KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

FOREST PLAN

APPENDIX TWENTY THREE

WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Appendix 23

CABINET MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS ACTION PLAN

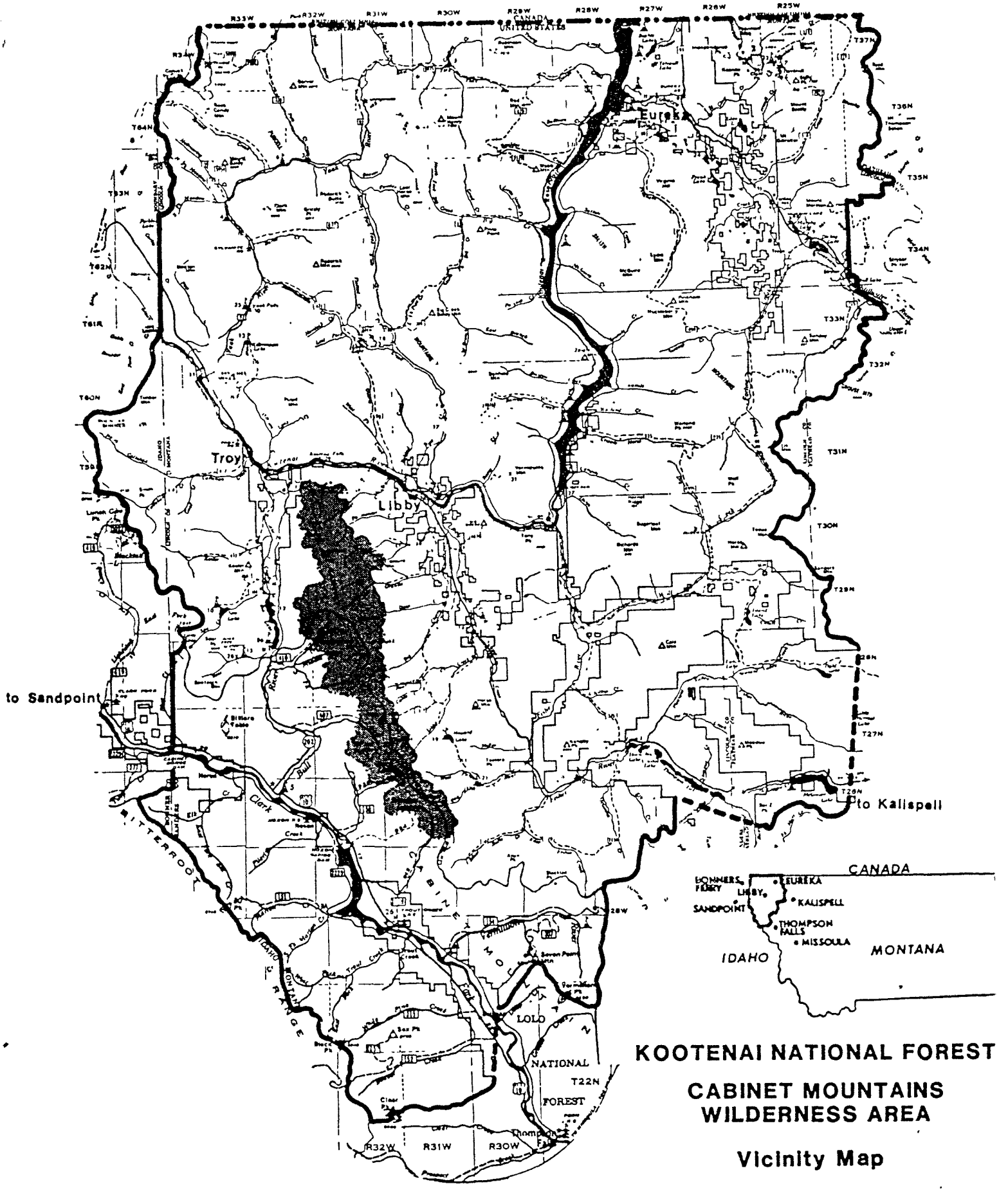
Kootenai National Forest

GOAL STATEMENT

The Cabinet Mountains Wilderness will be managed under the Wilderness Act to minimize the impact of man and his technology upon the wilderness resource. In this area, man will be a temporary visitor who leaves no permanent imprint of his visit. The forces of nature will dominate the landscape and evidence of man's activity will be substantially unnoticeable. Man cannot improve the wilderness resource and manipulation of the flora, fauna, or land surface will be allowed only to the extent necessary to meet provisions of the Wilderness Act.

Management will seek to preserve as much freedom from regulation as possible while preserving the wilderness resource. Management will also seek to minimize the impact of use rather than limit use.

The Wilderness will be managed to provide opportunities for scenic, scientific, educational, conservation and historical purposes. Additionally, opportunities for recreation of a primitive nature featuring solitude, physical and mental challenge, and freedom from unnatural intrusions will be provided. Wilderness offers the chance to experience unmodified ecosystems and to travel without mechanized vehicles in an environment where one's success or failure is directly dependent upon one's ability, knowledge, and initiative. Management of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness shall preserve for future generations an enduring wilderness resource.



KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

CABINET MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS AREA

Vicinity Map

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INTRODUCTION

The Cabinet Mountains Wilderness is a 94,360 acre unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The management of this northwest Montana wilderness is shared by three Ranger Districts of the Kootenai and Kaniksu National Forests. Detailed information about this area is included in Appendix A. There, a reader will find information about geography, ecology, history, current use, and management.

This plan sets a framework for present and future management of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. It initiates a process whereby wilderness conditions are identified that are judged acceptable, then prescribes actions to protect or achieve those conditions in a recreation setting. The process includes the development of measurable objectives related directly to the area.

Currently, the desired standards are described primarily in qualitative terms. Quantitative standards will be established as inventory information is collected and used in identifying acceptable conditions.

Public involvement has been incorporated into the development of this plan. Additional involvement will be solicited when major actions, outside of the scope of this plan, are being considered.

The process follows the conceptual framework listed below.

1. Area Issues and Concerns. This is accomplished in Sections I and II, WILDERNESS OBJECTIVES, and ASSUMPTIONS AND AGENCY CONCERNS.

2. Opportunity Class Identification. Geographic subunits with similar use characteristics are identified in Section III, MANAGEMENT DIRECTION.

3. Desired Conditions. Criteria are defined for the desired social, biological and managerial components of the environment by opportunity class. Quantifiable factors are identified where possible (Section III).

4. Condition Inventory. Site specific inventories are an integral part of this process. These inventories monitor changes in the physical condition of high-use zones in the wilderness. When sites reach a particular level of impacts as identified during the inventory process, then certain management actions, as defined in Section III, will be taken to counter further degradation.

5. Condition Standards. As the inventory process continues, existing qualitative standards will be replaced by quantitative standards for each opportunity class. These standards will define the desired physical condition in measurable terms.

6. Opportunity Class Designation. The process provides for the allocation of areas to opportunity classes, thereby determining what resource and social conditions are to be maintained or achieved. Two opportunity classes were identified based upon current resource situations and recreation use patterns.

7. Implementation and Evaluation. The final steps of the process are the implementation of recommended actions and the evaluation of the effectiveness of those actions. Wilderness managers on each District will implement the ACTION PLAN (Section IV) and Wilderness Information and Education Plan (Appendix G).

I. WILDERNESS OBJECTIVES

A. National Wilderness Preservation System Objectives

Excerpts from the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964:

"Sec. 2(a) In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness. ...and these shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, and preservation of the wilderness character, and for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness..."

"Sec. 2(c) A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain, ... retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; and may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

B. USDA Regulations

Excerpts from 36 Code of Federal Regulations 293.2:

"National Forest Wilderness shall be so administered as to meet the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical uses; and it shall also be administered for such other purposes for which it may have been established in such a manner as to preserve and protect its wilderness character. In carrying out such purposes, National Forest Wilderness resources shall be managed to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land and its specific values of solitude, physical and mental challenge, scientific study, inspiration, and primitive recreation. To that end:

(a) Natural ecological succession will be allowed to operate freely to the extent feasible.

(b) Wilderness will be made available for human use to the optimum extent consistent with the maintenance of primitive conditions..."

C. Forest Service Objectives

Excerpts from USFS Manual Chapter 2320:

"One of the characteristics inherent in the wilderness resource as defined by the Wilderness Act, is that it must offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The presence of large numbers of people in any area even though they may cause little or no damage to the soil, vegetation, water, or wildlife, erode and may eventually remove the wilderness resource from the land. Thus, the capacity of the wilderness to be used and enjoyed, yet preserved for future generations, is twofold: social, or anthropocentric, and ecological, or biocentric."

"The wilderness resource must also be protected so that the evidence of man's work is substantially unnoticeable. The Forest Service has accepted minimum-standard trails and some other improvements as being necessary to manage the wilderness resource. Complete justification will be required for retaining or constructing developments in wilderness..."

"Economy, convenience, commercial value, and comfort are not touchstones of administration or use of wilderness. In wilderness, a tree loses its commercial value; the livestock range cannot be manipulated, or utilized to the same degree as elsewhere; visitors must forego the security and creature comforts found in sites highly developed for their use; natural phenomena are less constrained."

"Public use for recreation purposes is usually one of the greatest demands placed on wilderness. The Wilderness Act makes it clear, however, that such recreation is but one of the purposes of the National Wilderness Preservation System. There are places within wilderness where unique values may dictate that recreation activities must be restricted or entirely excluded. The recreation-use capacity, a combination of the social and ecological elements, must also be given due consideration in determining how much public use is allowed. Public use will be administered to ensure that the wilderness resource is maintained."

"The wilderness resource is dominant in all management decisions where a choice must be made between wilderness values and visitor or any other activities."

The direction that follows will provide guidance to achieve a blend of the social, biological and managerial components within the confines of the above wilderness objectives.

II. ASSUMPTIONS AND AGENCY CONCERNS

This section will review the present status of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness and predict trends in various categories. The concern generated by the agency based on that information follows each section. These concerns will be addressed throughout the document. Detailed information on this Wilderness and its use is found in Appendix A.

A. External Activities

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:
Continued development and modification of lands just outside this narrow Wilderness may have an effect on the wilderness experience of visitors. Timber harvest, road construction, mining, and other private developments will increase the frequency of the sights and sounds of people. Management actions outside the Wilderness boundary will follow direction of the Forest Plan.

As most public lands outside the Wilderness are further developed, the value of untrammeled land becomes greater to visitors looking for wildland recreation experiences. This will contribute to greater numbers of wilderness visitors.

CONCERN: **How will the Forest Service consider the affect of outside management activities on wilderness users?**

CONCERN: **What measures can be taken to regulate non-essential overflights of the wilderness to limit disturbance?**

CONCERN: **How will air quality within the wilderness be protected?**

B. Recreation Use

USE/EXPERIENCE:
Research figures indicate that wilderness recreation use is stabilizing. However, use is concentrated during summer weekends and holidays in areas with popular attractions. Weekday trips in areas without popular attractions or off-season use continues to provide quality experiences.

Outside the Wilderness, development will continue. This development will further the sensation of the wilderness visit being an "island" experience.

While most of the current use in the Cabinets is by area residents, there continues to be an increase in visitors from outside the local area as more people discover this Wilderness. The Cabinets will probably continue to be used primarily as a "weekend retreat" by most visitors.

CONCERN: **How can the Forest Service maintain or enhance opportunities for solitude?**

COMMERCIAL USE:
Interest in commercial use of wilderness lands by outfitters will continue, often in areas of relatively heavy public use.

CONCERN: How will wilderness values be considered in the development of Kootenai National Forest Outfitter/Guide Policy?

C. Resource Protection

RECREATION IMPACTS:
Without proper and timely management, visitors and stock will mean continued loss of vegetation and compaction of soil in areas of concentrated use, and loss of water quality in some local situations. This will be evidenced by incremental enlargements of disturbed sites and creation of new sites. A return to pristine conditions would require long-term exclusion of recreation use. This is not reasonable nor the intent of this plan.

Stock use is expected to remain comparatively light because the Wilderness is easily accessed by many short trails, and cross-country travel is difficult.

It is assumed that there will continue to be insensitive acts disrupting natural ecosystems unless a greater proportion of the visitors arrive educated in the meaning of wilderness and the wilderness experience.

CONCERN: What actions should be taken by the Forest Service to manage use to protect resources?

CONCERN: How should the Forest Service ensure the water quality of lakes and streams?

CONCERN: How can visual quality be restored at degraded campsites?

As long as there is a fishery in Wilderness lakes, there will be a significant number of visitors attracted to confined areas along the shores of these lakes. Fish stocking will continue under the 1979 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Forest Service and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MDFWP) (Appendix D).

CONCERN: How should concentrated use around lake shores be managed to preserve the wilderness resource?

DEVELOPMENTS (Evidence of management activities):
Currently nine lakes are being stocked at four to five year intervals via helicopter. Some lakes will lose their fish population periodically due to freezing. Other lakes will continue to sustain fish populations indefinitely where spawning conditions are favorable.

CONCERN: What opportunities exist to work with the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to manage the fish stocking program to preserve the wilderness environment?

WILDLIFE:
The Wilderness provides a wide range of relatively undisturbed habitats for fish and wildlife species. Wildlife species which use the Wilderness for all or a portion of the year include elk, deer, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, black and grizzly bears, mountain lions, and a host of small game and non-game species. Fish species include westslope and yellowstone cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, bull trout, and brook trout.

The majority of the Wilderness provides high elevation summer range for big game species, but the high basins and slopes also provide good winter denning habitat for grizzly bears. Steep, rocky, south facing slopes provide winter habitat for mountain goats and some bighorn sheep. Timbered drainage bottoms provide year round habitat for a myriad of species.

Use of trails and other areas within Opportunity Class II may reduce habitat effectiveness, particularly where human use is heavy. Such use is felt to have a limited effect on wildlife populations at present. However, continued human activity in the Wilderness may impact animal populations such as mountain goats. Such populations should be monitored along with visitor use to determine if management actions are needed to avoid impacting these populations.

CONCERN: **How will management actions be responsive to species sensitive to recreational use?**

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (T & E):
Grizzly bears are the only known threatened or endangered species within the Cabinet Wilderness. The Cabinet Wilderness is identified as Situation 1 Grizzly Bear Habitat. The proposed Kootenai National Forest Plan is structured to increase the number of grizzly bears to a recovered population. Greater numbers of grizzly bears, achieved by the recovery plan, and greater numbers of wilderness users will increase the probability of grizzly/human encounters. Encounters with people and their food, garbage, or livestock are the primary cause of grizzly bear mortality.

CONCERN: **What management actions would protect habitat effectiveness and limit grizzly/human conflicts?**

CULTURAL RESOURCES:
It is likely that prehistoric sites exist within the wilderness. When such sites are discovered, they will be inventoried and their significance determined. As historic cultural resources are found, their significance will also be evaluated. Direction to remove all facilities and the existence of culturally significant structures may be in conflict. See Appendix A.

CONCERN: **Will measures taken to preserve/mitigate cultural resources be compatible with other wilderness management objectives?**

D. Access

EXTERIOR ACCESS:
Trailheads and access points are abundant and significant changes in location and quantity are not expected. There are no standards regarding levels of development and types of facilities at trailheads.

CONCERN: How can access management be used to affect positive change within the wilderness?

TRAILS:
Trails and travelways concentrate use. Poor location of some trail segments has made maintenance difficult. Years of use has caused some trails to suffer significant physical degradation.

CONCERN: How can trails be managed to protect surface resources and provide an aesthetic experience for users?

E. Fire, Insect, and Disease

Fires will continue to occur at low frequencies within the Wilderness boundaries. Response will be guided by the Fire Action Plan.

Local outbreaks of insect and disease infestations can be expected in the Wilderness. However, environmental conditions do not appear conducive to epidemics. Control activities will be discouraged since insect and disease activity is natural to the ecosystem.

CONCERN: How will the objectives of Fire Management be coordinated with the goals of wilderness management?

F. Minerals

Effective January 1, 1984, under provisions of Section 4(d)(3) of the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness was withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights. Nearly 900 mining claims were staked within the Wilderness prior to January 1, 1984. No mineral leases have been issued for the Wilderness.

The Forest Service is presently examining Wilderness mining claims to determine which claims had established valid rights prior to the withdrawal date. Thus far, approximately 350 mining claims have been examined of which 105 claims have been determined to be valid. Development on these claims has been proposed by ASARCO, Inc. and U.S. Borax and Chemical Corporation (Pacific Coast Mining).

Section 4(d)(2) of the Wilderness Act allows for mineral-related activities outside of valid mining claims providing such activity is compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment. Mineral-related activities under Section 4(d)(2) might be expected in conjunction with development of valid mining claims.

Because of the scope, magnitude, and many uncertainties related to the potential mineral developments, project specific analysis will be required to evaluate and determine the effects such activities will have on the Wilderness and other resources. This action plan, therefore, will not address the mineral-wilderness issue.

III. MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

A. General Direction

General direction for the management of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness is found in the proposed Kootenai National Forest Plan. Wilderness is included in Management Area 7 of the prescription portion of the Forest Plan (Chapter III). Additions to this Wilderness, if designated by Congress, will be addressed by an addendum to this plan.

Response to the concerns identified in Section II, ASSUMPTIONS AND AGENCY CONCERNS will be of a general nature when the entire Wilderness is potentially affected. Following is the general direction applicable to the Wilderness as a whole.

1. External Activities

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:
During proposed project analysis, the potential impacts on the wilderness resource will be assessed where appropriate. The project leader will be responsible to see that direction and management actions set forth in this plan, and the Kootenai Forest Plan, are integrated into the project proposal.

AIRCRAFT OVERFLIGHTS:
Make an effort to minimize the number of Forest Service authorized flights over the Wilderness. Seek cooperation from all parties, through education, to make an effort to minimize other flights. The Forest Air Officer will be responsible for coordination and communication efforts. Both fixed-wing and helicopter flights are proliferating in wilderness airspace and solitude is suffering. Reconnaissance, radio-tracking, mineral activities and other functions are leading to increased flights.

AIR QUALITY:
External activities within Forest Service control that affect air quality should be scheduled to reduce temporary degradation of the Wilderness airshed. Activities outside of Forest Service responsibility that negatively affect the airshed will be identified to the State Air Quality Control Board.

2. Recreation Use

USE/EXPERIENCE:
One of the more significant factors impacting solitude and physical site features is group size. Large groups tend to expand areas of impacted soil and affected vegetation. Large groups are usually noisier than the same number of people in multiple small groups. Additionally, this Wilderness has very limited opportunities for extended trips, therefore large numbers of packstock should not be needed for supplies.

A Forest Supervisor's Order will establish a maximum group size of eight people. Stock users will also be limited to one and a half head of stock per person up to eight head. A person travelling alone will be allowed to use two head of stock. Use by groups exceeding the stated limits may be authorized in writing by the Libby, Troy, or Cabinet District Rangers.

Many sites, whether day use or overnight, under current horse use practices will not accommodate a large number of stock without significant site damage. At the same time, we have little basis for restricting stock numbers at a specific site, but we recognize that large groups potentially cause more damage. Therefore, based on site damage concerns, the stock limit per party is set at eight to be consistent with the limit on people per party. This limit may be exceeded at the discretion of the ranger by issuing a written permit. Limits on number of people per party and number of stock per party is also based on concerns for social conflicts. Most of the trails in the Wilderness lead to lakes which are destination sites for fishing, camping, and scenic viewing. User numbers tend to rise on weekends, holidays, and during periods of fair weather or good fishing. At times the number of users may exceed wilderness visitor's tolerance for social contact. This is further justification for restricting people and stock numbers per party. When considering issuing permits for larger parties, rangers may consider social impact in relation to weekends, holidays, weather, or other indicators of expected use levels.

This Wilderness encompasses primarily subalpine and alpine habitats. Such habitats are sensitive to disturbance due to short growing seasons, poorly developed soils, and harsh weather. Generally, forage suitable for stock use in these habitats is limited. Therefore, use of supplemental feed for recreational stock will be encouraged through information and education. Special stock holding sites may be designated, and stock would be required to use such sites.

Signs will be used at Wilderness trailheads to inform potential visitors of mineral activity and management fires.

COMMERCIAL USE:
Commercial use within the Wilderness requires a Special Use Permit. Permits will be issued only for day use except for existing approved camps. Each Ranger District has established limits for the maximum number of overnight service days for this Wilderness. Commercial use is subject to all laws, regulations, and direction pertinent to the enterprise and general wilder- ness use. It is recognized that this Wilderness offers some opportunities for Outfitter/Guide services. However, the small size, easy access and high use limits the need.

3. Resource Proctection

DEVELOPMENTS:
Fish stocking is expected to continue in the wilderness in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix D). Emphasis will be placed on coordination with MDFWP concerning the MOU to modify stocking procedures which may negatively effect wilderness resource.

WILDLIFE:
Where recreation use is adversely impacting sensitive wildlife species, management will attempt to modify that use. Education will be used to inform people of potential recreation impacts to wildlife species.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (T & E):
The entire wilderness is classified as Situation 1 Grizzly Bear Habitat. Generally, no new trails will be constructed. However, trail relocation will be considered to improve habitat effectiveness. Information and education programs will stress avoidance of encounters through proper handling of food, garbage and other attractants. Wilderness managers will ensure that such actions are taken.

CULTURAL RESOURCES:
The Forest Archaeologist will be notified of discoveries of possible cultural resources. Evaluation of significance will be completed prior to modification of sites. Impacts to significant sites will be mitigated.

4. Access

EXTERIOR ACCESS:
Road management decisions will consider impacts to wilderness. Trailheads will be signed (trail name, map, prohibited acts, and resource conditions) and maintained. Wilderness access trails will be closed to motor vehicles at trailheads.

Improved access is not an objective for Opportunity Class I area, without trails. Existing access will not be marked in any way that would lead to increased visitor use. Future access construction will be discouraged.

Improved road access is not an objective for Opportunity Class II area, with trails. This does not preclude standard maintenance to prevent resource degradation. Routes to trailheads will be marked or signed for directional purposes where necessary. There will be no signs which are promotional in nature. Changing access to trailheads may be used to alter undesirable use patterns. Access trails to Opportunity Class I areas will not be maintained.

TRAILS:
The recreation trail system represents the largest impact of man on the wilderness. Trails serve to bring people into the wilderness and concentrate them. This has a profound influence on the social elements of the wilderness experience--particularly solitude. Ideally, the wilderness should offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation opportunities, but use patterns and topography do not allow for this.

Generally, no new trails will be constructed. Travelways will not be maintained in Opportunity Class I areas (areas without trails). Trails in Opportunity Class II areas (areas with trails) will be maintained to a maximum of Level III (Appendix E). Relocation and reconstruction may occur to protect resources as long as it is compatible with T & E species. Wilderness managers will develop annual schedules of trail maintenance. These actions will ensure that a spectrum of recreation opportunities is provided.

5. Fire

Decision criteria for managing unplanned ignitions should be re-evaluated to determine if wilderness management objectives are being met. The plan's content will reflect current Wilderness fire policy approved in 1985. Wilderness visitors will be advised at trailheads of the existence of management fires within the Wilderness.

6. Management Actions

To determine the type and extent of management actions appropriate for different portions of the Wilderness, two distinct opportunity classes are identified. The opportunity classes are delineated according to the biological, social, and managerial setting. The characteristics of each class are described in terms of the existing resource conditions, accessibility, and potential of encounters with others. Achieving and maintaining desired standards for each of these elements requires a suitable management response. A description of the classes and management direction follow.

The following is a list of potential management actions applicable to each Opportunity Class.

OPPORTUNITY CLASS I (areas without trails)	OPPORTUNITY CLASS II (areas with trails)
Information and Education	Information and Education
Ranger Contacts	Ranger Contacts
Limit Group Size	Limit Group Size
Stock Limit per Group	Stock Limit per Group
Campsite Obliteration	Campsite Restoration/Obliteration
No New Developments without Analysis	Trail Reconstruction*/Relocation*
Facility Removal	Facility Development*/Removal
No Trail Maintenance	Trails Maintained to Maximum Level III
Road Management	Trailhead and Road Management
Bear Country Camping Techniques	Bear Country Camping Techniques
	Open Fire Limitations
	Campsite Closure*
	Overnight/Site Specific Stock Limits*
	Equipment Requirements
	Relocate Outfitter Camps
	Supplemental Feed Requirements

*Actions to be implemented only when resource damage or safety hazard exists.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION:
The Information and Education Action Plan is found in Appendix B. The Plan will be updated as needed by the Districts.

SAFETY:
Visitors will be self-reliant in the Wilderness. Search and rescue operations will be coordinated with the County Sheriff's Department. Use of motorized equipment in such operations will be in accordance with Forest Service Regional Policy.

VISITOR CONTACT:
Wilderness Rangers will perform the majority of on-the-ground work and visitor contacts.

B. Opportunity Class I Direction (Areas Without Trails)

1. Recreation Use

This Opportunity Class includes pristine areas of the wilderness that are without recreation trails. There may be game trails or other obvious ways or routes which have light use by backpackers but almost no stock use. There are many remote basins and valleys without fishable lakes. Fish stocking to develop a fishery, has been attempted at many lakes in this class without success. The opportunity for solitude is high, and one would not normally expect to see other groups. There is little evidence remaining from recreation use in these areas.

2. Resource Protection

RECREATION IMPACTS:
Normally, evidence of campsites will be obliterated and the site returned to a natural appearance. Campsites may be allowed to remain where repeated use is expected.

DEVELOPMENTS:
Generally, there will be no construction of trails or other facilities within this class. Requests for research or mineral development facilities will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis; permanent facilities are discouraged. Existing travelways will be left in place, but not maintained or marked. Fish stocking does not currently occur and is not desirable within this area. Existing facilities, except significant cultural resources, will be removed.

3. Management Actions

INFORMATION/EDUCATION:
Areas within Class I will not be promoted in maps or wilderness literature. There will be no signs used in these areas other than wilderness boundary markers. Visitors may encounter mining claim corner markers. Education programs speaking to these areas will use a no-trace camping theme.

SAFETY:
Visitors shall be self-reliant in this area. Search and rescue operations will be coordinated with the County Sheriff's Department in emergency situations. Use of motorized equipment in such operations will be in accordance with Forest Service Regional Policy. There will be no developments or signing which would imply agency responsibility for visitor safety.

VISITOR CONTACTS:
Wilderness Rangers will not normally visit these areas except to spot-check for and correct specific problems.

C. Opportunity Class II Direction (Trails and Destination Areas)

This Opportunity Class is a delineation of trail corridors and more heavily used lake basins. Most lakes in this class are stocked with fish and have relatively easy access. These basins are very scenic, wildlife is often seen, and flowering plants are abundant. The lake basins and the trail corridors accessing them total less than 15 percent of the Wilderness acres, but account for most of the recreation use.

Research and observation in the Cabinets lead to this general observation about Cabinet Mountains Wilderness visitors: the majority of people take hikes of short duration, usually on a summer weekend or holiday, and more often than not, fishing is a key activity (See Appendix A).

Hiker use is steadily expanding in terms of geographical dispersion. Use has resulted in creation of new sites, expansion of camp areas, vegetation loss, tree damage, and human waste problems.

Use of stock has traditionally been light and accounts for less than 10 percent of total wilderness use. Stock use can be more evident than hiker use, resulting in soil and vegetation damage near campsites and lake shores, and along trails. At sites where there is a history of horse use, bare compacted soil is expanding, and tree death occurs due to girdling and root exposure.

Easy access and good fishing are important factors in generating use, particularly when combined. Good fishing typically occurs several years after successful stocking. Current fish stocking will continue in some lakes under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Forest Service and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (Appendix D).

Campsites in Class II have developed from repeated visitor use of the same place, and they occasionally occur in locations which impact both the biological and social environment. A typical lake basin in the Cabinets has three to five recognizable campsites.

Another impact on the quality of a visitor's experience is the loss of solitude suffered from a number of other people being at or near the same place at the same time. Given the enclosed nature of the lake basins in Class II, the long term solution to greater numbers of people impacting each other's visits is to use management techniques that attempt to stabilize the number of visitors. Management will seek to improve the quality of the visit to popular destination areas without using a permit system for all visitors.

1. Recreation Use

USE/EXPERIENCE:
Use of these areas will not be promoted. Management activities which maintain or enhance the wilderness resource, solitude, or primitive forms of recreation will be implemented. A list of appropriate management actions can be found in the preceeding section III.A., General Direction (Page 12). A decision to initiate any of these actions will be based upon a site-specific need.

Lakeshores are particularly sensitive to recreation use. Where sanitation, space limitations and soil erosion indicate, restrictions on overnight use and/or stock use will be implemented.

COMMERCIAL USE:
Commercial use will be managed on a case-by-case basis via the special use permit process. Areas allocated for commercial camping will require precise location and prior approval. Maximum wilderness party size and stock number restrictions, as well as all other regulations, apply to commercial use.

2. Resource Protection

RECREATION IMPACTS:
Use of open fires creates impacts in many ways. It results in blackened rocks, soil sterilization, firewood depletion, and damaged vegetation. Wood suitable for camp and cookfires, which is dead and down, is very finite in the high basins of the Cabinets. At some sites visitors have defaced live trees and snags in their efforts to secure wood. This causes a degradation of the visual quality and the wilderness experience. In certain areas, specified in the action plan, open fires will be prohibited. The use of stoves will be promoted as the alternative.

At Leigh Lake, use patterns are such that overnight camping is no longer appropriate. A Combination of factors such as particularly easy access, limited camping space, and heavy day use occur here. In this area, day use activities will be emphasized and overnight camping will prohibited.

When unnecessary or poorly located sites appear near existing sites, the use of existing sites will be promoted by trailhead signing. Closed sites may be posted if trailhead signing is ineffective.

New sites may be allowed if it can be shown that opportunities for solitude will be improved. New sites will also be used to minimize resource impacts by redirecting use, or to provide an alternative to poorly located sites.

In exceptionally fragile environments and areas of limited space, people and stock use may be restricted.

Individual site inventories will be completed to provide the basis for quantitative standards and ultimately management actions. Typical forms and instructions for their use are found in Appendix F.

DEVELOPMENTS:
Within the Wilderness signing will be used when needed to meet a wilderness objective and not as a convenience to the visitor. Signs that may be permitted include wilderness boundary signs, directional signs at trail junctions, and administrative signs. Internal signing of trail junctions will occur only when maps cannot adequately serve the wilderness user. Trail signs will display the trail name or number, not the destination or distance.

Fish stocking of lakes within this zone will adhere to the Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix D). Annual communication between the agencies is essential to the fulfillment of this agreement.

Wilderness latrines will be acceptable in very few situations, such as where high use in a confined area creates sanitation problems. The assumption is that in certain areas the proliferation of human waste "back in the bushes" may increase faster than natural processes can decompose it. Placement of such facilities would protect wilderness experiences in addition to water quality.

Facilities for stock users may be installed when resource degradation indicates the need and other management actions have proven ineffective.

Generally, facilities will only be constructed as a final alternative to minimize resource damage.

3. Access

TRAILS:
Trail relocation will be allowed when portions of trails are suffering significant resource damage, pose unusual safety hazards, or are impacting habitat effectiveness for grizzly bear. Trails will be maintained to a maximum of Level III (Appendix E).

4. Management Actions

INFORMATION/EDUCATION:
Maps and literature will be informative rather than promotional. The Wilderness Education Action Plan (Appendix B) will be used as a means of informing users of the intent and features of this plan, as well as techniques of low impact camping and the proper use of wilderness. District wilderness managers will accomplish their portion of the Action Plan and update it as needed.

Trailhead signs will be used to implement portions of this plan. General wilderness information will be kept to a minimum to avoid competition with the more pertinent site specific information.

There may be occasions when it is necessary to put discreet messages at sites within the wilderness to redirect or restrict use. These will be used only after trailhead signing has been shown to be ineffective.

SAFETY:
Visitors will be self-reliant in this area. Search and rescue operations will be coordinated with the County Sheriff's Department in emergency situations.

VISITOR CONTACT:
Opportunity Class II areas will be the target of most management visits. Because there are a large number of access points, visitors will encounter management personnel infrequently--primarily in the more heavily-used areas on weekends and holidays. Regulatory information will be clarified for visitors. Serious violations will be referred to Forest law enforcement personnel or local and state agencies.

IV. SITE-SPECIFIC ACTION PLAN

This Action Plan details the actions necessary to fulfill the objectives of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Action Plan on a site specific basis. The Action Plan is meant to be dynamic, and will be reviewed and updated periodically as objectives are established.

A. Opportunity Class I: Specific Area Direction

Management Actions: The Forest Service as trail manager does not plan to maintain or sign the following trails:

- Klatawa Lake*
- Mill Creek*
- Williams Creek*
- Libby Creek*
- Ibex Creek
- Engle Lake (alternate route 926)*
- Dad Peak (alternate route 987)

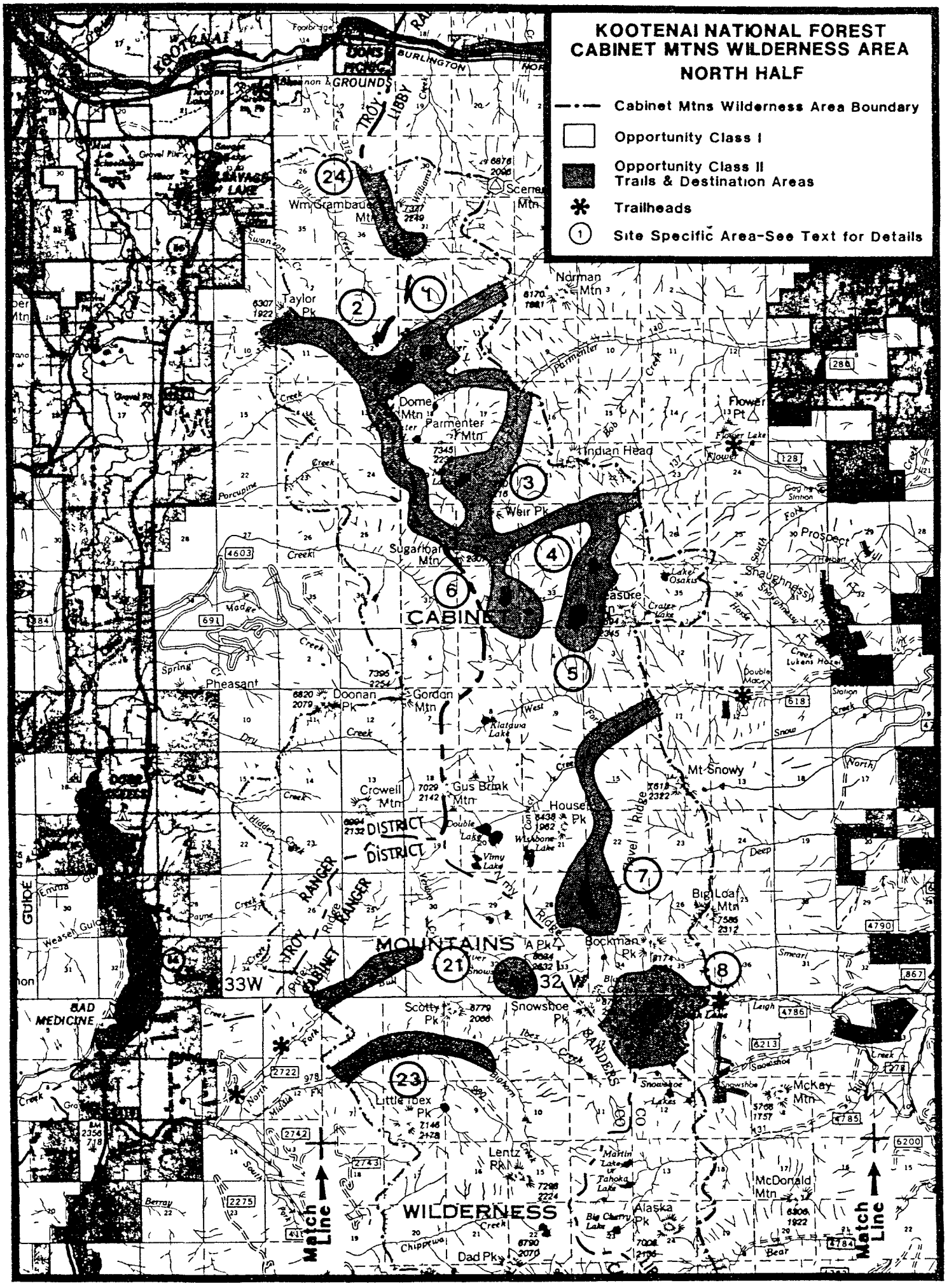
(* indicates trails that are not displayed on the following maps.)

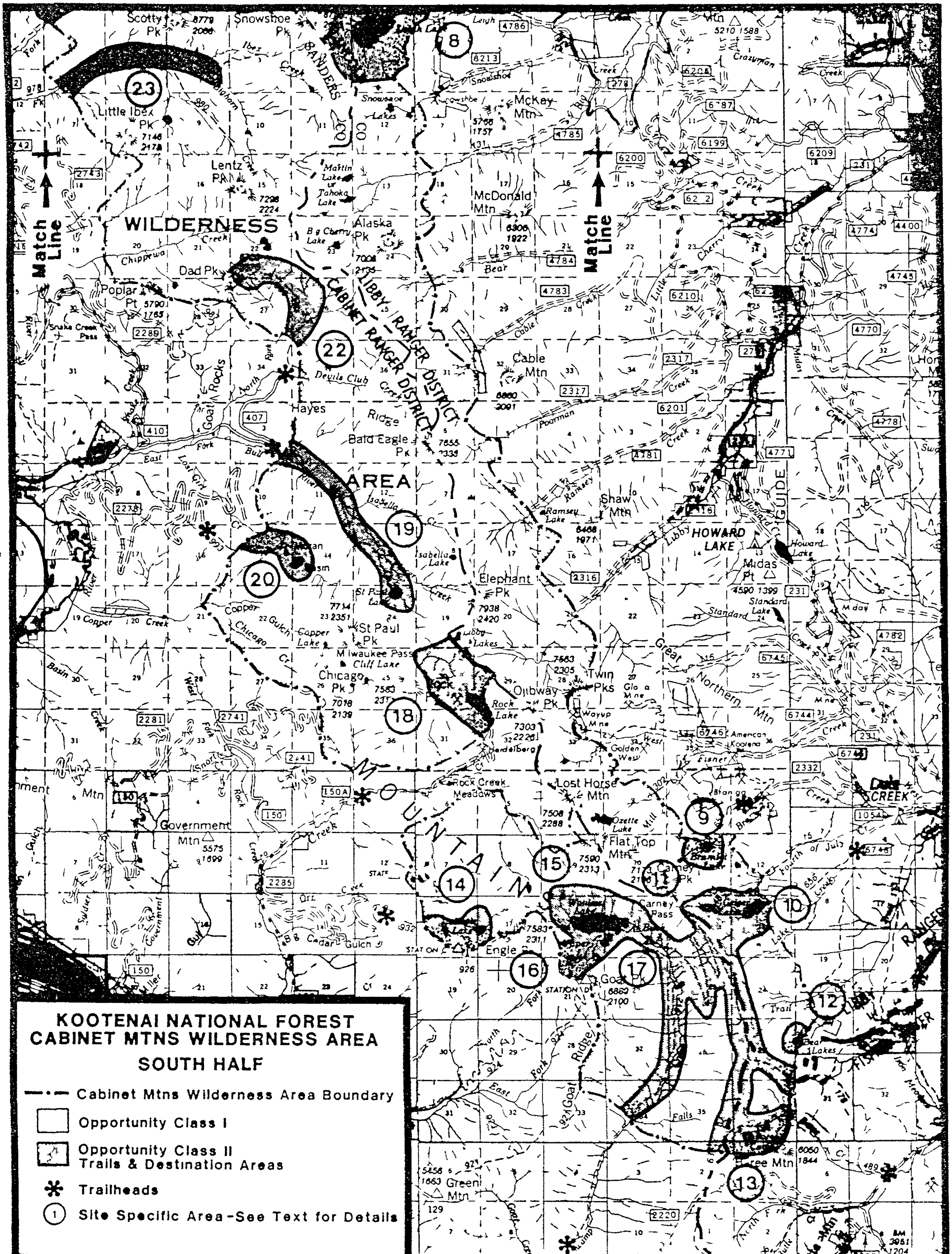
These trails have had little or no recent maintenance and use is very low.

Any work in other locations that may be proposed by volunteer or other groups will be coordinated with the Forest Service.

Coordinate the opportunity for removal of the Bald Eagle Peak snowcourse in Poorman Creek with the Soil Conservation Service.

Maps displaying the Opportunity Areas are on the following 2 pages.


KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST
CABINET MTNS WILDERNESS AREA
NORTH HALF
Cabinet Mtns Wilderness Area Boundary
Opportunity Class I
Opportunity Class II
Trails & Destination Areas
Trailheads
Site Specific Area-See Text for Details
Wm Grambauer Mtn
Scenic Mtn
Taylor Pk
Norman Mtn
Dome Mtn
Parmenter Mtn
Indian Head
Flower Pt
Weir Pk
Sugarloaf Mtn
Prospect
Shaughnessy
CABINET
Pheasant
Doonan Pk
Gordon Mtn
Mt Snowy
Crowell Mtn
Gus Brink Mtn
House Pk
Big Loaf Mtn
Bockman Pk
MOUNTAINS
33W
32W
Scotty Pk
Snowshoe Pk
BAD MEDICINE
Little Ibex Pk
McKay Mtn
Lentz Pk
McDonald Mtn
Alaska Pk
WILDERNESS
Dad Pk
Match Line
Match Line


KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST
CABINET MTNS WILDERNESS AREA
SOUTH HALF
Cabinet Mtns Wilderness Area Boundary
Opportunity Class I
Opportunity Class II
Trails & Destination Areas
Trailheads
Site Specific Area-See Text for Details
WILDERNESS
AREA
CABINET RANGER DISTRICT
LIBBY RANGER DISTRICT
MOUNTAIN
Match Line
Match Line
Scotty Pk
Snowshoe Pk
Little Ibex Pk
Lentz Pk
McKay Mtn
McDonald Mtn
Alaska Pk
Dad Pk
Poplar Pt
Snake Creek Pass
Hayes
Bald Eagle Pk
Cable Mtn
Shaw Mtn
HOWARD LAKE
Midas Pt
Elephant Pk
St Paul Pk
Milwaukee Pass
Cliff Lake
Chicago Pk
Twin Pks
Ojibway Pk
Rock Lake
Lost Horse Mtn
Flat Top Mtn
Government Mtn
Rock Creek Meadows
Carney Pk
Carney Pass
Engle Pk
Goat Pk
Green Mtn
Devils Club
Isabella Lake
Libby Lakes
Copper Lake
Ozette Lake
Standard Lake
Howard Lake
Snowshoe Lakes
Martin Lake
Tahoka Lake
Big Cherry Lake
Wayup Mine
Golden West
American Kootena
Great Northern Mtn
Bear Lakes
23
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19
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16
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8

B. Opportunity Class II: Specific Area Direction

1. LOWER CEDAR LAKE BASIN

Current Situation: The basin is accessed by five miles of mainline trail from a well-signed trailhead. A directional sign to Cedar Lakes is located along U.S. Highway 2. Recreation use is high; day hiking, backpack camping and fishing are primary activities. The fishery is self-sustaining. Five existing campsites are found near the lake. Nearly half the users originate from outside the local area, often in parties exceeding eight people. Stock use is increasing, as the basin is along a popular horse route to Upper Cedar Lake.

Problems:
- Five campsites in close proximity.
- Campsite impacts are moderate and trending toward severe.
- Vegetation loss, bare soil, tree damage.
- Loss of solitude.

Management Actions:
- Obliterate two minimally impacted campsites.
- Restore three moderately impacted campsites.

2. UPPER CEDAR LAKE BASIN

Current Situation: Recreation use of this basin is high with nearly half of the visitors originating from outside the Libby-Troy area. The basin is frequented by large organizational groups and receives the heaviest stock use on the east side of the Cabinets. Backpack camping and fishing dominate activities. The fishery is self-sustaining. Five campsites are found near the lake outlet. The area is one mile above Lower Cedar Lake by mainline trail. The basin is the start of alternative routes to Parmenter Creek, Taylor Peak and the Cabinet Divide.

Problems:
- Campsites are moderately to severely impacted.
- Vegetation loss, bare soil, tree damage, manure accumulation
- Loss of solitude.
- Stock use within high-water mark of lake.

Management Actions:
- Rehabilitate one severely impacted campsite.
- Restore three moderately impacted sites.
- Restrict stock use on one site within high water mark of lake.

3. MINOR LAKE BASIN

Current Situation: Recreation use of this basin is low and originates almost totally from the local area. The basin is accessed by 8 miles of mainline trail from a poorly known trailhead located on the residential fringe of Libby. Backpack camping and fishing are prime activities, and stock use is infrequent. Flower and Cedar Creeks are accessible by trail from this basin. The fishery is self-sustaining. 3 campsites are located in close proximity to the lake outlet.

Problems:
- Vegetation loss, bare soil and tree damage.
- Lakeshore campsite is severely impacted

Management Actions:
Rehabilitate one severely impacted campsite.
Restore one moderately impacted campsite.

4. LOWER HANGING VALLEY BASIN

Current Situation: The basin is accessed by four miles of trail of which the last mile and a half is a very steep marked route. The trailhead and access route to it are well signed. Recreation use is high. Day use hiking and fishing dominate, and stock use is not possible. The fishery is self-sustaining. Three campsites are located near the lake outlet. The basin contributes to the Libby municipal water supply.

Problems:
- Campsites moderately impacted.
- Vegetation loss, bare soil and tree damage.
- Unsightly marking of route.

Management Actions:
- Obliterate one minimally impacted campsite.
- Restore two moderately impacted campsites.
- Trail access will continue as a marked route and not be improved.
- Painted route markers will be disposed of.

5. UPPER HANGING VALLEY BASIN

Current Situation: Recreation use of this basin is high and dominated by backpack camping and fishing. The basin is one mile by easy trail from Lower Hanging Valley. The fishery is self-sustaining. Four campsites are located near the lake outlet. Trail access dead ends at this basin, cross country travel to Sky Lakes basin occurs. In Libby municipal water supply area.

Problems:
-Campsites moderately impacted.
-Vegetation loss, bare soil.

Management Actions:
-Restore three campsites.
-Obliterate one minimally impacted campsite.

6. SKY LAKES BASIN

Current Situation: This high recreational use basin is accessed by six miles of mainline trail from a well signed trailhead. Major activities are backpack camping and fishing. Large groups are commonly encountered during peak use periods. Overnight stock use is infrequent. Lower Sky Lake is stocked with westslope cutthroat trout at five year intervals. Four campsites are in close proximity to the lake. The basin is the origin of the Libby municipal water supply.

Problems:
- Campsites are moderately to severely impacted.
- Vegetation loss, bare soil, tree damage and large camp areas.
- Numerous fire rings.
- Loss of solitude.
- Campsites at the lakeshore are potentially polluting the lake .

Management Actions:
- Rehabilitate one severely impacted site.
- Restore two moderately impacted sites.

7. GRANITE LAKE BASIN

Current Management Situation: Recreation use of this basin is very high. Backpack camping and fishing are frequent activities. The basin is accessed by six miles of gentle mainline trail from a well signed trailhead. Access routes to the trailhead are also signed. Overnight stock use is infrequent. Nearly forty percent of the users originate from outside the local area and large groups are common. This is the only Wilderness lake known to have a native fishery prior to stocking efforts. Four campsites are located in close proximity to the lake.

Granite Creek Falls is located two and a half miles from the trailhead. It receives heavy, local day-use.

Problems:
- Campsites at the lake are moderately impacted.
- Campsite at the falls is severely impacted.
- Vegetation loss, bare soil, tree damage.
- Loss of solitude.
- Exotic weeds introduced.

Management Actions:
- Obliterate one minimally impacted campsite at the lakeshore.
- Restore two moderately impacted campsites at the lakeshore.
- Temporarily close and rehabilitate campsite at the falls and provide an alternate campsite.
- Inventory weed species and extent of infestation.

8. LEIGH LAKE BASIN

Current Situation: Recreation use of this basin is the highest within the Wilderness. Day use activities dominate and foot travel is currently the only safe means of access. Fishing is not a significant attraction. Five campsites are located in close proximity to the lake. Some overnight use occurs. Travel through this basin is the most common access to Snowshoe Peak summit. It is common for 35 to 40 day visitors to be in close association during peak use. Steep, rocky headwalls with few trees surrounding the lake make apparent the sights and sounds of persons present. The basin is accessed by one an a half miles of steep trail from a signed trailhead.

Problems:
- Loss of solitude during peak use periods.
- Campsites are moderately impacted and trend toward severe.
- Vegetation loss, bare soil, tree damage.
- Numerous fire rings.
- Limited camping space results in co-mingling of day users in campsites.

Management Actions:
- Prohibit overnight camping within the basin.
- Prohibit stock use of trail and basin for safety reasons.
- Restore campsites.
- Identify alternative campsites away from the lake.

9. BRAMLET LAKE BASIN

Current Situation: Recreation use of this basin is moderate. Day use activities and access by hiking dominate. Stock users visit the area infrequently. Fishing is not a significant attraction although the fishery is self-sustaining. Four campsites are located in close proximity to the lake. Some overnight use occurs. Access to the lake is one and a half miles by gentle trail from a signed trailhead. The last two miles of road to the trailhead are very rough.

Problems:
- Campsites are moderately impacted.
- Vegetation loss, bare soil.

Management Actions:
- Obliterate the two minimally impacted campsites.
- Restore two moderately impacted campsites.
- Discourage overnight stock use.
- Make no improvements to access road.

10. LOWER GEIGER LAKE BASIN

Current Situation: Recreation use of this basin is very high. Day use activities, fishing and hiking dominate. Some overnight use occurs. Stock users visit the basin infrequently. The basin is accessed by one and a half miles of gentle trail from a signed trailhead. The fishery is self-sustaining. Five campsites are located in close proximity to the lake.

Problems:
- Campsites are moderately to severely impacted.
- Tree damage and death from open fire use, firewood depletion.
- Site enlargement and root exposure from overnight stock use.
- Loss of solitude.
- Vegetation loss and bare soil.

Management Actions:
- Temporary closure and rehabilitation of a severely impacted site.
- Prohibit use of open fire.
- Restoration of two moderately impacted sites.
- Obliterate two minimally impacted campsites.

11. UPPER GEIGER LAKE BASIN

Current Situation: Recreation use is high and day use activities dominate. Access by hiking an additional mile of mainline trail from Lower Geiger Lake is the most common route. The upper basin may also be accessed by the Fourth of July, Swamp Creek and Cabinet Divide Trails. Overnight stock users visit the basin occasionally. Fishing is not a significant attraction here. Four campsites are in close proximity to the lake.

Problems:
- Campsites are moderately impacted.
- Vegetation loss, bare soil, tree damage.
- Stock use of wet meadow at lake outlet.

Management Actions:
- Restore two moderately impacted campsites.
- Obliterate two minimally impacted campsites.
- Evaluate discontinuing maintenance of Fourth of July trail.
- Restrict stock use from one site within the high-water mark.

12. BEAR LAKES BASIN

Current Situation: Recreation use of the basin is low. Day use hiking activities dominate but overnight visits are common. Horse use to and through this area has been increasing as a result of outfitter and organized group activities. Big and Little Bear Lakes are stocked with fish at five-year intervals. Three campsites are located in close proximity to the lakes. Nearly all users originate from the local area. Access is by three and a half miles of steep trail from a signed but hard to find trailhead. This trail ties to the Cabinet Divide Trail.

Problems:
- Campsites are moderately impacted.
- Campsite impacts are rapidly increasing.

Management Actions:
- Restore two moderately impacted campsites.
- Obliterate a minimally impacted campsite at Big Bear Lake.
- Work with private land based outfitters to reduce impacts.

13. BAREE LAKE BASIN

Current Situation: Recreation use of this basin is moderate with day use hiking, fishing and berry picking the most common activities. Overnight stock users visit the basin occasionally. Nearly all of the recreationists originate from the local area. Access to the basin is by three miles of gentle trail from a signed but poorly known trailhead. The trail continues to the Cabinet Divide trail. An administrative cabin and a Soil Conservation Service snowcourse are near Baree Lake. The lake is stocked with west-slope cutthroat trout at four year intervals. Nine campsites are located in close proximity to the lake.

Problems:
- An excessive number of campsites
- Campsites are moderately impacted.
- Vegetation loss, bare soil, numerous fire rings.
- Public use of administrative cabin.

Management Actions:
- Close and rehabilitate the campsite associated with Baree cabin.
- Restore three moderately impacted campsites.
- Obliterate five minimally impacted campsites.
- Continue actions to make cabin unusable.

14. ENGLE LAKE

Current Situation: Engle Lake is approximately three miles from the trailhead of Trail 932 (two trails currently access the lake; Trail #932 and Trail #926.) Three campsites are located around the lake with light to moderate use by both backpackers and stock-use campers. Fishing is a primary attraction. Resource degradation is minimal. The lake is stocked with west-slope cutthroat trout at four-year intervals.

Problems:
- Maintenance of two trails is unwarranted.
- Forage around the lake is limited.

Management Actions:
- Discontinue maintenance of Trail 926 in McKay Cr. (not displayed on map).
- Encourage use of supplemental weed-free feed.
- Obliterate new camps.

15. WANLESS LAKE

Current Situation: This lake receives an increasingly high amount of overnight use by both hikers and stock users. It is approximately six and a half miles from a well known trailhead. Stock supported use occurs regularly. There are seven campsites located around the lake. Stock use is heavy at two of the camps located within 50 feet of the lake. One other camp within 50 feet of the lake receives heavy hiker use but is inaccessible by stock.

Problems:
- Three severely impacted campsites adjacent to the lake.
- Tree damage, exposed roots, bare soil, manure accumulation.
- Loss of solitude.
- Stock use adjacent to lake is causing resource damage.

Management Actions:
- Prohibit stock beyond Upper Wanless Lake 4.
- Rehabilitate severely impacted campsites along the lakeshore.
- Obliterate one minimally impacted campsite and any new campsites.
- Provide area for stock holding at Upper Lake 4.

16. UPPER WANLESS LAKES

Current Situation: Each of the four upper Wanless lakes have at least one campsite. Stock use and overnight camping are popular due to the six mile hike from the trailhead. Stock-users camping is heavy at Lake 3, where a hitchrail is located, and much less at each of the others. Backpack camping at the other lakes is light. These lakes have more level ground away from the lakeshore than does main Wanless, however forage is still limited. A newly issued outfitter/guide permit allows for a camp at Lake 1. Lakes 1 and 2 are stocked at five year intervals with west-slope cutthroat trout.

Problems:
- Lake 3 campsite is severely impacted.

Management Actions:
- Rehabilitate campsite at Lake 3.
- Encourage use of supplemental feed through education program and signing at trailhead.
- Obliterate new campsites.
- Provide for stock holding at Upper Lake 4.

17. BUCK LAKE

Current Situation: This lake is approximately 7 miles up the Swamp Creek Trail. Current use is light to moderate. One campsite has been established which is suitable for both backpack or stock-use camping. An alternate route from the lake leads to the Cabinet Divide Trail. A newly issued outfitter/guide permit allows for a camp at Buck Lake.

Problem:
- Stock use of wet meadow.

Management Actions:
- Encourage use of supplemental stock feed by education program.

18. ROCK LAKE

Current Situation: Increased mineral activity and potential mine development may alter use patterns and wilderness characteristics. The present trailhead is located at the road closure approximately four miles from the lake. The access route follows a finger of non-wilderness that extends deep into the Wilderness, enclosing past mining facilities. Heavy day use and light stock use is presently occurring. Four campsites are located in close proximity to the lake.

Problems:
- Mineral activity may alter use.
- An excess number of campsites.
- Tree damage, numerous fire rings, bare soil, firewood depletion.

Management Actions:
- Sign trailhead to indicate level of mineral activity.
- Obliterate one minimally impacted campsite.

19. ST. PAUL LAKE

Current Situation: St. Paul Lake is approximately four miles from the trailhead. There are four campsites around the lake, one of which is located below the highwater mark. Hiker and stock use are moderate to high. Fishing is a major attraction. Much of the trail follows the East Fork of Bull River and crosses boggy areas. The lake is stocked at five year intervals with west-slope cutthroat trout.

Problems:
- Campsite below highwater mark may be polluting the lake.
- Trail is difficult to maintain and resource degradation is occurring in boggy areas.
- No suitable stock camps or forage areas.

Management Actions:
- Evaluate trail condition and recommend procedures to resolve resource degradation.
- Restrict stock use from campsites in high water mark.
- Encourage use of campsites along dry ridge.

20. MORAN BASIN

Current Situation: Formerly this enclosed basin received high use due to the short trail length of one and a half miles and good fishing opportunities. The trailhead access road was closed and current route length is 11.5 miles. This distance generates little day use and mostly overnight camping. Stock use will remain relatively unaffected. The lake is stocked at four year intervals with west-slope cutthroat trout. There are two campsites located in close proximity to the lake.

Problems:
- Two moderately impacted campsites adjacent to each other.
- Trail 993 into the basin floor is very steep, suffering erosion.

Management Actions:
- Evaluate reconstruction of Trail 993 where resource damage is occurring.
- Alternate routes will not be maintained.
- Obliterate one campsite and establish a new site in a more desirable location.

21. SNOWSHOE LAKE

Current Situation: Snowshoe Lake is five miles from the trailhead. Backpack camping and day use is moderate due to good fishing opportunities and scenic quality. The last two and a half miles from Verdun Creek to the lake are over a game trail that is not maintained. Stock use is practically non-existent due to steep sections and difficult travel the last half of the route. Three moderately impacted campsites are located around the lake with a fourth at Verdun Creek. Resource degradation has been minimal.

Problems: None

Management Actions:
- Obliterate any new campsites.
- No trail maintenance beyond Verdun Creek.

22. DAD PEAK

Current Situation: Two trails access Dad Peak and together form a loop. Road 2289 was closed, adding approximately three miles to the length of trail 987. This route historically had little use and has further declined with the road closure. The more popular route to Dad Peak is via Road 407 to trail 966. This trail follows old logging skidroads outside of the Wilderness and traverses old-growth timber stands within the Wilderness. Stock use is non-existent and backpack camping is moderate.

Problems:
- Alder encroachment along skidroads.
- Continuous windthrow of old-growth timber.
- Confusion about access routes.

Management Actions:
- Discontinue any maintenance on Trail 987.
- Maintain Trail 966.
- Provide information board at trailhead.

23. MIDDLE FORK BULL RIVER

Current Situation: This drainage is accessed by trail 978 which is maintained from the trailhead on Road 2722 for 4.6 miles. This trail does not lead to a specific destination but merely accesses the area for hunting and other dispersed recreational activities. Three minimally impacted campsites are located along the length of the trail. Both stock users and hikers utilize this trail.

Problems: None

Management Action:
- Continue with routine trail maintenance
- Consider possible trail relocation at lower end to combine trailhead with the trailhead for trail 972.

24. GRAMBAUER MOUNTAIN

Current Situation: Two trails access Grambauer Mountain. Trail 649 originates in Cedar Creek and travels 8 1/2 miles to Grambauer Mountain. Trail 319 originates near Shannon Lake and climbs 6 miles to the Mountain. Each route has a history of light use. A portion of the 649 trail, 3 miles from road 402 to Scenery Mountain receives moderate day use, with the fire lookout being the destination.

Problems: None

Management Actions:
- Trail 319 from Shannon Lake to Grambauer Mountain will be managed as a secondary trail, with maintenance every three years.
- Trail 649 from Scenery Mountain to Grambauer Mountain will be managed as a way trail with maintenance every five years.
- Trail 649 from Cedar Creek to Scenery Mountain will be managed as a secondary trail with maintenance every three years.

CABINET MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS ACTION PLAN

APPENDICES

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2. History . . . . . A 23-36
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APPENDIX E: Trail Maintenance Levels . . . . . A 23-50

APPENDIX F: Notes on Campsite Inventory . . . . . A 23-53

CABINET MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS ACTION PLAN

APPENDIX A

BACKGROUND

1. Geography/Ecology

The Cabinet Mountains Wilderness occupies the upper elevations of the east range of the Cabinet Mountains in Northwest Montana. The Cabinets are a 40-some mile long range of glaciated peaks and valleys with two main divides trending north and south. These two ridges are divided by two streams; Lake Creek flowing north to the Kootenai River; and the Bull River flowing south to the Clark Fork River. Across these streams from the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness lies the proposed Scotchman Peaks wilderness which encompasses much of the west Cabinet range.

While much of the lower elevation landform is outside of the wilderness boundary, there is still over 5,000 feet of relief in the wilderness. Snowshoe Peak in the central portion is highest at 8,712, with other nearby peaks over 8,000 and many throughout the range over 7,500. This relief is quite dramatic when seen from the surrounding valleys of Libby, Troy, and Noxon, which are not much over 2,000 feet.

The Cabinets are a north/northwest trending range of mountains that are largely composed of over 27,000 feet of Precambrian sediments of the Belt Supergroup. Since their deposition, they have been intruded by granitic stocks and thrusted eastward to their present location. There have been recent discoveries of world-class silver-copper deposits in this area within the Revett Formation of the Belt Supergroup. Two of these deposits are located within the southern portion of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. These deposits are owned and controlled by ASARCO Inc. and U.S. Borax and Chemical Corporation and have a gross in-place value of several billion dollars.

The Cabinet Mountains have been extensively glaciated. Alpine glaciation is dominant at the high elevations resulting in sharp ridges, cirque lakes, wet meadows, hanging valleys, U-shaped valleys, scoured sideslopes, and filled valley bottoms. These land building processes have also created many streams and over 50 lakes. Many of the peaks have exposed rock flanks and rock slides at their base, but over most of the range there is enough soil to support plant life of some sort. Other than in the valleys, the soils are very shallow and rocky and usually less than 1 foot deep. Much of the Wilderness has a shallow brown loess soil deposited by ancient volcano activity to the west. This loess is rich in organic matter, has a natural fertility, and holds moisture needed for plant growth. The soils are quite resistant to erosion and have low infiltration and percolation rates.

The vegetation that grows in these soils is abundant and varied. From the delicate little harebells blooming forth from rock fissures in September to the lush valley bottom stands of old growth cedar and hemlock, something grows on nearly every acre of the wilderness. Most widespread are the smaller plants, forbs and brush species. Alder, menziesia, serviceberry, huckleberry, mountain ash, ninebark, ceanotheus and several other woody plants grow beneath the tree canopy, in avalanche chutes, and open brush fields. Trees listed in general

elevation order include Western red cedar, western hemlock, grand fir, and Engleman spruce in the lower and/or cooler moist areas; Douglas fir, Western larch, Western white pine and lodgepole pine at the mid elevations; juniper and ponderosa pine on drier and sunnier sites; and mountain hemlock, white bark pine, and alpine larch in the high basins and exposed ridge tops.

There is a colorful range of wildflowers throughout the Cabinets. A collection of these gathered in 1976 from within the wilderness boundaries includes over 130 species and is considered incomplete.

The climate in the Cabinets promotes the abundant growth of all this vegetation. Although summers are short, they are mild and relatively moist. There is sometimes frost on summer nights (it can occur every month of the year), but winters are not particularly cold, and the insulation of snowcover which often accumulates over 800 inches in depth protects plant life. Annual precipitation varies from 30 inches on some lower slopes to over 110 inches along the higher ridges.

2. History

The Cabinet Mountains Area has been in use by historic peoples since the 1880's and probably by prehistoric people as well. Two resources have dominated the use pattern. The earliest and most extensive historic use has been mining activity. There are six cabins present within the boundary of the Wilderness. The four that have been recorded are associated with mining, and the other two are most likely mining related. These cabins tend to be unique in their architectural design; adaptations to the problems associated with high altitude living. A good example would be a cabin in the Chicago Peak area which has a door on the roof only, indicating winter occupation. Other mining features include adits, discovery pits, shafts, and can also display unique characteristics in construction.

The Cabinet Mountains are also well suited to lookout points for fire detection. Of four lookouts that once stood in the area, only Scenery Mountain remains standing. Two tent camps were set up on mountain tops as temporary patrol stations. The only other known site within the Wilderness boundary is the Granite Creek Ranger Station. Little information has been collected beyond its general location.

The prehistoric activity in the Wilderness area can only be speculated upon as there has been no cultural resource inventory done to assess potential. In order to project prehistoric resource use of the area, one must consider the desirable resources that were unique to that habitat. One of those resources was mountain goat, reported to have been both a food source and prized for its pelt by historic Kutenai Indians (Turney-High 1974:40). Another anthropologist, Claude Schaeffer, refers to the mountain goat as "a source of food to both the Lower and Upper Kutenai" (1940:13). The animal was hunted in late summer (Turney-High 1974:40). The artifact assemblage that would represent hunting activity could include projectile points, flint knapping tools; i.e., antler, pecked cobbles, and processing tools; i.e., stone knives, scrappers. It is possible that these tools found in lithic scatters would be present throughout the area and in concentrations in areas conducive to the placement of hunting camps.

Another valuable resource that is concentrated in the Wilderness area is huckleberries. The Kutenai Indians considered berries to be "an important part of the food quest" (Turney-High 1974:34). This resource was processed in two ways; "merely spreading the berries on a clean robe in the sun until ready" (Turney-High 1974:13) and molded into cakes (Schaeffer 1940:44).

The tool used to pound the berries would have been similar to a round stone, the surface of which would show marks of grinding. There is no reason to believe that the areas of concentrations of huckleberries has changed drastically since the last glaciation (personal communication, Al Christensen 1984). These areas should be surveyed for evidence of berry picking/processing. Camp sites may have been established during the time prehistoric peoples were engaged in this activity, probably close to the area of the activity.

There is a potential conflict between Cultural Resource Law and Wilderness Law. Regional direction requires removal of structures not necessary to manage for the benefit of wilderness. Cultural Resource law directs federal agencies to protect significant cultural resources when possible, to interpret for the public.

The Cabinet Mountains Wilderness was originally classified on April 14, 1935, as the Cabinet Mountains Primitive Area, and was measured at 88,786 acres. The area was reclassified as the Cabinet Mountains Wild Area on June 26, 1964, with an area of 94,360 acres. With the passage of the Wilderness Act on September 3, 1964, the area became a unit of the National Forest Wilderness Preservation System.

Use of the area within the Wilderness boundaries before the arrival of white man was probably infrequent at most. In the 1880's and 1890's prospectors were laying claims in the Libby Creek valley adjacent to the Wilderness, and probably explored most of the canyons during those years. Mineralization was discovered in several of the glaciated valleys, especially in the southeast part of what is now the Wilderness. This mineralization was associated with what has become known as the Snowshoe Fault--a belt of minerals trending north and south along the east flank of the Cabinets. Mining at some scale has occurred along this fault sporadically since the turn of the century.

The present Wilderness boundary along much of the east flank and also the southwest portion of the Cabinets was basically drawn along this zone of mineralization. In the 1960's a renewed interest in these minerals generated a new wave of exploration. Following a rich find of strata bound copper and silver across the valley in the west Cabinet range in the Mt. Vernon area, a mine and mill were constructed, and are currently in operation there.

In 1979, ASARCO Inc. initiated core-drilling activities inside the Wilderness boundary in the Chicago Peak-St. Paul Peak area. The ore body delineated has proved to be richer than the Mt. Vernon-Troy project and in May 1984 the Forest received an operating plan from ASARCO for a mine and mill in the Rock Creek drainage adjacent to the Wilderness. U.S. Borax and Chemical Corporation has also been core drilling within the Wilderness in the St. Paul Peak-Rock Lake area since 1981. As with ASARCO, Borax has discovered substantial silver-copper deposits adjacent to the Wilderness. Due to proximity and topography, some of the sights and/or sounds of mine developments may affect the Wilderness from

without, and there could be some modification, due to the mining process, within the boundary itself.

There has been a relatively steady increase in recreation use since nearby towns grew in population and visitors from other areas began to discover the area. A combination of scenic splendor and easy access in many areas has concentrated much of the recreation use in a small percentage of the area.

Granite Lake is the only lake within the Wilderness known to have historic populations of fish, probably native to the lake. By 1970 fish had been introduced in nearly every lake that could sustain populations. These lakes are now the focal point for a great share of the recreation use of the Cabinets. Some of the lakes have suitable habitat for fish reproduction, but the growth rate is often slow. Repeated stockings in some lakes by the State of Montana has led to a pattern of use within the Wilderness.

These lakes and other parts of the Wilderness are accessed by trails, most of which were constructed for recreation use. Many trails were originally constructed to a fairly high standard, by crews using pack stock. Location and design were frequently a matter of finding the best way to a lake or other feature, and then terminating. Most of this recreation access was in place before passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964, when the concept and philosophical intent of wilderness was spelled out.

Historically, the management of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness has consisted primarily of maintaining the trails, erecting signs at entry points, and limited site cleanup and personal contact via one or two wilderness rangers in the summer season.

In the past several years there has been a wilderness education program in the sixth grade of local schools, with a low impact camping emphasis. Other, more indirect, management has included the passive promotion of recreation use of the Wilderness through printed materials, response to visitor inquiries, audio visual presentations, and a general attitude linking wilderness and recreation.

3. Current Use and Management

Recreation use in parts of the Wilderness has risen steadily over past decades. Perhaps as much as 90 percent of the use occurs over a very small number of the total acres--probably less than 10 percent of them. Exact numbers are unknown, since not all visitors sign in at trail head registration boxes. There has not been any means of recording nontrail or winter use.

The most accurate portrayal of the kind and amount of use received in the Cabinets comes from registration cards, and a 1970 research study by Robert Lucas of the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station. Some of the figures from that study help create a picture of recreation visitor use in the Cabinets:

90% are on foot
7% ride horses
74% of the use is by groups of 4 people or less
89% of the visits are in summer
73% are on weekends
58% travel less than 5 miles total
75% are Montana residents

Outside the activity of hiking, which most visitors obviously engaged in to get into the Wilderness, the two most common activities pursued by these visitors were fishing (61%) and photography (45%).

Although these figures date to 1970, general use patterns are thought to be similar today, and some conclusions can be drawn, or at least inferred. The short average length of stay is in part generated by day use by local residents. This and the high percentage of visitors going to fish may be considered to form a picture of what may be a significant identifiable type within the visitor population--the local weekend fisherman.

Many of the camp sites within the Wilderness were initially used by this user group, beginning when visitors were much fewer in number and similar in the experiences they sought. These camp sites were most often the flatest, driest ground available near a lake.

As use has increased, these sites have expanded and multiplied, to the point where now every lake within the Wilderness that has fish has evidence of visitor use at some point along its perimeter; many lakes have several such sites.

Visitors desiring more solitude or having less desire to fish are often relegated to camping in the same areas around lakes, as there is often no other site obviously available, and vegetation and topography in most valleys of the Cabinets make finding a camp site difficult.

There are approximately 30 trails within the Wilderness which together total about 125 miles. These tend to be short, move into the Wilderness east and west--its shortest dimension--and most often terminate in a subalpine basin. There are almost no loop trails within the Wilderness, so recreationists in a given area are both coming and going on the same trail, creating more exposure to each other.

Some of the more popular trails show signs of trail side camping and other use, but for the most part, the area off each side of the trail between trail head and destination have almost no use and offer more solitude than the basin at the trail's end.

Overall use of the wilderness off the trail or outside of a few hundred yard radius of lake shore camp sites is very light; much like those areas without trails or lakes. Opportunities for solitude in these areas are not always

maximized, however, because both the valley trail and the basin camp sites tend to be topographic focal points for the surrounding terrain, and recreationists along the trail may impact a much wider area as far as sight and sound. The well-used lakes are often situated in amphitheater-like basins, so that sight and sounds emanating from their shorelines may impact much larger areas.

Nearly all the trails within the Wilderness boundary are less than five miles long. These short trail experiences coupled with an acute lack of forage lead to low levels of use by recreationists with saddle or pack stock. While total numbers are low, local impacts are sometimes disproportionately high from horse use, due to fragile campsite environment.

Because access is easy for both hiker and stock user, they both use the same areas. Much of the local use is day trips. Those that do bring in stock for extended periods sometimes picket the animals in a place with very limited forage--often the shoreline of a lake or a wet meadow nearby. Outside of these areas there is virtually no forage, and feed is sometimes imported.

Several decades of recreation use have left their mark on the Cabinets. Both hiker and stock have created long term damage to native soils and plants in certain, confined areas. Common forms of damage stemming from stock use include the loss of trail tread from stock stepping along the outer edge and the loss of vegetation and compaction of soil associated with keeping stock in and around camp sites, stream sides, and lake shores. Hikers also damage vegetation and compact soils in areas of concentrated use, and deface trees for use as fire fuel.

Recreation use impacts upon the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness seem to be worst when viewed from the standpoint of scenic or aesthetic impacts to the visitors' experience. At this point in time, the actual physical elements of vegetation, rock, soil, and water are in pristine condition over the vast majority of Wilderness acres.

Winter use within the Wilderness is increasing. Before the 1970's an occasional snowshoer traveled into the Cabinets to trap or just to see the countryside. Cross-country skiing is now occurring on a fairly regular basis in several areas, especially the southern third of the wilderness, where access routes to upper basins are less avalanche-prone. Snow fall in the Cabinets is frequent enough that tracks left by one party are usually obscured before they are seen by other visitors. Perhaps the only lasting physical impact of winter recreation use would be the cutting of wood for fires. Such cutting and gathering becomes evident as high stumps after the snow recedes.

Other uses of the Wilderness include water related activities such as swimming (and possibly some diving and boating in inflatable craft) and viewing scenery and wildlife from aircraft. The primary affect of these uses is their impact on other visitors' experience.

Management of the Cabinets is currently accomplished in two forms: direct physical manipulation such as trail maintenance, site cleanup, and some rehabilitation; and both direct and indirect information and education efforts.

In past years the Wilderness trails have been a priority for Forest trail maintenance dollars, and the trails have been kept at a relatively high standard. More recently, the emphasis has shifted somewhat to other trails and especially National Recreation Trails. Even with less maintenance, many Wilderness trails are the most heavily used trails on the Forest, and tend to remain more open and clear through repeated use.

Public education, light trail maintenance work, litter pickup along the trail and in and around camp sites, and some rehabilitation are accomplished by "wilderness guard" summer employees.

There are usually two of these field going personnel at work in the Wilderness, one at Libby District and often one at Cabinet District. Besides maintenance of the physical setting, these people make individual contacts with visitors and promote proper use of the Wilderness.

Information and education dealing with Wilderness is also managed outside the Wilderness. Trailhead signs and notices which carry Wilderness use messages are posted outside the boundary, and similar messages are given the general public via radio spot announcements, the map/brochure, other printed material, and responses to written and oral visitor inquiry. Another important contact point is the annual presentation of backcountry ethics slide shows to public school students. There are occasional contacts with organized user groups, and presentations to service clubs and organizations.

CABINET MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS ACTION PLAN

APPENDIX B

WILDERNESS INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ACTION PLAN

Key issues identified during scoping sessions include:

1. Lack of Understanding - a confusion with many users as to the purposes of wilderness and its management.

2. Campsites - the persistent thinking that many users should "develop" their own campsites.

3. Solitude - lack of sensitivity towards other peoples' backcountry experience.

4. Overuse - the concentration of too many visitors, particular at lakeshores.

5. Trails - visitor attitudes towards trail standards, "destination access," use of trails, and conflicts between different users (stock users - backpackers, etc.).

General public information will be dispersed through local medias of newspaper and radio. In addition, there are several organized groups and individuals targeted for personal contact:

Backcountry Horsemen, Saddle Clubs, Scouting Groups, 4-H Horse Groups, Hunter Safety Groups, Rod/Gun Clubs, Outfitter and Guides, Public School Classes (Grades 5 & 6)

The following schedule is meant to be dynamic. It is very important that wilderness/backcountry managers respond to specific needs when they arise. These actions will form the basis for what will be a growing program, leading to a public well informed in the low impact recreation use of Forest lands.

ACTION PLAN

Action Item	Responsibility	Key Issues	Time
1. Public Service Announcements	D-5, D-7	Pack in/Pack out Solitude Campsite Selection Overuse	June-Sept.
2. Newspaper	D-4 D-5 D-7 SO	Trail Crew/Use Rec. Opportunities Trout Creek NRT Mix wilderness understanding and mining activity	Summer

Action Item	Responsibility	Key Issues	Time
3. District Orientation	D-5, D-7	Understanding of wilderness	June
4. Wilderness Ranger Workshop (Trail Crews)	D-5, D-7	All Key Issues	June
5. Brown Bag Seminar	SO Districts	All Key Issues	Yearly
6. Reprint Forest Map	SO	Improve back message	1987
7. Trail Head Messages	D-5, D-7	Focus on key problems	ongoing
8. School Presentations,5th/6th Grade	D-4, D-5	All Key Issues	Spring
9. School Presentations,Full School	D-7	MU issues, wilderness message	Spring
10. Service Groups Presentations	D-4, D-5, D-7	Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis	Yearly
11. Huckleberry Festival	D-7	General Message	August
12. Plan techniques on how to present 5 key issues	SO	(Program Plan)	Summer
13. Sanders Co. Fair	D-7	Display on backcountry ethics	Summer
14. Receptionist Training	D-4, D-5, D-7 SO	Orientation/awareness session on wilderness	Spring
15. Horse Groups CBCH Libby Saddle Club 4-H	D-5	Wilderness awareness Low impact techniques Other rec. opportunities	Spring
16. Hunter Safety Program	SO	Wilderness awareness	
17. ROG	Districts	Promote alternatives	Yearly
18. Environmental Education	Districts	All key issues	Spring

Cabinet RD HCR 2, Box 210
Trout Creek, MT 59874

REPLY TO: 2630
2340

Date: January 14, 1986

SUBJECT: Cabinet Mtns. Wilderness Plan Biological Evaluation

TO: Wilderness Plan Committee

INTRODUCTION

This evaluation will briefly address the potential effects that implementation of the wilderness plan could have on threatened and endangered species. Through numerous contacts with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, relating to site specific projects and to the draft Kootenai Forest Plan, it is felt that the grizzly bear (Ursus arctos horibilis) is the only threatened or endangered species to occupy wilderness lands, and thus will be the only species addressed in this evaluation. The Cabinet Wilderness has been identified as essential habitat for grizzly bear recovery, and is designated as Situation 1 lands where grizzly habitat maintenance and conflict minimization will receive the highest priority.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Cabinet Wilderness Plan sets forth Forest Service goals,objectives, and management actions as they pertain to the wilderness, both in a general sense and on a more site specific nature (reference Section IV: Action Plan). In general, the plan calls for maintaining the wilderness in as pristine a state as possible, while still allowing human use to take place.

EVALUATION

Nothing in the wilderness indicates that there is any deviation from the intent of the draft Forest Plan toward grizzly bear management. Action items would serve to minimize the impact of humans on grizzly habitat. Specific management actions which would minimize impacts to the grizzly bear and its habitat include:

1) not improving access roads
2) discontinued maintenance of some trails
3) elimination of fish stocking at some lakes

By following the above items, possible displacement of grizzly bears might be lessened to some degree in areas where these actions occur because human use would be potentially less due to poorer access and less desirable destinations.

There is nothing to indicate that the present management of the wilderness is affecting the conservation of the grizzly bear. By following a management plan which should balance increasing demands for wilderness opportunities by people with the emphasis of not publicizing the opportunities and not enhancing access, future impacts on the grizzly should remain similar to present management impacts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are given, which if followed, could aid in the recovery of the grizzly bear, particularly when grizzly population densities increase closer to the recovery level.

1) List as potential management actions for possible use in the future should situations warrant: a) area closures (36 CFR 261.57(a)); and b) regulations (36 CFR 261.70(a)(4)) to minimize human/grizzly conflict situations by using recognized safe camping practices. These could include (but are not limited to) proper storage and disposal of foods/garbage, and required distances for sleeping from eating areas.

CONCLUSIONS

Implementation of this plan should not have any adverse effect on the grizzly bear. The overall intent of the plan is to minimize the impacts of humans on the wilderness, which in turn will minimize impacts on the grizzly bear. A non-jeopardy opinion has already been given for the draft Forest Plan. Because this plan further defines the Forest Plan direction, and no adverse effects are anticipated, formal consultation with the FWS is not recommended at this time.

Bruce G. Haflich

BRUCE G. HAFLICH
Wildlife Biologist
Cabinet Ranger District

APPENDIX D

2611.1--12
(Montana)

TITLE 2600 - WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

The following policies and guidelines are intended to provide for a sound fisheries management program in wilderness and primitive areas.

ANGLING

Policy

Angling is a legitimate wilderness and primitive area activity subject to State laws and regulations that are enforceable by State wildlife officers and all other duly commissioned persons.

POPULATION SAMPLING

Policy

Scientific sampling of fish populations is recognized as an essential procedure in the maintenance of balanced fish populations in wilderness and primitive areas.

Guidelines

Population sampling involving gill netting, electrofishing (nonmotorized), or other standard methods complying with sections 4(c) and (d) of the Wilderness Act falls under the provision for studies. Timing shall be coordinated to avoid heavy public-use periods.

CHEMICAL TREATMENT

Policy

Chemical treatment may be necessary to prepare waters for the reestablishment of a native species, to reestablish an endangered or threatened species, and to correct undesirable conditions resulting from the influence of man.

Guidelines

1. All Federal and State laws, regulations, and executive orders relative to the use of pesticides shall be strictly adhered to.

2. In the selection of a pesticide, preference shall be given to those that can be readily detoxified, e.g., derris which can be detoxified with potassium permanganate, particularly when used in streams or other waters with downstream connections.

3. Chemical treatment operations should be scheduled during periods of low human use.

4. Fish removed shall be immediately disposed of in a manner agreed to by the Montana Department of Fish and Game and the USDA-Forest Service.

SPAWN TAKING

Policy

The collection of fish spawn shall be permitted from wilderness and primitive areas when alternative sources are nonexistent or unreliable or where spawn taking was an established practice prior to the area being officially designated, subject to the guidelines below.

Guidelines

1. Collection and removal of spawn shall not involve the use of motorized equipment within the boundaries of the area.

2. Techniques and facilities necessary to spawn taking operations and in existence prior to the designation of the area may continue to be used as provided for in the approved management plan.

3. Facilities for spawn taking stations established subsequently to designation must be of a temporary nature and be completely removed after the termination of each season's operation.

4. A decision to no longer permit spawn taking where it was an established practice prior to designation of the area will be made jointly by the Montana Department of Fish and Game and the USDA-Forest Service.

FISH PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

Policy

Planting or transplanting of fish may be conducted by the State agency, using means appropriate for wilderness or primitive areas, when any one of the following criteria is met: (1) to reestablish or maintain an indigenous species, (2) to restore an endangered or threatened species, or (3) to maintain or enhance recreational values as identified in the management plan.

Barren lakes and streams may be considered for stocking after it has been mutually agreed to that there will be no appreciable loss of scientific values or adverse effects on wilderness resources.

Alterations in fish planting programs shall not be made for the purpose of reducing the impact of overuse except as part of a cooperative effort between the Forest Service and the State Fish and Game Department to adjust such use.

Numbers of fish and time of planting will be determined by the State agency. Species selected for planting will be in accordance with the guidelines below.

Guidelines

1. The Fish and Game Department shall make fish stocking schedules available to the Forest Service, indicating what species and numbers are planned for each water within a wilderness or primitive area.

2. Stocking rates shall be adjusted to minimize the likelihood of exceeding the biological capabilities of the water being stocked so as to reduce the chance of producing a stunted population and to minimize the likelihood of attracting overuse to the detriment of wilderness or primitive area resources.

3. Preference in the selection of species for planting will be given to: native species (for purposes of this document, species of fish traditionally planted prior to designation may be considered native); endangered or threatened species of fish if there is likelihood for survival and if the species or subspecies has an overall distribution pattern encompassing the transplant site; and species likely to spawn successfully under the conditions characteristic of the water being considered.

AERIAL FISH PLANTING

Policy

Aerial planting of fish shall be a permitted practice for those waters in wilderness and primitive areas where this was an established practice before the area was classified as a wilderness or primitive area, or other practical means are not available.

2611.1--15
(Montana)

TITLE 2600 - WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Guidelines

1. Same as guideline No. 1 under Fish and Wildlife Research.

2. As justification for aerial stocking, the Fish and Game will supply the Forest Service a list of those waters which stocking with aircraft was an established practice prior to designation, indicating the type of aircraft as fixed-wing or helicopter, which will become a part of the management plan.

3. For those waters not on an aerial stocking schedule, the Fish and Game shall demonstrate in writing to the Forest Service the need for use of aircraft.

APPENDIX E

2353--9

Title 2300 - Recreation Management

359A Trail Maintenance - Level 0

All available and usable system trails not maintained in the current year. Includes all available and useable system miles not included in Codes 359B-D.

359B Trail Maintenance - Level I

Minimal clearing to be usable. Minimal level of route marking/ signing, structure repair and clearing of obstacles to provide for public safety. The normal level of maintenance for way or primitive trail. Unit of work is miles of trail maintained

359C Trail Maintenance - Level II

Maintenance to an intermediate standard with acceptable public safety, needed repair of structures, prevention of accelerated resource damage, and minimally adequate signing. The normal level of maintenance for secondary trails. Unit of work is the miles of trail maintained.

359D Trail Maintenance - Level III

Trails maintained at the planned design standard for public use and safety. May require tread stabilization brushing, etc. Structures and signing to planned standards. Includes grooming for snow trails. The normal level of maintenance for mainline trails. Unit of work is miles of trail maintained.

Exhibit 1

Hiker Trail Guide

	Easiest	More Difficult	Most Difficult 1/
Grade			
Max. Pitch Grade	20%	30%	+30%
Length	100'	300'	500'
Clearing 2/			
Width	43"	36" to 48"	36"
Height	8'	8'	8'
Tread 3/			
Width	18" to 24" Obstacle-free.	12" to 18" If needed, depending on volume and drainage.	12"
Surface	Spot gravel surfacing.	Not surfaced--leave roots, imbedded rocks, and some logs.	No graded tread except on side slopes over 50% where safety or resource damage is a problem.

1/ Upper limit of grade and pitch length for most difficult trails depends on soil type, amount of rock, vegetation type, and other conditions affecting stability of the trail surface.

2/ Curve alignment to avoid cutting large trees.

3/ Increase tread width 6 inches on switchbacks or where side slopes exceed 60 percent.

2.31b--3

TRAILS MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK

Exhibit 1

Pack and Saddle Trail Guide

	Easiest	More Difficult	Most Difficult 1/
Grade			
Max. Pitch Grade	15%	25%	+30%
Length	200'	300'	500'
Clearing 2/			
Width	8'; 6' between large trees. Pack clearance must be 3' from a point 30" above grade of tread.	6' Pack clearance must be 3' from a point 30" above a grade of tread.	3' to 4' wide
Height	10'	8'	Maximum 8'
Tread 3/			
Width	24"	24"	18"
Surface	Surfacing as needed for stability. Reinforce cross drains with logs or rocks on steep gradients (greater than 10%). Special emphasis on puncheon or turnpikes in bog holes. Construct extra trailbed width in steep terrain.	Leave roots and imbedded rocks. Cross drains permanent with natural roots, rocks, or imbedded logs.	Not graded except on side slopes greater than 30%.

1/ Assume pack animals normally are not accommodated on most difficult trails, so less clearing width is needed. Same holds true for day-use horse trails. The upper limit for most difficult saddle animal trails depends on the soil type, amount of rock, vegetation types, and other conditions affecting stability of the trail surface. The skill of the rider and the condition of the animal also are important considerations.

2/ Along a precipice or hazardous area, the trail clearing width should be at least 48 to 60 inches to provide safety to the riders and their animals.

3/ Increase tread width 12 inches on switchbacks. Tread width on special sections, such as fords or turnpikes, should be at least 36 inches.

APPENDIX F

Notes on How to do the Campsite Inventory

To do in the field

1. Document the exact location of the campsite being examined. Place a dot and a unique number depicting its location on a topographic map.

2. Fill out the inventory form. Items needing more explanation are as follows:

(2). UTM coordinates are the blue tick marks and black numbers around the edge of the map. Numbers along the top and bottom locate the site's position east (E) of a meridian. Use four digits. This means subdividing the distance between blue ticks into tenths. Use five digits for the north (N) coordinates along the sides of the map. Again, this involves subdividing the distance between blue ticks into tenths.

(16) and (17). Estimate about how far you would have to go to get enough firewood or forage to spend the night.

(19) and (20). Estimate percent cover of vegetation and mineral soil (not covered by either vegetation or litter), both on the campsite and an adjacent area similar to the campsite. The idea is that the comparative area is similar to what the campsite would have looked like before it was used. The coverage classes (1 to 5) will be used to rate (21) and (22) below. For example, if campsite vegetation is class 2 (6-25%) and comparative vegetation is class 4 (51-75%), there is a difference of two coverage classes and item (21) would receive a rating of 3.

(23) and (24). Count the number of trees either scarred/felled or with roots exposed and then make a rough estimate of what percentage of all the trees have been damaged in this way.

(23). A tree is badly scarred if scars total more than 1 foot^2.

(27). Social trails are informal trails leading from the campsite to water, the main trail, etc. A well-worn trail has lost most of its vegetation.

(29). Barren core area is the area around the center of the site that is almost completely devoid of vegetation.

(31). Include feelings about the site's attractions, condition, and how you think it should be managed.

3. Take several photographs of the site including any unique features that might be useful in relocating the site. The idea here is to help future evaluators make certain that they are looking at the same site. Note the roll and exposure number after item (30) photo record. If possible, including index cards with the site number on it in one of the photographs will help link the photographs to the right site.

4. Search systematically for all of the sites in any given area, rather than just selecting certain sites. Draw a line on the topographic map of the areas in which all sites have been inventoried.

To do in the office

1. Estimate distance to the nearest trailhead (item 9).

2. Using the topographic map with campsites located on it, count the number of other campsites within 1/4 mile of the site (item 13).

3. Calculate the impact index. This can be done in many different ways. This might be the total of the ratings for items 21 to 29 or a mean of these ratings. This assumes that each of these impact parameters is of equal importance. Since this is probably not the case, it might be preferable

to weight these ratings. My own personal opinion is that cleanliness and development should be weighted less than other parameters (perhaps multiply their ratings by 0.5) and mineral soil increase, root exposure, and camp area should be wieghted more (perhaps multiply their ratings by 2). Again, either the sum of ratings or a mean can be used as the impact index. Managers have considerable flexibility in deciding how this overall impact index should be calculated.

4. To be of most use, it would be worthwhile to place all of the campsites inventoried on one map. The impact index could be broken down into about four classes. The sites on the map could then be color coded to match their impact class. Thus, the map would depict where the sites were located and their overall condition.

5. Store the forms with the photographs for each site. When the sites are reexamined, earlier forms, photos, and the original topographic map should be taken into the field.

BOB MARSHALL - GREAT BEAR - SCAPEGOAT WILDERNESS COMPLEX - CAMPSITE INVENTORY

GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION

(1) SITE NUMBER: _____

(2) UTM COORDINATES: 12 _ _ _ _ E _ _ _ _ _ N

(3) USGS QUADRANGLE: _____

(4) DATE CODED: _ _ (Month) _ _ (Day) _ _ _ _ (Year)

(5) CODED BY: (Name) _____

(6) ELEVATION: (To nearest 100 ft) _____

(7) VEGETATION: (Circle one)

1 - Closed forest 3 - Nonforested, densely vegetated

2 - Open forest 4 - Nonforested, sparsely vegetated

Dominant species _____
Habitat type, if known _____

(8) LANDFORM: (Circle one)

1 - Floodplain 2 - Other valley bottom 3 - Cirque basin

4 - Sideslope 5 - Ridgetop 6 - Other _____

(Do in office)
(9) DISTANCE TO CLOSEST TRAILHEAD: _____(miles)

(10) DISTANCE TO CONSTRUCTED TRAIL: _____(feet)

Screening: (circle one) 1 - Complete
2 - Partial
3 - None

(11) DISTANCE TO WATER: _____(feet)

Type: 1 - River/creek 3 - Spring

2 - Lake 4 - Other _____

(12) DISTANCE TO CLOSEST CAMPSITE: _____(feet)

Screening: (circle one) 1 - Complete
2 - Partial
3 - None

(Do in office)
(13) NUMBER OF OTHER CAMPSITES WITHIN 1/4 MILE: _____

(14) MAXIMUM PARTY SIZE ACCOMMODATED: (Circle one)

1 - 1-2 3 - 7-10 5 - more than 15

2 - 3-6 4 - 11-15

(15) TYPE OF USE: (Circle as many as apply)

1 - Foot 3 - River

2 - Stock 4 - Outfitter

(16) CLOSEST FIREWOOD SOURCE: (Circle one)

1 - One-site 3 - 100-300 feet 5 - >1/4 mile

2 - <100 feet 4 - 300 ft-1/4 mile

(17) CLOSEST FORAGE SUPPLY: (Circle one)

1 - On-site 3 - 100-300 feet 5 - >1/4 mile

2 - <100 feet 4 - 300 ft-1/4 mile

(18) FACILITIES: (Write number of each type in blank)

1 - Fire ring_____
2 - Primitive seat_____
3 - Constructed seat_____
4 - Table/shelf/counter_____
5 - Meat rack_____
6 - Hitchrail_____
7 - Corral_____
8 - Toilet_____
9 - Other_____

IMPACT EVALUATION	ON CAMPSITE	ON UNUSED COMPARATIVE AREA
(19) VEGETATION COVER: (Be sure to compare similar areas, same species, slope, rockiness, and canopy cover)	1 - 0-5% 3 - 26-50% 5 - 76-100% 2 - 6-25% 4 - 51-75%	1 - 0-5% 3 - 26-50% 5 - 76-100% 2 - 6-25% 4 - 51-75%
(20) MINERAL SOIL EXPOSURE: (Percent of area that is bare mineral soil)	1 - 0-5% 3 - 26-50% 5 - 76-100% 2 - 6-25% 4 - 51-75%	1 - 0-5% 3 - 26-50% 5 - 76-100% 2 - 6-25% 4 - 51-75%

	Rating (Circle one category) 1	2	3	Calculation of impact index (do in office)
(21) VEGETATION LOSS:	(no difference in coverage)	(Difference one coverage class	(Difference two or more coverage classes)	
(22) MINERAL SOIL INCREASE:	(No difference in coverage)	(Difference one coverage class)	(Difference two or more coverage classes)	
(23) TREE DAMAGE: No. of trees scarred or felled____ % of trees scarred or felled_____ (est.)	(No more than broken lower branches)	(1-8 scarred trees, 1-3 badly scarred or felled)	(> 8 scarred trees, >3 badly scarred or felled)	
(24) ROOT EXPOSURE: No. of trees with roots exposed____(est.) % of trees with roots exposed_____	(None)	(1-6 trees with roots exposed)	(> 6 trees with roots exposed)	
(25) DEVELOPMENT:	(No more than 1 scattered fire ring)	(1 fire ring with or without primitive log seat)	(> 1 fire ring or other major development)	
(26) CLEANLINESS: No. of fire scars_____	(No more than scattered charcoal from 1 fire ring)	(Remnants of >1 fire ring, some litter or manure)	(Human waste, much litter or manure)	
(27) SOCIAL TRAILS: No. of trails____	(No more than 1 discernible trail)	(2-3 discernible, max. 1 well-worn	(> 3 discernible or more than 1 well-worn)	
(28) CAMP AREA Estimated area_____ (ft^2)	(< 500 ft^2)	(500-2000ft^2)	(> 2000 ft^2)	
(29) BARREN CORE CAMP AREA: Estimated area_____(ft^2)	(< 50 ft^2)	(50-500 ft^2)	(> 500 ft^2)	

(30) PHOTO RECORD_____

(31) COMMENTS: (Details about location of site, impacts, management suggestions, etc.)

_____

_____

_____

(32) IMPACT INDEX _____

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

FOREST PLAN

APPENDIX TWENTY FOUR

OUTFITTER AND GUIDE POLICY

Appendix 24

Outfitter and Guide Policy for the Kootenai National Forest

The following situations and assumptions were used in the development of policy regarding the issuance, renewal and administration of outfitting and guiding permits on all areas of the Forest:

1. Forest Service policy does not provide for special-use permit issuance merely to satisfy economic advantage or benefit. Permits are issued to afford the public certain quality recreational experiences otherwise not available on the National Forest without the use of outfitters or guides.

2. The public presently has adequate access to much of the Forest, particularly when the access is compared to the Forest Plan management emphasis for specific areas. Those few areas with inadequate access will be identified for priority right-of-way acquisition efforts.

3. Although existing outfitters are using permitted capacity on most permits, it has been determined if a need or demand existed, the existing outfitters could meet that demand. There is an adequate number of outfitters to meet the hunting-related recreation experiences.

4. The potential for conflicts between outfitters and non-outfitter users is increasing.

5. There appears to be no biological need to utilize more outfitters to increase harvest levels of big game.

6. Private lands are being leased, subdivided, logged or otherwise made less usable by the public thereby making National Forest System lands increasingly important for public use.

Therefore, the following policy will become effective immediately on all portions of the Kootenai National Forest:

1. No new or additional permits for outfitter and guide services will be issued for hunting or fishing activities, except as provided in Item #5 below.

2. In the event of relinquishment or termination of existing permits or sale of a business, the permits will be evaluated for reissuance, adjustment or reallocation of service days, or permit elimination in accordance to national policy.

3. Non-hunting and non-fishing permits will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

4. A permit holder with at least the previous two (2) years of "acceptable" performance may make a one-time request within one (1) year of implementation of this policy to increase his/her day-use service day allocation up to 10 percent, except for permits where a day-use service day limitation has already been established. This increase will be based on the average of the two (2) highest years of annual actual use authorized under permit during the previous five (5) years prior to implementation of this policy. A permit holder without the two (2) previous years of "acceptable" performance will become eligible for the increase by completing two (2) consecutive years of "acceptable" performance. The basis of their increase will be the same as mentioned above. Until this increase is allocated, the amount of service days to be authorized will not exceed the amount of the average of the two (2) highest years of annual actual use authorized under permit prior to implementation of this policy. This 10 percent increase does not restrict the addition of reallocated use in Item #2 above.

5. With the improved fishing opportunities on Lake Koocanusa, the need for fishing outfitters is now established. On the Fisher River Ranger District this need can be met by current permittees. On the Rexford Ranger District two (2) permits may be issued and service day limits set at the discretion of the Ranger without modifying this policy.

6. Deviations from this policy may be made only by further analysis and decision of the Forest Supervisor.

7. This policy will be reviewed at the end of three (3) years following implementation.