

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

FOREST PLAN

CHAPTER III - MANAGEMENT AREA DIRECTION

III. MANAGEMENT AREA DIRECTION

The National Forest land within the Kootenai National Forest has been divided into 23 mapped and one unmapped Management Areas (MA's), each with different management goals, resource potential and limitations. The MA's are shown on the accompanying map which can be used for reference. The MA maps of record consist of a set of 2.64" = 1 mile maps on file at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Libby, Montana. The Riparian Areas are not all mapped at this time, but will be mapped as part of all planned resource activities (See the Standards for Riparian Areas in Chapter II).

Except for Congressionally established or special administrative boundaries, the MA boundaries are not firm lines and do not always follow easily identified topographic features such as major ridges, rivers, streams, roads, etc. The boundaries represent a transition from one set of opportunities and constraints to another with direction established for each. The boundaries are flexible to assure that the values identified are protected and to incorporate additional information gained from further on-the-ground reconnaissance and project level planning.

The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter II of this plan applies to all MA's.

This chapter describes each MA and lists the goals, management standards, schedule of management practices, and monitoring requirements for each area.

The Management Areas are listed in the following order:

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MANAGEMENT AREA 2

283,400 ACRES

A. DESCRIPTION

This MA is characterized by a natural-appearing environment offering roadless recreation opportunities. The areas, varying in size from 300 to over 22,000 acres, are located throughout the Forest and are generally associated with ridgetop experiences. Vegetation varies from full timber cover to open meadows. In some places existing roads may be found, but they will generally be of low standard. 87% of this MA is in grizzly situations 1 or 2 and the security offered on that affected habitat is significant to the eventual recovery of the species. Topography varies from steep slopes to gentle uplands.

B. GOALS

The goal of this MA is to provide for the protection and enhancement of areas for roadless recreation use and to provide for wildlife management where specific wildlife values are high. Within grizzly management situations 1 and 2 it is the goal of this MA to provide habitat that will contribute to the recovery of the grizzly bear.

C. STANDARDS

The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter II of this plan applies to this Management Area (MA).

Recreation

1. The Visual Quality Objective (VQO) is retention.
2. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class is semi-primitive non-motorized. Some semi-primitive motorized and roaded natural recreation opportunities occur in the vicinity of the roads listed below. The following roads in MA-2 are currently open to some form of motorized recreational use, at least on a seasonal basis (some additional roads may be open periodically for other uses such as mineral access, etc.).

<u>ROAD NAME</u>	<u>ROAD NUMBER</u>	<u>APPROX. LENGTH</u>
Sutton Ridge	#494	0.5
Little North Fork-Gold Creek loop.	#751	0.5
Good Creek	#7183	0.3
Upper Bear Creek	#4784	2.0
Upper Leigh Creek	#4786	1.2
Upper Granite Creek (Double Mac Mine)	#618	0.3
Bramlet Creek	#2332	1.0
West Fisher	#6746	2.0
Snowshoe	#6213	2.0
Upper Sims Creek	#2232	0.8

3. Trails will normally be closed to all motorized vehicles.
4. The roads listed above may be used by snowmobiles unless conflicts with non-motorized uses such as cross-country skiing, winter range use by big game, or spring grizzly bear use occur. Cross-country use of snowmobiles will generally be allowed unless conflicts with seasonal grizzly use or denning areas occur.
5. Roads existing prior to the establishment of this MA may be left open to motorized use if access is necessary to an MA in which motorized use is permitted, and if the continued use of the road will not otherwise affect the goal of this MA. Groomed snowmobile trails are not permitted.

Wildlife and Fish

1. Wildlife habitat will generally be managed in a natural condition, but habitat enhancement may occur using prescribed fire. Specific enhancement projects are not scheduled but may be initiated after more detailed inventories are completed.
2. Any activity that conflicts with grizzly bear management in grizzly situation 1 will be modified or prohibited. Standards and guidelines as specified in Appendix 8 (Grizzly Management Situation Guidelines) will be applied for all management activities in grizzly bear situations.
3. Vegetative management for wildlife habitat enhancement will be compatible with recreation use except, habitat enhancement for grizzly bear recovery will take precedence over recreation use.
4. Any habitat enhancement activity must maintain or enhance old-growth timber and cavity-dependent species habitat.
5. Isolated enclaves of pure strain trout species will be identified and any management activity will be designed to maintain or enhance the population.

Range

1. Livestock grazing is not generally permitted except for recreational pack stock. Existing grazing permits for livestock will be continued.

Timber

1. This MA is unsuitable for timber production.
2. Timber harvest will not occur.

Soil, Water, and Air

1. If land disturbing activities occur, vegetation to protect watershed and wildlife values will be established. The soil and water conservation practices (FSH 2509.22) will guide implementation of all projects. Comply with the Smoke Management Plan published by the Air Quality Bureau of the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and administered by the Montana State Airshed Group.

Riparian (See riparian area standards in Chapter II.)

Minerals and Geology

1. Refer to Forest standards for locatable minerals. Seasonal restrictions, if necessary, will be negotiated with the operator.
2. Surface occupancy for oil and gas purposes is generally not permitted. Existing roads may be used on a case-by-case basis. Seasonal constraints to minimize conflicts with grizzly bear will apply to geophysical activities.
3. The extraction of common minerals is generally not consistent with this MA.

Lands

1. No further Cost-Share Agreements.
2. Special uses, rights-of-way, and easements may be permitted on a case-by-case basis. This MA will not be considered as a timber tributary area in the calculation of shares for Cost-Share Agreements.
3. Facilities such as radios, microwaves, etc. which require frequent maintenance or occupancy will normally not be allowed. Existing facilities will be evaluated and moved if possible. If existing facilities can not be moved, a maintenance or occupancy schedule that does not conflict with grizzly bear seasons of use will be established. Existing facilities may be modified to fit the ROS class and the VQO.

Facilities

1. Roads will not be constructed for surface land management purposes. Roads will be permitted for mineral activities where construction is justified on the basis of mineral showings or data, and where it is the next logical step in the development of the mineral resource. (This will apply whether the mineral is located within this MA or an adjacent MA.)
2. New trails may be constructed and existing trails may be reconstructed for recreation use, but must not conflict with grizzly bear recovery goals.
3. Trails will be maintained at level 1 or 2.
4. This MA is classified as a corridor avoidance area. See appendix 15.

FirePrescribed Fire

Planned Ignitions:

1. Acceptable as a means of fuels management and wildlife habitat enhancement. All prescribed fires must be consistent with cavity-habitat management, old-growth timber requirements, and applicable soil, air, and water quality standards.

Unplanned Ignitions:

1. May be used in this MA to perpetuate the natural ecological process.
2. The fire must involve this MA and/or adjacent ones for which the use of unplanned ignitions for prescribed fire has been approved.
3. The expected life cycle effects of the fire must not adversely affect the goals or standards of this or any other MA.
4. A decision flow-chart will be prepared as part of the Fire Management Action Plan to conform to specific requirements of life and property, air quality, monitoring and managing resources, site, weather, expected fire behavior, and fuel type necessary for declaring an unplanned ignition a prescribed fire.

Wildfire (Applies only to National Forest lands protected by the Kootenai National Forest. For National Forest lands protected by the State of Montana see "Standards" in Chapter II.)

Suppression Strategy:

Critical Fire Season:

Wildfires will normally be controlled. However, an analysis including evaluation of expected fire behavior, time of year, and location with respect to private land and adjacent MA's may lead to a contain or confine strategy.

Noncritical Fire Season:

If an analysis of the time of year and expected fire behavior discloses no effect to this or any other MA, and if it is more cost effective to do so, a contain or confine strategy will be used.

Suppression Tactics: (Applies to all Kootenai National Forest lands whether protected by the National Forest or by the State of Montana.)

1. Tactics will emphasize the least possible disturbance or evidence of human presence. Mechanized equipment generally will not be used. Use of dozers requires Forest Supervisor approval.

D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planned - First Decade - Average annual

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Trail construction/reconstruction | 4.5 miles |
| 2. Fish habitat improvement | 7 acres |
| 3. T & E habitat improvement | 38 acres |
| 4. Fuel Treatment (wildlife burning) | 1,139 acres |

Projected - Second Decade - Average Annual

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Trail construction/reconstruction | 4.5 miles |
| 2. Fish habitat improvement | 6 acres |
| 3. T & E habitat improvement | 38 acres |
| 4. Fuel Treatment (wildlife burning) | 1,100 acres |

E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. The specific monitoring requirements from Chapter IV that are applicable to this MA are:

Recreation	A-1, A-2, A-5, A-6, A-7
Wildlife and Fish	C-1 through C-10
Range	D-1, D-2
Timber	E-4
Minerals	G-1
Human & Comm Dev	H-2, H-3, H-4
Facilities	L-1
Protection	P-1

The procedures outlined in Chapter IV will be followed to evaluate the data gathered during monitoring.

MANAGEMENT AREA 3

13,300 ACRES

A. DESCRIPTION

This MA consists of lands with a natural-appearing environment and a minimal number of adjacent or internal roads offering roaded recreation opportunities. The MA occurs primarily along the west and north edge of the Forest and in the northeast corner adjacent to Highway 93, and in isolated smaller parcels elsewhere. Most of the MA is in the upper elevations from 4,500' and up. About 9,000 acres or 63% of this MA are in grizzly situations 1 and 2. Timber productivity varies from nonproductive to medium productivity.

B. GOALS

The goal of this MA is to provide opportunities for dispersed recreation activities in a natural-appearing environment using trails and primitive roads for access. This MA will provide habitat for recovery of the grizzly bear on situations 1 and 2, and habitat for big-game species including: black bear, elk, moose, whitetail deer, mule deer, cougar, and others. The productive timberland will be reassigned to the suitable timber base when market conditions are such that the harvest of timber from this MA will contribute to the Net Public Benefit.

C. STANDARDS

The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter II of this plan applies to this MA.

Recreation

1. The VQO is maximum modification in areas of low viewing significance, modification in areas of moderate viewing significance, and partial retention in areas of high viewing significance.
2. The ROS class is predominantly semi-primitive motorized. Some semi-primitive non-motorized and some roaded-natural recreation opportunities also occur.
3. Roads and trails will normally be open to motorized vehicles except seasonal closures may occur on grizzly situations 1 and 2 to prevent grizzly/human conflicts.
4. Existing dispersed recreation sites will be maintained at a minimum level. A recreation management plan will be developed for any sites receiving intensive use.

Wildlife and Fish

1. Wildlife habitat will generally be managed in a natural condition, but habitat enhancement may occur using prescribed fire or timber harvest. Specific enhancement projects are 'not scheduled,' but may be planned after more detailed inventories are complete.
2. Any activity that conflicts with grizzly bear management on Situation 1 and 2 lands will include compensation. Standards and Guidelines specified in appendix 8 (Grizzly Management Situation Guidelines) will be applied for all activities in grizzly habitat.
3. Vegetative management for wildlife habitat enhancement will not conflict with recreation use except, habitat enhancement, necessary for recovery of the grizzly, will take precedence over recreation use.
4. Any activity such as timber salvage or wildlife habitat enhancement will insure that sufficient cavity dependent habitat is available in the rest of the area.
5. Existing old-growth timber and mature timber stands designated for future old growth will be maintained.
6. Road construction will avoid important wildlife habitat such as calving areas, bogs, wet meadows, riparian zones, denning areas, etc.
7. Isolated enclaves of pure-strain trout species will be identified and preserved.

Range

1. Livestock grazing for cows, and recreational pack stock is normally allowed in this MA.
2. If areas show signs of overuse, wildlife will be given preference for available forage, and livestock grazing permits will be revised or cancelled.
3. Fencing for domestic livestock control may be allowed to prevent overuse in an area, eliminate competition for forage, or reduce conflicts with grizzly management.
4. Range structures will be constructed and located to allow for safe ORV travel on roads and trails.

Timber

1. This MA is presently unsuitable for timber production.
2. Timber harvest may occur to meet the Management Goal, to minimize the spread of insects or disease to adjacent MA's, or for wildlife habitat enhancement except on areas of inventoried old-growth or where old-growth retention is needed. (Specific projects are not scheduled but may be after more detailed inventories are complete.)
3. Reassign the productive timberlands to the suitable timber base when market conditions are such that the harvest of timber from this MA will contribute to the Net Public Benefit.

Soil, Water, and Air

1. If land disturbing activities occur, vegetation to protect watershed and wildlife values will be established. Soil and water conservation practices will guide implementation of all projects. Comply with the Smoke Management Plan published by the Air Quality Bureau of the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and administered by the Montana State Airshed Group.

Riparian (See Riparian Area guidance in Chapter II Section F)

Minerals and Geology

1. Refer to Forest standards for locatable minerals. Seasonal restrictions may occur.
2. Surface occupancy for oil and gas leases will be permitted where compatible with the management of other resources.
3. The extraction of common minerals is generally not consistent with this MA. Existing roads may be used on a case-by-case basis.

Lands

Special uses, rights-of-way, easements, or cost-share agreements may be authorized on a case-by-case basis.

Facilities

1. Facilities (such as radio installations) which require frequent maintenance or occupancy will normally not be allowed. Existing facilities will be evaluated and moved if possible. If existing facilities can not be moved, a maintenance or occupancy schedule that does not conflict with grizzly seasons of use will be established. Existing facilities may be modified to fit the existing ROS class and the VQO.
2. No additional permanent roads will be permitted unless they are specified and required for a semi-primitive motorized recreation experience. (This includes roads utilized for aerial timber harvest if the productive timberlands are reassigned to the suitable timber base.) Roads will be permitted for mineral activities where construction is justified on the basis of mineral showings or data, and where it is the next logical step in the development of the mineral resource.
3. New roads will be low standard, primitive and designed to enhance the semi-primitive motorized recreation experience as much as possible.
4. Road closures will be accomplished using natural methods such as earthen barriers.
5. Open roads will be maintained at level 1, 2 or 3.
6. Trails will be maintained at level 1 or level 2.

7. For roadside seeding on open roads, eliminate any component (e.g. clover) which may attract grizzlies.
8. This MA is classified as a corridor avoidance area. (See appendix 15)

Fire

Prescribed Fire

Planned Ignitions:

1. Acceptable as a means of fuels management and wildlife habitat enhancement. All prescribed fires must be consistent with cavity-habitat management, old-growth requirements, VQO, and applicable soil, air, and water quality standards.

Unplanned Ignitions:

1. May be used in this MA to perpetuate the natural ecological process.
2. The fire must involve this MA and/or adjacent ones for which the use of unplanned ignitions for prescribed fire has been approved.
3. The expected life cycle effects of the fire must not adversely affect the goals or standards of this or any other MA.
4. A decision flow-chart will be prepared as part of the Fire Management Action Plan to conform to specific requirements of life and property, air quality, monitoring and managing resources, site, weather, expected fire behavior, and fuel type necessary for declaring an unplanned ignition a prescribed fire.

Wildfire (Applies only to National Forest lands protected by the Kootenai National Forest. For National Forest lands protected by the State of Montana see Standards in Chapter II.)

Suppression Strategy:

Critical Fire Season:

All wildfires will normally be controlled, but, an analysis including evaluation of expected fire behavior, time of year, and location with respect to private land and adjacent MA's may lead to a contain or confine strategy.

Noncritical Fire Season:

If an analysis of the time of year and expected fire behavior discloses no effect to this or any other MA, and if it is more cost effective to do so, a contain or confine strategy will be used.

Suppression Tactics: (Applies to all Kootenai National Forest lands whether protected by the National Forest or the State of Montana.)

1. Tactics will attempt to minimize disturbance. Dozers may be used, but dozer fireline construction will avoid areas of important wildlife habitat such as meadows, bogs, and riparian zones.
2. On grizzly situations 1 and 2, suppression tactics will avoid human / grizzly conflicts and existing policy will be emphasized to leave no trash or bear attractants of any kind in the area. Fire camps will be located outside grizzly situations 1 and 2 whenever possible.

D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planned - First Decade - Average Annual

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Trail construction/reconstruction | 0.2 miles |
| 2. Fish habitat improvement | 8 acres |
| 3. Fuel Treatment | 53 acres |

Projected - Second Decade - Average Annual

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Trail construction/reconstruction | 0.2 miles |
| 2. Fish habitat improvement | 9 acres |
| 3. Fuel Treatment | 50 acres |

E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1: The specific monitoring requirements from Chapter IV that are applicable to this MA are:

Recreation	A-2, A-3, A-5, A-6, A-7
Wildlife and Fish	C-1 through C-10
Range	D-1, D-2
Minerals	G-1
Timber	E-4
Facilities	L-1
Human & Community	
Development	H-2, H-3, H-4
Protection	P-1

The procedures outlined in Chapter IV will be followed to evaluate the data gathered during monitoring.

MANAGEMENT AREA 5

21,260 ACRES

A. DESCRIPTION

This MA contains the often-viewed foreground and midground areas in highly sensitive viewsheds (High Viewing Significance). The MA is located along, or close to the major travel corridors (Highways 2, 37, 56 and 200 and Forest Development Road 228). It contains a variety of vegetative types including dense vegetation in moist habitats, open stands, and steep cliffs.

B. GOALS

Maintain or enhance the landscape to provide a pleasing view, provide forage for domestic livestock and big game, and provide old-growth timber and cavity habitat for dependent wildlife species. Reassign the productive timberland to the suitable timber base when market conditions are such that the harvest of timber from this MA will contribute to the Net Public Benefit.

C. STANDARDS

The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter II of this plan applies to this MA.

Recreation

1. The VQO is retention. Although not all of the MA has the appropriate configuration and productivity, management should attempt to achieve park like stands of large trees in the immediate foreground, and visual diversity characteristic of the vegetative type in the midground.
2. The ROS class is mixed and largely dependent upon proximity to the existing road systems. It includes roaded-natural, semi-primitive motorized, and semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities.
3. Facilities are not usually appropriate in this MA. If an area requires facilities because of use pressure, the MA will be changed to MA #6.

Wildlife and Fish

1. Maintain snags for a viable population of cavity-dependent species.
2. Old-growth timber will be maintained unless it is so close to a major travel corridor that it is ineffective for wildlife security, or it is a safety hazard.
3. Wildlife habitat may be enhanced using the most cost effective technique, provided there is no long term degradation of the viewing resource.
4. Specific habitat enhancement projects are not scheduled but may be after more detailed inventories are complete.

Range

1. Domestic livestock grazing is allowed provided that:
 - a. The livestock can be prevented from entering or crossing the travel corridors.
 - b. There is sufficient forage for big game, especially if the area is used as big game winter range.
2. Fences will not be constructed for control of domestic livestock unless:
 - a. They can not be seen from the travel corridor.
 - b. They will not adversely affect wildlife.

Timber

1. This MA is presently unsuitable for timber production. Harvest is permitted to maintain or enhance the view, for wildlife habitat improvement, or to minimize the spread of insects or disease to adjacent MA's.
2. Reassign the productive timberland to the suitable timber base when market conditions are such that the harvest of timber from this MA will contribute to the Net Public Benefit.
3. Any harvest operation, while not expressly limited, will usually resemble a shelterwood harvest with thorough slash cleanup in the foreground, underburning and precommercial thinning.
4. Key vista points may be identified. Vegetative screening may be removed from identified vista points.
5. After any harvest operation, vegetation will be established to protect the soil and provide a pleasing view.
6. Catastrophic events such as fire, windstorm, disease, or insects, may create situations where harvest is necessary to maintain the long-term VQO. In such cases a short-term reduction in the VQO is permitted.
7. Timber will not be harvested on areas of inventoried old-growth timber or where old-growth retention is needed.

Soil, Water, and Air

While few land disturbing activities are expected to occur, Soil and Water Conservation Practices will be followed to protect watershed values and enhance visual quality. Comply with the Smoke Management Plan published by the Air Quality Bureau of the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and administered by the Montana State Airshed Group.

Riparian (See Riparian Area, Chapter II).

Minerals and Geology

1. Refer to Forest standards for locatable minerals. Seasonal restrictions may occur.
2. Surface occupancy for oil and gas leasing will be permitted where the retention VQO can be met. Seasonal constraints for wildlife protection may apply to geophysical activities.
3. Common minerals may be disposed of where the VQO can be fully met.

Lands

1. Acquire scenic easements on private land for key sites.
2. Special uses, rights-of-way, easements, or cost-share agreements may be authorized on a case-by-case basis.

Facilities

1. Provide for public use of roads to developed sites and logging roads that meet the retention VQO.
2. Maintain existing roads and access to developed sites at level 3 or better.
3. Existing trails will normally be maintained at level 2.
4. This MA is classified as a corridor avoidance area (See appendix 15).

FirePrescribed Fire

Planned Ignitions:

1. Acceptable as a means of fuel management or wildlife habitat management (in areas where wildlife habitat management is acceptable).
2. All prescribed fires must meet the retention VQO and meet all soil, air, and water quality standards.
3. All activity fuels will be treated to meet the retention VQO within one season in areas immediately adjacent to highways and in the immediate foreground.

Unplanned Ignitions:

Unplanned ignitions will not be used as prescribed fire in this MA.

Wildfire (Applies only to National Forest lands protected by the Kootenai National Forest. For National Forest lands protected by the State of Montana see "Standards" in Chapter II.) ;

Suppression Strategy:

Critical Fire Season:

All wildfires will be controlled.

Noncritical Fire Season:

Wildfire will normally be controlled, but, if an analysis of the time of year and expected fire behavior discloses no effect to this or any other MA, and if it is more cost effective to do so, a contain or confine strategy will be used.

Suppression Tactics: (Applies to all Kootenai National Forest lands whether protected by the National Forest or by the State of Montana.)

Tactics will emphasize the least possible disturbance. Dozers generally will not be used.

D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planned - First Decade - Average Annual

1. Fuel Treatment 85 acres

Projected - Second Decade - Average Annual

None Projected

E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. The specific monitoring requirements from Chapter IV that are applicable to this MA are:

Recreation	A-3, A-5, A-7
Wildlife and Fish	C-1 through C-9
Range	D-1, D-2
Timber	E-4
Minerals	G-1
Human & Community Dev	H-2, H-3, H-4
Facilities	L-1
Protection	P-1

The procedures outlined in Chapter IV will be followed to evaluate the data gathered during monitoring.

MANAGEMENT AREA 6

3,570 ACRES

A. DESCRIPTION

This MA includes developed campgrounds, picnic areas, boat ramps, Turner Mt. Ski Area, and other developed recreation sites. The area is in numerous locations scattered across the Forest, and is usually associated with water features such as lakes, reservoirs, streams, etc.

B. GOALS

This MA will be managed to provide safe and sanitary developed recreation in a setting that is pleasant and visually attractive. Additional sites in this MA will be provided as demand increases.

C. STANDARDS

The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter II of this plan applies to this MA.

Recreation

1. The minimum VQO is partial retention in the foreground.
2. The ROS class is predominantly roaded-natural. Some rural and semi-primitive motorized settings may surround developed sites.
3. Existing sites that are unsuitable or unused will be phased out.
4. Locate and encourage concessionaires to manage existing recreation sites.
5. Trash disposal containers will be provided, except for designated "pack it in, pack it out" sites, and their use will be enforced for sanitation, aesthetics, and to prevent attracting animals to the site.

Wildlife and Fish

1. Provide displays and information to make site users more aware of and informed about the area wildlife.
2. New recreation sites will be located away from important wildlife habitat such as calving areas, meadows, winter range, etc. If the only available sites are on wildlife habitat, the recreation use season will be adjusted to avoid conflict with important wildlife use seasons.
3. New recreation sites will not be constructed in grizzly situations 1 or 2.
4. Cavity-dependent habitat will be maintained unless a hazard to recreationists exists.
5. Any stocking of high use fishing areas will be coordinated with Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks.

Range

Domestic livestock grazing is generally not permitted.

Timber

1. This MA is unsuitable for timber production.
2. Salvage harvest may occur to remove trees infested by insects or disease, to remove hazard trees, or for other land clearing necessary for recreation purposes.
3. Reforestation will occur, not for timber production, but to protect the soil and water resources, or to enhance the visual quality.
4. Intensive insect or disease treatment, such as spraying individual trees, may occur to protect the appearance of sites in this MA.

Soil, Water and Air

Soil and Water Conservations Practices will be followed for any activity. Comply with the Smoke Management Plan published by the Air Quality Bureau of the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and administered by the Montana State Airshed Group.

Riparian (See Riparian Area, Chapter II).

Minerals and Geology

1. Sites not already withdrawn from mineral entry for locatable minerals will be considered for such withdrawal, following the criteria in Appendix 13.
2. Stipulate no surface occupancy for leasable minerals.
3. Removal of common minerals will not be permitted.

Lands

If demand occurs and the most suitable sites for development are on non-NFS lands, pursue opportunities for exchange, purchase, or donation; or encourage compatible development by the private sector.

Facilities

1. Roads within campgrounds will be maintained at a minimum of level 3.
2. This MA is classified as a corridor avoidance area. (See Appendix 15.)

FirePrescribed FirePlanned Ignitions:

May be used for vegetative alteration, hazard reduction, and removal of any activity fuels. 100% of all activity fuels will be treated within the first season following the activity.

Unplanned Ignitions:

Unplanned ignitions will not be used as prescribed fire.

Wildfire (Applies only to National Forest lands protected by the Kootenai National Forest. For National Forest lands protected by the State of Montana see Standards, Chapter II)

Suppression Strategy:Critical Fire Season:

All wildfire will be controlled.

Noncritical Fire Season:

1. Wildfires will normally be controlled.
2. If an analysis of the time of year and expected fire behavior disclose no effect to this or any other MA, and if it is more cost effective to do so, a contain or confine strategy will be used.

Suppression Tactics: (Applies to all Kootenai National Forest land whether protected by the National Forest or by the State of Montana.)

1. Tactics will emphasize minimum disturbance of the site.
2. Dozers may be used to prevent damage to facilities, but rehabilitation of control lines will follow immediately. Rehabilitation may include grasses, shrubs, and trees. Grass mixtures should not contain clover which will attract bears.

D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**Planned - First Decade - Average annual**

Development & Construction 0.3 sites

Projected - Second Decade - Average annual

Development & Construction 0.2 sites

E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. The specific monitoring requirements from Chapter IV that are applicable to this MA are:

Recreation	A-3, A-4, A-7
Range	D-2
Minerals	G-1
Human and Comm Dev	H-1, H-3, H-4
Protection	P-1

The process outlined in Chapter IV will be followed to evaluate the data gathered during monitoring.

MANAGEMENT AREA 7

94,360 ACRES

A. DESCRIPTION

This MA is composed entirely of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area and is located in the southwest-central portion of the Forest in both Lincoln and Sanders counties. This MA is located on, and administered by the Cabinet, Libby, and Troy Ranger Districts.

The Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area is approximately 34 miles long and varies from 1/2 mile to 7 miles wide. Elevations range from 2,500' to 8,700' above sea level, and the vegetation is predominantly subalpine. Glaciation has produced spectacular features such as high craggy peaks, vertical cliffs, knife edge ridges, and many amphitheater-like basins. There are approximately 85 lakes with the largest (Leigh Lake) at 142 acres. The MA is almost entirely grizzly situation 1. There are significant mineral reserves such as copper and silver which have recently been discovered and valid rights have been established. Efforts to develop those minerals are underway. There have been no oil and gas leases issued, hence there are no valid existing lease rights. The Cabinet Mountain Wilderness is designated Class I by the 1977 Clean Air Act amendments. This designation provides special protection to air-quality related values, including visibility, from adverse effects of air pollutants.

B. GOALS

This MA will be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964. Management will allow natural processes to continue, maintain the opportunity for solitude and primitive forms of recreation, provide habitat contributing to the recovery of the grizzly bear, and provide natural habitat for viable populations of all other species of wildlife which historically have occupied the area.

C. STANDARDS

The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter II of this plan applies to this MA. A Management Action Plan for this area is included in Appendix 23.

Recreation

1. The VQO is preservation.
2. The ROS class is predominantly primitive.
3. Roadless non-motorized forms of recreation (hiking and horseback riding) will be accommodated and managed.
4. Overused sites will be managed to prevent further deterioration and improve site condition where possible.
5. "No trace" use of the wilderness will be emphasized.
6. Reduce the potential for grizzly/human conflicts with signs advising users of the presence of grizzlies, educational signs and brochures concerning proper camping techniques, and enforcement of food and trash disposal.

Wilderness

1. The Cabinet Mountain Wilderness Action Plan will be used to identify indicators, standards, and processes for site specific management of this wilderness area. (See Appendix 23.)
2. Permanent facilities for commercial outfitters and guides will not be permitted. Some minor improvements such as hitching racks may be approved on a case-by-case basis.
3. Wilderness rangers will be provided.
4. Wilderness management needs will be reviewed and updated about every ten years in conjunction with Forest planning updates.

Wildlife and Fish

1. Habitat enhancement projects are not permitted in this MA. Prescribed fire, unplanned ignition, may, however, enhance some habitat as part of the natural ecological process.
2. Some lakes have historically been stocked with fish. The program will be permitted to continue but may be cancelled if sites adjacent to stocked lakes are overused.
3. Studies of the grizzly bears have occurred and will continue, including trapping, and installation of radio collars on selected individuals. Standards and guidelines specified in Appendix 8 (Grizzly Management Situation Guidelines) will be applied for all activities.
4. Isolated enclaves of pure strain trout species will be identified and preserved.

Insects and Disease

1. Insects and disease occurrences within the wilderness boundary will be allowed to run its natural course.

Range

1. This MA has no existing allotments for domestic livestock grazing, and none are permitted.
2. Recreational pack stock is permitted in this MA, but grazing will not be allowed in most popular and heavily used sites.

Timber

1. This MA is unsuitable for timber production.
2. Timber harvest will not occur.

Soil, Water and Air

1. All site rehabilitation projects will be done in a manner that protects wilderness values, using only native species for revegetation.
2. The standards for protecting air quality will be identified when reviewing notice of a Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) action which may impact the wilderness.
3. Comply with the Smoke Management Plan published by the Air Quality Bureau of the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and administered by the Montana State Airshed Group.

Riparian (See Riparian Area, Chapter II).

Minerals and Geology

1. Valid mineral rights have been recognized within the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness and these rights will be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act and other applicable laws and regulations.
2. Extraction of common minerals will not be permitted.
3. Oil and gas leasing will not be permitted.

Lands

1. No rights-of-way, easements or cost-share agreements will be permitted.

Facilities

1. No road construction is permitted.
2. Trails may be reconstructed or relocated if resource damage is occurring.
3. This MA is classified as a corridor exclusion area. (See Appendix 15.)

FirePrescribed Fire

Planned Ignitions:

As a general management practice planned ignition, prescribed fire will not be used in this MA. Should it become necessary to consider the use of prescribed fire from planned ignitions in this MA, Forest Service Manual 2324.22 provides the necessary direction.

Unplanned Ignitions:

1. May be used in this MA to perpetuate the natural ecological process.
2. The fire must involve only this MA and/or adjacent ones for which the use of unplanned ignitions for prescribed fire has been approved.
3. The expected life cycle effects of the fire must not adversely affect the goals or standards of this or any other MA.
4. A decision flow chart will be prepared as part of the Fire Management Action Plan to conform to specific requirements of life and property, air quality, monitoring and managing resources, site, weather, expected fire behavior, and fuel type necessary for declaring an unplanned ignition a prescribed fire.

Wildfire (Applies only to National Forest lands protected by the Kootenai National Forest. For National Forest lands protected by the State of Montana see "Standards" Chapter II.)

Suppression Strategy:

Critical Fire Season:

All wildfires will normally be controlled, however, an analysis including evaluation of expected fire behavior, time of year, and location with respect to private land and adjacent MA's may lead to a contain or confine strategy.

Noncritical Fire Season:

If an analysis of the time of year and expected fire behavior discloses no effect to this or any other MA, and if it is more cost effective than control, a contain or confine strategy will be used.

Suppression Tactics: (Applies to all Kootenai National Forest lands whether protected by the National Forest or the State of Montana.)

1. Tactics will emphasize the least possible disturbance or evidence of human presence.
2. Dozers will not be used.
3. Use of mechanized equipment, excepting dozers, requires Forest Supervisor approval.
4. Suppression tactics will avoid human/grizzly conflicts and existing policy will be emphasized to leave no trash or other bear attractants of any kind in the area.
5. Rehabilitation (return to natural condition) of all campsites, control lines, and other evidence of human presence will occur as soon as it is safe to do so, but always within one season after the fire occurs.

D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planned - First Decade - Average annual

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Trail relocation/reconstruction | 1.5 miles |
|------------------------------------|-----------|

Projected - Second Decade - Average annual

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Trail relocation/reconstruction | 1.5 miles |
|------------------------------------|-----------|

E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. The specific monitoring requirements from Chapter IV that are applicable to this MA are:

Recreation	A-1, A-2, A-7
Wildlife and Fish	C-9
Range	D-2
Minerals	G-1
Human and Comm. Dev.	H-1
Protection	P-1

The procedures outlined in Chapter IV will be followed to evaluate the data gathered during monitoring.

MANAGEMENT AREA 8

78,500 Acres

A. DESCRIPTION

This MA includes the following areas recommended by the Kootenai National Forest for Congressional designation as Wilderness:

1. Scotchman Peaks Recommended Wilderness

36,200 acres in the Southeast portion of the Forest. There are, in addition, 22,000 acres on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest which join the Kootenai portion of the Scotchman area and are also recommended for Wilderness designation. The Kootenai portion lies in Lincoln and Sanders counties in Montana with a small area in Bonner county, Idaho. Elevations range from approximately 2,400' to nearly 7,000' above sea level. Vegetation is predominantly sub-alpine with pockets of pine and fir in the lower elevations. Little Spar is the only lake in the area. There has been recent interest in the mineral potential and a large silver mine is operating just northeast of the proposed boundary. The entire area is in grizzly situations 1 and 2, and the Scotchman area is considered to be part of the Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Ecosystem.

2. Cabinet Additions

35,500 acres consisting of several parcels along the West and Northeast sides of the existing Cabinet Mountains Wilderness area. The proposed recommended additions lie in Lincoln and Sanders counties. The vegetation is principally sub-alpine and medium productivity fir forest on the west side and medium productivity fir with inclusions of highly productive pine and fir forest on the Northeast side. The entire area is in grizzly situations 1 and 2 as part of the Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Ecosystem. There have been recent mineral discoveries along the west central and southwest edge of the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness Area, and a feasibility analysis for two proposed mines near Chicago Peak are presently being done. The exact areas and amount of the mineral reserves is unknown but assumed to be significant.

3. Ten Lakes Contiguous Area

6,800 acres in the Northeast corner of the Forest along the periphery of the Ten Lakes Montana Wilderness Study Act Area (MWSA). See the descriptions of the MWSA under MA-9, below. This area is outside of the MWSA and is not covered by that legislation, thus it is described as MA-8. MA-9 is a special area directly related to the MWSA.

B. GOALS

Retain the wilderness characteristics and values, allow natural ecological processes to continue, maintain the opportunity for primitive forms of recreation and provide habitat which will contribute to the recovery of the grizzly bear.

C. STANDARDS

The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter II of this plan applies to this MA.

Recreation

1. The VQO is preservation.
2. The ROS class is predominantly primitive. Some roads adjacent to proposed boundaries create a small amount of semi-primitive non-motorized and semi-primitive motorized recreation opportunities.
3. Roadless non-motorized forms of recreation (horseback riding and hiking) will be accommodated and managed.
4. Snowmobile use is presently permitted in portions of the Ten Lakes Contiguous Area. That use may continue unless it is determined to conflict with grizzly management or other wildlife standards. It is assumed that snowmobile use will be prohibited on all areas which are designated as Wilderness by Congress. No motorized use is permitted in the remainder of this MA.
5. Overused sites will be monitored, and if resource damage occurs the sites will be restricted or closed and rehabilitated.
6. Wilderness rangers will not be provided but signs and brochures will be made available for recreationists instructing them on "no trace" camping techniques, and "pack it in, pack it out" hiking.
7. Signs and informational brochures will be made available advising users of the presence of grizzlies, and techniques of food storage and disposal to prevent conflict with the bears.

Wilderness

1. Any portion of this MA, or lands not presently in this MA that become Congressionally designated wilderness will be placed in MA-7.
2. A Wilderness Action Plan will be prepared for any area designated wilderness.
3. Permanent facilities for commercial outfitters and guides will not be permitted.

Wildlife and Fish

1. Habitat enhancement projects using prescribed fire, both planned and unplanned ignition, may occur, especially on areas of winter range.
2. Areas of mature timber and old growth are considered to be part of the old growth habitat on the Forest. Before using prescribed fire in an old growth area the amount of old growth will be determined for the major drainage affected, and not allowed to fall below the designated minimum (usually 10%).
3. Stocking of lakes with indigenous fish is permitted except the program may be cancelled for selected lakes if sites adjacent to those lakes become overused.
4. Isolated enclaves of pure strain trout species will be identified and preserved.

Range

1. There are no existing allotments for grazing domestic livestock and none are permitted.
2. Recreational pack stock is permitted to graze in this MA. If popular areas are overused or resource damage occurs the grazing of pack stock will be discontinued on those sites.

Timber

1. This MA is not suitable for timber production.
2. Timber harvest will not occur.

Soil, Water, and Air

1. All site rehabilitation projects will be done in a manner that protects wilderness values, using only native species for revegetation.
2. Comply with the Smoke Management Plan published by the Air Quality Bureau of the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and administered by the Montana State Airshed Group.

Riparian (See Riparian Area, Chapter II).

Minerals and Geology

1. Refer to Forest standards for locatable minerals. Seasonal restrictions may occur.
2. No mineral leases will be issued.
3. Extraction of common minerals will not be permitted.

Lands

1. No rights-of-way, easements, or cost-share agreements are permitted.

Facilities

1. No road construction is permitted.
2. New trails may be constructed except when in conflict with grizzly situations 1 and 2.
3. Trails will be maintained at level 1 or 2.
4. This MA is classified as a corridor exclusion area. (See Appendix 15.)

FirePrescribed Fire

Planned Ignitions:

Acceptable as a means of wildlife habitat enhancement. All prescribed fires must be consistent with cavity habitat management, old growth requirements, and applicable soil, air, VQO and water quality standards.

Unplanned Ignitions:

1. May be used in this MA to perpetuate the natural ecological process, provide habitat diversity for wildlife and prevent a buildup of fuels which could lead to a catastrophic fire in the future.
2. Fire must involve only this MA and/or adjacent ones for which the use of unplanned ignition for prescribed fire has been approved.
3. The expected life cycle effects of the fire must not adversely affect the goals or standards of this or any other MA.
4. A decision flow-chart will be prepared as part of the Fire Management Action Plan to conform to specific requirements of life and property, air quality, monitoring and managing resources, site, weather, expected fire behavior, and fuel type necessary for declaring an unplanned ignition a prescribed fire.

Wildfire (Applies only to National Forest lands protected by the Kootenai National Forest. For National Forest lands protected by the State of Montana, see "Standards" Chapter II).

Suppression Strategy:

Critical Fire Season:

All wildfires will normally be controlled, but, an analysis including evaluation of expected fire behavior, time of year, and location with respect to private land and adjacent MA's may lead to a contain or confine strategy.

Noncritical Fire Season:

If an analysis of the time of year and expected fire behavior discloses no effect to this or any other MA, and if it is more cost effective to do so, a contain or confine strategy will be used.

Suppression Tactics: (Applies to all National Forest lands whether protected by the National Forest or the State of Montana.)

1. Tactics will emphasize the least possible disturbance or evidence of human presence.
2. Use of any mechanized equipment, including the use of dozers requires Forest Supervisor approval.
3. Suppression tactics will avoid human/grizzly conflicts, and existing policy will be emphasized to leave no trash or other bear attractants of any kind in the area.
4. Rehabilitation (return to a near natural condition) of all campsites, control lines and other evidence of human presence will occur as soon as it is safe to do so, and no longer than one season after the fire occurs.

D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planned - First Decade - Average annual

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Trail construction/reconstruction | .9 miles |
| 2. Wildlife habitat enhancement | 140 acres |

Projected - Second Decade - Average annual

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Trail construction/reconstruction | .9 miles |
| 2. Wildlife habitat enhancement | 140 acres |

E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. The specific monitoring requirements from Chapter IV that are applicable to this MA are:

Recreation	A-1, A-2, A-3, A-5, A-6, A-7
Wildlife and Fish	C-1 through C-10
Range	D-2
Timber	E-4
Minerals	G-1
Human and Comm. Dev.	H-1, H-3, H-4
Facilities	L-1
Protection	P-1

The procedures outlined in Chapter IV will be followed to evaluate the data gathered during monitoring.