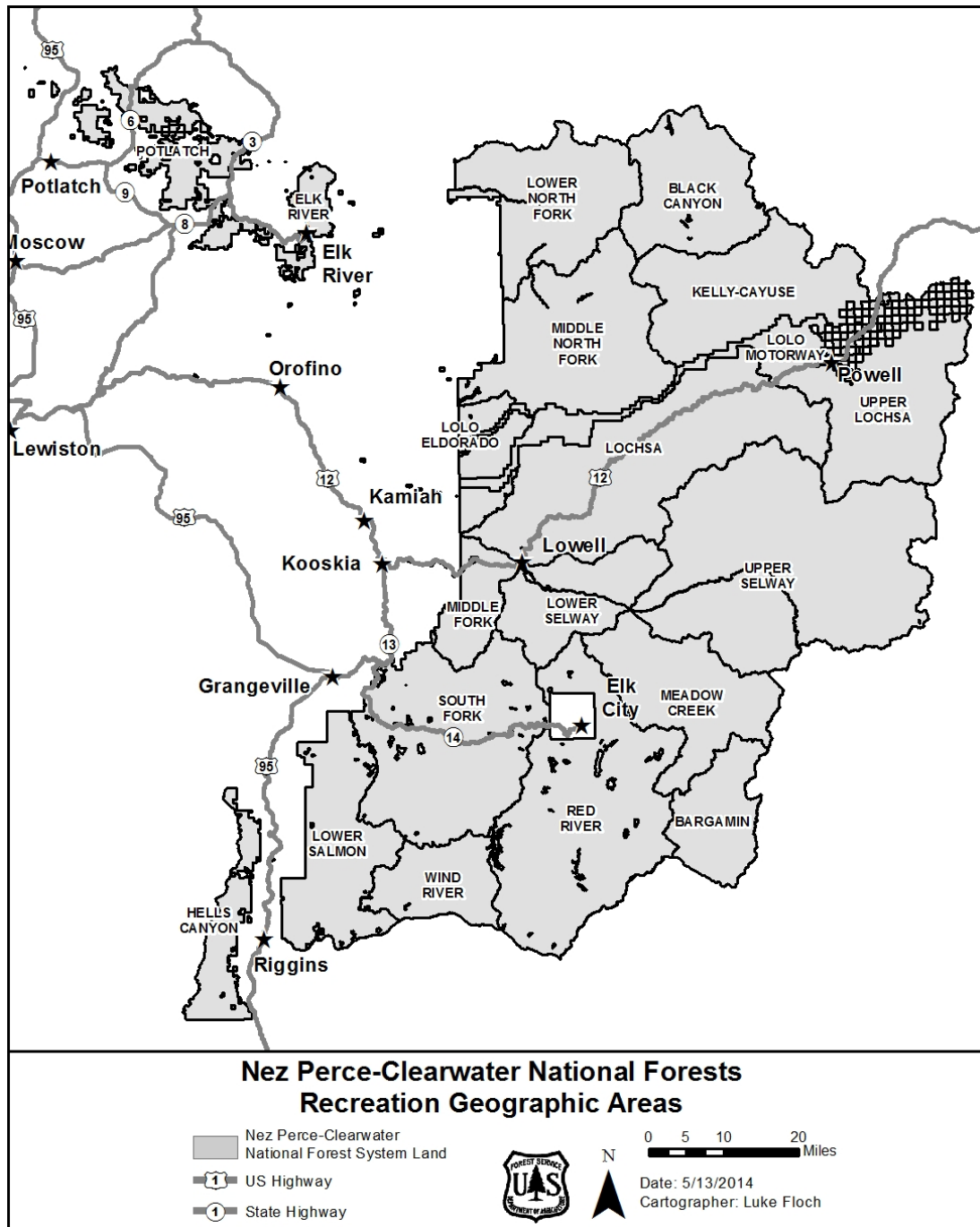


Figure 9-6. Recreation Subbasins

9.1.3.1 Palouse River (1)

Scenic Character

Wind deposited soil forms the dominant landforms of the Palouse River region. The rolling hills and gentle valleys found in this area are a sharp contrast to the deeper canyons of the Lochsa, North Fork of the Clearwater and Salmon River drainages. The rolling hills are covered with dense coniferous vegetation intermingled with meandering river valleys where more deciduous shrubs and trees are found. A number of large grassy meadow complexes are also affiliated with these meandering rivers and streams. Deep soils promote rapid coniferous vegetation growth. These rolling hills were once dominated by stands of western white pine, but now the area has mostly western larch, western red cedar, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and grand fir stands.

Evidence of road building, timber harvest, mining, recreation and agricultural activities are evident throughout the area. Ranching and farming activities are generally located in the more gently rolling river valleys. Agricultural based structures are found in the Palouse River area which supports an agrarian-based architectural character. (e.g., barns, rustic fences, rustic outbuildings). Intermingled ownership with Idaho Department of Lands and several private commercial timberland owners is found throughout the region.

Special areas include Palouse Divide, Giant White Pine Scenic Byway, summer and winter trail systems, North Fork of the Palouse Corridor, White Pine Scenic Drive Corridor, and Palouse Divide Corridor. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-10.

Table 9-9. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Palouse River recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Scenic Class Fore-ground	Scenic Class Middle-ground	Scenic Class Back-ground
Laird Park Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Little Boulder Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Giant White Pine Campground	CG	B	2	2	3	4
Bald Mountain Lookout ^a	Rental Lookout	B	1	1	2	2
Potlatch Canyon Tr. 765	3	A	1	1	1	1
Horse Camp Tr.	5	B	2	2	3	4
Trail 223		B	1	1	2	2
Old Sampson Tr. 221		B	1	1	2	2
Old Sampson Tr. 221A		B	1	1	2	2
NRT Tr. 224		B	1	1	2	2
NRT Tr. 224 A, B, C		B	1	1	2	2
Beason Meadows 228		B	1	1	2	2
Potlatch Canyon Tr. 765		B	1	1	2	2
Three Tree Butte Tr. 26		B	2	2	3	4
Excavation Gulch Tr. 27		B	2	2	3	4
Strychnine Ridge Tr. 319		B	2	2	3	4
Cleveland Gulch Tr. 333		B	2	2	3	4
Sand Mountain Tr. 330		B	2	2	3	4
Moose Creek Connection Tr. 330A		B	2	2	3	3
Brush Creek Tr. 289		B	2	2	3	4
Feather Creek Trail	5	B	2	2	3	4
Ruby Creek Trail	3	B	2	2	3	4
Palouse Divide Snow Park/ Snow Play	5	B	1	1	2	2
U.S. 95	20	B	1	1	2	2
State Highway 8	20	B	1	1	2	2
State Highway 6 – White Pine Scenic Drive	12	B	1	1	2	2
State Highway 3	13	B	1	1	2	2
Skyline Drive Rd 4716		B	2	2	3	4
Palouse Divide Rd 377		B	2	2	3	4
NF Palouse River Rd 767		B	2	2	3	4

^aBald Mountain Lookout has been converted from an Administrative Site to a Cabin/Lookout Rental. Scenic Integrity Objectives should be updated to the appropriate level with an inventoried scenic class of 2 this site should have a *high/moderate* scenic integrity objective.

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

Convenient Connections—Most of the Palouse River area is accessed by paved or higher standard aggregate-surfaced roads. Easy access to the college towns of Moscow and Pullman and within 50 miles of Lewiston and Clarkston make it the perfect backyard playground. The Palouse is also within 90 minutes of the urban areas of Spokane and Coeur d'Alene. All of the developed campground facilities are located within five miles of State Highways 3, 6 or 8.

Land to Roam and Ride—Access to more remote portions of the area can be more challenging, requiring high clearance vehicles or OHVs. Many of the tributaries of the Palouse River have trail systems open to motorized vehicles. Examples include: Sand Creek, North Fork of the Palouse, Ruby Creek and Strychnine Creek. Winter opportunities include snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The Palouse Divide area in particular is a destination for quiet winter activities including cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

Opportunities include hiking, picnicking, berry picking, swimming, rock climbing, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, sight-seeing, developed and dispersed camping, hunting, fishing, woodcutting, prospecting, plant gathering, horseback riding, cross country skiing and motorized (winter and summer) trail use.

Since intermingled ownership is widespread throughout the administrative boundary of the Palouse area, sharing of boundaries with these landowners (particularly with the Potlatch Corporation) creates challenges for recreationists, as they must regularly consult maps to remain cognizant of the land they are on and be aware of the rules and regulations that apply. Currently recreation is allowed by permit only on Potlatch Corporation forestland.

Recreation Access

Well-maintained, Idaho State Highways enable visitors to access the Palouse region for a wide variety of recreational activity. In addition to the highways mentioned above, many visitors also travel along U.S. Highway 95, which is located on the western edge of the region. These paved access corridors allow forest users to locate native surface roads that provide access to valued vistas, rivers, trails and camping locations.

The White Pine Scenic Byway on Idaho State Highway 3 splits the western portion of the district in a north-south orientation, providing outstanding access to two developed campgrounds and a broad range of single-track and double-track motorized trails. Popular National Forest System (NFS) roads in this area include NFS roads 377, 447, 768 and 381.

Figure 9-7 details roads and trails in the Palouse River recreation subbasin.

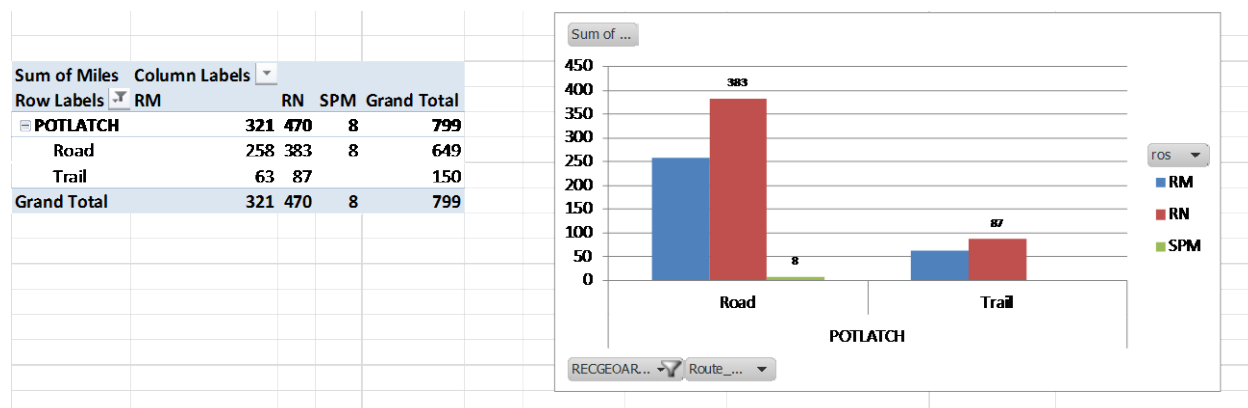


Figure 9-7. Roads and trails in the Palouse River recreation subbasin

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-11 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Palouse River recreation subbasin.

Table 9-10. Recreation facilities in the Palouse River recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
Laird Park Campground	31	Y	Y	4	G
Little Boulder Campground	16	Y	Y	4	G
Giant White Pine Campground	14	Y	N	4	G
Bald Mountain Lookout	1	Y	N	3	G
Potlatch Canyon Trailhead/Trail	3	N	N	3	
Horse Camp Trailhead & Campsite	5	N	N	2	F
Feather Creek Trailhead	5	N	N	2	NA
Ruby Creek Trailhead	3	N	N	2	NA
Palouse Divide Snow Park/ Snow Play	5	N	N	2	F
Dispersed Campsites (Level 0-2)	77	N	N	2	NA
Total	160				

^aCondition of Facilities: G = Good, F = Fair, P = Poor, NA = No constructed features present

9.1.3.2 Elk Creek(2)

Scenic Character

Elk Creek is a major tributary of the North Fork of the Clearwater River. In the northern portion of the drainage, referred to as the Upper Basin, the river meanders through a broad valley surrounded by willows and intermingled cedar stands. Rolling hills, covered with mixed coniferous vegetation, border the river valley to the east and west. Further south, the river travels through basalt substrate and the channel becomes more deeply incised. The river crosses several columnar basalt cliffs forming a series of falls that have become a favorite recreation destination.

As with the Palouse River area, intermingled land ownership is common. Evidence of road building and timber harvesting is found throughout the area.

Special areas include Elk Creek Falls, Elk Creek Basin, Perkins Cedar Grove and the Giant Cedar Tree. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-12.

Table 9-11. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Elk Creek recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Scenic Class Fore-ground	Scenic Class Middle-ground	Scenic Class Back-ground
Elk Creek Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Partridge Creek Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Elk Creek Falls Trailhead	TH	B	2	2	3	4
Elk Creek Falls Trail 740, 740 A, B, C, D & E		B	1	1	2	2
Perkins Cedar Grove Tr. 749		B	1	1	2	2
West Fork Potlatch Interp. Tr. 747		B	1	1	2	2
Giant Cedar Tr. 748		B	1	1	2	2
Elk Creek Falls Rd 1452 B	3	A	1	1	1	1
Cloverleaf Rd 1452	5	B	2	2	3	4
Highway 8		B	2	2	3	4
Park Road 1963		B	2	2	3	4
Elk Creek Basin Rd 382		B	2	2	3	4

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

Convenient Connections—State Highway 8 provides access to the town of Elk River. Elk River is on the edge of convenient connections to Moscow/Pullman/Lewiston. From the end of the highway unpaved roads radiate out in all directions to less developed areas.

Elk Creek Falls is a regional destination with a large trailhead, picnic facilities and a well-developed hiking trail. Other activities that are popular in the Palouse River region are found here as well. Opportunities for developed and dispersed camping, hunting, fishing, berry picking, woodcutting, hiking, sightseeing, and off road vehicle use can be found here.

Land to Roam and Ride—While motorized recreation activities such as OHV and snowmobile riding comprise a large portion of the recreation activities in the area, there are several hiking trails and cross country skiing opportunities. Elk Creek and Partridge Creek are the only developed campgrounds, with dispersed campsites scattered along the Upper Basin Road (NFS road 382) and throughout the roaded portion of the basin. These dispersed sites are heavily used throughout the summer and fall seasons. Visitors can enjoy the Elk Creek Falls area during the summer and winter. This non-motorized recreation area supports hiking and cross country skiing activities.

Opportunities include: hiking, picnicking, berry picking, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, sight-seeing, developed and dispersed camping, hunting, fishing, woodcutting, plant gathering,

horseback riding cross country skiing, and off-road vehicle use including OHV and snowmobiling.

Recreation Access

Idaho State Highway 8 provides access to additional trails and campgrounds and is a gateway to the popular Elk Creek Basin. Most visitors to the area will utilize National Forest System Roads 382 or 1705 for access to camping, hiking and the Giant Cedar Tree.

Figure 9-8 details roads and trails in the Elk Creek recreation subbasin.

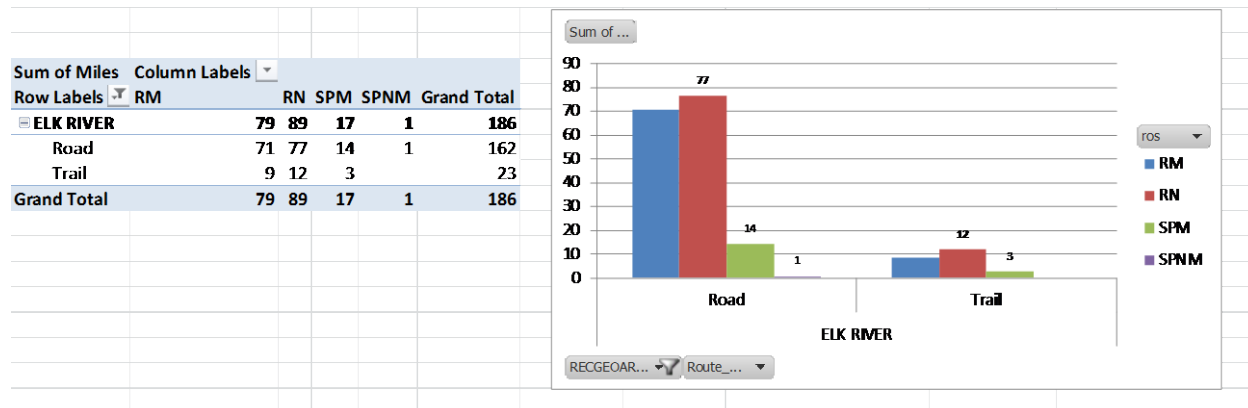


Figure 9-8. Roads and trails in the Elk Creek recreation subbasin

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-13 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Palouse River recreation subbasin.

Table 9-12. Recreation facilities in the Elk Creek recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
Elk Creek Campground	23	Y	Y	5	G
Elk Creek Falls Trailhead	10	N	N	3	G
Giant Cedar Trailhead /Interp Trail	10	N	N	3	G
Elk Creek Falls X-Country Trailhead	10	N	N	3	F
Partridge Creek Campground	7	N ^b	N	3	F
Upper Basin Campsite	5	N	N	2	F
West Fork Potlatch Interpretive Trailhead	5	N	N	2	F
Dispersed Campsites (Level 0-2)	85	N	N	2	NA
Total	155				

^aCondition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

^bRFA suggests adding a fee to this site.

9.1.3.3 Lower North Fork Clearwater (3)

Scenic Character

The North Fork of the Clearwater River catches the eye of the visitor at every turn of the road. The river has deep pools mixed with rocky rapids throughout the lower portion of the canyon. The distinctive rock features and vegetation found in the river environs is a major draw for visitors coming to the area. There are few beaches, but there are a number of timbered river terraces where campgrounds and dispersed campsites are located. Western red cedar habitats dominate the river edges, while the steeper canyon walls support thick mixed conifer stands of Douglas fir, grand fir, western larch, and western white pine. There are distinctive rock outcrops found throughout the canyon. The canyon walls are very steep in some areas creating a very narrow canyon in places with distinct rock outcrops on both sides of the river.

Special Areas include North Fork of the Clearwater River, Isabella RNA (coastal disjunct plant communities), Mallard Larkins Area, and Black Mountain Lookout. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-14.

Table 9-13. Designated corridors and use areas in Lower North Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Aquarius Campground	CG	A	1	1	2	2
Washington Creek Campground	CG	A	1	1	2	2
Cold Springs Peak Cabin Rental	Rental Cabin	B	2	2	3	4
Canyon Work Center	Administrative	A	2	2	2	2
Aquarius-North Fork Trail 297	7	B	2	2	3	4
Smith Ridge Trail 240	1.4	B	1	1	2	2
Isabella Creek Trail 95	1	B	1	1	2	2
Trail 96		B	1	1	2	2
Black Mountain Trail 396	5.6	B	1	1	2	2
The Nub Trail 399		B	1	1	2	2
Lost Ridge Trail 283		B	2	2	3	4
Skull Creek Trail 285		B	2	2	3	4
Pot Mountain Trail 144		B	1	1	2	2
Stateline Trail 233		A	1	1	1	1
Trail 169		B	1	1	2	2
Trail 101		B	2	2	3	4
North Fork Clearwater Road 247		B	1	1	2	2
Dworshak Reservoir		B	1	1	2	2

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

NFS road 247, which begins near the unincorporated community of Headquarters, bisects ground owned by Potlatch, and leads to the lower portion of the North Fork of the Clearwater River near Aquarius Campground. The campground lies just one-and-a-half miles north of the Forests' boundary. Likewise, Sheep Mountain Road 246 takes off from Headquarters and accesses the ridge above the river.

Recreation opportunities adjacent to this area are also provided by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and the Corps of Engineers at Dworshak Reservoir. Facilities provided include: two large developed campgrounds, one semi-developed campground, a group camp, five marina/boat launch facilities, a few scattered hiking trails and numerous boat access only dispersed camps.

Wilderness Expedition and Backcountry—Perched on the ridgeline between the North Fork of the Clearwater and the St. Joe River, the Mallard-Larkins Pioneer area stretches across the northern boundary of the drainage. It is accessed by the Isabella Point and Smith Ridge Trailheads and other minor trailheads along Road 247. Non-motorized trails access high mountain lakes, provides breathtaking views of untrammled wild country, and brings you to the habitat of rarely seen mountain goats. Dispersed camping opportunities can be found throughout the area, but will have no constructed features.

Wild River Corridor—While not designated as a Wild and Scenic River, the North Fork has been listed as eligible for that designation. Two popular campgrounds, Aquarius and Washington Creek, are found within the Lower North Fork Area. Many dispersed camping opportunities are also found within the river corridor.

Land to Roam and Ride—Large undeveloped ridge tops flank the river canyon to both the north and the south. There are motorized and non-motorized trail opportunities near Mush Saddle and Lost Ridge to the north and an extensive road system to the south that can be accessed by Road 246, known as Sheep Mountain Road. Here, visitors can enjoy hunting, dispersed camping and motorized trail opportunities. An extensive motorized trail system is under development in the Sheep Mountain area.

Self-discovery opportunities include hiking, picnicking, berry picking, wildlife viewing, sight-seeing, developed and dispersed camping, hunting, fishing, plant gathering, pack and saddle trail use, and off-road vehicle use including OHVs.

Recreation Access

Most visitors to this portion of the North Fork of the Clearwater River gain entry from the south via U.S. Highway 12, which runs parallel to the Main Clearwater River near Orofino. North Fork-bound travelers can cross the bridge at Orofino to access Grangemont Road. The road stretches north and east for 29 miles then intersects State Highway 11 seven miles east of Headquarters. Forest Service Road 247 (Beaver Creek) connects with Highway 11 at Headquarters. Road 247 is paved for 23 miles but changes to gravel two miles north of the Forest boundary near Aquarius Campground and the North Fork Clearwater River.

Highway 11 from Greer to Weippe presents another option for Highway 12 travelers to access the Lower North Fork. Follow Highway 11 to Weippe and continue toward Pierce and

Headquarters. Continue as described above. Figure 9-9 details roads and trails in the Palouse River recreation subbasin.

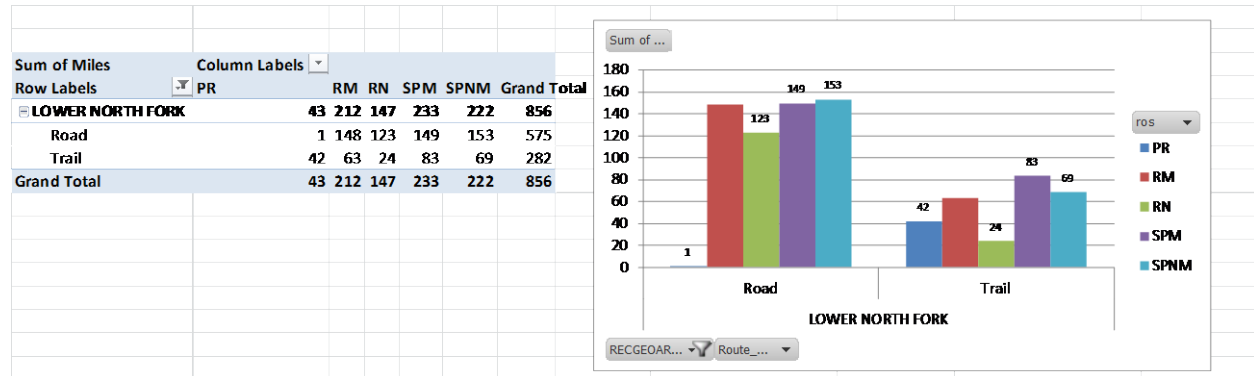


Figure 9-9. Roads and trails in the Lower North Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-15 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Lower North Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin.

Table 9-14. Recreation facilities in the Lower North Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
Aquarius Campground	11	Y	Y	4	G
Washington Creek Campground	24	Y	Y	4	G
Cold Springs Peak Lookout Rental	1	Y	N	3	F
Dog Creek Campsite	4	N	N	2	P
Smith Ridge Trailhead	5	N	N	2	G
Wallow Mountain Lookout Rental	1	Y ^b	N	2	F
Isabella Point Trailhead	5	N	N	2	G
Isabella Landing Campsite and Trailhead	7	N	N	2	F
Dispersed Campsites (Level 0-2)	109	N	N	2	NA
Total	167				

^aCondition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

^bNot currently in service.

9.1.3.4 Middle North Fork Clearwater (4)

Scenic Character

The middle section of the North Fork river canyon from Washington Creek to Kelly Creek contains the confluence of two major river systems, the North Fork Clearwater River and Orogrande Creek. The North Fork, while slightly broader than the lower section, is similar in appearance with the same general mix of vegetation and landforms. There is some evidence of past fire activities and there are some areas where large brush fields are found intermingled with

conifer stands. The river canyon in this section has more numerous rock outcrops mixed with larger pools. The adjacent uplands are more gently sloping, rising to rocky subalpine ridge tops.

Orogrande Creek flows into the North Fork from the south west portion of the basin. Orogrande Creek is much smaller the North Fork and has more varied forms; from a steep, rocky channel where the water cascades from pool to pool through thick growth of conifers, to areas of gentle meandering with associated meadow and willow habitat. The canyon walls are relatively steep, with evidence of past insect, disease and fire in some of the timbered areas. There is also evidence of timber harvesting and road building throughout the Orogrande canyon.

Special areas include Pot Mountain, North Fork of the Clearwater River, Weitas Creek, and sites off the Lolo Motorway. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-16.

Table 9-15. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Middle North Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Noe Creek Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Weitas Creek Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Liz Butte Cabin Rental	Rental Cabin	B	1	1	2	2
Weitas Butte Lookout Rental	Rental Cabin	B	2	2	3	4
Liz Creek Cabin Rental	Rental Cabin	B	1	1	2	2
Liz Butte Tr. 649	3	B	1	1	2	2
Weitas Butte Tr. 103	5	B	2	2	3	4
Windy Bill Tr. 531		B	2	2	3	4
Bear Butte Tr. 167		B	1	1	2	2
Trail 580		B	2	2	3	4
Lower Weitas		B	1	1	2	2
Nee Me Poo Tr. 104		B	1	1	2	2
North Fork Road 250		B	2	2	3	4
Weitas Butte Road 557		B	1	1	2	2

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

Convenient Connections—Most visitors to the middle portion of the North Fork of the Clearwater come to Pierce, Idaho and travel on the forest roads to get to the river-based and trail-based recreation opportunities of this basin. NFS Road 250 begins near Pierce, Idaho and drops into the North Fork area at French Mountain Saddle. It is the most popular access point for visitors to this portion of the river canyon. The first seven miles of this road is paved, but from the intersection of the Sylvan Saddle road, aggregated-surface begins. From French Mountain Saddle northward to the confluence of Orogrande Creek and the North Fork, trailheads and dispersed camping sites can be found adjacent to the road corridor. Dispersed sites range from intimate parking areas that accommodate a single, small tent to large sites with multiple parking areas which have room for larger groups or multiple individual parties. At the confluence of the

ivers are two major dispersed camping areas, Bungalow and Station Creek that have room for 10 or more parties.

At the confluence the visitor can choose to travel down river on Road 247 toward Washington Creek or up river towards Kelly Creek. Both developed and dispersed campsites are located adjacent to the river. Trailheads serving trails to the north and south are also located along this major travel corridor.

Wild River Corridor—Many developed and dispersed sites are found along the North Fork. Most large river terraces support some type of camping opportunity if there is feasible access from the road to the river. Most of these relatively flat areas have coniferous vegetation dominated by western red cedar, with Douglas fir and grand fir. Several developed campgrounds and better dispersed sites are found here.

Land to Roam and Ride—Most motorized recreation opportunities are located in the western portion of the basin. With the exclusion of the Mush Saddle trail system, trails in the northern portion of the canyon are hiking or pack and saddle trails that travel to the distinctive rock formations and alpine areas of Pot Mountain and its surrounding points. South of the river is the Weitas Creek drainage. This large area has several non-motorized trail opportunities that can take the visitor through miles of undeveloped country all the way to the Lolo Trail corridor that forms the southern boundary of this basin.

Opportunities include hiking, picnicking, berry picking, wildlife viewing, sight-seeing, developed and dispersed camping, hunting, fishing, plant gathering, pack and saddle trail use, recreational mining, and off-road vehicle use including OHVs.

Recreation Access

Most visitors to this portion of the North Fork of the Clearwater River gain entry from the south via U.S. Highway 12, which runs parallel to the Main Clearwater River near Orofino. North Fork-bound travelers can cross the bridge at Orofino to access Grangemont Road. The road stretches north and east for 29 miles then intersects State Highway 11 seven miles east of Headquarters. Forest Service Road 247 (Beaver Creek) connects with Highway 11 at Headquarters. Road 247 is paved for 23 miles but changes to gravel two miles north of the Forest boundary near Aquarius Campground and the North Fork Clearwater River.

Highway 11 from Greer to Weippe presents another option for Highway 12 travelers to access the Lower North Fork. Follow Highway 11 to Weippe and continue toward Pierce and Headquarters. Continue as described above.

Figure 9-10 details roads and trails in the Middle North Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin.

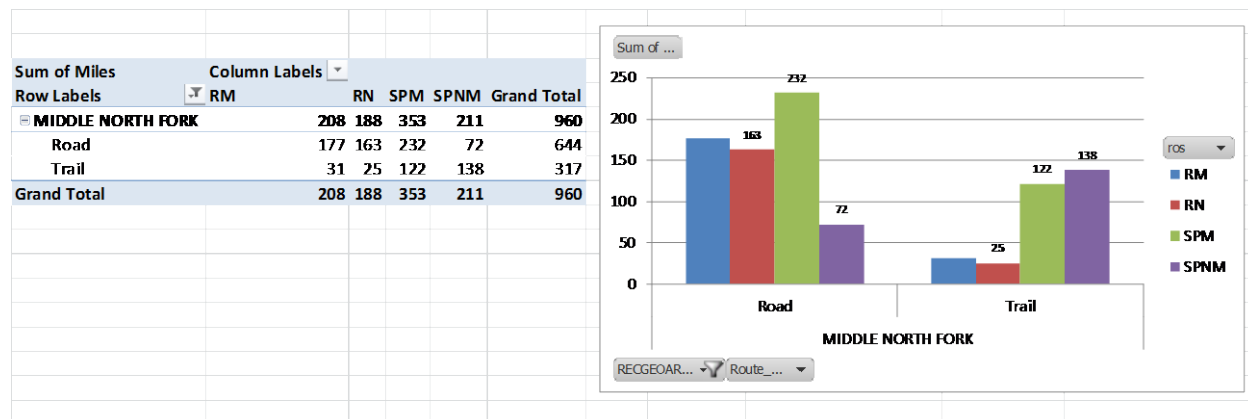


Figure 9-10. Roads and trails in the Middle North Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-17 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Palouse River recreation subbasin.

Table 9-16. Recreation facilities in the Middle North Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
Noe Creek Campground	7	Y	N	4	G
Liz Butte Cabin Rental	1	Y	N	3	F
Weitas Butte Lookout Rental	1	Y	N	3	G
Liz Creek Cabin Rental	1	Y ^b	N	3	F
Fourth of July Trailhead/Campsite	5	N	N	3	G
Weitas Campground ^c	6	N	N	3	P
Station Creek Campsite	5	N	N	2	G
Flat Creek Campsite	6	N	N	2	G
Fawn Creek Campsite	7	N	N	2	F
Pine Creek Campsite	3	N	N	2	G
Jazz Creek Campsite	7	N	N	2	G
Joy Creek Campsite	1	N	N	2	F
Weitas Bridge Campsite	2	N	N	2	NA
Weitas Guard Station Campsite	3	N	N	2	P
Hook Creek Campsite	2	N	N	2	P
Bungalow Campsite	2	N	N	2	F
Riviera Campsite	3	N	N	2	F
Beaver Dam Saddle Trailhead	2	N	N	2	G
Clark Mtn. Campsite/Trailhead	3	N	N	2	G
Dispersed Campsites (Level 0-2)	99	N	N	2	NA
Total	166				

^aCondition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

^bNot currently in service

^cCampground currently closed due to bridge closure

9.1.3.5 Upper North Fork (5)

Scenic Character

This portion of the North Fork of the Clearwater canyon is very narrow, with steeper landforms, less dense stands of coniferous vegetation and large areas of rock outcrops. There is evidence of fire activity, avalanche and rock fall within this corridor. Some past harvesting and road building can be seen, but they do not dominate the views from the river road. The river is shallower here with fewer deep pool and more long stretches of shallow, rocky, river bottom. Most of the flatter terraces adjacent to the river are small, but have stands of large western red cedar.

Outside of the canyon are large sweeping mountains stretching toward the alpine areas found along to major dividing ridge top of the Bitterroot Mountains. This extensive ridge formation divides the North Fork River basin from the St. Joe River basin to the north and the Lolo River basin to the east. High elevation vegetation includes extensive stands of lodgepole pine, western larch, subalpine fir, mountain hemlock and western white pine inclusions. The area adjacent to the Deception road has been highly modified in some areas with mining activities. There are several inclusions of residential dwellings built on patented mining claims.

Special areas include North Fork of the Clearwater (through Black Canyon), Five Lakes Butte, and Great Burn Area. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-18.

Table 9-17. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Upper North Fork recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Cedars Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Hidden Creek Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Stateline Tr. 738		A	1	1	1	1
Fish Lake Tr. 419		B	1	1	2	2
Little Moose Ridge Tr. 760	3	B	2	2	3	4
Bruin Hill Tr. 490	5	B	1	1	2	2
Osier Hill Tr. 420		B	1	1	2	1
Pollack Mountain Tr. 478		B	2	2	3	4
Moose Mountain Tr. 690		B	1	1	2	2
Upper North Fork Tr.		B	1	1	2	2
Elizabeth Mountain Tr. 228		B	1	1	2	2
Goose Creek Tr. 414		B	1	1	2	2
Fly Hill Road 720		B	2	2	3	4
Lake Creek Road 295		B	2	2	3	4
Pot Mtn. Ridge Rd. 715		A	2	2	2	2
Pierce Superior Road 250		A	2	2	2	2

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

Wild River Corridor—The Upper North Fork basin is accessed by two roads, 250 and 255. The 250 road, the main access route to the Middle North Fork section of the river, continues to follow the North Fork River north through the section of the river canyon often referred to as Black Canyon. The 255 or the Deception road leaves the canyon adjacent to Kelly Creek near the Old Kelly Station and reconnects with the 255 near the confluence of Deception Gulch and the North Fork. This route is used by most recreationists with trailers since the route through Black Canyon contains a number of low water fords and several narrow blind corners. Two popular campgrounds area located here, Hidden Creek Campground in the Black Canyon area and Cedars Campground at the confluence of the North Fork and Lake Creek. In addition to developed camping, many dispersed sites are located along the river corridor.

Wilderness Expedition and Backcountry—Areas to the west and east of road 250 are largely unroaded, with trails that access the high alpine areas that divide the major river corridors. The western portion of the basin is referred to as the Great Burn area which is proposed Wilderness. Fish Lake is a popular destination, is accessed by a motorized trail, while the remainder of the area is non-motorized.

Land to Roam and Ride—Near Deception Pass there are several large areas that are used extensively for motorized recreation opportunities. Both primitive roads and trails area used by visitors. Dispersed camping is also popular here.

Convenient Connections—The Upper North Fork is most easily accessed from Montana. Road 250 begins near Superior Montana and is paved to the Cedars area via Hoodoo Pass.

Recreation Access

Many visitors to this corner of the North Fork of the Clearwater River gain entry from the south via U.S. Highway 12, which runs parallel to the Main Clearwater River near Orofino. North Fork-bound travelers can cross the bridge at Orofino to access Grangemont Road. The road stretches north and east for 29 miles then intersects State Highway 11 six miles west of Pierce. Forest Service Road 250, called French Mountain Road, junctions with Highway 11 one mile south of Pierce. Road 250 is paved for 17 miles but changes to gravel near its junction with FS Road 669. Also known as the Pierce-Superior Road, Road 250 meanders through the upper reaches of North Fork Clearwater River country and eventually transects the Idaho-Montana state line at Hoodoo Pass. Segments of Road 250, particularly the route through Black Canyon (just north of the Kelly Forks Work Center) are narrow, native surface roadways; drivers are urged to proceed with care.

As mentioned, lots of summer visitors to the Upper North Fork access the area by way of Montana's Interstate 90. Travelers can head south on Trout Creek Road 250 at Superior, MT. The road crosses Hoodoo Pass and extends south to the North Fork Clearwater River. While some of these visitors are Idaho residents, a large percentage also come from both Washington State and Montana.

Figure 9-11 details roads and trails in the Upper North Fork recreation subbasin.

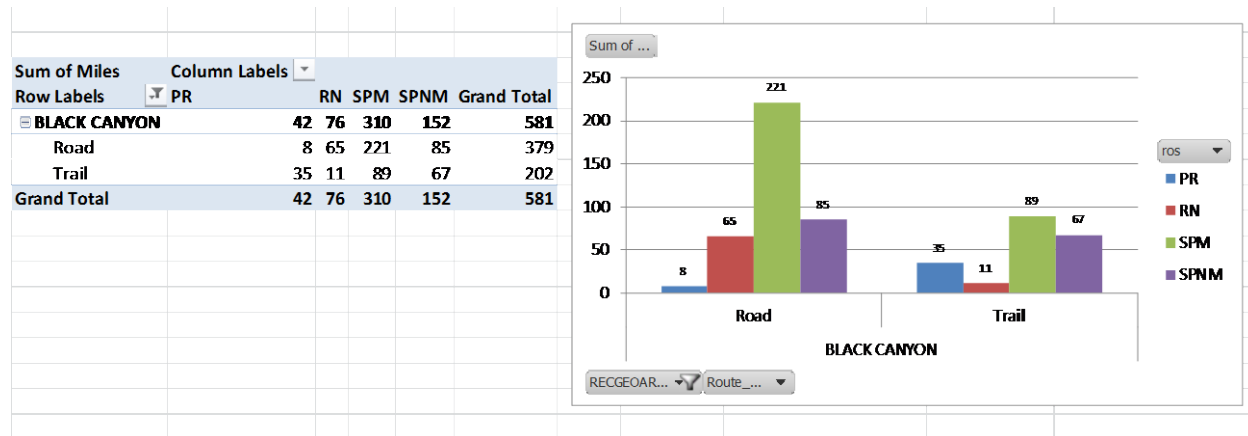


Figure 9-11. Roads and trails in the Upper North Fork recreation subbasin

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-19 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Upper North Fork recreation subbasin.

Table 9-18. Recreation facilities in the Upper North Fork recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
Hidden Creek Campground	12	Y	Y	4	G
Cedars Campground	5	N ^b	N	3	P
Fish Lake Campsites	8	N	N	2	P
Pete Ott Campsite	2	N	N	2	P
Fish Lake Trailhead	2	N	N	2	P
Ruby Creek Campsite	2	N	N	2	P
Goose Creek/Lake Creek Trailhead/Campsite	5	N	N	2	F
Dispersed Campsites (Level 0-2)	55	N	N	2	NA
Total	91				

^aCondition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

^bRFA suggests adding a fee to this site.

9.1.3.6 Kelly Creek (6)

Scenic Character

The Kelly Creek canyon is wider than the North Fork and rimmed by more gently rolling hills near its confluence with the North Fork. Cottonwoods and other deciduous vegetation are found along the larger river terraces. There is extensive evidence of past fire activity in this drainage. This evidence appears as large brush fields interspersed with areas of continuous conifer cover. There are fewer rock features in and around the river, but there are some distinctive rock outcrops found on the canyon walls. High elevation areas have stands of lodgepole pine, western larch and whitebark pine.

Special Areas include Great Burn Area, Kelly Creek, and Cayuse Creek. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-20.

Table 9-19. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Kelly Creek recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Kelly Forks Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Kelly Forks Cabin Rental	Rental Cabin	B	1	1	2	2
Scurvy Mountain Lookout Rental	Rental Lookout	B	2	2	3	4
Deer Creek Tr. 513		B	1	1	2	2
Bruin Hill Tr. 490	3	B	1	1	2	2
Rapid Creek Tr. 565	5	B	1	1	2	2
Kelly Creek Tr. 567		B	1	1	2	2
Lundy Rock Garden Tr. 534		B	1	1	2	2
Cayuse Creek Tr. 532		B	1	1	2	2
East Saddle Tr. 524		B	1	1	2	2
Windy Bill Tr. 531		B	2	2	3	4
Junction Tr. 106		B	2	2	3	4
Junction Mtn. Tr. 191		B	2	2	3	4
Tr. 508		B	1	1	2	2
Potato Creek Tr. 539		B	2	2	3	4
Tr. 256		B	1	1	2	2
Tr. 35		B	1	1	2	2
Tr. 13		B	1	1	2	2
Deception Saddle Rd. 255		A	1	1	2	2
Toboggan Ridge Rd. 581		B	2	2	3	4

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

Wilderness Expedition and Backcountry—The upper reaches of Kelly Creek and Cayuse Creek have an extensive system of non-motorized trails that explore the river canyons and high mountain areas to the east of Kelly Creek. Most camping is primitive dispersed sites with no improvements

Wild River Corridor—Road 255 begins at the Kelly Creek Work center and follows Kelly Creek to its confluence with Moose Creek near Old Kelly Station. Most developed facilities are located on the west end of the corridor including Kelly Creek Campground, Kelly Creek Cabin Rental on the grounds of the work center and Junction Mountain Trailhead and Packbridge.

Recreation Access

Many Kelly Creek and Cayuse Creek visitors gain entry from the south via U.S. Highway 12, which runs parallel to the Main Clearwater River near Orofino. North Fork-bound travelers can cross the bridge at Orofino to access Grangemont Road. The road stretches north and east for 29 miles then intersects State Highway 11 six miles west of Pierce. Forest Service Road 250, called French Mountain Road, junctions with Highway 11 one mile south of Pierce. Road 250 is paved for 17 miles but changes to gravel near its junction with FS Road 669. Road 250 winds its way

through Middle North Fork Clearwater River country for 51 miles before reaching the confluence of the North Fork Clearwater River and Kelly Creek.

As mentioned, lots of summer visitors to this portion of the North Fork Ranger District access the area by way of Montana’s Interstate 90. Travelers can head south on Trout Creek Road 250 at Superior, MT. The road crosses Hoodoo Pass and continues 29 miles south to Kelly Creek.

Figure 9-12 details roads and trails in the Kelly Creek recreation subbasin.

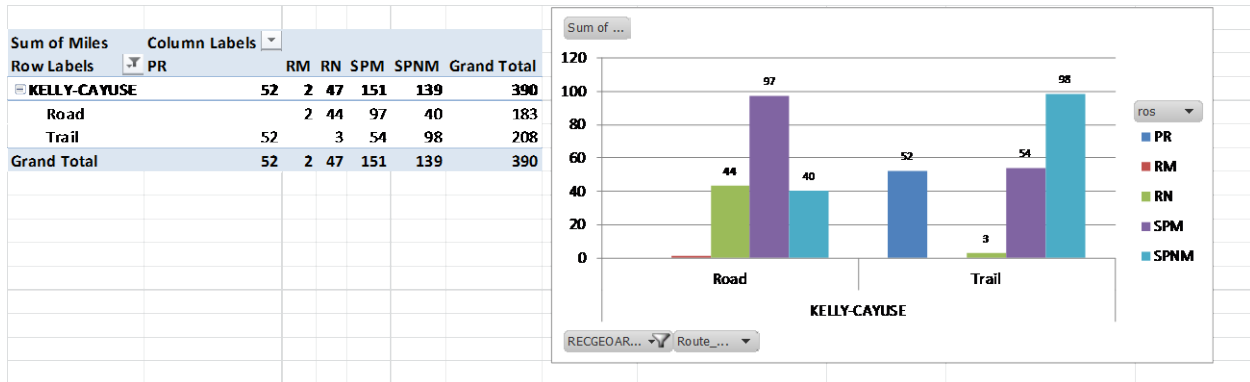


Figure 9-12. Roads and trails in the Kelly Creek recreation subbasin. Note: R (Rural) and U (Urban) are combined as RM (Roaded Modified) when mapped; this is driven by road density.

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-21 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Kelly Creek recreation subbasin.

Table 9-20. Recreation facilities in the Kelly Creek recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
Kelly Forks Campground	18	Y	Y	4	G
Kelly Forks Cabin Rental	1	Y	N	4	G
Scurvy Mountain Lookout Rental	1	Y ^b	N	3	F
Cayuse Landing Campsite	3	N	N	2	P
Kelly Creek Trailhead/Campsite	7	N	N	2	G
Junction Creek Trailhead	3	N	N	2	F
Unnamed Level 2 Campsites	64	N	N	2	NA
Total	97				

^aCondition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

^bNot currently in service.

9.1.3.7 Lolo Creek/Eldorado (7)

Scenic Character

The southern portion of this area is dominated by the deep canyon surrounding Lolo Creek. The river flows through an extensive section of columnar basalt forming distinctive, cliff-like landforms. Further north the canyon broadens into a gently rolling upland area. Western white pine historically was found here, but now Douglas-fir, grand fir, ponderosa pine, and western larch are found on drier hillsides, with western redcedar in the moist areas. There are few distinctive landforms, but the presence of the western portion of the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark adds a distinctive cultural component to the area. There is extensive evidence of past timber harvest and road building found throughout this drainage. Future emphasis will be on restoration of western white pine.

Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-22.

Table 9-21. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Lolo Creek/Eldorado recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Lolo Creek Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Musselshell Meadows (Documentary)	Interp	B	1	1	2	2
Musselshell Meadows Work Center	Admin	B	1	1	2	2
Austin Ridge Lookout	Rental Lookout	B	1	1	2	2
Lolo Motorway Rd. 500 (Outside of Landmark Corridor)		B	1	1	2	2

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

One small developed campground, Lolo Creek, is found here, but most recreation occurs along the well-developed roads system in the form of dispersed camping. This area contains the western portion of the Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce National Historic trails (all part of the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark). This area is extremely popular with people pursuing history-based recreation opportunities. There are numerous interpretive facilities designed to enhance the recreation experience of these visitors.

Land to Roam and Ride—Motorized road and trail opportunities are found throughout this basin. Winter opportunities for motorized and non-motorized activities are found near the Musselshell Work Center.

Convenient Connections—Road 100 provides access to this area from the Kamiah-Kooskia area and from visitors accessing the area from Highway 12. This paved road extends to the Musselshell work center in the northern portion of the drainage. Access to Pierce – Weippe and State Highway 11 is on a highly developed aggregate surfaced road.

Recreation Access

Lolo and Eldorado Creek areas are popular for recreationists and visitors coming from Kamiah via Forest Road 100 and from the communities of Pierce and Weippe. The area is highly roaded, offering travelers opportunities for dispersed camping and short hiking opportunities. Popular destinations in this area include Lolo Campground, Lewis and Clark Grove, and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Musselshell Meadows area offers many historic, wildlife and native plant viewing opportunities and hosts the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. This area also offers OHV and mountain biking loop riding opportunities in the summer and snowmobiling in the winter. There is opportunity to identify additional connector routes to expand these opportunities in the future.

Figure 9-13 details roads and trails in the Lolo Creek/Eldorado recreation subbasin.

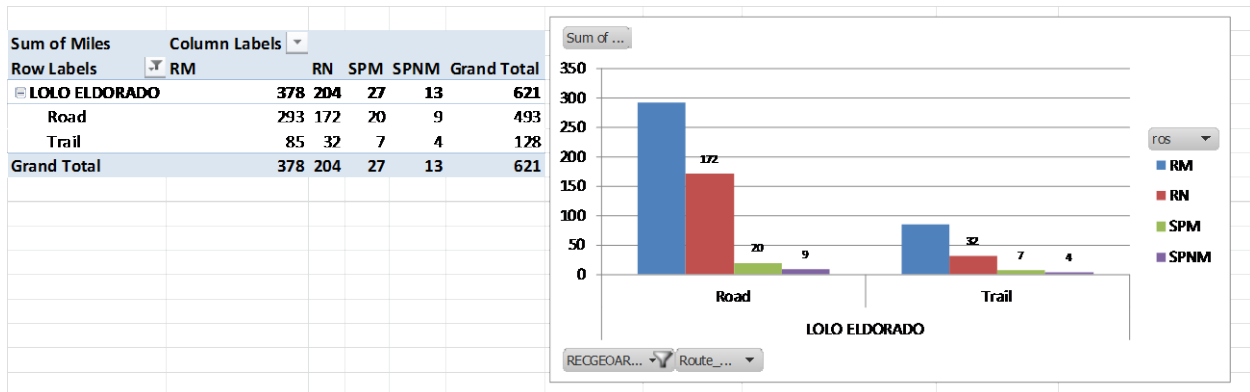


Figure 9-13. Roads and trails in the Lolo Creek/Eldorado recreation subbasin. Note: R (Rural) and U (Urban) are combined as RM (Roaded Modified) when mapped; this is driven by road density.

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-23 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Lolo Creek/Eldorado recreation subbasin.

Table 9-22. Recreation facilities in the Lolo Creek/Eldorado recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
Lolo Creek Campground	11	N	N	3	F
Austin Ridge Lookout Rental	1	Y ^b	N	3	F
Nimiipuu Trailhead	5	N	N	2	G
Mystery Saddle Trailhead	2	N	N	2	NA
Lolo Creek Trailhead	5	N	N	2	F
Unnamed Level 2 Campsites	32	N	N	2	NA
Total	56				

^aCondition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

^bNot currently in service.

9.1.3.8 Lolo Motorway (8)

Scenic Character

The Lolo Motorway corridor follows the dividing ridge between the North Fork of the Clearwater and the Lochsa Rivers. Views of undeveloped forested land stretch to the north and south of this corridor which appears mostly undisturbed since Lewis and Clark passed this way 200 year ago. While evidence of man’s activities can be found at both the western and eastern portals, nearly 50 miles in the center of the corridor remains intact. To the south, uninterrupted views of the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness are found, while to the north views of the Weitas Creek and Kelly Creek drainages extend to the horizon. The rich history of the area contributes the overall character of the landscape. Historic cabins dating back to the early 1930s are an important component of the landscape. Vegetation includes western hemlock, subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, grand fir western larch and inclusions of white bark pine. There is evidence of fire activity through the area. Large areas of recent fire activity can be found near the western portal (near Boundary Junction) and the eastern portal near the headwaters of Wendover Creek.

Special Areas include Lolo Trail Landmark Corridor and Castle Butte Lookout. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-24.

Table 9-23. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Lolo Motorway recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Castle Butte Lookout	Rental Lookout	B	1	1	2	2
Rocky Ridge Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Lewis and Clark Grove	TH	B	1	1	2	2
Lewis and Clark Tr. 25		B	1	1	2	2
Nee Me Poo Tr. 40		B	1	1	2	2
Lolo Motorway Road 500		B	1	1	2	2
Boundary Peak Rd. 485		B	1	1	2	2
Saddle Camp Rd. 107		B	1	1	2	2

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

Recreation within the Lolo Motorway corridor is mostly undeveloped dispersed camping. Some large camp areas exist, including Weitas Meadows, Pete Fork Junction and Noseeum Meadows. There is one small developed campground at Rocky Ridge Lake and four cabin/lookout rentals; Weitas Butte, Liz Creek Cabin, and Liz Butte Cabin. Interpretations of the historic events associated with the Lolo Trail Corridor are found throughout the area.

Wilderness Expedition and Backcountry—While the corridor is relatively narrow, this corridor provides access to large areas of undeveloped backcountry to the north and south of the Lolo Motorway.

Land to Roam and Ride—The central portion of the Lolo Motorway is a low speed, difficult route, but at both the western and eastern portals the route is on more developed routes. These

areas have extensive areas of motorized access that provide visitors with trail and road opportunities.

Convenient Connections—In the eastern portion of the Lolo Motorway area between Lolo Pass and Powell, the highway links visitors from Lolo River valley and the Missoula area to the recreation sites that stretch across the steeply climbing highway as it crosses the divide. The focus of these recreation sites is interpretive. Emphasis of the interpretation is on the cultural history of the area and the interaction of early visitors with the natural environment.

Recreation Access

The historic Lolo Motorway, also known as the 500 road, is a single-lane dirt road recommended for high clearance vehicle travel. Although narrow, rocky and slow going, the route provides access into the mountains and to both the Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce National Historic Trail systems.

To access the motorway from the east leave U.S. Highway 12 at mile marker 162 turning right onto the Parachute Hill Road 569. Alternate access from the east is the provided by the Saddle Camp Road 107, which leaves Highway 12 at mile post 139.7.

To access the motorway from the west leave Highway 12 after crossing the Clearwater River bridge at Kamiah turn immediately left onto Kamiah-Pierce Road 100. Follow Road 100 just past Lolo Creek Campground turning right onto Forest Road 500. An alternative route to the motorway from the west is to leave Highway 12 at Greer taking Idaho State Highway 11 to Weippe. At Weippe take the 100 road to Lolo Creek Campground and just before the campground turn left onto Forest Road 500. From this point travel fourteen miles (45 minutes) to Canyon Junction, a five-point intersection. Road 500 turns into a narrow, unsurfaced travel way at this junction. It is 73 miles from Canyon Junction to Powell Junction where Road 569 meets Road 500. This segment is the historic Lolo Motorway.

Figure 9-14 details roads and trails in the Lolo Motorway recreation subbasin.

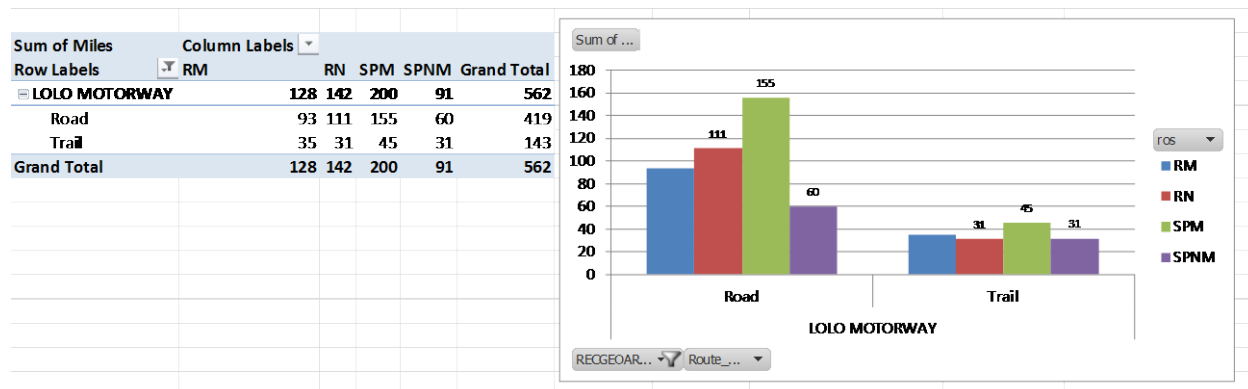


Figure 9-14. Roads and trails in the Lolo Motorway recreation subbasin

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-25 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Lolo Motorway recreation subbasin.

Table 9-24. Recreation facilities in the Lolo Motorway recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
Castle Butte Lookout Rental	1	Y	N	3	G
Rocky Ridge Campground	5	N	N	3	G
Lewis and Clark Grove Trailhead	3	N	N	2	G
Pete Forks Junction Trailhead	14	N	N	2	P
Weitas Meadows Campsite	1	N	N	2	P
Noseeum Meadows Campsite	5	N	N	2	P
Boundary Junction Campsite	3	N	N	2	NA
Unnamed Level 2 Campsites	95	N	N	2	NA
Total	127				

^aCondition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

9.1.3.9 Middle Fork Clearwater (9)

Scenic Character

The Middle Fork Clearwater River from the forest boundary to Lowell flows through a river canyon bounded on both sides by basalt rock outcrops and forested hillsides. This area is dryer than the upper reaches of the river with Ponderosa Pine, Douglas-fir, grand fir, and western larch covering the steep canyon walls. North aspects, upper elevations and streamside draws are forested with western redcedar, grand fir and Douglas-fir. Forested lands are intermingled with residential and agrarian development in the western portion of the corridor. Coastal disjunct vegetative communities are found at the lower elevations. Evidence of past fire activities are found throughout the area, while man-caused openings can be seen mostly in the western portion of the corridor. Many visitors to this area are seeking opportunities to view scenery along the scenic byway or enjoy a recreation experience.

Special Places include U.S. Highway 12 All American Road Scenic Byway and Middle Fork Clearwater/Lochsa Wild and Scenic River. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-26.

Table 9-25. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Middle Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Wild Goose Campground	CG	A	1	1	1	1
Three Devils Picnic Area	PA	A	1	1	1	1
Tukeytespe Picnic Area	PA	A	1	1	1	1
Number 1	RA	A	1	1	1	1
U. S. Highway 12		A	1	1	1	1
West Lodge Road 653		B	2	2	3	4
Sears Crk. Rd. 1106		B	1	1	2	3

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

Most visitors enter the National Forest on U.S. Highway 12. This 2-lane paved highway extends from Lewiston Idaho to Lolo Pass and is known for its scenic character and opportunities for camping and recreating. While the access and many of the facilities are highly developed, the scenic character of the area is still relatively intact. Developed camping in this area occurs in smaller, more intimate campgrounds such as Wild Goose and Apgar. Recreation sites in this area are located between the highway and the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River so the emphasis at this sites is river-based including swimming, fishing, and floating.

Land to Roam and Ride—Lands to the north and south of the Middle Fork have some trail opportunities and areas where driving for pleasure are popular.

Convenient Connections—While this area is to the west of the Wild and Scenic Lochsa and Selway Rivers is still provides river-based recreation opportunities which are easily accessed by visitors from local communities. Developed and dispersed camping opportunities are abundant in this section of the highway. Day use opportunities at Number 1, Three Devils and Tukeytespe are very popular with the residents of the local communities.

Recreation Access

Most visitors enter the National Forest on U.S. Highway 12. This 2-lane paved highway extends from Lewiston Idaho to Lolo, Montana and is known for its scenic character and opportunities for camping and recreating.

Figure 9-15 details roads and trails in the Middle Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin.

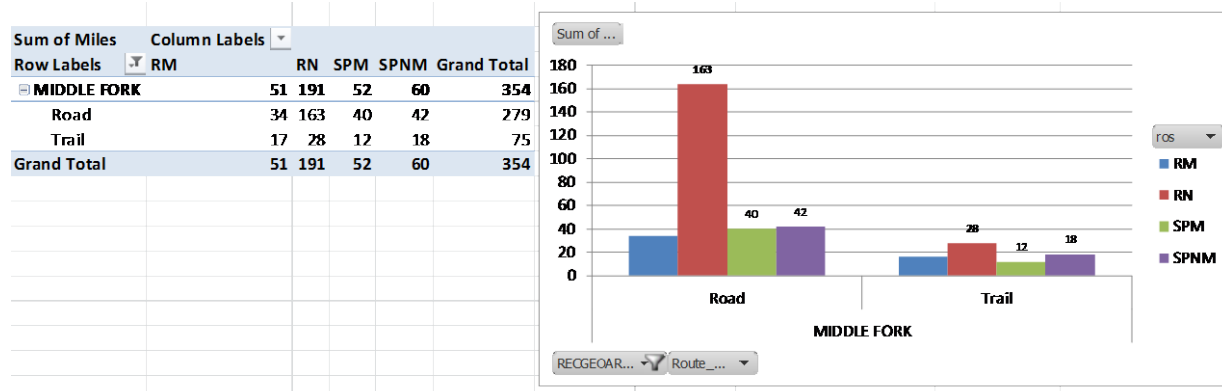


Figure 9-15. Roads and trails in the Middle Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-27 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Middle Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin.

Table 9-26. Recreation facilities in the Middle Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities*
Wild Goose Campground	8	Y	N	4	G
Three Devils Picnic Area	8	N	N	4	G
Tukeytespe Picnic Area	7	N	N	3	F
Number 1	3	N	N	2	P
Dispersed Campsites (Level 0-2)	34	N	N	2	NA
Total	60				

*Condition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

9.1.3.10 Lochsa River (10)

Scenic Character

Highway 12 bisects the Lochsa River area, following the river for nearly 70 uninterrupted miles. The Lochsa River is the focal point of views along this scenic corridor with its deep pools, cascading rapids and distinctive rock formations. The Lochsa River is a designated Wild and Scenic River stretching from the confluence of the Lochsa and Selway Rivers east to Powell. Steep breakland slopes, adjacent to the rivers and their tributaries, are covered with a mosaic of continuous coniferous vegetation intermingled with open shrub fields which are a remnant of past fires. Many of the large openings date back to large catastrophic fires that occurred in 1910 and 1934-36. Coniferous vegetation is predominantly Douglas-fir, grand fir, western redcedar, ponderosa pine, and western larch. Historic Forest Service buildings at Lochsa Historic Ranger Station are indicative of the structures constructed of native materials in the early development of this area. These historic cabins are a distinctive component of the architectural character found within the Bitterroot Mountain region. Pack bridges constructed during the same time period that link the highway trailheads to the Wilderness access trails across the river evoke this same historic architecture.

Many visitors to the area list viewing scenery and driving for pleasure as their main activities. Most constituents would consider scenic integrity an important component of their recreation experience.

Special areas include the Lochsa Historic Ranger Station, Wilderness Gateway Campground, Colgate Licks and developed river access points at Knife Edge, Split Creek, Fish Creek and Nine Mile along with a multitude of developed riverside campgrounds and trailheads. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-28.

Table 9-27. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Lochsa River recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Lochsa Historic Ranger Station	Documentary	A	1	1	1	1
Wilderness Gateway Campground	CG	A	1	1	1	1
Apgar Campground	CG	A	1	1	1	1
Jerry Johnson Campground	CG	A	1	1	1	1
Split Creek Trailhead	TH	A	1	1	1	1
Gold Meadows Cabin	Rental Cabin	A	2	1	2	2
Sherman Creek Trailhead	TH	A	1	1	1	1
Glade Creek Campground	CG	A	1	1	1	1
Walde Lookout Rental	Rental Cabin	B	2	2	3	4
Fish Creek River Access	RA	A	1	1	1	1
Knife Edge River Access/Campsite	RA	A	1	1	1	1
Mocus Point Trailhead	TH	A	1	1	1	1
Colgate Licks Trailhead	TH	A	1	1	1	1
Eagle Mountain Trailhead	TH	A		1	1	1
Fish Creek Tr.		B	1	1	2	2
Trail 252		B	2	2	3	4
Trail 247		B	2	2	3	4
Eagle Mtn. Tr. 206		A	1	1	1	1
Mocus Point Tr. 469		A	1	1	1	1
Trail 213		B	2	2	3	4
Boundary Peak Rd. 485		B	2	2	3	4
Saddle Camp Road 107		B	1	1	2	2
U.S. Highway 12		A	1	1	1	1

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

Highway 12 access several developed campgrounds ranging from small intimate campgrounds with 5-7 camping units to large, highly developed campgrounds of 30 – 90 units. Most of the developed campgrounds have a broad range of amenities including paved roads, potable water, group facilities, and interpretation.

Numerous dispersed camping sites area found adjacent to the river corridor. Few sites are located in the adjacent canyon areas due to the steep terrain. Trailheads are found throughout the corridor that serve trails to the north and south into the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness.

Wilderness Expedition and Backcountry—The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness forms the south and east boundaries of the drainage. Trails climb the steep canyon walls from the river canyon to the high alpine area of the central portion of the wilderness.

Wild River Corridor—The Lochsa River flows from the east near Powell to the confluence of the Lochsa and Selway near Lowell, Idaho. This Wild and Scenic River offers high quality raft and kayak floating opportunities in the spring and early summer. Many visitors utilize an outfitter for rafting/kayaking due to the technical skills and equipment needed to do this activity safely. Later in the summer season the campgrounds found throughout the corridor offer a wide range of camping settings from undeveloped campsites to highly developed full service campgrounds.

Land to Roam and Ride—The north western portion of the drainage adjacent to the Lolo Creek area does offer some opportunities for trail and road based trail opportunities and the area around Wallow Mountain.

Recreation Access

Primary access to this area is provided by U.S. Highway 12, a 2-lane paved highway from Lewiston, Idaho to Lolo, Montana. Highway 12 winds its way through the deep forested canyon of the Lochsa River providing scenic character and opportunities for camping and recreating.

Figure 9-16 details roads and trails in the Lochsa River recreation subbasin.

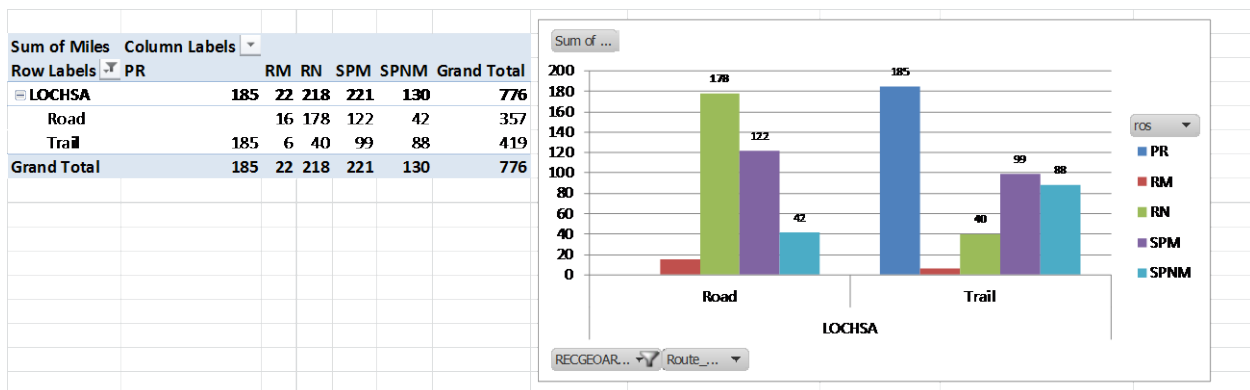


Figure 9-16. Roads and trails in the Lochsa River recreation subbasin

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-29 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Lochsa River recreation subbasin.

Table 9-28. Recreation facilities in the Lochsa River recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
Lochsa Historic Ranger Station	15	N	N	5	M
Wilderness Gateway Campground	91	Y	Y	5	G
Apgar Campground	7	Y	N	4	G
Jerry Johnson Campground	23	Y	N	4	G
Split Creek Trailhead	5	N	N	3	F
Gold Meadows Cabin	1	Y ^b	N	3	F
Sherman Creek Trailhead	5	N	N	3	P
Glade Creek Campground	5	N ^c	N	3	G
Walde Lookout Rental	1	Y ^b	N	3	F
Fish Creek River Access	10	N	N	3	G
Knife Edge River Access/Campsite	7	N ^c	N	3	G
Mocus Point Trailhead	5	N	N	3	G
Colgate Licks Trailhead	10	N	N	3	G
Eagle Mountain Trailhead	5	N	N	2	G
Nine Mile River Access	3	N	N	2	F
Fish Creek Trailhead	3	N	N	2	G
Bimerick Creek Campsite	1	N	N	2	P
Unnamed Level 2 Campsites	124	N	N	1	NA
Total	320				

^aCondition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

^bNot currently in service.

^cRFA suggests adding a fee to this site.

9.1.3.11 Upper Lochsa / Lolo Pass (11)

Scenic Character

The forested vegetation within this area ranges from the lower elevation river terraces found along the Lochsa River to the high alpine areas of the dividing ridge between Montana and Idaho. Many high mountain lakes are found in the eastern and southern portions of the area. The forested vegetation reflects the natural processes associated with fire, insects and diseases south of the Lochsa River. Evidence of timber harvest is found throughout the northern portions of the area which also has a checkerboard pattern of private timberlands, the result of 1860's era railroad land grants.

Lower elevations have western redcedar forest, while uplands are mixes of Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, and other species. Highest elevations support whitebark pine.

Special areas include Powell and Elk Summit Campgrounds, DeVoto Memorial Grove, Lolo Pass Visitor Center and Packer Meadows with its stunning bloom of wild Camas flowers in late June. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-30.

Table 9-29. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Upper Lochsa / Lolo Pass recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Powell Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Lolo Pass Visitor Center	CG	A	1	1	1	1
White Sand Campground	CG	B	2	2	3	4
Wendover Campground	Rental Cabin	A	1	1	1	1
White House Campground	3	A	1	1	1	1
Warm Springs Trailhead	5	A	1	1	1	1
Devoto Memorial Cedar Grove		A	1	1	1	1
Elk Summit Campground		B	1	1	2	2
Tom Beale Park Trailhead		B	1	1	2	2
Colt Creek Trailhead		B	1	1	2	2
Colgate Campsite		A	1	1	1	1
Wendover Staging Area		B	1	1	1	1
Trail 50		B	1	1	2	2
Trail 37		B	2	2	3	4
Sneakfoot Meadows Tr. 79		B	1	1	2	2
Trail 6		B	1	1	2	2
Trail 28		B	1	1	2	2
Trail 4		B	1	1	2	2
Trail 22		B	1	1	2	2
Trail 940		B	1	1	2	2
Trail 63		B	1	1	2	2
Parachute Hill Rd. 569		B	2	2	3	4
Road 358		B	1	1	2	2
Road 359		B	1	1	2	2
Road 360		B	1	1	2	2
Road 362		B	1	1	2	2
Road 369		B	1	1	2	2
Road 373		A	1	1	1	1
Road 373A		A	1	1	1	1
Road 5670		A	1	1	1	1
U.S. Highway 12		A	1	1	1	1

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

Wilderness Expedition and Backcountry—The western and southern portions of this drainage are part of the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Area. This part of the drainage contains mostly high elevation rivers and lakes. Elk Summit is the only major recreation developed accessed by

aggregate surfaced roads in this area. Trail access to various locations within the wilderness is found along this motorized corridor.

Land to Roam and Ride—The north eastern portion of the area is mostly semi-primitive providing both motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities. Hunting season attracts the highest dispersed use in the area. Hunting use on the Forests and private checkerboard lands begins in the winter with cougar season. Many hunters access the road via snowmobile or snowshoes. This mode of access continues into the spring with bear hunting season. The fall deer and elk seasons see the largest number of hunters using the roads for access and setting up dispersed camping sites. Hunters and general recreationists set up camps at all elevations, depending on the weather. Campsites are usually found at the road junctions and along creeks.

Wild River Corridor—Along the north western border of this area between Jerry Johnson Campground and Powell is a portion of the Lochsa Wild and Scenic River corridor. This section contains several highly developed campgrounds and less developed dispersed sites.

Recreation Access

Primary access to this area is provided by U.S. Highway 12, a 2-lane paved highway from Lewiston, Idaho to Lolo, Montana. Highway 12 winds its way through the deep forested canyon of the Lochsa River providing scenic character and opportunities for camping and recreating.

Figure 9-17 details roads and trails in the Lochsa/Lolo Pass recreation subbasin.

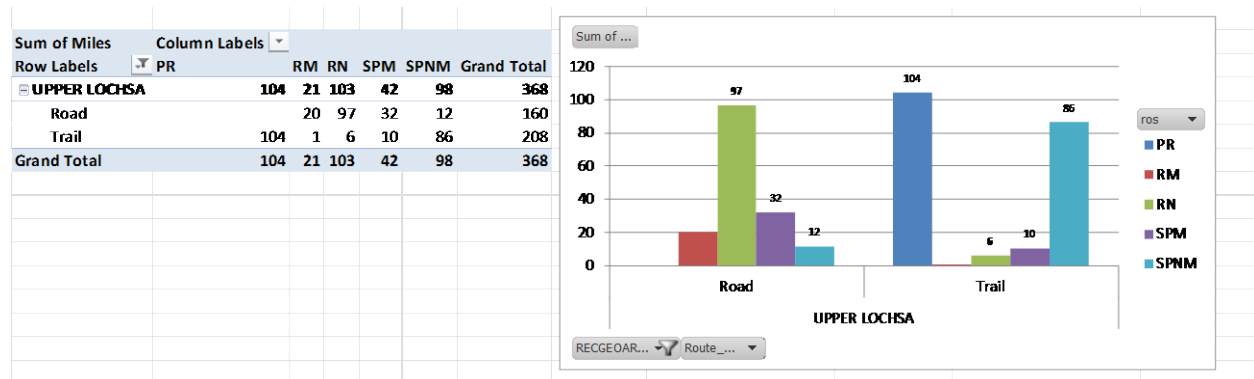


Figure 9-17. Roads and trails in the Upper Lochsa/Lolo Pass recreation subbasin

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-31 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Upper Lochsa/Lolo Pass recreation subbasin.

Table 9-30. Recreation facilities in the Upper Lochsa/Lolo Pass recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
Powell Campground	34	Y	Y	5	G
Lolo Pass Visitor Center	100	Y ^b	Y	5	G
White Sand Campground	7	Y	N	4	G
Wendover Campground	26	Y	N	4	G
White House Campground	11	Y	N	4	G
Warm Springs Trailhead	5	N	N	3	G
Devoto Memorial Cedar Grove	10	N	N	3	F
Elk Summit Campground	3	N	N	3	F
Tom Beale Park Trailhead	3	N	N	2	P
Colt Creek Trailhead	3	N	N	2	P
Colgate Campsite	6	N	N	2	G
Wendover Staging Area	15	N	N	2	F
Dispersed Campsites (Level 0-2)	47	N	N	2	NA
Total	270				

^aCondition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

^bWinter season fee for longer duration use.

9.1.3.12 Lower Selway (12)

Scenic Character

This area is characterized by moist species such as western redcedar and grand fir, western white pine, Douglas-fir, and lodgepole. Most of the redcedar is found along the river terraces adjacent to the Selway River. Landscape patterns across the steep canyon walls reflect infrequent stand-replacing disturbances—primarily fire.

The distinctive character of Selway River from the confluence with the Lochsa River to the end of the Selway road is the major scenic attraction of this area.

Special areas include Johnson Bar Picnic Area and Campground, the Fenn boardwalk and fishing pond, Selway Falls, along with multiple trailheads and numerous developed and dispersed campsites. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-32.

Table 9-31. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Lower Selway recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Fenn Pond	CG	A	1	1	1	1
O'Hara Bar Campground	CG	A	1	1	1	1
Glover Creek Campground	CG	A	1	1	1	1
Lookout Butte Lookout Rental	Rental Cabin	B	1	1	1	1
Johnson Bar Campground	CG	A	1	1	1	1
Johnson Bar Group Area	GCG	A	1	1	1	1
Boyd Creek Campground		A	1	1	1	1
East Boyd Tr. 703		B	1	1	2	2
Glover Trail 704		B	1	1	2	2
Gedney Tr. 708		B	1	1	2	2
Stillman Ridge Tr. 335		B	2	2	3	4
O'Hara Tr. 713		B	1	1	2	2
Cove Lakes Tr. 3		B	1	1	2	2
Whiskey Bill Rd. 1122		B	2	2	3	4
Fog Mtn. Road 319		B	1	1	2	2
American River Rd. 443		B	1	1	2	2
Swiftwater Road 470		B	2	2	3	4
Coolwater Ridge Rd. 317		B	1	1	2	2
Selway River Road 223		A	1	1	1	1

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

Wilderness Expedition and Backcountry—A portion of the northern border of the area near Coolwater is within the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Area. There are also wilderness access portals along the Big Fog road on the eastern border of the area.

Wild River Corridor—Several developed campgrounds and trailheads are found within the Selway River corridor. Accessed by aggregate surfaced roads for the most part, these campgrounds have a moderate to low level of development. Most are smaller and more intimate than the campgrounds found along the Lochsa River.

Land to Roam and Ride—Areas to the north and south of the river corridor contain both motorized and non-motorized trail opportunities. Camping is found in dispersed sites with little or no developed features.

Convenient Connections—The lower paved portion of the Selway River road from Lowell to Fenn Ranger station is easily accessed from the local communities to the west. This area is very similar to the Middle Fork Clearwater area to the west and offers the same opportunities to drive for pleasure, camp and access the river.

Recreation Access

Primary access to this area is provided by U.S. Highway 12, a 2-lane paved highway from Lewiston, Idaho to Lolo, Montana. At the town of Lowell leave Highway 12 and cross the Lochsa River onto the Selway River Road #223. The first 7 miles of Road 223 to O’Hara Creek Bride is paved. From there, the road narrows and has a gravel or dirt surface to its end (19 miles total). Six roads leave the Selway River canyon. These roads are steep, narrow, winding with little or no surfacing and provide access to higher elevations.

Figure 9-18 details roads and trails in the Lower Selway recreation subbasin.

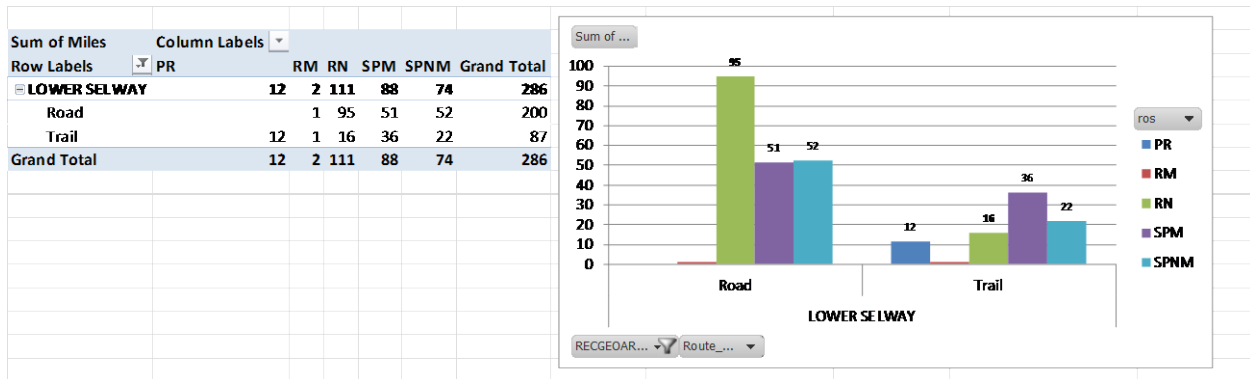


Figure 9-18. Roads and trails in the Lower Selway recreation subbasin

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-33 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Lower Selway recreation subbasin.

Table 9-32. Recreation facilities in the Lower Selway recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
Fenn Pond	5	N	N	4	P
O'Hara Bar Campground	32	Y	N	4	F
Glover Creek Campground	7	Y	N	3	F
Lookout Butte Lookout Rental	1	Y	N	3	F
Johnson Bar Campground	9	N	N	3	F
Johnson Bar Group Area	5	N	Y	3	F
Boyd Creek Campground	6	Y	N	3	F
Twenty-five Mile Campsite	2	N	N	2	F
Selway Falls Pack Station	3	N	N	2	F
O'Hara Creek	2	N	N	2	F
Hamby Saddle Warming Hut	5	N	N	2	F
Twenty Mile Bar Campsite	2	N	N	2	F
Rackliff Campsite	6	Y	N	2	F
Indian Hill Trailhead	2	N	N	2	F
Big Fog Saddle Trailhead	4	N	N	2	F
Fog Mountain Road Junction	2	N	N	2	F
Slide Creek Campsite	3	N	N	2	F
CCC Camp Trailhead	3	N	N	2	F
O'Hara Saddle Trailhead	1	N	N	2	F
Gedney Campsite	1	N	N	2	F
Coolwater (top) Campsite	2	N	N	2	F
Dispersed Campsites (Level 0-2)	72	N	N	2	NA
Total	175				

^aCondition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

9.1.3.13 Upper Selway River (13)

Scenic Character

This area is almost entirely within the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness. The Wild portion of the Selway River is also contained within this area. The area has little evidence of human activities except for small portal facilities at the western portal. Areas to the north and east are high elevation alpine areas with numerous high mountain lakes. South and west aspects along the Selway River are characteristically dry ponderosa pine forest with dry grasslands. North and east aspects have western redcedar, grand fir, and Douglas-fir. Uplands are typically grand fir and Douglas-fir, with higher elevations forested with subalpine fir, Engelmann spruces and lodgepole pine. Whitebark pine is found at the highest elevations. Current patterns of vegetation appear as a mosaic of different size classes of tree species as influenced by wildland fire.

Special areas include the Moose Creek Ranger Station. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-34.

Table 9-33. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Upper Selway River recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Selway River Tr. 4		A	1	1	1	1

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

This drainage is known nationally as one of the most beautiful and demanding floating rivers in the west. Except for a small area at the western portal of the Selway River trail, there are no developed recreation facilities.

Wilderness Expedition and Backcountry—Wilderness recreation experiences are appropriate throughout the area. Within the river corridor, rafting, kayaking and trail use are most popular. In the upland areas non-motorized trail use and dispersed camping occur. This use is often concentrated in areas around high mountain lakes.

Wild River Corridor—The portions of the Selway River that flows through this area are one of the most popular and technical floating opportunities in the region. Access is limited so the need for self-reliance, technical skills, and specialized equipment is critical. Many visitors choose to access the area with an outfitter, rather than do the trip on their own.

Recreation Access

Idaho access to this area is provided by U.S. Highway 12, a 2-lane paved highway from Lewiston, Idaho to Lolo, Montana. At the town of Lowell leave Highway 12 and cross the Lochsa River onto the Selway River Road #223. The first 7 miles of Road 223 to O’Hara Creek Bride is paved. From there, the road narrows and has a gravel or dirt surface to its end (19 miles total) where the Selway River trail #4 into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness begins. This area can also be accessed from the Wilderness Gateway Campground on State Highway 12 and Forest Road 360 to Elk Summit. Access points in Montana are Lost Horse and Lake Como.

Figure 9-19 details roads and trails in the Upper Selway River recreation subbasin.

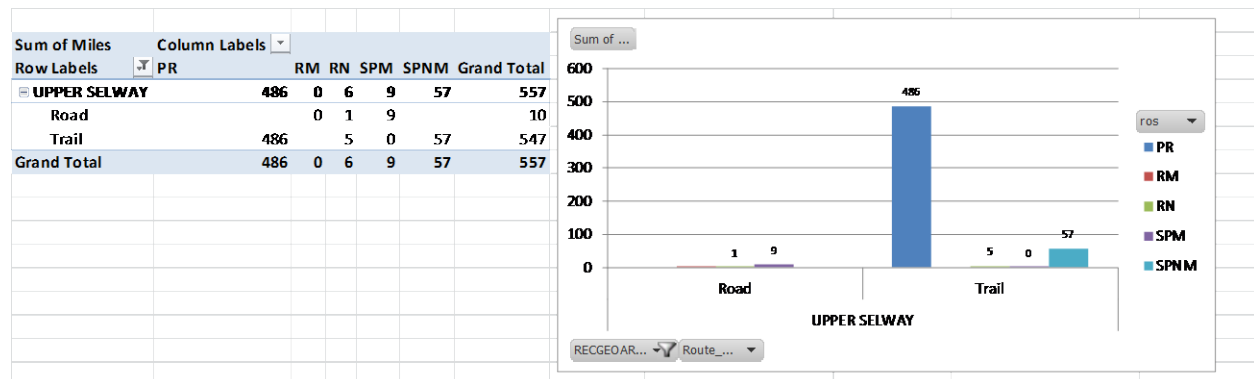


Figure 9-19. Roads and trails in the Upper Selway River recreation subbasin

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-35 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Upper Selway River recreation subbasin.

Table 9-34. Recreation facilities in the Upper Selway River recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
Race Track Campsite	1	N	N	2	F
Race Creek Campsite	3	N	N	2	F
Dispersed Campsites (Level 0-2)	8	N	N	2	NA
Total	12				

^aCondition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

9.1.3.14 Meadow Creek (Selway) (14)

Scenic Character

The area is characterized by moist forest habitats with mixed conifer stands of Douglas-fir, grand fir and western redcedar. South and west aspects are drier ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir types. Whitebark pine is found at high elevations along the wilderness boundary. Stretching from the confluence of the Selway River and Meadow Creek to the Selway Bitterroot to the east, Meadow Creek offers distinctive and unaltered river landscapes for nearly 30 miles for non-motorized trail users.

Special areas include Meadow Creek Ranger Station. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-36.

Table 9-35. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Meadow Creek (Selway) recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Meadow Creek Rental Cabin	Rental Cabin	B	1	1	2	2
Meadow Creek Tr. 726		B	1	1	2	2
Horse Point Tr. 334		B	2	2	3	4
Indian Hill Tr. 603		B	2	2	3	4
Prospect Ridge Tr. 632		B	1	1	2	2
Disgrace Butte Tr. 609		B	2	2	3	4
West Fork Sable Crk. Tr. 672		B	1	1	2	2
Spook Crk. Tr. 513		B	1	1	2	2
Bilk Mountain Tr. 517		B	1	1	2	2
Divide Tr. 505		B	2	2	3	4
Archer Trail 529		B	1	1	2	2
Green Mountain Tr. 541		B	1	1	2	2
Elk Mountain Rd. 285		B	1	1	2	2
American River Rd. 443		B	1	1	2	2
Indian Hill Road 290		B	1	1	2	2

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

The area provides abundant opportunities for primitive recreation with little development. From the portal facilities at Selway Falls Campground and Slim's Camp, located at the end of the Selway River road, trail access follows Meadow Creek to the southeastern portion of the area. The only developed facilities are located at the portal for the Meadow Creek trail near Selway Falls and at the Meadow Creek Rental Cabin. Road access to the area is limited to on three mile road located in the East Fork in the northwestern tip of the area.

Wilderness Expedition and Backcountry—A small portion of the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Area is found along the northern border of the area. The remainder of the area is undeveloped backcountry accessed only by non- motorized trails. Meadow Creek Rental Cabin is located in the southwestern portion of the area along the Meadow Creek National Recreation Trail #726.

Recreation Access

Idaho access to this area is provided by U.S. Highway 12, a 2-lane paved highway from Lewiston, Idaho to Lolo, Montana. At the town of Lowell leave Highway 12 and cross the Lochsa River onto the Selway River Road #223. The first 7 miles of Road 223 to O'Hara Creek Bride is paved. From there, the road narrows and has a gravel or dirt surface to its end (19 miles total) where the Meadow Creek National Recreation Trail #726 begins.

Figure 9-20 details roads and trails in the Meadow Creek (Selway) recreation subbasin.

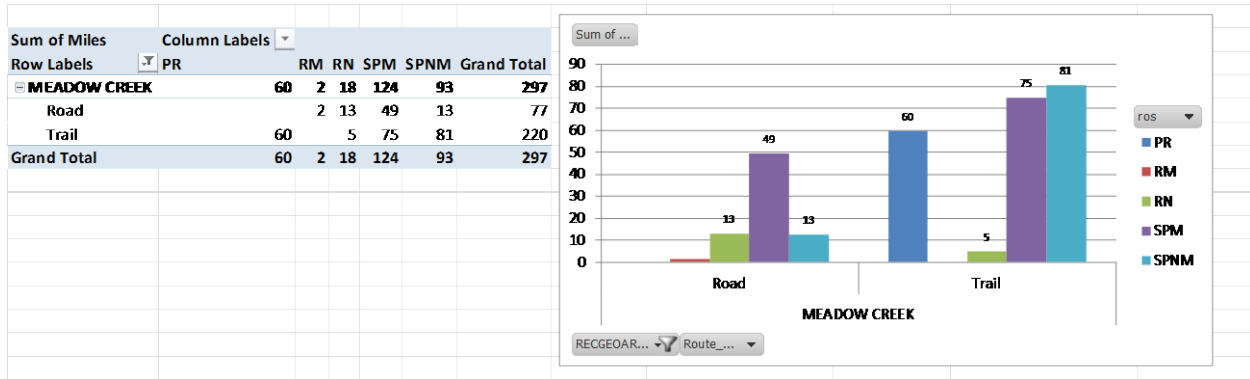


Figure 9-20. Roads and trails in the Meadow Creek (Selway) recreation subbasin

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-37 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Meadow Creek (Selway) recreation subbasin.

Table 9-36. Recreation facilities in the Meadow Creek (Selway) recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
Meadow Creek Station Rental Cabin	1	Y	N	3	F
Selway Falls Campground	7	Y	N	3	F
Slim’s Campsite	2	N	N	2	F
Dispersed Campsites (Level 0-2)	39	N	N	2	NA
Total	49				

^aCondition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

9.1.3.15 **South Fork Clearwater (15)**

Scenic Character

Grand fir forests are found here in the uplands areas, with dry ponderosa pine forest on the southerly aspects. Whitebark pine is found around Twentymile Butte and Sawyer Ridge. There is evidence of past large-scale fires, extensive timber harvest, mining and livestock grazing.

The South Fork of the Clearwater and portions of Red River offer distinctive river landscapes with adjacent forested canyon walls forming the backdrop of the views. Portions of the Elk City Wagon area found here which adds to the cultural landscape. Pilot Knob and McComas Meadows are also found within this area and are culturally significant. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-38.

Table 9-37. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the South Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
South Fork Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Castle Creek Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Cougar Creek Campground	CG	B	2	2	3	4
Corral Creek Campground	Rental Cabin	B	1	1	2	2
Blackerby Picnic Area	3	A	1	1	2	2
Horse Camp Tr.	5	B	2	2	3	4
Trail 223		B	1	1	2	2
Driveway Ext. Tr. 881		B	1	1	2	2
Moore's Tr. 312-1		B	1	1	2	2
Driveway Tr. 431		B	1	1	2	2
Frank Brown Tr. 401		B	1	1	2	2
Snoose Creek Tr. 407		B	1	1	2	2
Marble Point Trail 328		B	1	1	2	2
Doc Denny Tr. 319		B	1	1	2	2
Rainbold Ridge Trail 410		B	1	1	2	2
Twenty Mile Crk. Tr. 414		B	1	1	2	2
Ten Mile Tr. 415		B	1	1	2	2
Grangeville Salmon Rd. 221		B	1	1	2	2
Trout Creek Rd. 1862		B	2	2	3	4
Blue Ridge Rd. 1875		B	2	2	3	4
Rainy Day Rd. 9824		B	1	1	2	2
Santiam Sourdough Rd. 492		B	2	2	3	4
Elk Summit Rd. 471		B	1	1	2	2
Indian Trail Rd. 1808		B	1	1	2	2
Monroe Bear Cr. Rd 1199		B	2	2	3	4
Surveyor Crk. Rd. 1867		B	2	2	3	4
Nellie Mtn. Rd. 1866		B	2	2	3	4
Upper Leggett Rd. 9841		B	2	2	3	4
Middle Leggett Rd. 9840		B	2	2	3	4
Silver Leggett Rd. 649		B	2	2	3	4
Boundary Ridge Rd. 464		B	2	2	3	4
Newsome Creek Rd. 1858		B	2	2	3	4
Pilot Knob Rd. 466		B	1	1	2	2
Cover Placers Rd. 279		B	1	1	2	2
Silver Dome Rd. 1876		B	1	1	2	2
Lightening Creek Rd. 244		B	1	1	2	2
Sears Creek Rd. 1106		B	1	1	2	2

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Elk City Wagon Road 284		B	1	1	2	2
South Fork Highway 14		B	1	1	2	2

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

The area has roads that open up extensive areas for motorized recreational opportunities. Developed recreation sites such as campgrounds, trailheads and one picnic area are found along State Highway 13. The remainder of the area contains broad areas where use is generally concentrated within river drainages, but contain constructed features mostly for resource protection, generally campfire rings and vault toilets where needed for health and safety.

Wilderness Expedition and Backcountry—The Gospel Hump Wilderness Area is found along the southern border of this area.

Land to Roam and Ride—Most of this area is made up of areas where motorized and non-motorized road and trail opportunities abound. Areas of concentrated use are found in Newsome Creek, Sourdough, and Crooked Fork Rivers.

Convenient Connections—Recreation opportunities along the Highway 14 corridor are more highly developed. Campgrounds here offer a wide range of services. Highway 14 connects the community of Elk City with Grangeville, Kooskia, Kamiah and larger towns such as Lewiston and Moscow.

Recreation Access

Figure 9-21 details roads and trails in the South Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin.

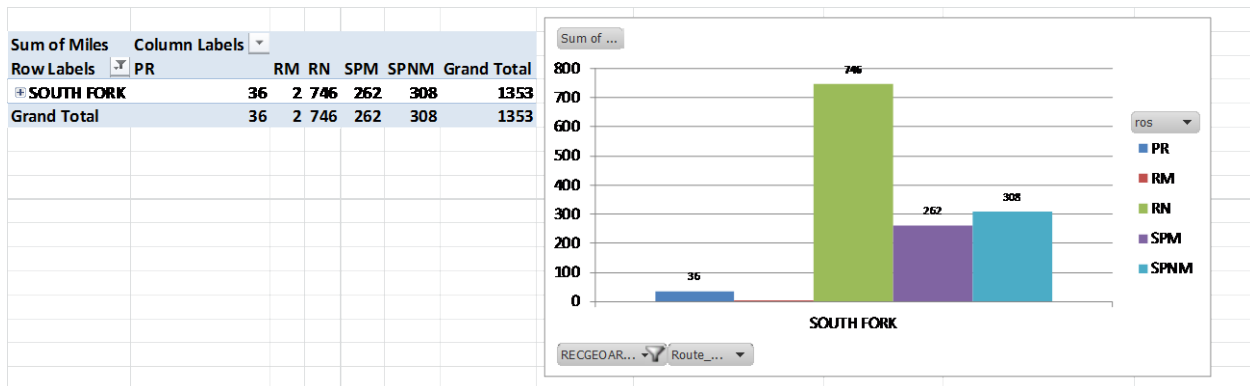


Figure 9-21. Roads and trails in the South Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-39 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the South Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin.

Table 9-38. Recreation facilities in the South Fork Clearwater recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
South Fork Campground	6	Y	N	4	
Castle Creek Campground	9	Y	N	4	
Cougar Creek Campground	2	N	N	3	
Corral Creek Campground	5	N	N	3	
Blackerby Picnic Area	2	N	N	3	
Orogrande (1-2)	9	N	N	3	
Orogrande Summit	5	N	N	3	
Six Mile Campground	1	N	N	3	
Meadow Creek Campground	3	N	N	3	
John's Creek Campground	2	N	N	3	
Cotter Bar Campground	2	N	N	3	
McAllister Campground	3	N	N	3	
Nelson Creek Campground	4	N	N	3	
Newsome Creek Campsite	6	N	N	2	
Kirk's Fork Campsite	2	N	N	2	
Flint Creek Campsite	2	N	N	2	
Sing Lee Campsite	3	N	N	2	
Rainy Day Campsite	2	N	N	2	
Ten Mile Campsite	2	N	N	2	
Leggett Creek Campsite	6	N	N	2	
Ox Bow Campsite	2	N	N	2	
Unnamed Level 2 Campsites	124	N	N	2	NA
Total	202				

^aCondition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

9.1.3.16 Red River (16)

Scenic Character

Red River contains varied landscapes stretching from the rolling topography surrounding the community of Elk City in the north, to the steep canyon lands diving into the Salmon River Canyon to the south. The area to the north is characterized by dry to moderately moist forest habitats depending on slope aspect. Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir are found along the river breaks; grand fir and Douglas-fir are within the uplands and subalpine forests. Lodgepole pine is found in the higher elevations and in the cold basins.

Past management activities including timber harvest and mining are found throughout the area along the extensive road network. There is evidence of historic mining activities including tailing piles and abandoned buildings and equipment. Current mining activities are also commonly found in the area. Portions of the Elk City Wagon Road and the Magruder Road are also found here and contribute to the rich cultural history of the area.

In the southwest portion the Fish Lake Research Natural Area is located where unique plant communities are found. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-40.

Table 9-39. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Red River recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Red River Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Sourdough Saddle Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Five Mile Campground	CG	B	2	2	3	4
Five Mile Pond	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Five Mile Snow Park		B	1	1	2	2
Jerry Walker Cabin Rental	Rental Cabin	B	2	2	3	4
Bridge Creek Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Ditch Creek Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Kirk's Fork Trail		B	1	1	2	2
Green Mountain Tr. 541		B	1	1	2	2
Lake Creek Tr. 204		B	1	1	2	2
Porter's Trail 508		B	2			
Columbia Ridge Tr. 205		B	1	1	2	2
Miner's Ditch Tr. 805		B	2	2	3	4
Umatilla Creek Tr. 801		B	2	2	3	4
Moose Butte Tr. 207		B	2	2	3	4
Herman Creek Tr. 206		B	1	1	2	2
Lemhi Tr. 212		B	1	1	2	2
Blowout Divide Tr. 234		B	1	1	2	2
Salmon River Tr. 96		B	1	1	2	2
Jumbo Canyon Tr. 230		B	1	1	2	2
Indian Cr. Tr. 224		B	1	1	2	2
Dixie Wagon Rd. 9527		B	1	1	2	2
Wildhorse Campground Rd. 233 I		B	1	1	2	2
Orogrande Summit Rd. 9849		B	1	1	2	2
Crooked River Rd. 233		B	1	1	2	2
Crooked River Rd. 233		B	2	2	3	4
Orogrande Dixie Rd. 311		B	2	2	3	4
Circ Twins Mine Rd. 9848		B	2	2	3	4
Relief Cr. Rd. 1803		B	2	2	3	4
North Burpee Rd. 9554		B	2	2	3	4
Burpee Rd. 1188		B	2	2	3	4
Big Mallard Crk. Rd. 421		B	2	2	3	4
Trapper Crk. Rd. 1190		B	2	2	3	4
Butter Crk. Rd. 1166		B	2	2	3	4
Red River Road 234		B	1	1	2	2
Siegel Hawk Rd. 1189		B	1	1	2	2

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Blanco Crk. Rd. 1183		B	1	1	2	2
Sixty Six Creek Rd. 1800		B	1	1	2	2
French Gulch Rd. 9822		B	2	2	3	4
Red Horse Ridge Rd. 9832		B	2	2	3	4
Kirk's Fork Rd. 830		B	1	1	2	2
Flat Iron Rd. 1809		B	1	1	2	2
Flint Creek Rd. 9812		B	2	2	3	4
American River Selway Rd. 443		B	2	2	3	4
Monroe Bear Creek Rd. 1199		B	2	2	3	4
Dixie Road 222		B	1	1	2	2

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

The Red River area has recreation opportunities that range from moderately developed to primitive. An extensive road system offers endless opportunities for dispersed use. While the northern portion of the area is highly developed, the southern portion of the area contains expansive wilderness opportunities.

Wilderness Expedition and Backcountry—The southern half of the area contains segments of the Gospel Hump and Franck Church Wilderness Areas. There is minimal road access to the area. Recreation facilities are limited to minimally developed dispersed camping areas that act as portals for the wildernesses and the wild portion of the Main Salmon River.

Land to Roam and Ride—The northern portion of the area is extensively roaded with a variety of dispersed camping opportunities. These dispersed sites are generally located along river corridors including American River, Newsome Creek, Crooked Fork and Orogrande Creek. One developed campground, Red River is located adjacent to road 234. At the end of this road is Red River Hot Springs. This facility is managed under special use permit and is a popular destination. Jerry Walker Cabin is available as a cabin rental and is also a popular destination.

Recreation Access

Figure 9-22 details roads and trails in the Red River recreation subbasin.

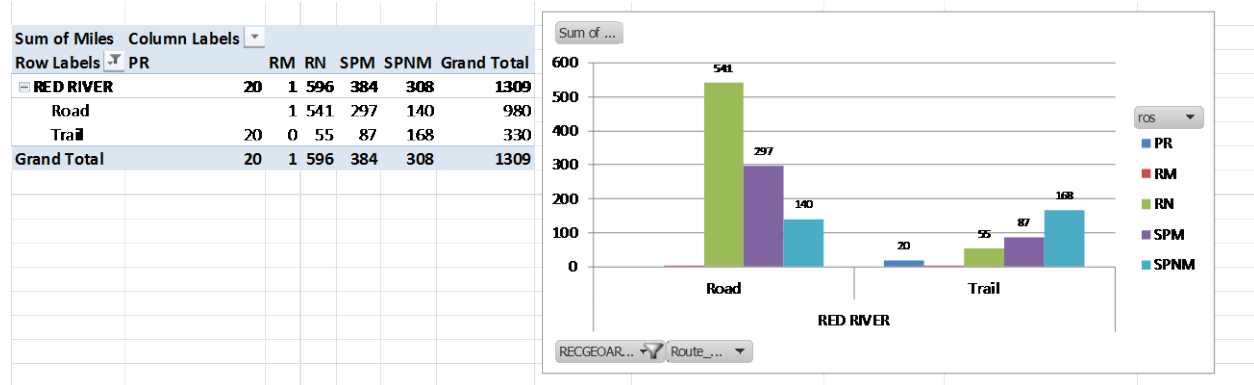


Figure 9-22. Roads and trails in the Red River recreation subbasin

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-41 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Red River recreation subbasin.

Table 9-40. Recreation facilities in the Red River recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
Red River Campground	44	Y	N	3	G
Sourdough Saddle Campground	4	N	N	3	F
Five Mile Campground	2	N	N	3	F
Five Mile Pond	5	N	N	3	F
Five Mile Snow Park	6	N	N	3	F
Jerry Walker Cabin Rental	14	Y	N	3	F
Limber Luke Campground	1	N	N	3	F
Table Meadows Campground	5	N	N	3	F
Wildhorse Campground	5	N	N	3	F
Bridge Creek Campground	5	N	N	3	F
Red River Ranger Station Dump	2	N	N	3	F
Chinook Viewing Site	2	N	N	3	F
Trapper Creek Campground	2	N	N	3	F
Red River Ranger Station	2	N	N	3	F
Mallard Creek Campground	4	N	N	3	F
Mackay Bar Campground	3	N	N	3	F
Ditch Creek Campground	4	N	N	3	F
Moore's Station	2	N	N	3	F
Adams Rangers House Rental	1	Y	N	3	F
Sam's Creek Campsite	3	N	N	2	F
Dixie Meadows Campsite	2	N	N	2	F
French Gulch Campsite	4	N	N	2	F
Crooked River Campsite	8	N	N	2	F
Halfway House Campsite	4	N	N	2	F
Whitewater Campsite	3	N	N	2	F
Dispersed Campsites (Level 0-2)	165	N	N	2	NA
Total	302				

^aCondition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

9.1.3.17 Hells Canyon—The Island (17)

Scenic Character

Forested habitats range from dry upland ponderosa pine to high elevation habitats with subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce and whitebark pine. Dry grasslands and scrublands are common at all elevations. Management activities found here include timber harvest, livestock grazing, and frequent fires on the dry ponderosa pine sites. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-42.

Table 9-41. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Hells Canyon-The Island recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Rapid River Trailhead	TH	A	1	1	1	1
Morrison Ridge Tr. 111		A	1	1	1	1
North Trail 134		A	1	1	1	1
Cannon Ball Mtn. Tr. 55		A	1	1	1	1
Sampson Spring Tr. 65		A	1	1	1	1
Alder Springs Tr. 64		A	1	1	1	1
West Fork Rapid River Tr. 113		A	1	1	1	1
Dog Ridge Tr. 62		A	1	1	1	1
Potter Tr. 60		A	1	1	1	1
Rapid River Tr. 59		A	1	1	1	1
Oxbow Tr. 71		A	1	1	1	1
Deer Creek Rd.		B	2	2	3	4
Crooked Rd. 672		B	1	1	2	2
Bean Creek Rd. 241		B	2	2	3	4
Iron Phone Connection		B	2	2	3	4
Cabin Creek Connection		B	1	1	2	2
Maxim Ridge Rd. 241		B	1	1	2	2
Race Creek Rd. 410		B	1	1	2	2
Seven Devils Road 517		A	1	1	1	1
Rapid River Rd. 2114		A	1	1	1	1
Whitebird Ridge Rd. 624		B	1	1	2	2

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

The “island” is the zone between the Salmon River to the dividing ridge between the Salmon and Snake Rivers. To the west of the “island” is the Hells Canyon portion of the Snake River which is administered by the Wallowa Whitman National Forest out of Clarkston, Washington. Hell’s Canyon is North America’s deepest river gorge and has becoming a nationally known destination for floating and fishing.

Convenient Connections—While there are few developed facilities within this area, it provides access corridors to major sites such as the Seven Devil’s, Pittsburg Landing and the Kirkwood Ranch. Rapid River Trailhead, which is the portal to the Rapid River Wild and Scenic River, serves the Rapid River trail system.

Recreation Access

Figure 9-23 details roads and trails in the Hells Canyon—The Island recreation subbasin.

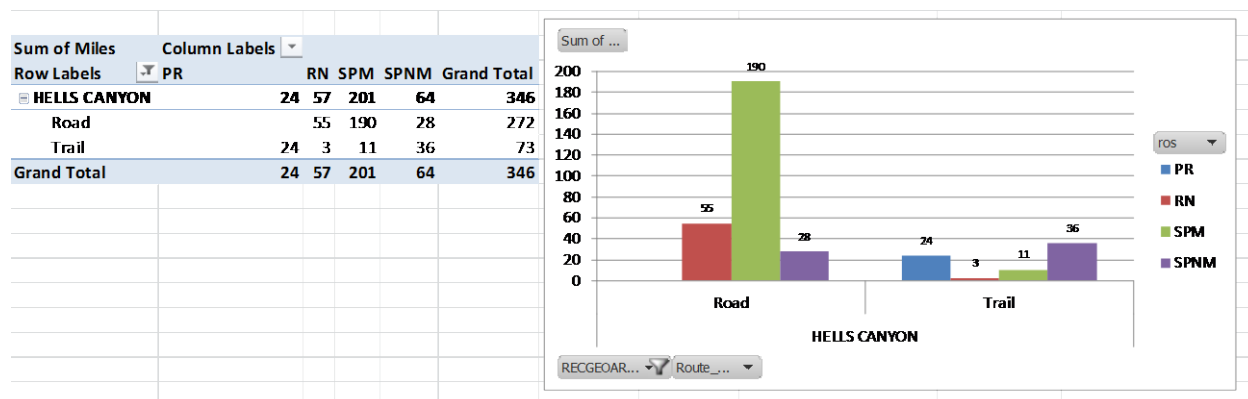


Figure 9-23. Roads and trails in the Hells Canyon-The Island recreation subbasin

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-43 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Hells Canyon—The Island recreation subbasin.

Table 9-42. Recreation facilities in the Hells Canyon-The Island recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
Rapid River Trailhead	5	N	N	3	G
Windy Camp Campsite	2	N	N	2	
Blue Mountain Campsite	2	N	N	2	
Dispersed Campsites (Level 0-2)	28	N	N	2	NA
Total	37				

^aCondition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

9.1.3.18 Lower Salmon River (18)

Scenic Character

The area is characterized by dry forest habitats with mixed conifer stands and lodgepole pine. Lower elevations have mountain mahogany stands and open grasslands communities. High elevations have whitebark pine sites. The Florence area and other historic mining areas contribute to a historical and cultural landscape dating back to the turn of the 20th century and earlier.

Past management activities include timber harvest and mining with an extensive road network providing access throughout the area. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-44.

Table 9-43. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Lower Salmon River recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Slate Creek Museum	DOC	B	1	1	2	2
Spring Bar Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Spring Bar Boat Launch	RA	B	1	1	2	2
Fish Creek Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Fish Creek Snow/Trailhead	TH	B	1	1	2	2
Fish Creek Nordic Pavilion	GCG	B	1	1	2	2
Van Creek Campground	CG	A	1	1	1	1
Allison Creek Campground/Picnic	PA	A	1	1	1	1
North Fork Slate Creek Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Florence Cemetery	DOC	B	1	1	2	2
Slate Lakes Trailhead	TH	B	1	1	2	2
Carey Creek Boat Launch	RA	A	1	1	1	1
North Fork Slate Cr. Tr. 320		B	2	2	3	4
Boundry Bufford Tr. 322		B	2	2	3	4
Timbered Bench Tr. 324		B	2	2	3	4
Little Slate Tr. 309		B	1	1	2	2
Little Van Buren Cr. Tr. 330		B	1	1	2	2
Round Top Tr. 310		B	1	1	2	2
Salmon River Rd. 1614		A	1	1	2	2
Kelly Mtn Rd. 394		B	1	1	2	2
Upper Fiddle Cr. Rd. 2078		B	1	1	2	2
Gospel Road 444		B	1	1	2	2
Slate Creek Rd. 354		B	1	1	2	2
Waterspout Rd. 2038		B	2	2	3	4
Nut Basin Rd. 441		B	2	2	3	4
Van Buren Rd. 2002		B	2	2	3	4
Chair Point Rd. 2007		B	1	1	2	2
Skookumchuck Rd. 2025		B	1	1	2	2
Free Use Rd. 243		B	1	1	2	2
Twin Cabins Rd. 642		B	1	1	2	2
Grangeville Salmon Rd. 221		B	1	1	2	2
U. S. 95		A	1	1	1	1

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

This area stretches from just outside Grangeville, Idaho to the Salmon River just west of Riggins, Idaho. Recreation facilities are clustered around Grangeville and along the Salmon River. To the west of Slate Creek, Adams Cabin Rental, North Fork of Slate Creek and Rocky Bluff Campgrounds offer developed camping opportunities.

On the Salmon River rafters and jet boaters are both under a permit season year-round and under a controlled permit season from June 20–September 7 for the Wild & Scenic Salmon River. Float boaters typically put in at Corn Creek on the Salmon-Challis National Forest and float through the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area and take out at Carey Creek, the Vinegar Boat Ramps (located on the South side of the River on the Payette National Forest), or Spring Bar Boat Ramp (located on the North side of the river on the Forests). Vinegar Boat Ramp is the main boat launch/staging area utilized by jet boaters. These sites are managed by the Forests, but are outside the Wild and Scenic corridor. Rafters who are successful in drawing a Middle Fork Salmon River permit also have the opportunity to access the Main Salmon and continue their float if they also obtain a separate permit to continue down the Main Salmon section. Float boaters access the Middle Fork section from the Salmon-Challis Forest at the Boundary Creek put-in. The Wild and Scenic Main Salmon is co-managed by the Nez Perce and Salmon Challis Forests, as defined in the 2008 Frank Church River of No Return Management Plan.

The Payette National Forest also provides floating access to the Main Salmon River from the South Fork Salmon River, while the Forests provide jet boat access to the South Fork Salmon River from Vinegar Creek. A Primitive road route, Burgdorf Road 246 (locally known as the “fingers”) provides access to Salmon River Road 1614. Bridges at Campbell’s Ferry and Mackay Bar provide trail access from the Payette Forest to Salmon River Trail 96. Salmon River Trail #96 parallels the river (from Sheep Creek to Crooked Creek and from Rattlesnake Creek to Mackay Bar), and is located entirely on the north side of the river within the Wild and Scenic Corridor. Multiple trails from the north side of the river also access Salmon River Trail 96 and are most popular during the fall hunting season.

The Bureau of Land Management in Cottonwood, Idaho, manages the section of the Salmon River known as the “Lower Salmon River,” beginning at Vinegar Creek, which is 25 miles above the town of Riggins. At Riggins, the river swings north and then west for 87 miles where it then meets the Snake River. The Lower Salmon Section from Vinegar Creek to Hammer Creek is roaded and popular with both float and power boats. This section is primarily used as a day stretch and accessed through multiple boat ramps along Highway 95 and Salmon River Road 1614. The 53 mile stretch from Hammer Creek to the confluence of the Snake River is primarily roadless and is popular with multi-day float boaters in the summer months and jet boaters in the fall. This stretch is also accessed by Pine Bar and Eagle Creek roads that intersect the corridor. No trails parallel the Lower Salmon River stretch. Developed and dispersed camping opportunities are available along the Salmon River and Highway 95, with more sites available than what the Forests offer in the same general area. There is BLM land located within the Elk City township that offers dispersed camping and winter snowmobiling opportunities. The BLM snowmobile and summer trail systems connect and provide access to NFS trails.

Wilderness Expedition and Backcountry—A small portion of the Gospel Hump Wilderness Area is located in the east central portion of the area surrounding the upper reaches of Slate Creek. This area provides access to the Lake Basin surrounding Gospel Lake.

Wild River Corridor—The southern portion of the area is adjacent to the Salmon River. River based recreation sites, Spring Bar, Allison Creek and Van Creek are located here. This lower section of the Salmon River is and nationally recognized destination area for floating and camping activities.

Land to Roam and Ride—The central portion of the area offers an extensive road and trail system for exploring the area.

Convenient Connections—The northern portion of the area offers picnic and camping opportunities in the Fish Creek area that are within 5 miles of the community of Grangeville.

Recreation Access

Figure 9-24 details roads and trails in the Lower Salmon River recreation subbasin.

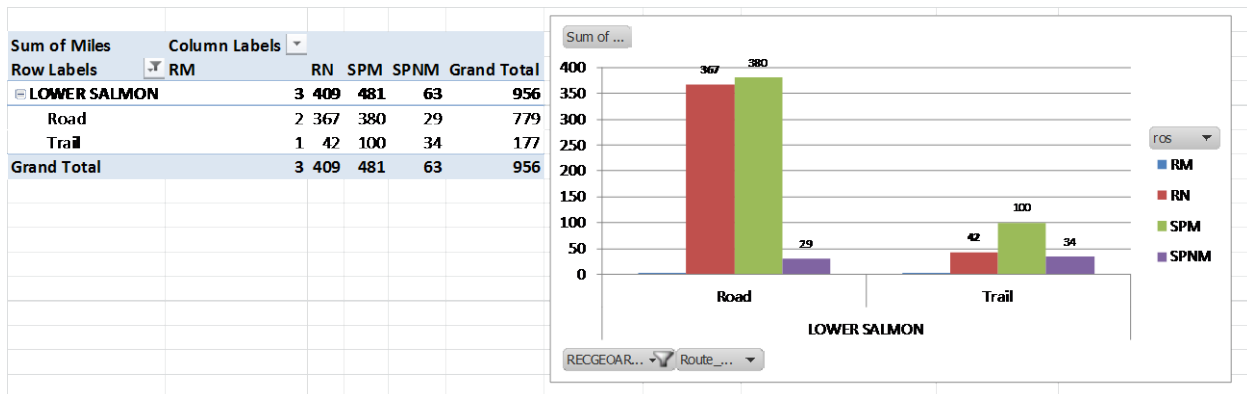


Figure 9-24. Roads and trails in the Lower Salmon River recreation subbasin

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-45 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Lower Salmon River recreation subbasin.

Table 9-44. Recreation facilities in the Lower Salmon River recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
Slate Creek Museum	5	N	N	4	G
Spring Bar Campground	16	Y	N	4	F
Spring Bar Boat Launch	10	N	N	4	F
Fish Creek Campground	9	Y	N	3	G
Fish Creek Snow/Trailhead	5	N	N	3	G
Fish Creek Nordic Pavilion	6	Y	N	3	G
Van Creek Campground	2	N	N	3	G
Allison Creek Campground/Picnic	5	N	N	3	G
North Fork Slate Creek Campground	5	N	N	3	F
Florence Cemetery	1	N	N	3	F
Slate Lakes Trailhead	2	N	N	3	F
Carey Creek Boat Launch	5	Y	N		G
Dispersed Campsites (Level 0-2)	135	N	N	2	NA
Total	206				

^aCondition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

9.1.3.19 Wind River (19)

Scenic Character

Forest habitats include dry ponderosa pine forest at lower elevations, grand fir and Douglas-fir at mid-elevations, with lodgepole pine and subalpine forest at higher elevations. The highest ridges have whitebark pine. The vegetation pattern is a mosaic of different age and size classes created by extensive wildland fires. Several unique plant communities exist here and are found within the Elk Creek and Square Mountain Research Natural Areas. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-46.

Table 9-45. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Wind River recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Vinegar Creek Boat Launch	RA	A	1	1	1	1
Carey Creek Boat Launch	RA	A	1	1	1	1
Rocky Bluff Campground	CG	B	2	2	3	4
Wind River Trailhead	TH	A	1	1	1	1
Square Mtn. Tr. 383		B	1	1	2	2
Hump Tr. 313		B	1	1	2	2
Salmon River Tr. 96		A	1	1	1	1
Crooked River Rd. 233		B	1	1	2	2
Kelly Mtn. Rd. 394		B	1	1	2	2
Slate Lakes Camp Rd. 444C		B	1	1	2	2
Gospel Rd. 444		B	1	1	2	2
Salmon River Rd. 1614		A	1	1	2	2

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

Wilderness Expedition and Backcountry—All of the area is within the Gospel Hump Wilderness Area. Non-motorized trail systems are found throughout the area. These systems provide access to several high mountain lakes and along all the major rivers.

Wild River Corridor—River based recreation is the focus of the recreation opportunities along the southern border of the area. Major river access sites utilized by permitted jet boater and float boaters include Vinegar Creek and Carey Creek. At Wind River a large pack bridge crosses the Salmon River to provide trail access to the southern portion of the Gospel Hump Wilderness.

Recreation Access

Figure 9-25 details roads and trails in the Wind River recreation subbasin.

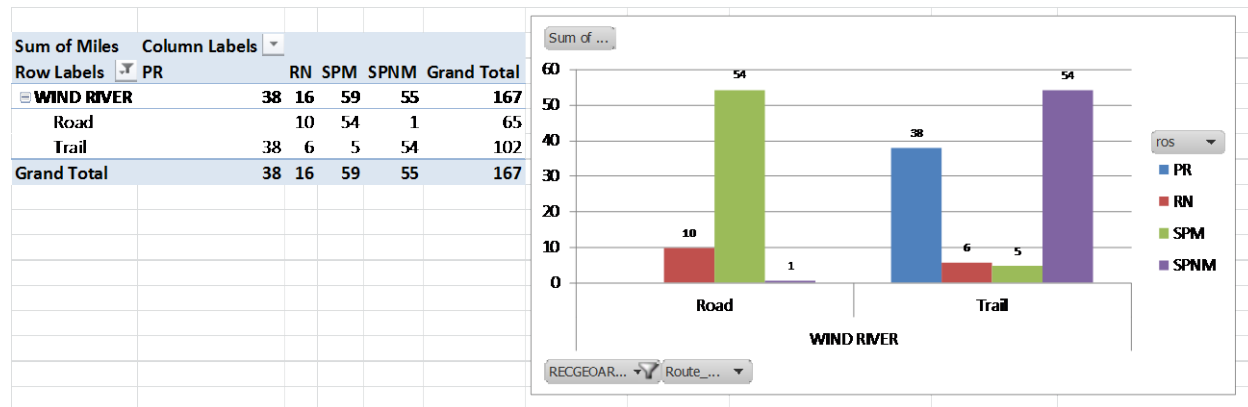


Figure 9-25. Roads and trails in the Wind River recreation subbasin

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-47 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Wind River recreation subbasin.

Table 9-46. Recreation facilities in the Wind River recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
Vinegar Creek Boat Launch	10	N	N	4	G
Carey Creek Boat Launch	5	Y	N	4	G
Rocky Bluff Campground	4	N	N	3	F
Wind River Trailhead	5	N	N	3	F
Square Mountain Trailhead	3	N	N	3	F
Unnamed Level 2 Campsites	53	N	N	2	NA
Total	80				

^aCondition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

9.1.3.20 Bargamin (20)

Scenic Character

Dry ponderosa pine forests are found along the Salmon River breaklands along with dry grasslands. Upper slopes have a mix of Douglas-fir, western larch, grand fir and lodgepole pine. Current patterns of vegetation appear as a mosaic of different size classes of tree species as influenced by wildland fire. In the northern portion of the area, the Magruder corridor contributes to the historical nature of the area. High mountain lakes are found in several of the high alpine areas. Designated travel corridors and use areas are listed in Table 9-48.

Table 9-47. Designated travel corridors and use areas in the Bargamin recreation subbasin

Travel Corridor or Use Area	Miles/Use Area Type	Landscape Character	Sensitivity Level	Fore-ground	Middle-ground	Back-ground
Poet Creek Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Granite Springs Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Dry Saddle Campground	CG	B	2	2	3	4
Fourteen Mile Campground	CG	B	1	1	2	2
Hot Springs Tr. 581		B	1	1	2	2
Bargamin Creek Tr. 502		B	2	2	3	4
Salmon River Tr. 96		A	1	1	1	1
Nez Perce Trail Road 468		B	1	1	2	2
Elk Mtn Rd. 285		B	1	1	2	2

Recreation Setting and Opportunities

Wilderness Expedition and Backcountry—From the Magruder corridor south to the Salmon River is the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area. Trail systems follow the major river corridors including Bargamin Creek and Rattlesnake Creek or access the high mountain lake basin around Trilby Lake.

Wild River Corridor—The southern border of the area is formed by the wild portion of the Salmon Wild and Scenic River. The beaches found in this section are used extensively by permitted floaters.

Land to Roam and Ride—The Magruder corridor divides two undeveloped segments of land, the Frank Church Wilderness to the south and the upper Bargamin Creek area to the north. More highly developed sites such as Poet Creek, Granite Springs, Dry Saddle and Fourteen Mile Campgrounds are found adjacent to the road with undeveloped dispersed sites found through the remainder of the area.

Recreation Access

Figure 9-26 details roads and trails in the Bargamin recreation subbasin.

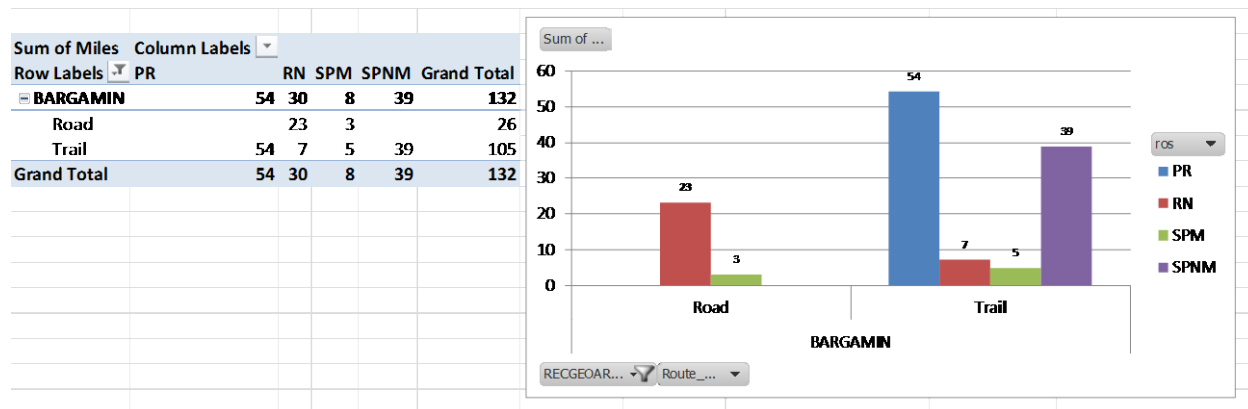


Figure 9-26. Roads and trails in the Bargamin recreation subbasin

Recreation Facilities

Table 9-49 lists the recreation facilities and information about those facilities located in the Bargamin recreation subbasin.

Table 9-48. Recreation facilities in the Bargamin recreation subbasin

Facility Name	Number of Parking/Camping Units	Fee	Group Use	Level of Development	Condition of Facilities ^a
Poet Creek Campground	5	N	N	3	F
Granite Springs Campground	5	N	N	3	F
Dry Saddle Campground	4	N	N	3	F
Fourteen Mile Campground	4	N	N	3	F
Unnamed Level 2 Campsites	20	N	N	2	NA
Total	38				

^aCondition of Facilities: G – Good, F – Fair, P – Poor, NA – No constructed features present

9.1.3.21 Special Places in the Forest

- National Historic Trails & Landmarks
 - Nez Perce/Nee-Mee-Poo National Historic Trail 40
 - Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail 25
 - Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark Corridor
- National Recreation Trails
 - Anderson Butte Trail 835
 - East Boyd Trail 703—Roundtop Trail 310 and Glover Trail 704
 - Meadow Creek Trail 726
 - Colgate Licks Nature Trail #1091
 - Elk Creek Falls Trail System #740
 - Giant Red Cedar Trail #748
 - Devoto Grove Interpretive Trail #789
- Hot Springs
 - Jerry Johnson, Wier and Stanley Hot springs
- Waterfalls
 - Selway Falls, Elk Creek Falls, and Rocky Bluff Falls
- Visitor Centers
 - Lochsa Historic Station, Lolo Pass Visitor Center, Fenn Historic Visitor Center, Slate Creek Museum and Kelly Forks Visitor Center
- Papoose Cave
- Idaho Centennial Trail
- Boise Trail
- Magruder Corridor

Lolo Pass Visitor Center

The Lolo Pass Visitor Center serves as one of the many historical landmarks off U.S. Highway 12, the Northwest Passage Scenic Byway, All-American Road. The visitor center displays information on the Lewis and Clark journey across the Bitterroot Mountains and the 1877 flight of the Nez Perce Indians. The visitor center also provides historical, natural, and general information about the area and hosts a small gift shop, featuring books on the local area and history. There are 24-hour restrooms available to visitors.

During the summer months, the Lolo Pass Visitor Center is open Wednesday through Monday. The hours of operation are 8:00–4:30 PST. On-site interpreters are available to provide information on the Lewis and Clark journey, the Nez Perce and Salish tribes, and the local area and its rich history. Visitors can watch videos on the local area, walk a short wetland trail, or browse the bookstore run by Discover Your Northwest. North Central Idaho Audio Tour disks that interpret mile markers along the byway can be checked out at the visitor center.

Glade Creek State Park is a short drive from the visitor center, and an accessible trail leads to an overlook viewing the meadow where Lewis and Clark camped in 1805. Packer Meadows, a short walk from the visitor center, is well known for its abundance of camas flowers in June.

Beginning in December, the visitor center switches to a winter schedule: Thursday through Sunday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. The winter program is described in the Recreation Opportunities Settings Assessment.

Designated in 1978 on the National Register of Historic Places, the Lochsa Historic Ranger Station preserves the nostalgic character of a 1920s working ranger station. The visitor center, located on U.S. Highway 12, the Northwest Passage Scenic Byway, All-American Road, is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day. During the 2012 summer field season, staffing of the station was coordinated and implemented by volunteers. A printed brochure contains a self-guided walking tour that helps visitors gain a better understanding of the Forest Service's 100-year-old heritage.

9.1.3.22 Scenic Byways

There are four roads that travel through or near the Forests that have State or National designation as Scenic Byways. As designated National or State byways these routes receive special attention in marketing campaigns and have notable recreation, scenery, historic or cultural attractions. Additional byway information can be found online at www.idahobyways.gov and www.byways.org.

Northwest Passage All American Road

This scenic byway was designated by the US Department of Transportation and includes the entire length of US Highway 12, State Highway 13, and portions of US Highway 95. About 100 miles of the 202 designated route is located within the Forest. That portion parallels the Middle Fork Clearwater and Lochsa Wild and Scenic Rivers on the Lochsa and Powell Ranger Districts. The byway provides access to all of the campgrounds and trailheads along US Highway 12 as well as the Lochsa Historical Ranger Station and Lolo Pass Visitor Centers.

The Northwest Passage has been identified as one of the "Top 10" scenic drives in the Northern Rockies.

This scenic byway has a Corridor Management Plan and an interagency Advisory Council and partnership that pursue project funding opportunities. The Forest Service is a member of the Advisory Team.

White Pine Scenic Byway

This scenic byway was designated by the State of Idaho and includes portions of State Highways 3 and 6. The total length of the byway is 83 miles. About 7 miles of State Highway 6 travels through the Forest on the Potlatch Ranger District. This portion of the scenic byway is commonly known as *White Pine Drive* and provides access to the Giant White Pine campground, Laird Park, Campground, and Palouse Divide Nordic Ski Area.

Elk River Backcountry Byway

This scenic byway was designated by the State of Idaho. The byway begins in Orofino at State Highway 7 and travels north to include State Highways 3 and 8, ending at the town of Elk River. The total byway length is 57 miles and about 4 miles of State Highways 3 and 8 travel through the Forest on the Potlatch Ranger District. The byway provides access to Elk Creek Falls Recreation Area.

Gold Rush Historic Byway

This scenic byway was designated by the State of Idaho. The byway begins in Greer on US Highway 12 and includes all of State Highway 11. This byway does not travel across the Forest but is one of the primary access points to portions of the North Fork and Lochsa Ranger Districts.

9.2 Informing the Assessment

9.2.1 Scenic Character

A trend to spend more time on the Forest exists. Much of the current promotional information describes the natural beauty of the forest environment. As more visitors are encouraged to enjoy the Forests, they will come to it with the expectation that it will look “natural.”

Areas of insect and disease have expanded in many areas across the Forests. These areas, if left to complete their natural evolution, will die and fall over or will burn, which will create openings. Many of these areas have also been available for harvesting, which has also created openings.

Past fire suppression has created large landscapes where the coniferous canopy appears natural, but that do not currently have a naturally evolving character because of the type of species and continuity of the canopy. These areas, if they had been left to their natural evolution, would probably have had more fire activity and therefore would probably have more natural openings and a more diverse species composition.

When Forest visitors are surveyed, the most common activity the public participates in is driving for pleasure. It is important to maintain a natural appearing landscape character so the expectations of these visitors can be met by the Forests. This trend will continue on into the future as constituents continue to utilize the Forest for recreation and scenic viewing.

Assess intersection of Existing Scenic Integrity with Existing ROS and special area designations. By overlaying the two, need(s) for change and a foundation for plan components may be identified. For example, if the existing scenic integrity in Primitive ROS settings, Wilderness, and “wild” Wild and Scenic Rivers is less than Very High, there’s a gap between existing and desired conditions. A way to access possible need for change will be a review of the integration of the opportunities, scenic qualities, settings, special places, and need for access across the landscape to identify need for change.

9.2.2 Recreation Access

Access across the Forest to recreational settings and opportunities, both motorized and non-motorized is generally available to visitors interested in both front and back country settings.

The front country setting includes developed campgrounds and the majority of dispersed campsites. Recreational visitors to the Forest’s front country generally travel state highways and well maintained county or Forest Service roads in larger vehicles and self-contained campers when visiting the Forest. Many of these visitors bring OHVs for recreational use on well-maintained roads and trails in close proximity to camping areas. Back country areas generally are either Idaho Roadless areas or recommended or designated wilderness areas. Access to these areas ranges from well-maintained roads with developed campsites and trailheads to primitive roads with rustic trailheads and dispersed campsites. Some roads to remote trailheads can be very

challenging for vehicles pulling self-contained campers and horse trailers. Trails in the back country are generally single-track with narrow tread and in very remote areas can be quite challenging to motorcycle riders, horseback riders, and hikers. Some are open to motorized access while others are not.

Access to the Forests in the winter season is limited and basically determined where partnership funding maintains access to trailheads and trails. There are areas in Latah, Clearwater, and Idaho counties where state and county funds maintain trailheads for parking and groom trails for snowmachine and cross-country ski access. Other than these areas, winter access is presumed unavailable across the Forests. There are three fee areas on the Forest that support winter trail grooming; Fish Creek, Palouse Winter Recreation areas (Elk River and Palouse Divide) and Lolo Pass. To effectively, efficiently, and consistently manage these areas there is a need to develop management plans for these areas.

No matter what the season of use is or where recreational visitors choose to go, there is a need to assist visitors in regard to knowing where they are on the Forest and what is expected of them. Education and Information (I&E) should be placed at key locations (popular staging areas, along high use travel corridors, at locations with known use conflicts, resource concerns or illegal use) to educate users, instill a sense of stewardship, and reduce illegal behavior.

Access Patterns

Length of Stay

In regard to available time to recreate on National Forests, a current trend for many visitors appears to be trips of shorter duration (2–5 days) where extended family or friend groups can gather at a campground or trailhead and experience either motorized or non-motorized day opportunities and then return to the central location as a group at the end of the day. It is less likely that visitors plan long duration (10–14 days) progressive trips either in front country campground settings or back country remote settings.

Regional vs Local Visitors

Increasing fuel prices may be limiting visitors' ability to travel to these remotely located Forests from larger cities. This may be why it appears visitor abundance is increasing from surrounding communities. In general, the retired population of surrounding communities is increasing. Many may be moving to this remote central Idaho location to retire and enjoy the vastness of the surrounding national forests. This may be why it appears older or retired visitors are accessing the Forests with new OHV technology.

Visitors Using Off-highway Vehicles

OHV technology is progressing to offer older visitors more comfort and ease of travel when visiting recreational settings. The cohort of older visitors using motorized forms of access may be increasing; this increase appears to be especially true of those living in surrounding communities. The cohort of young people participating in OHV recreation is high compared to other areas of the country (Clw TP: 3-169-199). There is a growing interest from recreational visitors to have north-south and east-west OHV routes available across the Forest for multi-day excursions that connect rural communities.

Trail Use by Visitors

Trail access from front country campgrounds and trailheads is currently adequately maintained while decreasing budgets are causing more remote backcountry trails to be maintained to a lesser accessible standard with some trail access in very remote settings becoming unavailable. The cohort of people using pack strings of 10+ animals to support extended duration backcountry progressive trips appears to be decreasing.

Airstrip Use by Visitors

Airstrip access provides local, regional and national visitors unique access to the Forests backcountry. However, there is a growing need to understand the access needs of these visitors in regard to airstrip maintenance and the historical site conditions. The Idaho Airstrip Network IAN partnership is important to promoting this understanding and there is a need to develop operations and maintenance agreements with aviation user groups to assist with this unique resource.

Hunting Access

The spring and fall hunting visitors appear to be decreasing, probably due to the trend in central Idaho of decreasing big game populations. This decrease in big game may also explain why many out-of-area hunters are increasingly using outfitted services when they do come, as access to popular and plentiful hunting areas can be difficult (as it is primarily in the remote backcountry).

Loss of Recreational Access

In general, there is a growing concern with the perception that access, primarily motorized, is being lost on the Forest due to road decommissioning and growing deferred road and trail maintenance when compared to previous decades. Visitors often suggest that where motorized trails are closed, alternative routes should be investigated to ensure similar motorized trail opportunities are provided elsewhere on the forest. A no net loss strategy could be evaluated with Forest Plan Revision.

National Historic and Recreation Trails

The National Trail System Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-543) authorized creation of a national trail system comprised of National Recreation Trails, National Scenic Trails, and National Historic Trails. While National Scenic Trails and National Historic Trails may only be designated by an act of Congress, National Recreation Trails may be designated by the Secretary of Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to recognize exemplary trails of local and regional significance in response to an application from the trail's managing agency or organization. National Historic and Recreation Trails are listed in the existing information section. White Pine Trail 224 and Lochsa River Historic Trail 2 need their establishment reports and designations verified as their designation in the Trails Infrastructure database is missing. Devoto Cedar Grove Interpretive Trail provides an opportunity to consider an additional NRT along the Lochsa Wild and Scenic River corridor. Often these specially designated trails need unique maintenance approaches to protect their exemplary character. Management plans that identify maintenance guidelines and future management intent are needed for National Historic and Recreation trails on the Forest. Declining trails budgets are cause for concern to perpetuating the unique quality of

these specially designated trails. Priority for funding trail needs and management plans should be given to specially designated routes to ensure the characteristics that warranted their designation are protected, maintained, or enhanced for future generations.

Travel Planning

The Clearwater National Forest has completed a Travel Management analysis and issued a decision. This decision is currently litigated. An MVUM is expected to be published in 2013. The Nez Perce National Forest has completed a Travel Management analysis with a decision expected in 2013. An MVUM is expected to be published in 2013 or 2014.

These site-specific decisions were used to develop the existing condition for recreational access in regards to motorized, non-motorized and mechanized use in both summer and winter seasons on the Clearwater National Forest, but only for the summer season on the Nez Perce National Forest. Public use of roads and motorized trails need to be managed according to the most recent MVUM.

While Travel Planning addressed the consideration of user-created routes and made decisions on if these routes would be retained as forest system routes, there will be a continuing need to identify for closure and rehabilitation non-system (user created) routes within an effective timeframe to alleviate further resource damage (i.e. 6 months).

The selected alternative (CMod) on the Clearwater National Forest and the preferred alternative (5) on the Nez Perce National Forest were used as input into the national ROS protocol model to develop the existing condition for the Summer ROS analysis for this Forest Plan Revision effort. As the desired future condition for ROS is developed for the Forest plan revision, travel route decisions and management actions need to be consistent with the ROS setting in which the route is located. This may mean that in the future, after the Forest Plan revision decision is implemented, travel planning decisions may need to be reviewed for consistency with the Forest Plan.

Additional Management Considerations

Fiscal capability of the agency (i.e. annual Forest budgets) does not drive desired future conditions in regard to Forest Planning. However, fiscal responsibility and the recognition of currently declining recreation and trails budgets needs to be recognized as a factor affecting existing and future management of recreational facilities including the Forests road and trail system. Declining federal budgets supporting recreational road and trail access are resulting in decreasing access, especially in the more remote back country areas.

The Forests road and trail system currently providing recreational access evolved over time as trails were developed to provide packstring support to fire lookout towers and remote facilities, and roads were developed primarily to support commodity production . There is a need to assess the forest's network of roads and trails to ensure a sustainable transportation system; this includes Forest road and trail bridges. Strategies to be analyzed should include: RMO/ TMO changes, closures, rehabilitation, investments, relocation, partnerships. Once assessed and identified system roads and trails should be maintained and managed in accordance with their identified Management Objective (RMO or TMO). Road and trail bridges are routinely scheduled for inspections; if these structures are deemed unsafe based on engineering inspections, they need to be closed, removed, repaired, or reconstructed.

9.3 Information Needs and Data Gaps

- Update Road and Trail INFRA data in order to display current access across Roads and Trails by mode of travel for motorized, non-motorized, and bicycles during both summer and winter seasons.
- Winter ROS mapping needs to be completed. Need to update INFRA with existing groomed routes and winter trails and provide anecdotal information on commonly used but ungroomed cross country ski routes, snowmobile routes and snow play areas.
- Recreational Access
 - Mapping of Maintenance level 1 and 2 roads
 - Mapping of decommissioned routes and Road to Trail conversion routes
 - Infra,updates to align with Travel Planning Decisions; including TMO completion for all trails
- National Recreation Trails:
 - verify establishment reports and Secretary’s designation for all NRTs including Trails 224 and 2
 - establish and verify information needed to nominate the DeVoto Cedar Grove Interpretive Trail as a NRT
 - Establish and verify information needed to nominate to the National Historic Register the Southern Nez Perce trail
- Trail Access and Use—Engineering Trail Traffic counts
- Roads Access and Use—Engineering Road Traffic counts
- Mapping of National Trails, Scenic Byways, Wild and Scenic, Wilderness, Inventoried Roadless Areas, National Historical Trails—mapping layers for all of these opportunities
- National Survey on Recreation and the Environment—Cordell
- Regional Recreation Destination layer
- Niche—context for looking at opportunity needs and overview of our visitor
- NVUM for Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests—sites used and satisfaction levels
- Dispersed recreation sites by level of impact
- Recreation Facility Analysis information to compare occupancy with capacity

9.3.1 *Literature Cited*

Cordell, H. K. 2012. Outdoor recreation trends and futures: a technical document supporting the Forest Service 2010 RPA Assessment. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-150.

National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM). 2011. National Visitor Use Monitoring program. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources. Available at: <http://ftp.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/>