

II. Forest – Wide Management Direction

Lands Council v. McNair, No. 09-36026 archived on January 19, 2011

II. FOREST-WIDE MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

A. Goals

Forest goals are used to develop the Forest Plan in response to the issues and concerns identified at the beginning of the planning process. While this is not a listing of Forest goals by priority, they nonetheless guide the Plan in an effort to address and resolve the key issues and guide the development of Forest-wide standards, management objectives, and management area direction.

1. Provide for the projected use of developed recreation areas. Complete the development of new sites as budget becomes available.
2. Provide for a variety of dispersed recreation opportunities.
3. Manage the visual resource by maintaining the visual quality objectives.
4. Manage to emphasize the uniqueness of the visual quality, water quality, wildlife, fisheries and recreation around Hayden, Priest, Pend Orielle and Coeur d'Alene Lakes .
5. Manage cultural resources on the Forest to maintain their scientific, social, and historical values.
6. Manage the IPNF to provide a share of the Regional goals for wilderness management acres.
7. Manage special areas for the unique qualities that precipitated their designation; i.e., Wild and Scenic Rivers, Scenic Areas, Botanical Areas, etc.
8. Provide for a diversity of plant and animal communities.
9. Manage vertebrate wildlife habitat to maintain viable populations of all species.
10. Manage big game habitat toward achieving the goals of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.
11. Manage the habitat of animal and plant species listed under the Endangered Species Act to provide for recovery as outlined in the species recovery or management plans. Manage habitat to maintain populations of identified sensitive species of animals and plants.
12. Manage range forage production for domestic livestock at current levels with additional emphasis to protect stream banks, riparian zones, threatened and endangered species, and wildlife values.
13. Manage fisheries habitat to provide a carrying capacity that will allow an increase in the Forest's trout population.

14. Provide a sustained timber yield that is responsive to local industry and national needs, and strive to maintain current harvest levels.
15. Complete reforestation of the nonstocked lands and lands in need of rehabilitation which are cost effective and cost efficient in meeting the management area goals.
16. Begin harvest in stands created by the 1910 fire to better distribute the harvest and provide for future age class distribution.
17. Manage the soil resource to maintain long-term productivity.
18. Maintain high quality water to protect fisheries habitat, water based recreation, public water supplies, and be within state water quality standards.
19. Manage resource development to protect the integrity of the stream channel system.
20. Provide opportunities for mineral exploration and development in compliance with laws and regulations commensurate with management area goals.
21. Roads will be developed and managed to the minimum standards and miles necessary to meet the objectives of the management areas.
22. Provide opportunities for project development by public and private utilities for transmission facilities in compliance with laws and regulations commensurate with management area goals.
23. Provide efficient fire protection and fire use to help accomplish land management objectives.
24. Manage the forest resources to protect against insect and disease damage.
25. Manage firewood as a renewable energy resource for personal and commercial uses.
26. Provide the IPNF share of research natural areas necessary to fulfill the ecological niches assigned through the Regional Guide.
27. Provide opportunities for people to be involved in Forest management activities and supply information enabling visitors to better enjoy National Forest lands.

B. Objectives

Following are brief summaries of how the various resources and activities will be managed under the Forest Plan. A complete understanding of the management direction can be attained by reading the Forest-wide goals and standards in this chapter and the management area goals and standards in Chapter III.

1. Resource/Activity Summaries

a. Recreation

The Forest will continue to provide a share of outdoor recreation needs in relation to other public and private entities. A variety of recreation opportunities and settings will be provided, including primitive, semi-primitive nonmotorized, semi-primitive motorized, roaded natural and rural. Within these settings a broad spectrum of both dispersed and developed recreation opportunities will be furnished in accordance with identified needs and demands. Recreation planning and operations will be coordinated with other federal, state, local, and private recreation managers.

Existing private recreation uses, such as recreational residences, will continue only on lands which are not suitable or not needed for public use, provided long-term public interest is protected. Complementary facilities and services by the private sector on National Forest lands will be permitted. Forest Service recreation programs will strive to be complementary with other public and private programs. Cooperative trail programs will be continued and increased with organizations, clubs, and other public agencies. Opportunities to increase and improve the recreation trail system will be pursued. Dispersed recreation opportunities and management will be emphasized. Off-site interpretation and environmental education will be encouraged.

The current level of developed recreation facilities and opportunities will be increased. The increase will be obtained by expansion of existing sites and development of new recreation sites as the budget allows. Facilities in dispersed areas will be minor and limited to resource protection, user comfort, and safety. A diversity of development levels based on specific area objectives will be provided.

Public participation in recreation activities and assistance with recreation management will be enhanced by our commitment to information and public involvement programs. These programs will include the general public and special user groups.

b. Roadless Resource

Roadless areas will be managed based on the direction and goals established for the respective management area within which they are located.

c. Visual

The objectives of landscape management will be to manage the Forest lands so as to attain high visual quality commensurate with other resources by meeting or exceeding the adopted visual quality objectives. Visual resource management is an integral activity in each management area and is implied in all management goals. The adopted visual quality objectives are based on the seen areas from the adopted visual sensitivity levels assigned to travel routes, use areas, and bodies of water in and adjacent to the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. A list and map of the assigned sensitivity levels is contained in Appendix D. Public awareness and knowledge of Forest Service landscape management and the visual management system will be enhanced through public information programs. This program will include the general public and special interest groups. Special emphasis will be placed on maintaining the uniqueness of the visual resources around the major lakes.

d. Cultural and Historic

The Forests' cultural and historic resources will be identified, protected, interpreted, and managed. This will be accomplished by increasing the understanding of cultural resources and ensuring that land management activities do not unnecessarily affect them. Project areas will be inventoried and evaluated prior to management activity. State and federal agencies and Indian tribes will be consulted about cultural resource activities and projects within their interest.

Specific management direction which incorporate interpretation will be completed for the National Register of Historic Places.

e. Wilderness

Wilderness areas will be managed according to the objectives for the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the legislation related to their specific designations.

Carrying capacity studies will be conducted as needed to determine the limits on types and amounts of recreation use. Limits will be related to what can be tolerated while maintaining long-term opportunities for wilderness experiences.

Specific management direction will be prepared and implemented for each designated Wilderness Area. Fire management direction for each wilderness area will be contained in individual

management plans. In the interim, appropriate suppression action will be taken on all fires based on the values present.

f. Special Areas (W&S Rivers, Scenic Areas)

Designated special areas will be managed in accordance with the objectives of the authority by which they were designated. These include: Scenic Areas, Historic Sites, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Botanical Areas, Recreation Trails and Pioneer Areas. Important wildlife habitats, ecological systems and T & E species habitats within designated special areas will be maintained or enhanced as per authority for the area. Specific management direction, emphasizing the area's uniqueness for which it was designated, will be developed and incorporated into the Plan as an appendix. The St. Joe Wild and Scenic River will be managed in accord with its management plan (Appendix Z). Those characteristics that qualified the Upper Priest River for classification as a Wild River will be maintained pending decision on its classification.

Maintain present wild and scenic river potential for the Coeur d'Alene River, the Little North Fork Clearwater River and the Pack River.

g. Wildlife

To help provide for a diversity of plant and animal communities, habitats, and species, standards for old growth maintenance will be established. Approximately 10 percent of the Forest will be maintained in old growth as needed to provide for viable populations of old-growth dependent and management indicator species. To obtain the desired distribution, the IPNF will be managed to maintain approximately 5 percent of each old-growth unit as old growth where it exists.

Habitat for vertebrate populations, other than threatened, endangered and sensitive species, will be managed to maintain viable populations (greater than 40 percent of maximum potential). In order to maintain viable populations of all species, the habitat will be managed for selected indicator species. Habitat for species harvested (big game, small game, and furbearers), except elk, will be managed to meet goals as outlined by the Regional Guides.

Elk habitat will be managed to provide for a potential population increase in striving to meet the Idaho Fish and Game population goals. Management for elk habitat needs will emphasize road management to maintain adequate security and habitat potential on the summer range. Forage production on winter range is heavily dependent on scheduling clearcut timber harvesting, supplemented by burning of existing forage areas to provide adequate quantity and location of forage areas.

The objectives will be to improve winter range in the first decade to provide increasing amounts of available forage and maintaining or slightly improving the summer range carrying capacity above the 1981 level.

White-tailed deer management will emphasize smaller cutting units on white-tailed deer winter range to provide a fine mosaic of cover and forage. Winter cover requirements for white-tailed deer will be emphasized in the Priest River drainage due to its deep snowfall.

Moose populations appear to be increasing throughout the Forest. In Idaho, moose population trends will be monitored in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

h. Threatened and Endangered Species

The goal for threatened and endangered species is to contribute to the conservation and recovery of the listed species on the Forest (grizzly bear, woodland caribou, gray wolf, peregrine falcon, and bald eagle). Sensitive species will be managed to assure adequate populations to prevent the need for federal listing. Grizzly bear management will emphasize maintenance of adequate security in conjunction with providing the seasonal vegetative habitat components. Road management and scheduling of Forest activities will be the primary management scheme. Woodland caribou management will emphasize providing adequate seasonal habitat needs and protection from direct mortality. Primary management emphasis will be maintenance of closed canopy old-growth cedar-hemlock on early winter ranges, and providing arboreal lichen production on mid and late winter ranges. Gray wolf management will emphasize maintenance of travel corridors in the upper reaches of the Coeur d'Alene and St. Joe river drainages. Bald eagle management will emphasize surveys and mapping of nesting, feeding and roost sites, and protection of these identified use areas. Peregrine falcon management will focus on survey and inventory of suitable habitat for reintroduction and verification of reported presence.

i. Riparian Areas

Riparian areas will be managed to feature dependent resources (fish, water quality, maintenance of natural channels, certain vegetation, and wildlife communities) while producing other resource outputs at levels compatible for the objective for dependent resources.

j. Fisheries

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests will be managed to maintain and improve fish habitat capacities in order to achieve cooperative goals with the State Fish and Game Department and to comply with state water quality standards. Sedimentation arising from land management activities will be managed so that in forest fisheries streams the objective is to maintain 80 percent of fry emergence success as measured from pristine conditions.^{1/}

Appendix I details the analysis process.

Fishery and timber riparian management activities will be coordinated in order to maximize the contribution of riparian vegetation to aquatic habitats. An annual program of direct habitat improvement work will be pursued. Several unroaded stream and river segments will be managed as low public access areas to maintain a diversity of fishing experiences on the Forest.

k. Range

Forage production will be continued at current levels, with permitted use of 6,700 AUM's. Grazing is permitted on less than two percent of the Forest with a majority of the forage use occurring on 7,500 acres.

Specific utilization and other applicable objectives will be included in each allotment plan. Transitional range in or adjacent to existing allotments may be used, where compatible with the objectives of the specific management areas, as provided for in individual allotment plans. Grazing management will protect soil and water resources, riparian areas, and T & E plant and animal species.

Noxious weed control will be based on an integrated pest management approach, which includes, but is not limited to, the current practices of inventory, monitoring, some handpulling, and some biological control. Noxious weed control will be conducted in cooperation with counties, other agencies, and private landowners. Many noxious weed species (knapweed, goatweed, thistle, tansy, etc.) are widespread, and control would require a

^{1/} The 80 percent limitation is based upon accuracy of the assessment methodology. Reductions less than 20 percent are not detectable with current models. During the life of the Plan, new technologies may allow more precise assessments; however, the objective will remain "maintain 80 percent of potential."

major cooperative effort with counties and private landowners. Major programs to eradicate such species are not possible within expected budget levels. Priority will be given to small infestations of species new to an area, where moderate control actions have a good chance of preventing the establishment of new problems.

l. Timber

Management activities will promote programs that provide a sustained yield of forest products consistent with the multiple-use goals established in the Regional Guide and IPNF Forest Plan. Timber management is the process by which approximately 1,584,000 suitable acres will be brought under regulated timber harvest. Timber harvest levels will provide an average annual allowable sale quantity of 280 million board feet (250 MMBF green and recently dead timber volume, 25 MMBF salvage, poles, and products, and 5 MMBF of pulpwood) in the first decade, increasing to an average annual long-term sustained yield of 544 million board feet in the sixth decade. A portion of the 280 MMBF harvest level will entail the use of capital investment and/or augmentation funds to access timber stands. Investments in timber management activities will be based on project economic analysis in conjunction with timber management objectives. Planting, precommercial thinning, and commercial thinning will be an integral part of the management of future timber stands on the IPNF. The process of regulated timber harvest will involve both even-aged and uneven-aged silvicultural systems. The application of each system or harvest method will be coordinated with the management area objectives and the silvicultural needs of the site through the interdisciplinary process. Timber management activities will be the primary process used to minimize the hazards of insects and diseases and will be accomplished primarily by maintaining stand vigor and diversity of plant communities and tree species. Further information on programmed sell, forest structure, age class distribution, and land classification can be found in Appendices A and G. Opportunities to gather firewood will be given strong consideration in harvest and road management plans.

m. Soils

Management activities on Forest lands will not significantly impair the long-term productivity of the soil or produce unacceptable levels of sedimentation resulting from soil erosion. This will be accomplished using technical guides developed in conjunction with the soil survey and Best Management Practices necessary to protect soil productivity and minimize sedimentation.

n. Water

Management activities will comply with state water quality standards. This will be accomplished through the use of the Best Management Practices (Appendix S is available upon request). The outcome of these best management practices will be monitored to determine their effectiveness. Water quality that is below Forest standards will be improved through restoration projects (see soil objective) and through the scheduling of timber harvest and road building activities where appropriate.

Lands within public water systems, as identified on the Management Area Map, will be managed for multiple-uses within the water quality standards for public water supplies.

The application of appropriate conservation practices will ensure that the quality of individual water bodies will not be significantly affected by sediment production.

o. Air Quality

The Forest will participate with the states and others in the development and implementation of Air Quality Standards. All Forest Service activities and those permitted on the Forest shall comply with applicable regulatory and administrative standards and procedures. The Forest will identify conflicts between air quality requirements for management of the IPNF and existing air quality or current standards and work with the State to get changes needed.

p. Minerals

In compliance with the mining laws and regulations the IPNF will administer lands in cooperation with developers of the minerals, recognizing its value as a National Forest resource. The Forest will cooperate with federal and state agencies in the administration of laws, rules and regulations pertaining to explorations and mining consistent with protection and management of surface resources.

Before recommendations are made on any lease application, additional NEPA site-specific analysis of environmental effects will be made.

q. Lands

The Regional Guidelines and the Forest Landownership Planning criteria in Appendix E will be utilized in conjunction with the management direction by management area to assess the desirability of landownership adjustments.

Access to National Forest lands will be obtained and maintained in accordance with established Forest Service policy for the

protection, administration and utilization of the National Forests and their resources. Private landowners will not be denied reasonable access to their property, if unavailable across private land, subject to compliance with applicable regulations and Forest Service policies. Continuous private land access rights may be preserved by means other than cost sharing. Cost sharing of jointly used roads will be continued in accordance with Forest Service policies. Private uses of National Forest land will be permitted when in compliance with Forest Service regulations and policies.

r. Facilities

Transportation facilities will be constructed, managed and maintained to meet the management area goals in a cost effective way while meeting safety, user and resource needs. Best Management Practices for road construction will be utilized during construction and maintenance of transportation facilities. Transportation facilities include roads, railroads, trails and airfields.

The Forest's transportation system will be coordinated and integrated with public and private systems to the fullest extent possible.

Transmission facilities will be coordinated with public and private utility systems to the extent possible. Project proposals will be evaluated for potential paralleling of existing transmission facilities. Construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities and right-of-way management will meet land and resource objectives of the Forest in a cost effective way, meeting safety, user and resource needs. Transmission facilities include pipelines, electric transmission lines, and communication lines.

s. Fire Management

Efficient fire protection and use programs will be implemented based on management objectives, site specific conditions, and expected fire occurrence and behavior. The National Fire Management Analysis System will be used to develop the fire protection program. We will participate in program and project planning and implementation affecting fuels and ignitions to assess the expected effects on fuels and fire behavior.

t. Forest Protection

Protection of timber stands from insect and disease problems will center around the silvicultural treatments prescribed for timber management activities. These include establishing rotation ages that direct the harvesting of stands before diseases such as root diseases and heart rots become a serious threat to the susceptible stands. Regenerating to species combinations that are the least susceptible to root rot diseases is the primary

protection objective for the root rot diseases. Regeneration and culture of multi-species stands will be used to reduce the threat of epidemic outbreaks of harmful insects. This is particularly useful against tussock moth and spruce budworm. Breaking up large areas of single age classes through timber harvest will be used to reduce the potential for bark beetle outbreaks.

Overall, the keys for insect and disease protection are: (1) regenerate stands with trees from seed that is well adapted to the specific site conditions, (2) regenerate to multi-species stands, and (3) keep rotation ages to reasonably short time periods.

u. State and Private

Where other ownerships comprise 25 percent or more of a major drainage, coordinated management plans between owners are encouraged through mutual participation. These management plans may consider such items as: (1) development and scheduled use of resources, (2) an efficiently balanced resource management program, and (3) increased cost effectiveness of functional items such as reforestation or thinning.

v. Community Stability

Management activities will continue to contribute to local employment, income, and lifestyles. The Forest will be managed to contribute to the increasing demand for recreation and resource protection while at the same time continuing to provide traditional employment opportunities in the wood products industry. The allowable sale quantity exceeds the past 10-year average sell level by 11 MMBF, while the harvest available from other lands appears to be decreasing. For this reason, the jobs traditionally supported by the Forest timber harvest may be maintained. In addition, the Forest will provide a range of recreation opportunities and protection of the existing visual quality around major lakes and travel routes to contribute to tourism related employment.

2. Projected Outputs and Activities by Time Period

Projected outputs and activities that will be used for programming, budgeting, and attainment reporting are displayed in Table II-1. The projected budget required to implement the Forest Plan is shown in Appendix C.

Appendix G contains activity schedules for timber activities and Appendix H contains activity schedules for selected other resources. Projects will be added to these activity schedules periodically as they are identified during the continuous project planning process; projects may also be deferred or modified if problems are identified during project level environmental analysis (refer to Chapter IV, Section C, for a discussion of project planning).

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Table II-1

ESTIMATED PROJECTED OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES BY TIME PERIOD

Target Item	Output or Activity	Unit of Measure	Ave. Ann.	Projected Ave. Annual Units				
			First Dec. 1988- 1997	1998- 2007	2008- 2017	2018- 2027	2028- 2037	
Recreation								
T01	Developed Use Capacity	M RVD	723.0	835.8	956.7	1136.6	1268.0	
T02	Dispersed Use Capacity							
	Wilderness	M RVD	63.6	63.6	63.6	63.6	63.6	63.6
	Non-wilderness	M RVD	11090.7	11090.7	11090.7	11090.7	11090.7	11090.7
Wildlife and Fish								
T03	Wildlife Hab. Imp.	Acres	2400.0	2400.0	2400.0	2400.0	2400.0	2400.0
T04	Fish Habitat Imp.	Acres	239.0	239.0	239.0	239.0	239.0	239.0
T05	T&E Habitat Improve.	Acres	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0
Range								
T06	Permitted Grazing Use	M AUM	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
T07	Range Improvement	Acres	1000.0	1000.0	1000.0	1000.0	1000.0	1000.0
T09	Noxious Weed Control	Acres	200.0	500.0	500.0	1000.0	1000.0	1000.0
Soil								
T10	Soil Inventory	M Acres	300.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
	Water Inventory	M Acres	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lands								
T11	Land Exchange	M Acres	7.2	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Minerals								
T12	Minerals Management	Cases	450.0	450.0	450.0	450.0	450.0	450.0
Timber								
T13	Allow. Sale Quantity	MMBF	280.0	350.0	400.0	450.0	500.0	
	Green, recently dead	MMBF	250.0	315.0	380.0	415.0	460.0	
	Salvage, poles, product	MMBF	25.0	30.0	15.0	30.0	35.0	
	Pulpwood	MMBF	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	
T16-17	Reforestation-Approp.	M Acres	8.7	3.7	7.4	8.5	9.1	
T18-19	Reforestation-KV	M Acres	15.9	9.4	12.1	25.5	28.1	
T20	Tbr. Std. Imp.-Approp.	M Acres	5.0	3.9	13.8	7.3	7.8	
T21	Tbr. Std. Imp.-KV	M Acres	1.0	1.3	4.6	2.5	2.6	
T22	Landline Location	Miles	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0
Protection								
T23	Fuels Mgt.-Act/Nat.	M Acres	12.3	12.9	12.4	15.2	15.9	
Facilities								
	Trail Const./Reconst.	Miles	52.0	52.0	52.0	52.0	52.0	52.0
	Road Const./Reconst.							
	Arterial	Miles	11/4	8/1	6/1	6/1	3/1	
	Collector	Miles	34/19	25/3	17/2	18/2	9/1	
	Local	Miles	131/74	96/10	66/7	72/8	35/4	

3. Research Natural Area Objectives

The Regional habitat types listed in Table II-2 have been assigned by the Northern Regional Guide as the Forest's objectives for candidate area (or areas) representative of each assigned type. Establishment reports will be prepared for each area. The table also lists a candidate area(s) representative of each type.

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Table II-2

RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (RNA) OBJECTIVES
Idaho Panhandle National Forests

<u>Habitat Type Code</u>	<u>Vegetative Habitat Type</u> ^{1/}	<u>Occurrence</u> ^{2/}	<u>Existing or Candidate RNA</u>
Forested Types			
260	PSME/PHMA	M	Binarch Creek
520	ABGR/CLUN	M	Upper Shoshone Creek
540	THPL/ATFI	M	Tepee Creek*
			Upper Fishhook Cr.*
			Hunt Girl Creek*
530	THPL/CLUN	M	Upper Fishhook Cr.*
550	THPL/OPHO	m	Hunt Girl Creek*
			Upper Shoshone Creek
570	TSHE/CLUN	M	Potholes
			Tepee Creek*
			Montford Creek*
			Canyon Creek*
			Kaniksu Marsh*
			Hunt Girl Creek*
			Bottle Lake*
			Upper Priest River
			Binarch Creek
620	ABLA/CLUN	M	Hunt Girl Creek*
			Upper Shoshone Creek
			Smith Creek
670	ABLA/MEFE	m	Canyon Creek*
			Hunt Girl Creek*
			Smith Creek
680	TSME/MEFE	M	Upper Shoshone Creek
			Pond Peak*
			Therault Lake
690	ALBA/XETE	m	Canyon Creek*
			Smith Creek
			Upper Shoshone Creek
830	ALBA LUHI	m	Hunt Girl Creek*
			Smith Creek
			Snowy Top
	Populus Tricarpa	m	Spion Kop**
Non-Forested Types			
Alpine	FEVI	m	Round Top
			Canyon Creek*
			Scotchman #2**
			Snowy Top
	Lowland Lakes	m	Section 14 Lakes**
	High Elevat. Lakes	m	5 Lakes Butte**
	Shallow Marsh	m	Kaniksu Marsh*

1/ These vegetative descriptions are abbreviations of species names.

2/ M = Major representative in a zone

m = Minor representative in a zone

* Established RNA's

** Draft Establishment Reports

4. Additional Data Requirements and Accomplishment Schedule

Table II-3 identifies additional requirements that are needed to improve the Forest's data base, to revise current data base inventories to new standards, and to incorporate new data base requirements that have recently been identified. These requirements will be met consistent with budget allocations.

Table II-3

ADDITIONAL DATA REQUIREMENT

<u>Data Requirements</u>	<u>Data Level</u>
Fish habitat survey data for important fishery streams	Regional/Forest Standards
Lake survey data	Regional/Forest Standards
Spawning site analysis	Core and Embeddedness
Land system inventory and Order III soil survey	Regional Standard
Water resource inventory	FSM 2531
Watershed improvement needs inventory	WO Direction, 2/25-7/28/80
Riparian zone delineation-- include survey of First Order Drainage	National Standard
Old-growth stand inventory	Ag. Handbook No. 553, Forest Standards, and Regional Task Force recommendations
Elk winter range delineation and rating for management	Forest Standards & FSH 2609.11
Site-specific stand age class and condition inventory	Regional Standards for Compartment Exam Procedure
Key summer range delineation and allocation of elk habitat potential	Forest Standards and Elk Guidelines for North Idaho
Inventory and loading of vegetative and activity information for testing and use of caribou and grizzly bear cumulative effects models	Regional direction and cumulative effects models

Data Requirements

Existing visual condition

Baseline data Research
Natural Areas

Mineral evaluation of Forest

Data Level

Forest Standards

Forest

Regional/Forest Standards

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C. Research Needs

The following research needs have been identified during development of this Forest Plan. They will be evaluated by the Regional Forester for inclusion in the Regional research program proposal. It is anticipated that more research needs will become apparent during monitoring and evaluation of the Forest Plan as it is implemented. Inventories, surveys, and other resource data that the Forest can provide will be used to support research efforts.

1. Recreation

- a. Determine dollar value of recreation visitor days (RVD's) for various experiences. Develop values for specific recreation uses (camping, hiking, etc.) that reflect the value a user places on recreation in the national forests.
- b. Validate the demand projections for primitive and semi-primitive recreation in northern Idaho. Are current estimates accurate? What is the role of semi-primitive motorized use? Can motorized use demands be met without other user conflicts?

2. Visual Resource

Validate the assumptions made in the Visual Management System as they apply to visual sensitivity levels. Are they accurate? Is there a need for more refinement or number of levels?

3. Elk

Determine habitat components that regulate carrying capacity and develop a cumulative effects procedure to establish existing carrying capacity.

4. White-tailed Deer

Determine winter range requirements in areas of deep winter snows and the importance of thermal cover.

5. Woodland Caribou

Validate the Cumulative Effects Model through studies on animals augmented to the population in comparison to existing animals.

6. Grizzly Bear

Establish base line data on grizzly bears within the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak ecosystems. Test the Cumulative Effects Model developed for the two ecosystems, particularly the disturbance factors.

7. Threatened and Endangered Plants

Determine status and distribution of T & E and rare plants on IPNF.

8. Water Quality/Fishery

Clarify and quantitatively define relationships between logging and road development in forested mountain areas and alterations in the quality of trout habitats. Specific points which are in particular need of clarification are:

- a. The quantification of changes in sediment transport rates to streams resulting from surface disturbances normally associated with logging. The effects of mitigation measures (sediment traps, road surfacing, planting of vegetation, etc., road location and standard, unit location, and silvicultural prescriptions) on transport rates also need better definition.
- b. The quantification of sediment routing coefficients in each geology type. Sediment transport rates from the site of origin to the stream, transport rates within the stream and the effects of instream sediment storage are all in need of clarification.
- c. The effects from timber management activities on bedload (including sediment) movement, fish habitat (pool quality, spawning site conditions) and attributes of stream channels (bank condition).
- d. The recovery period of watersheds degraded due to excessive water yield and sediment movement from management activities.
- e. The establishment of spawning site composition egg to fry survival curves for cutthroat trout. Similarly the quantification of the relationship between rearing habitat sedimentation (embeddedness or gasket effect) and juvenile cutthroat, rainbow and bull trout survival is also needed.
- f. The quantification of recovery rates for fish habitats which have been detrimentally affected by sediment accumulations.
- g. The determination of a cost-effective methodology to monitor the changes in trout habitat conditions over time. The method should be sensitive enough to reveal changes due to land management activities, be associated with a limiting factor in a trout life history, be reproducible over time, and provide statistically verifiable results. The methodology should also be applicable over a geographically wide area in order to enhance inter-forest utilization and communication.

9. Old-Growth

What constitutes old-growth habitat in North Idaho and what species of plants and animals depend on old-growth ecosystems and to what extent.

10. Timber

Determine inter-dependent relationships between stand conditions and susceptibility to and damage from root diseases and insects (including regeneration pests). Determine feasible and cost effective control measures for these damaging agents.

11. Soil

- a. Establishment of benchmark productivity levels for major soils.
- b. Identification of important soil chemical and/or physical factors which could be monitored to determine significant impairment of long-term productivity.
- c. Effects of displacement, compaction, and burning on the productivity of major soils.
- d. Continue to refine the coefficients in the R1/R4 sediment yield model.
- e. Identify the role of tree tops on nutrient cycling in local soil types.

12. Forest Fuels

Develop alternative disposal methods for forest fuels that are cost effective and environmentally acceptable.

13. Community Stability

Study the economic and social impacts of individual Forest Plan implementation at the local and Regional level. What is the economic value of tourism and recreational use on the National Forests in northern Idaho at the local and Regional level?

14. Research Natural Areas

Encourage baseline research on Research Natural Areas.

D. Desired Future Condition of the Forest

This section describes what the future Forest should be like if the Management direction contained in the Forest Plan is implemented. It summarizes the anticipated physical changes which would result from carrying out planned management practices, at two points in time: at the end of ten years and at the end of fifty years (RPA planning horizon).

First Decade

By the end of the first decade of the Forest Plan implementation, there will be some noticeable changes on the Forest.

During the decade the timber program may harvest 2.8 billion board feet (2.5 billion board feet of green or recently dead timber volume, .25 billion board feet of poles or other products volume, and .05 billion board feet of pulpwood volume) from 186,880 total acres treated, including regeneration harvest, overstory removal, commercial thinning, salvage harvest, and uneven-aged management systems. Approximately 60,000 acres may be precommercially thinned. Reforestation may be accomplished on 245,054 acres (including current nonstocked) through a combination of planting and natural regeneration procedures. The age class distribution on suitable timber lands will begin to shift. Mature and overmature stands will be replaced by seedling/sapling stands. Increasing amounts of timber harvest will occur in immature timber stands.

As a result of the timber harvest program, an estimated 1,700 miles of road may be constructed and 970 miles reconstructed during the decade. Many will be closed as discussed below. The roads will also be more narrow and will more closely fit the contour of the land than the roads that have been constructed in the past 10-20 years.

The amount of soils affected by timber harvesting, burning, and road construction will continue to increase. Long-term productivity will be maintained by limiting the area affected by tractor operations and hot burns and by maintaining sufficient large woody debris and tops on the site following timber harvest. Sedimentation levels will be minimized through analysis of harvest, roading, and fire activities and the use of Best Management Practices.

Opportunities for mineral exploration and development will be generally improved as more roads are built.

Early in the decade forage production on the winter range, while sufficient for the existing elk herds, will not provide the carrying capacity for an expanding herd. Through timber harvest and direct habitat improvement projects, increased forage production will be available for an increase in elk numbers by the end of the decade. Scheduling of timber harvests and the resulting forage production are a critical part of this needed forage production. Direct habitat improvement on elk winter range will occur on approximately 18,500 acres through the decade. Summer elk range will be managed toward providing the habitat carrying capacity needed to meet State of Idaho goals for elk. Habitat carrying capacity will be maintained or

increased slightly through an extensive road management program. Except for a test project, no timber sales will be scheduled in the five key IDF&G elk areas (Lost Creek, Turner/Nelson, Indian Creek, Foehl Creek, Cougar/Buck Creek) for the first decade, unless the test project indicates that additional sales can be scheduled which meet management goals for the area.

Grizzly bear and caribou habitat will be maintained and improved. Grizzly bear habitat will be managed through a road management program to provide adequate security. Caribou habitat will be provided by maintaining a balance of seasonal habitats. These seasonal requirements may require vegetative manipulation to maintain the required balance. Habitat for grizzly bear and caribou will be managed to support the IPNF's share of recovered populations, as per the Recovery Plan for the species. There will be sufficient old-growth timber suitable to meet the needs of old-growth dependent wildlife. However, old-growth timber will be reduced below current levels. Fisheries habitat will be improved. This will be done through habitat improvement work, riparian management, management of fisheries access, sediment reduction measures on specific sites, and scheduling of timber harvest activities on important fisheries streams to maintain sediment at acceptable levels. The smolt production potential of this Forest will be slightly less than the current level as the improvement activities cited above will take more than ten years to produce the maximum positive effect on the fisheries.

Developed recreation capacity will be increased to help meet demand. Dispersed recreation capacity will exceed the projected use for all types. Roaded natural recreation capacity will exceed anticipated use. Approximately 146,600 acres of the roadless resource is proposed for wilderness (in addition to 9,440 acres of existing wilderness in Washington state), while an additional 228,500 acres is designated for semi-primitive recreation (some timber harvesting will be permitted on 111,800 acres). The roadless resource will decrease as roadless areas are developed through the timber management program.

The visual patterns of the landscape will continue to change as management activities become more evident on the majority of the Forest.

Permitted livestock use would remain at the present level.

Fifth Decade

By the end of the fifth decade, there will be many noticeable changes on the IPNF as a result of implementation of the Forest Plan.

The timber program may have resulted in the harvest of about 19 billion board feet from 1,250,000 total acres treated, which includes clearcuts, shelterwoods, overstory removals, shelterwood removals, uneven-aged management systems, and intermediate harvests. The Forest may be operating at a long-term sustained yield level of 544 million board feet per year. Reforestation may be accomplished on approximately 1,211,000 acres through a combination of planting and natural regeneration with a substantial portion being planted. Noticeable differences in age classes and distribution will have occurred. Except for areas of suitable land

areas such as wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, botanical, research natural areas, etc., the existing mature timber will have been harvested. The Forest will be almost halfway to regulation. Growth on those areas under management will be approaching capacity through cultural treatments with a total of 478,000 acres having been thinned.

By the end of the fifth decade, the transportation system will be nearly complete. During the five decades, an additional 6,260 miles will be added to the existing 6,000-mile system. While total roaded Forest acres will have increased, the number of roads with use restrictions will also increase with approximately 50-60 percent of all roads on the Forest having some form of use restrictions.

Mineral exploration and development opportunities will be significantly increased due to the timber access roads that will be built.

Total forage production through timber harvest and direct habitat improvement on elk winter range will have increased greatly. Sufficient forage should be available to support an increase in habitat carrying capacity. With the increased access provided through the timber harvest program, elk summer range could become limiting without the effective road management program in place. Habitat for caribou and grizzly bear would be improved primarily through the road management program discussed above and vegetative manipulation necessary to provide the caribou habitat component needs of both species. By this time populations should be approaching recovery. Habitat will be sufficient to support old-growth dependent species although the amount of old-growth timber will be approaching its lowest level. Fish habitat will be better primarily as a result of careful riparian management, investments in habitat improvement, and harvest scheduling to reduce sediment levels. This will result in an increase in catchable trout.

Projected use for primitive and semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation will be met within the designated wilderness areas. Semi-primitive motorized recreation will not meet projected use. Timber harvesting on portions of approximately 500,000 acres that are essentially unroaded today will have occurred. Roaded natural recreation will exceed the projected use primarily due to increased road access. Developed recreation sites will have increased with demand.

The visual patterns of the landscape will be changed significantly, with management activities evident on the majority of the Forest.

Trail mileage will decrease overall as roaded mileage increases.

Permitted livestock will remain near current levels for the next five decades.

E. Standards

Introduction

The Forest-wide standards that are described in this section were developed to:

1. Resolve public issues and management concerns.
2. Direct management to meet Forest-wide goals.
3. Cover resource situations that occur in two or more management areas, or are Forest-wide in scope.

The following standards apply to the National Forest land that is administered by the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. They are intended to supplement, not replace, the national and regional policies, standards and guidelines found in Forest Service manuals and handbooks and the Northern Regional Guide. The standards, when used with prescriptions for the management area (MA), set the overall management direction for the IPNF. They apply Forest-wide, and are in addition to the standards found in the Management Area prescriptions.

General

1. As soon as practicable, and subject to valid existing rights, all outstanding and future permits, contracts, cooperative agreements and other instruments for occupancy and use of lands of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests will be made consistent with the Forest Plan.
2. Subsequent activities affecting the Forest, including budget proposals shall be based on the Forest Plan. Proposed implementation schedules may be changed to reflect differences between proposed annual budgets and appropriated funds.
3. In the event of a catastrophic occurrence (earthquake, fire, flood, etc.), a reevaluation of the Forests' capabilities to meet current goals and objectives will be monitored. This process may result in an amendment or a complete revision of this plan depending on the significance of the impact.

Recreation

1. The Forest will continue to provide a share of recreation opportunities and diversity in relation to other public and private entities; recreation planning and operations will be coordinated with other federal, state, local, and private recreational managers.
2. Forest Service recreational programs will be complementary with other public and private programs where possible.

3. Consult with recreational users and other recreational suppliers to coordinate public needs.
4. Evaluate and authorize service by the private sector on National Forest lands that complement National Forest objectives.
5. Continue existing private recreation uses of National Forest lands only on lands which are not suitable or not needed for public use, providing that long-term public interest is protected.
6. Additional recreation residence sites will not be permitted.
7. Provide a broad spectrum of dispersed and developed recreation opportunities in accord with identified needs and demands. Enhance user experiences by on and off site interpretation.
8. On proposed developed sites treat and maintain timber stands in a manner compatible with recreation objective prior to development.
9. Trailhead facilities in dispersed areas will be minor and limited to resource protection. Off-site interpretation is encouraged.
10. Trails will be managed in accordance with management area requirements as identified in a more site-specific analysis of needs.
11. Cooperate with the State of Idaho in developing a joint management agreement on the Lower Priest River.
12. Maintain the free flowing characteristics of rivers identified as eligible for consideration as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System pending study for suitability. Identified rivers (Coeur d'Alene, North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene, Pack River, and the Little North Fork of the Clearwater) will not be modified to the degree that eligibility or classification would be affected (reference: Chapter 8, Land and Resource Management Planning Handbook).
13. Maintain free flowing and related characteristics of the Lower Priest River and Moyie River until prescribed guidelines in cooperative agreements or ordinances have been approved per River Study recommendations.

Visual

1. Meet adopted visual quality objectives. Exceptions may occur in unusual situations; these will be identified through the project planning process involving an ID Team. Examples of some exceptions are areas where past management practices make it impractical to meet the adopted visual quality objectives (VQO), and large areas where the mortality rate for timber is very high. Mitigation measures should be developed for areas when VQO's are not met.

2. The visual resource has been evaluated based on visual sensitivity levels assigned to travel routes, use areas, and water bodies in and adjacent to the IPNF (See Appendix D). Adjustments in VQO boundaries based on project level analysis will conform with principles in FSM 2380.

Cultural Resources

1. Undertake a systematic program of cultural resource inventory, evaluation and preservation aimed at the enhancement and protection of significant cultural resource values.
2. Preserve significant cultural resources in place whenever possible. Consult the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and, if necessary, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) on the significance, conservation, and preservation of cultural resources.
3. Inventory cultural resources prior to surface-disturbing activities according to the surveying standards outlined in the IPNF Cultural Resource Management Recommendations (Appendix Q).
4. Manage cultural site locational information by means of atlases and cross-referenced inventory site files and a computerized site data file at the Supervisor's office.
5. Discovered cultural resources will be evaluated in relation to published ACHP criteria for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Those resources determined eligible will be nominated to the NRHP with priority being given to sites having the greatest significance and/or greatest interpretive potential.
6. Site-specific management plans shall be prepared for cultural resources determined eligible or listed on the NRHP in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.
7. Enhance and interpret significant cultural sites for the education and enjoyment of the public when such development will not degrade the cultural property or conflict with other resource considerations.
8. Consult area Native American groups, in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, concerning burials or sites of religious significance.

Wildlife

1. **Elk**
 - a. Coordinate with the Idaho Fish and Game Department (IDFG) to allocate the distribution of habitat potential (Appendix B).
 - b. Identify and delineate existing and potential winter range for each elk habitat unit and establish goals for forage production suitable to support desired population levels, including such

tools as designation of permanent forage areas, scheduling of timber harvest, and habitat improvement.

- c. Utilize the "Guidelines for Evaluating and Managing Summer Elk Habitat in Northern Idaho" (Wildlife Bulletin No. 11, 1984, Idaho Department of Fish and Game) for evaluation of effects of proposed activities on elk habitat (Appendix Y, available upon request).
- d. Include lands of all cooperators for habitat analysis where mixed ownership is within Elk Habitat Units.

2. Threatened and Endangered Species

- a. Management of habitat and security needs for threatened and endangered (T & E) species will be given priority in identified habitat. Results of research regarding habitat of T & E species will be incorporated into management direction as it becomes available.
- b. Biological evaluations will be done on any project likely to have an adverse effect on identified habitats of threatened or endangered animals.
- c. Current direction for management of T & E species will be amended or revised to ensure conformance with Species Recovery Plans.
- d. Actively initiate and participate in an information/education program to promote a better understanding of endangered species conservation and recovery both within and outside the Forest Service.

3. Caribou

- a. Consider cumulative effects when evaluating activities within identified habitat (Appendix HH, available upon request).
- b. Cooperate in implementation of the Selkirk Mountain Caribou Management Plan/Recovery Plan (Appendix T, available upon request).

4. Grizzly Bear

- a. Manage grizzly bear habitat according to the Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines (Appendix U, available upon request).
- b. Implement the Cumulative Effects Model as the method for evaluating activities within identified habitat (Appendix V, available upon request).
- c. Strive for at least 70 square miles of security or established threshold level for each grizzly bear management unit in accordance with Identified Ecosystems, Appendix "North Idaho Grizzly Bear Ecosystems."

5. Bald Eagle

- a. Nesting, feeding, and roost areas will be protected in accordance with the Pacific States Bald Eagle Recovery Plan (Appendix W, available upon request).
- b. Develop a site specific bald eagle nest management plan for each located eagle nest on National Forest land as outlined in the Montana Bald Eagle Management Plan (Appendix II) and adopted for use on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests.
- c. Cooperate in research and surveys involving bald eagles on the Forest.

6. Gray Wolf

- a. In areas of reported occurrence, consider maintenance of a high number of prey species (deer, elk) and maintenance of security through road management.
- b. Forward information on reported sightings to the Wolf Recovery Team.
- c. Cooperate in research and data collection involving wolf and wolf habitat.

7. Other Wildlife

- a. Maintain at least minimum viable populations of management indicator species distributed throughout the Forest (see Appendix L for indicator species selection process).
- b. Maintain habitat for cavity nesting species and foraging substrates by implementation of the IPNF Snag and Woody Down Timber Guidelines (Appendix X, available upon request).

8. Peregrine Falcon

- a. Consider areas for possible hacking sites or reintroduction through habitat inventory.
- b. Forward reported peregrine sightings to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- c. Cooperate in research and data collection involving peregrine falcon and its habitat.

9. Sensitive Species

Manage the habitat of species listed in the Regional Sensitive Species List to prevent further declines in populations which could lead to federal listing under the Endangered Species Act.

10. Old-Growth Habitat Management

- a. A definition for old growth is being developed by a Regional Task Force and will be used by the Forest when completed. As an interim guideline, stands classified as old growth should meet the definition given by Thomas (1979).
- b. Maintain at least 10 percent of the forested portion of the IPNF as old growth.
- c. Select and maintain at least five percent of the forested portion of those old-growth units that have five percent or more existing old growth. Areas will be selected as old-growth management stands based on a combination of wildlife, cost efficiency, and other resource values (interdisciplinary process). Existing old growth classified as unsuitable for timber management will be given priority for selection.
- d. Existing old-growth stands may be harvested when there is more than 5 percent in an old-growth unit, and the Forest total is more than 10 percent.
- e. Old-growth stands should reflect approximately the same habitat type series distribution as found on the IPNF.
- f. One or more old-growth stands per old-growth unit should be 300 acres or larger. Preference should be given to a contiguous stand; however, the stand may be subdivided into stands of 100 acres or larger if the stands are within one mile. The remaining old-growth management stands should be at least 25 acres in size. Preferred size is 80 plus acres.
- g. Roads should be planned to avoid old-growth management stands to maintain unit size criteria.
- h. Existing grazing allotments will be honored; however, a long-term objective should be to minimize or exclude domestic grazing within old-growth stands. New allotments in old-growth stands will not be issued.
- i. Goals for lands to be managed as old-growth within those lands suitable for timber production are identified in the management area prescriptions.

Fish

1. Activities on National Forest lands will be planned and executed to maintain existing water uses. Maintain is defined as "limiting effects from National Forest activities to maintain at least 80 percent of fry emergence success in identified fishery streams." The percent is measured from pristine conditions. Current methodology will not detect an impact of less than 20 percent. During the life of the plan, new technologies may permit more precise assessments; however, the goal of this standard will remain as "to maintain 80 percent of fry emergence success."

2. Streams providing spawning and rearing habitat, which are considered critical to the maintenance of river and lake populations of special concern, will be managed at a standard higher than the 80 percent standard. Monitoring will be needed to detect this higher standard. The high value streams are:

HIGH VALUE STREAMS

Upper Marble	Skookum
Catspur	Bird
Foehl	Eagle (Avery R.D.)
Lund	Quartz (Avery R.D.)
Canyon (Avery R.D.)	Johnson
Boundary	North Fork Hayden
South Fork Granite	East Fork Hayden
Blacktail (Priest Lake R.D.)	Granite (Sandpoint R.D.)
North Fork Granite (Priest Lake)	Gold (Sandpoint R.D.)
Trestle	North Gold (lower portion)
North Fork Grouse	Upper North Fork Coeur d'Alene (upstream of Iron Cr.)
Lightning (below falls)	Upper Simmons
Beaver (Priest Lake R.D.)	Upper Cd'A (upstrm. of Spruce Marie Cr.)
Hughes Fork	Upper Wolf Lodge
Grass	Cougar
Deer (Bonners Ferry R.D.)	West Fork, East Fork Steamboat
Upper Priest	Brown
Upper Pack	Trail
Upper Grouse	Upper Tepee (upstrm. of Trail Big Elk Creek)
East Fork Lightning	Savage
Porcupine	
Wellington (below falls)	
Rattle	
Gold (Avery R.D.)	

3. The stream and river segments listed below will be managed as low access fishing opportunities to maintain a diversity of fishing experiences for the public and to protect sensitive fish populations. Special road management provisions will be used to accomplish this objective.

LOW ACCESS FISHING STREAMS

LNF Clearwater River (downstream of Mowich Cr.)	Foehl Cr.
Canyon Cr (Avery R.D.)	Declaration Cr.
Sawtooth Cr.	Marie Cr.
Long Canyon Cr.	Blacktail Cr.
Upper Priest River 1/	FW Slate Cr.

1/ Presently closed to fishing by the State of Idaho.

LOW ACCESS FISHING STREAMS (Cont.)

Upper Coeur d'Alene (between Tepee & Martin)	Marble Cr. (upstream of Hobo Cr.)
Independence Cr.	Clear Cr.
St. Joe River (Between Red Ives & Heller Cr.)	Siwash Cr.
Freezout Cr.	Black Prince Cr.
WF Big Cr.	Skookum Cr.
EF Big Cr.	MF Big Cr.

4. Provide fish passage to suitable habitat areas, by designing road crossings of streams to allow fish passage or removing in-stream migration barriers.
5. Utilize data from stream, river, and lake inventories to prepare fishery prescriptions that coordinate fishery resource needs with other resource activities. Pursue fish habitat improvement projects to improve habitat carrying capacities on selected streams.
6. Coordinate management activities with water resource concerns as described in MA 16, Appendix I, and Appendix O.

Range

1. Opportunities for grazing and other uses of public range resources will be managed to serve the welfare of local residents and communities.
2. On big game winter range and key big game summer habitat, priority will be given to big game needs.
3. The needs of threatened and endangered and sensitive plant and animal species have priority in managing existing range allotments. No new allotments will be established in areas where conflicts can be expected with T & E or sensitive species.
4. Positive livestock control will be required before permitting livestock use on new ranges.
5. Riparian zone and stream bank standards, with periodic monitoring, will be specified in each allotment plan. The IPNF stream condition survey system (COWSED) will be used by 1990 on approximately 100 miles of fisheries streams within grazing allotments to develop the data for correcting stream bank problems.

Timber

1. Both even-aged and uneven-aged silvicultural systems will be employed on the IPNF and will meet resource and vegetation management objectives identified in the Forest Plan. Even-aged silvicultural systems will be applicable over most areas. Uneven-aged systems may be used to achieve special management objectives as determined by the

Interdisciplinary (ID) Team during project analysis. Refer to Appendix A for a more detailed description of silvicultural systems.

2. Timber stands which are substantially damaged by fire, windthrow, insect or disease attack, or other catastrophe may be harvested where this salvage is consistent with silvicultural and environmental standards. All management areas are open to this potential salvage activity, except Management Areas 11 and 14. Public involvement and appropriate NEPA documents will be part of the decision-making process.
3. Recommended changes in timber resource land suitability from the approved Forest Plan will be based upon the criteria contained in 36 CFR 219.14(a), and the rationale displayed in environmental assessments. Changes from suitability classification will be done in accordance with the procedures outlined in Appendix M.
4. Reforestation will normally feature seral tree species, with a mixture of species usually present. Silvicultural practices will promote stand structure and species mix which reduce susceptibility to insect and disease damage.
5. Project design will provide for site preparation and slash hazard reduction practices that meet reforestation needs of the area.
6. Timber harvest schedules and access will be coordinated with intermingled landowners where applicable.
7. Openings created by even-aged silviculture will be shaped and blended to forms of the natural terrain to the extent practicable; in most situations they will be limited to 40 acres. Creation of larger openings must conform with current Regional guidelines regarding public notification, environmental analysis and approval.
8. An area of National Forest land will no longer be considered an opening when vegetation meets management goals established for the management area in accordance with the Regional Guide. Lands in other ownership within or adjacent to National Forest land will be included in the analysis when planning openings. Refer to the Regional Guide for more detail.
9. The silvicultural prescription for each stand will establish the level of management intensity compatible with the management area goals. Preferred species management as identified in the silvicultural prescription will consider both biological and economic criteria.

Soils

1. Soil disturbing management practices will strive to maintain at least 80 percent of the activity area in a condition of acceptable productivity potential for trees and other managed vegetation. Unacceptable productivity potential exists when soil has been detrimentally compacted, displaced, puddled, or severely burned as determined in the project analysis.

2. Projects should strive to maintain sufficient large woody debris to maintain site productivity. Large woody debris is essential for maintenance of sufficient microorganism populations.
3. In the event of whole tree logging, provision for maintenance of sufficient nutrient capital should be made in the project analysis.

Water

1. Management activities on Forest lands will not significantly impair the long-term productivity of the water resource and ensure that state water quality standards will be met or exceeded.
2. Maintain concentrations of total sediment or chemical constituents within State standards.
3. Implement project level standards and guidelines for water quality contained in the Best Management Practices (Appendix S, available upon request), including those defined by State regulation or agreement between the State and Forest Service such as:
 - a. Idaho Forest Practices Rules
 - b. Rules and Regulations and Minimum Standards for Stream Channel Alterations
 - c. Best Management Practices for Road Activities.
4. Cooperate with the states to determine necessary instream flows for various uses. Instream flows should be maintained by acquiring water rights or reservations.
5. Manage public water system plans for multiple use by balancing present and future resources with public water supply needs. Project plans for activities in public water systems will be reviewed by the water users and the State.

Streams not defined as public water systems, but used by individuals for such purposes, will be managed to the standards stated below or to the fisheries standards whichever is applicable.

6. Activities within non-fishery drainages, including first and second order streams, will be planned and executed to maintain existing biota. Maintenance of existing biota will be defined as maintaining the physical integrity of these streams. Best Management Practices (Appendix S), Appendix O, and riparian guidelines will be used to accomplish this objective.
7. It is the intent of this plan that models be used as a tool to approximate the effects of National Forest activities on water quality values. The models will be used in conjunction with field data, monitoring results, continuing research and professional judgment, to further refine estimated effects and to make recommendations.

Air Quality

1. Participate with the State and others in the development and implementation of State Implementation Plans (SIP) that are compatible with management objectives for the IPNF.
2. All projects, contracts and permits must comply with procedural and substantive requirements of the Clean Air Act, State Implementation Plans and State Smoke Management Plans.
3. Develop and use alternative slash (biomass) disposal methods that are practical and biologically sound.
4. Encourage utilization of Forest products to reduce biomass which must be disposed of otherwise.

Minerals

1. In compliance with mining laws and regulations the IPNF will administer lands in cooperation with developers of the minerals resource, recognizing its value as a National Forest resource.
2. Maintain an active liaison with local mining industry and mining associations. Cooperate with federal and state agencies charged with the responsibility of administering laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to the minerals resource and mining operations.
3. Facilitate the exploration and development of critical minerals to the extent practicable, consistent with protection and management of surface resources.
4. Before recommendations are made on any lease application, additional NEPA site-specific analysis of environmental effects will be made.
5. All withdrawals will be inventoried and evaluated to assess their need. Existing mineral withdrawal inventory and evaluation criteria are listed in Appendix K.

Energy

1. Energy conservation and production will be emphasized in all phases of Forest management in conformance with management area goals.
2. Provide a continuing supply of firewood on an equitable basis to the extent supply allows, considering social and environmental concerns.
3. Develop cooperative programs with appropriate public agencies and adjacent large landowners to promote efficient, economic and safe utilization of fuelwood.
4. Confine construction and reconstruction of energy transmission facilities to potential corridors identified by the interagency process at the Regional level when such facilities cross forest boundaries.

5. Encourage development and use of Forest resources for energy production.
6. Projects will consider potential transmission facilities within the project area.
7. Hydroelectric power is a resource of the national forests, and development will be encouraged where it is compatible with other resources and management area direction. Power development is coordinated with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Northwest Power Planning Council, and other interested parties. Power development will be analyzed on an individual project basis.

Lands

1. Private landowners will not be denied reasonable access to their property, subject to compliance with applicable regulations and Forest Service policies. Access across National Forest lands will generally not be authorized if reasonable access is available across private land.
2. Access to National Forest lands will be obtained as needed to meet the goals of the Forest Plan. Nonrestrictive permanent easements will normally be acquired.
3. Access to private lands across National Forest lands will be preserved by special use permits, federal road and trail easements and cost share grants.
4. Utilize criteria in Appendix E in conjunction with the management area direction to analyze proposed land ownership adjustments.
5. Management area goals will be given priority in determining acquisition, retention, and disposal during analysis of proposed landownership adjustments.

Facilities

1. Road construction and reconstruction will be the minimum necessary to efficiently meet safety, user and resource needs.
2. Reflect cost efficiency, cost effectiveness, user needs, safety and environmental concerns in design speed selection.
3. Generally construct single-lane roads to meet objectives of the transportation system.
4. Select the most cost effective road slash treatment options that will meet the management area goals.
5. Coordinate transportation planning, road management, and other permitted uses with state and local agencies and intermingled landowners.

6. Unless a road is determined to be part of the permanent transportation system, the entire roadway will be revegetated and stream crossings removed when management needs are met.
7. Provide and maintain public road and trail access to National Forest lands. Manage roads for public use consistent with management area goals and needs for protection of facilities.
8. Consider minerals development needs in transportation planning.
9. Provide fish passage to suitable habitat areas, by designing road crossings of streams to allow fish passage.
10. Road and trail management will adhere to the management goals of each management area.

Transmission Facilities

1. The following establishes Forest Plan direction for existing and future facilities (electrical transmission, oil, gas and slurry transmission, and communication):

- a. **Exclusion Areas**

Land areas where legislation, laws and regulations dictate the exclusion of man-made facilities.

- Management Area 11**

- b. **Avoidance Areas**

There are two types of avoidance areas:

- (1) Land areas where the ecological setting should not be disturbed by man's activities, and the environmental impacts cannot be mitigated.

Management Area 10
Management Area 12
Management Area 13
Management Area 14
Management Area 20

- (2) Land areas where the construction of transmission facilities may conflict with management area direction but where environmental impacts can be mitigated (mitigation costs could be economically inadvisable).

Management Area 7
 Management Area 17
 Management Area 18
 Management Area 19

National Recreation Trails

c. Available Areas

Management Area 1
 Management Area 2
 Management Area 3
 Management Area 4
 Management Area 5
 Management Area 6
 Management Area 9
 Management Area 15
 Management Area 16

d. Windows

Windows are usually short, narrow passageways through constrained areas which are potential locations for linear transmission facilities, considering engineering and/or environmental factors. The following windows were identified in the draft "Pacific Northwest Long Range East-West Energy Corridor Study," Phase 1, Part A - Rocky Mountains, Part B - Cascade Mountains, Bonneville Power Administration, December 1977:

<u>Window</u>	<u>Management Area Traversed</u>	<u>Status</u>
R12	MA 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 11 and 13	Restricted - Caribou and grizzly bear habitat, proposed Upper Priest Wild River and MA-7
R17	MA 1, 4, 6 and 9	500 KV transmission line under construction through this window.

e. Existing Facilities

The use of existing transmission facilities is specifically continued in accordance with easements, special uses, grants, laws and regulations.

Fire Management

1. Fire protection and use standards are specified by management area. Cost effective fire protection programs will be developed to implement management direction based on on-site characteristics that affect fire occurrence, fire effects, fire management costs and fire caused changes in values. Table 10 (Appendix F) includes appropriate fire suppression responses and summarizes the use of prescribed fire. Standards for management areas define requirements for fire protection activities.
2. The Fire Management Action Plan will be guided by the following Forest-wide standards:
 - a. Management area standards.
 - b. Human life and property will be protected.
 - c. Fire will be used to achieve management goals according to direction in management areas. Implementation guides will be prepared for prescribed fire projects and programs identified in Table 10 (Appendix F) using unplanned ignitions.
 - d. Management area standards will be used in Escaped Fire Situation Analyses as a basis for establishing resource priorities and values.
 - e. The appropriate suppression response for designated old-growth stands in all management areas except in wilderness will result in preventing the loss of old growth. Fire policy in relation to old growth within wilderness will be provided in specific management direction developed for each wilderness area.
 - f. Activity fuels will be treated to reduce their potential rate of spread and fire intensity so the planned initial attack organization can meet initial attack objectives.
 - g. Forest Fuel Management Fund expenditure priorities are:
 - (1) natural fuels that pose a threat to human life and property
 - (2) unfunded activity fuel projects
 - (3) areas where fuels/fire behavior is a threat to management area objectives.

Forest Protection

1. Use integrated pest management methods which provide protection of Forest resources with the least hazard to humans, wildlife, and the environment.

2. Use silvicultural methods and schedule cultural practices which reduce the development and/or perpetuation of pest problems.
3. Vegetation management will favor the use of fire, hand treatment, natural control, or mechanical methods wherever feasible and cost effective. Direct control methods, such as chemical or mechanical, may be used when other methods are inadequate to achieve control.

State and Private

1. Where other ownership comprises 25 percent or more of a major drainage, coordination between owners is encouraged through mutual participation. Coordination may consider such items as: (1) development and scheduled use of resources, (2) an efficiently balanced resource management program, and (3) increased cost effectiveness of functional items such as common contracts for reforestation or thinning.

Community Stability

Participate with local communities in assessing social and economic needs. Manage National Forest lands to help meet community socioeconomic goals consistent with opportunities provided in Forest-wide and management area direction.

The IPNF will use employment programs to help minorities, economically depressed, handicapped and youth groups when consistent with resource management needs.

Lands Council v. McNair, No. 09-36026 archived on January 19, 2011