

MANAGEMENT AREA 21

12,320 ACRES

GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND INTRODUCTION

Management Area 21 consists of areas of special interest because of unique, unusual, or important flora, fauna, geological, recreational, cultural, or historical attributes which are of public interest and require protection or special management. This MA consists of the following specific sites. Each site is part of a basic group which will be managed similarly. Management guidance for each group as well as for individual sites is provided below. The sites are as follows:

I. RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (RNA) CANDIDATES
(1,940 acres in MA-21; 1,580 acres in MA-8)

	<u>MA-21 AREA</u>	<u>OTHER MA's</u>
1. Big Creek	190 Acres	
2. Hoskins Lake	300 Acres	
3. Norman Mountain	0 Acres	This entire area is included in the Cabinet Mountains Recommended wilderness additions (MA-8). (Total Area = 1200 acres)
4. Parmenter	60 Acres	
5. Pete Creek Meadows	120 Acres	
6. Ross Creek Cedars	340 Acres	An additional 380 acres are within the recommended Scotchman Wilderness Area (MA-8) (Total Area = 720 acres)
7. Ulm Peak	690 Acres	
8. Wolf/Weigel	240 Acres	

In addition to the sites listed above, the Kootenai National Forest was assigned four aquatic types for representation in Research Natural Areas. The four sites are all within the existing Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area:

1. Type III stream - Falls creek
2. Average production potential lake - Wanless lake
3. Low production potential lake - Snowshoe lake
4. Lake without fish - Bramlet lake

The standards and guidelines for MA-7 will apply to these aquatic types.

II. CULTURAL RESOURCE AREAS (900 acres)

1. Boyd Hill Cemetery	90 Acres
2. Bull River Guard Station	110 Acres
3. Kootenai Falls Cultural Resource District	250 Acres
4. Yahk Historic Mining Area	450 Acres

III. SCENIC AREAS (4,720 acres)

1. Northwest Peaks	4,420 Acres
2. Ross Creek Cedars	190 Acres (this area is adjacent to the RNA)
3. Wood Creek Larch	110 Acres

IV. GEOLOGIC AREAS (1,530 acres)

1. Devils Gap	850 Acres
2. Rexford Hoodoos	90 Acres
3. Star Creek Canyon	80 Acres
4. Sunday Creek Falls	20 Acres
5. Ten Mile Talus	350 Acres
6. West Fork Yaak Falls	140 Acres

V. BOTANICAL AREAS (40 acres)

1. Berray Mountain Cedars	40 Acres
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VI. OTHER (3,230 acres)

1. Upper Big Creek Riparian Ecosystem	3,230 Acres
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I. RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (RNA) CANDIDATES
(1,940 acres plus 1,580 acres in MA-8)

A. DESCRIPTION

These areas are recommended for RNA status. Research Natural Areas are for non-manipulative research, observation, and study. They also may assist in carrying out provisions of special acts such as the Endangered Species Act and the monitoring provisions of the National Forest Management Act.

1. Big Creek: located on the Rexford Ranger District near the mouth of Big Creek, adjacent to the west side of Kooconusa Reservoir and the Forest Development Road. The habitat type is Douglas fir/dwarf huckleberry which is rare on this National Forest.
2. Hoskins Lake: located on the Yaak Ranger District between Bunker Creek and Vinal Creek approximately two miles Southeast of the Upper Ford Administrative Site. It is a productive lake with surrounding vegetation of Engelmann spruce/queencup beedlily.
3. Norman Mountain: located on the Libby Ranger District and is a Douglas fir/pinegrass vegetative association located adjacent to and northwest of the Parmenter candidate area. It is located totally within the recommended addition to the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness Area. (RNA's may be located within wilderness areas.)
4. Parmenter: located on the Libby Ranger District and is a cottonwood stand located approximately 4 miles southeast of Libby in Parmenter Creek. It is adjacent to the Norman Mountain RNA candidate.
5. Pete Creek Meadows: an area on the Yaak Ranger District near the West Fork of the Yaak River and just north of Pete Creek cabin. It is the headwaters area for Pete Creek and is a sedge meadow with subalpine fir and woodrush vegetation.
6. Ross Creek Cedars: located on the Troy Ranger District and is a stand of mature western red cedar. It is adjacent to and partially within the Ross Creek Scenic Area (see Appendix 21 for a map).
7. Ulm Peak: located on the Cabinet Ranger District and the Idaho/Montana state line forms the southwest boundary. The vegetation type is mature mountain hemlock. It is adjacent to the proposed Shoshone Research Natural Area on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest in Idaho.
8. Wolf/Weigel: located on the Fisher River Ranger District at the confluence of Wolf Creek and Weigel Creek. The vegetative type is sedge and waterlily with cottonwood.

B. GOALS

1. Preserve a wide spectrum of pristine representative areas that typify important forest, shrubland, grassland, alpine, aquatic, geological, and similar natural situations for research, study, observation, monitoring, and those educational activities that maintain unmodified conditions.
2. Preserve and maintain genetic diversity.
3. Protect against serious environmental disruptions.
4. Serve as reference areas for the study of succession.
5. Provide onsite and extension educational activities.
6. Serve as baseline areas for measuring long-term ecological changes.
7. Serve as control areas for manipulative research.
8. Monitor effects of resource management techniques and practices.

C. STANDARDS

The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter II of this plan applies to this MA. These areas will be managed to preserve their suitability for RNA status pending establishment. Specific management direction will be incorporated as Forest Plan amendments upon establishment.

Recreation

1. Site-specific action plans will be prepared for each area when they are officially designated RNA's. Developed or concentrated recreation will not be encouraged except for the portion of Ross Creek including the parking area and picnic site.
2. The ROS class varies but it is predominantly semi-primitive non-motorized.
3. ORV use will normally not be allowed except on existing roads. ORV use may be allowed on trails where the trail provides for ORV use on both sides of the RNA.
4. The VQO is retention.

Range

Livestock grazing is not permitted.

Timber

1. RNA's are not suitable for timber production.
2. Timber harvest will not occur.
3. Intensive management techniques such as spraying for insect or disease treatments are not permitted.

Minerals and Geology

1. Each area will be withdrawn when it is officially designated an RNA.
2. Disposal of common minerals is prohibited.
3. Stipulate No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas leases.

Lands

1. No rights-of-way, easements, or cost-share agreements.
2. Special uses such as snow courses which do not affect the goal of this MA may be allowed.

Facilities

1. New roads are not permitted.
2. New trails could be constructed if there are no reasonable alternatives. None are expected at this time.
3. RNA's are classified as corridor avoidance areas (see appendix 15).

FirePrescribed Fire

Planned Ignitions:

1. May be used only after the historic fire frequency has been developed and the planned ignition replicates that historic interval.
2. Any planned ignition must maintain the vegetative type for which the RNA was established.

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 wildfires will be controlled.

Noncritical Fire Season:

1. Wildfire will be controlled unless the activities associated with control are more detrimental to the goals for the RNA than the total effect of a contain or confine strategy.
2. The selection of a strategy will be based first on preservation of the RNA, and then on cost effectiveness.

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. Use of dozers requires Forest Supervisor approval.

D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planned - First Decade - Average annual

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| 1. Prescribed Fire (Big Creek Area) | 95 Acres |
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Projected - Second Decade - Average annual

- | | |
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| 1. Prescribed Fire (Big Creek Area) | 95 acres |
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E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Recreation	A-2, A-5, A-7
Range	D-2
Minerals	G-1
Human & Comm Dev.	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.

II. CULTURAL RESOURCE AREAS (900 acres)

A. DESCRIPTION

These are areas that comprise the cultural resource foundation of our nation, including buildings, sites, areas, architecture, memorials, and objects having scientific, historic, or social values. They are also areas that contain or comprise an irreplaceable resource relating to past human life.

Cultural resource areas contain cultural values that are nonrenewable. The resources are evidence of the past, are usually fragile, and can be obliterated by relatively minor modifications of the ground surface. Cultural areas and resources are elements of world-wide patterns and processes.

1. Boyd Hill Cemetery: located in the Yaak Valley north of the East Fork of the Yaak River along Highway 92. The historic site consists of 31 graves, ranging in time from 1917 to 1979 and it is surrounded by a fence. An official permit was issued in 1954 which involved giving the cemetery its name. The name came from its first occupant, an early prospector who died in 1917.
2. Bull River Guard Station: located off the Bull River Highway #56 at the confluence of the Bull River and the East Fork. This administrative site was withdrawn in 1907 and the main building was built in 1908 by Granville Gorden and Ben Saint. Gorden was the first ranger for the Noxon Ranger Station of the Cabinet National Forest and Saint later replaced him, serving from 1910 to 1920. During that time a little community grew up around the station. A school was built a quarter of a mile south of the station, and the teacher was boarded at the station. It is the oldest standing administrative site on the Kootenai National Forest, has easy access and is in good condition.
3. Kootenai Falls Cultural Resource District: located along the north and south banks of the Kootenai River in the center of the Kootenai National Forest. The District contains a diverse set of historic period resources that represent such activities as; railroading, a Chinese settlement, homesteading and placer mining. These resources have the potential for expanding our understanding of the various developmental stages of historic period human interaction in this part of Northwestern Montana. In general, the prehistoric data that may be derived from the district should provide important explanations about the cultural adaptive techniques over a period of some 8,000 years. (Lahern 1981)
4. Yahk Historic Mining Area: is a mining community that represents the technology of hard-rock mining and stamp milling, as well as the lifestyle of the northwestern miner. The mining camp was established in the 1890's and was revitalized in 1910 and in the 1930's. There are 195 features at the site including stamp mills, adits, assay offices, business offices, and homes.

There are additional areas of the Kootenai National Forest, particularly areas of archeological or historical value which are not included in this MA, and are not identified on public maps. These areas could be destroyed by public use, and protection of the sites cannot be guaranteed if full public disclosure occurs.

B. GOALS

1. Prevent loss or damage of cultural resources.
2. Provide for evaluation, scientific study, interpretive services, or other appropriate uses including nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

C. STANDARDS

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

Cultural Resources

1. Site specific action plans to include interpretation will be prepared for each site consistent with the standards established in this Forest Plan.

Recreation

1. The VQO is retention, except where the VQO is affected by the cultural resource, such as buildings. The intent is to retain or improve the existing visual quality.
2. The ROS class varies from roaded-natural to semi-primitive, non-motorized.
3. ORV use is not permitted.

Range

Livestock grazing may be permitted if there is no affect to the cultural resources of the site.

Timber

1. Cultural sites are not suitable for timber production.
2. Salvage harvest is not expected but could occur if there is no affect to the cultural resource on the site.
3. Intensive insect or disease treatment, such as spraying individual trees is not expected but could occur to protect the characteristics of the site.

Minerals and Geology

1. Each area will be recommended for withdrawal from entry for locatable minerals (see appendix 13).
2. Stipulate No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas leases.
3. Disposal of common minerals is not permitted.

Lands

No special uses, rights-of-way, easements, or cost-share agreements.

Facilities

1. Existing roads providing public access to the sites may be retained, but new roads are not expected and will be permitted only if there is no affect to the cultural resource.
2. Trails may be constructed, but none are anticipated at this time.
3. This MA is classified as a corridor avoidance area (see appendix 15).

FirePrescribed Fire

Planned Ignitions:

May be used to remove fuels only if there is no detrimental affect to the cultural resource.

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 wildfires will be controlled.

Noncritical Fire Season:

1. Wildfire normally will be controlled.
2. If an analysis of the time of year and the expected fire behavior discloses no affect to this, or any other MA, and there is less potential for damage to the cultural resource, 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 emphasize the least possible disturbance or evidence of human presence.
2. If there is the threat of loss of the cultural resource, tactics to prevent that loss will be used.
3. The use of dozers is not anticipated but they may be used to prevent damage to the cultural resources.

D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planned - First Decade

None Planned

Projected - Second Decade

None Projected.

E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Recreation	A-5, A-7
Range	D-2
Minerals	G-1
Human & Comm Dev.	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.

III. SCENIC AREAS (4,720 acres)

A. DESCRIPTION

Northwest Peaks: located in the northwest corner of the Forest on the Yaak Ranger District with part of the Scenic Area on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The area is a high ridgeline setting with rough topography. Elevations range up to 7,000' at Northwest Peak. There are several small alpine lakes. The trees are subalpine fir, alpine larch, and whitebark pine, and none of the area is suitable for timber production. The area is grizzly situation I.

Ross Creek: located on the west side of the Forest on the Troy Ranger District on both sides of Ross Creek. The area is located to include a stand of the largest western red cedar trees on the Kootenai National Forest. A trail is located through the area near the stream. There is an adjacent developed recreation site which includes a parking lot and picnic tables. See Appendix 21 for a map showing the relationship of the Scotchman Peaks Recommended Wilderness Area, the Scenic Area, the Proposed RNA and the developed recreation site (MA-6).

Wood Creek Larch: located on the north end of the Forest on the Yaak Ranger District. The area includes an intact stand of large, old-growth western larch. It has a rolling, glaciated landscape and lies on both sides of Wood Creek.

B. GOALS

All areas will be managed to preserve the characteristics that make them scenic.

C. STANDARDS

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

Recreation

1. The VQO is retention
2. The ROS class for Northwest Peaks is primitive. The ROS class for Ross Creek and Wood Creek Larch is semi-primitive motorized.
3. ORV use is not permitted.

Range

Livestock grazing is not permitted

Timber

1. None of the areas are suitable for timber production.
2. Salvage harvest is not permitted unless a single-tree selection is needed to correct a safety hazard.
3. Intensive treatment such as individual tree spraying or other activities may occur, especially in Ross Creek, to protect the scenic character of the area.

Minerals and Geology

1. The riparian portion of Ross Creek will be analyzed for withdrawal from entry for locatable minerals. Criteria to be considered during analysis for withdrawal are included in appendix 13.
2. Stipulate No Surface Occupancy for oil and gas leases.
3. Disposal of common minerals will not be permitted.

Lands

1. No rights-of-way, easements, or cost-share agreements are allowed.
2. Special uses, such as snow courses, which do not affect the goal of this MA may be allowed.

Facilities

1. New roads are not permitted. The existing road into Ross Creek may be reconstructed and improved for safety.
2. New trails may be constructed.
3. All areas are classified as corridor avoidance areas (see appendix 15).

FirePrescribed Fire

Planned Ignitions:

1. Could be used for hazard reduction, but none is planned or anticipated. No activities requiring hazard reduction are anticipated.
2. May be used for wildlife habitat improvement provided there is no affect on the scenic quality and goal for these areas.

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 wildfires will be controlled.

Noncritical Fire Season:

1. Wildfires will normally be controlled.
2. If an analysis of the time of year, and the expected fire behavior discloses no affect 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 emphasize the least possible disturbance or evidence of human presence.
2. Use of dozers requires Forest Supervisor approval.

D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planned - First Decade

None planned.

Projected - Second Decade

None projected

E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Recreation	A-1, A-2, A-4, A-7
Range	D-2
Minerals	G-1
Human & Comm Dev.	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.

IV. GEOLOGIC AREAS (1,530 acres)

A. DESCRIPTION

Devil's Gap: located near the southwest edge of the Forest on the Cabinet Ranger District near the confluence of Devil Gap Creek and Marten Creek. The area contains very steep (100%+) sidewalls with cliffs, and prominent outcrops of rock. The vegetation is sparse.

Rexford Hoodoos: located on the Rexford Ranger District northeast across the bay from the Rexford Bench Campground. It is near where the Tobacco River flows into Lake Kooconusa. The "hoodoos" are developing in dense glacial till within a drumlin formation. The drumlin was eroded by water action of the Tobacco River. The area can be viewed from an overlook on the south side of the Tobacco River Bay accessed from Rexford Bench Campground.

Star Creek Canyon: located on the Troy Ranger District across the Kootenai River from the Yaak River campground, near the mouth of Star Creek. The canyon is difficult to access on foot. It has 100%+ sideslopes, areas of slide rock, and cliffs. There is little vegetation in the canyon itself. Vegetative types include Douglas fir on the north side and cedar/hemlock/clintonia on the south side. There are a series of waterfalls of up to 40' in the canyon. There is no fish passage through the canyon. The area is not grizzly habitat.

Sunday Creek Falls: on the east side of the Forest on the Fortine Ranger District. The area is actually a series of waterfalls on Sunday Creek just above road #3734. There is a picnic table near the road and a trail to the falls. The area supports a lot of recreational use for picnics, hiking, and swimming on a day use basis. Areas of timber harvest surround the site. The area is not grizzly habitat.

Ten Mile Talus: located on the Rexford Ranger District on the topographic divide between Tenmile Creek and Pinkham Creek. There is a canyon caused by a fault with sideslopes that have been glacially scoured. The lower slopes contain large amounts of talus. There is sparse vegetation; mostly a fescue type.

West Fork Yaak Falls: located on the Yaak Ranger District in the northwest corner of the Forest near the confluence of the West Fork and the main Yaak River. The area contains two waterfalls within a mile above Forest Highway #92. The area is heavily used for hiking and for picnics.

All of the areas are delineated with natural features such as topographic slope breaks and hydrologic divides. Four of the areas involve stream bottoms and all four have waterfalls. The other area (Ten Mile Talus) is located on a topographic divide and contains a large area of talus. Most of the areas have shallow soil with lots of exposed bedrock. The influence of faulting in shaping the landscape is demonstrated in all areas. Most of the areas are sparsely vegetated or open grown. The only wet habitat types are in the bottoms.

The southerly aspects, except cliffs and oversteepened slopes, provide winter habitat for wildlife. There are fish in most of the streams but the falls are migration barriers.

All of the areas have access to their boundaries. Sunday Creek Falls and the West Fork of the Yaak falls are frequently visited. Ten Mile Talus has a road running through it. Star Canyon and Devils Gap are accessible but the terrain makes hiking extremely difficult, even dangerous in some spots.

B. GOAL

Manage and protect the geologic areas and preserve those unique or unusual characteristics and interpret those characteristics for the public. Provide safe recreation experiences, if possible, that can take advantage of the scenic, geologic, or riparian values.

C. STANDARDS

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

Recreation

1. The VQO is retention.
2. The ROS class is semi-primitive non-motorized except Ten Mile Talus which is roaded-natural.
3. Trail construction is permitted to access unique features, or link to other trail systems.
4. ORV use is normally not permitted.
5. Vistas will be planned and vegetation may be manipulated to open other viewing points.

Wildlife and Fish

1. Habitat manipulation for wildlife may occur provided that there are no adverse affects to the goal of this MA.
2. Any activity will insure maintenance or improvement of existing fisheries.

Range

Livestock grazing is permitted in the Ten Mile Talus area but not in the rest of the geologic areas.

Timber

1. This MA is not suitable for timber production.
2. Timber harvest is not permitted except to open vistas or remove safety hazards.
3. Intensive insect or disease treatment such as spraying individual trees may occur to protect the characteristics of the site.

Minerals and Geology

1. Refer to Forest Standards for locatable minerals. Seasonal restrictions will occur.
2. Surface occupancy for oil and gas purposes is generally not permitted. Existing roads may be used on a case-by-case basis.
3. Disposal of common minerals is not permitted.

Lands

1. No rights-of-way, easements, or cost-share agreements.
2. Special-uses such as snow courses may be allowed if they do not affect the goals of this MA.

Facilities

1. Roads may be constructed to enhance the recreation use or interpretation of these sites. None are planned.
2. Roads may 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, provided that there is no effect on the goal of this MA.
3. Geologic areas are classified as corridor avoidance areas.

FirePrescribed Fire

Planned Ignitions:

Although none is planned or anticipated it may be used for wildlife habitat or activity fuels provided that its use does not adversely affect the goals for geologic areas.

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 wildfires will be controlled.

Noncritical Fire Season:

If an analysis of the time of year and expected fire behavior discloses no affect 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 emphasize preservation of the geologic interest, visual preservation, and recreation use of the area.
2. The use of dozers requires Forest Supervisor approval.

D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planned - First Decade
None planned.

Projected - Second Decade
None projected

E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Recreation	A-1, A-2, A-5, A-7
Range	D-2
Minerals	G-1
Human & Comm Dev.	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.

V. BOTANICAL AREAS
(40 acres)

A. DESCRIPTION

Berray Cedars is located in the Cabinet Ranger District in the South Fork of the Bull River. It is a mature stand of western red cedars at mid-elevation northeast of Berray Mountain.

B. GOAL

Manage and protect the botanical area and preserve those unique or unusual characteristics and interpret those characteristics for the public. Provide safe recreational experiences, if possible, that can take advantage of the botanical values.

C. STANDARDS

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

Recreation

1. The VQO is retention.
2. The ROS class is roaded-natural.
3. Trail construction is permitted to access unique features.
4. ORV use is normally not permitted.

Range

Livestock grazing is not permitted.

Timber

1. This MA is not suitable for timber production.
2. Timber harvest is not permitted.
3. Intensive insect or disease treatment such as spraying individual trees may occur to protect the botanical character of the area.

Minerals and Geology

1. Refer to Forest Standards for locatable minerals. Seasonal restrictions will occur.
2. Surface occupancy for oil and gas purposes is generally not permitted. Existing roads may be used on a case-by-case basis.
3. Disposal of common minerals is not permitted.

Lands

No special uses, rights-of-way, easements, or cost-share agreements.

Facilities

1. New roads are not permitted.
2. New trails may be constructed.
3. The area is classified as a corridor avoidance area (see appendix 15).

FirePrescribed Fire

Planned Ignitions:

1. May be used only after the historic fire frequency has been developed and the planned ignition replicates that historic interval.
2. Any planned ignition must maintain the vegetative type for which the botanical area was developed.

Unplanned Ignitions:

Will not be used as prescribed fire.

WildfireSuppression Strategy:

Critical Fire Season:

All wildfires will be controlled.

Noncritical Fire Season:

If an analysis of the time of year and expected fire behavior discloses no affect 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:

1. Tactics will emphasize preservation of the botanical interest of the area.
2. The use of dozers requires Forest Supervisor approval.

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D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planned - First Decade

None planned.

Projected - Second Decade

None projected

E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Recreation	A-2, A-7
Range	D-2
Minerals	G-1
Human & Comm Dev.	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.

VI. BIG CREEK RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEM
(3,230 acres)

A. DESCRIPTION

This area is located on the Rexford Ranger District along the East and West branches of the South Fork of Big Creek. It is a low-gradient stream with associated riparian vegetative types. There is a trail system in the bottom of both drainages but it has not been maintained for many years. Most of the area is bounded on the upper side by existing or proposed roads.

The 1910 and 1919 wildfires left a nearly pure stand of lodgepole pine with a few scattered individuals of other species. The lodgepole is presently deteriorating and other species will eventually occupy the site.

The area varies from 4,400' to 5,400'. It is summer and fall wildlife range and grizzly habitat. Cutthroat and rainbow trout from Lake Koocanusa use both stream branches for spawning.

B. GOAL

Maintain and enhance the existing riparian ecosystem to provide wildlife, fish, and recreation benefits.

C. STANDARDS

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

Recreation

1. The VQO is retention. Some short-term activities such as trail head construction may reduce limited areas to modification.
2. The ROS is semi-primitive non-motorized.
3. Dispersed sites for camping or picnics are permitted although none are planned.
4. New trails are permitted although none are presently planned.
5. ORV use is not permitted.

Wildlife and Fish

1. As the lodgepole pine dies insure that streams maintain fish passage.
2. Encourage tree and shrub species diversity, and old-growth timber development.
3. If fuels build up, they should be abated with prescribed fire rather than mechanical means for forage and soil protection.
4. Maintain and protect existing grassy meadows and ponds.

Range

Livestock grazing is not permitted.

Timber

1. This area is not suitable for timber production.
2. Salvage harvest may be used on an infrequent basis to:
 - a. Prevent fuel accumulations.
 - b. Remove fish barriers.
 - c. Create desired species and age class mixtures as determined by wildlife and fisheries needs.
 - d. Public safety.
 - e. Creation of dispersed sites.
3. No salvage is permitted in old-growth stands.
4. Harvest will be only by cable or aerial systems.
5. If any activity occurs, the season of use will be adjusted or operations restricted to minimize conflicts with wildlife or fisheries.

Soil, Water, and Air

1. All activities will be designed to limit soil impact because the soils in Big Creek are especially susceptible to erosion and compaction.
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.

Minerals and Geology

1. Road construction is not permitted for exploration.
2. The season of use will be adjusted or operations restricted to minimize conflicts with wildlife or fisheries.
3. Disposal of common minerals is not permitted.

Lands

No special-uses, rights-of-way, easements, or cost-share agreements.

Facilities

1. No roads or skid trails will be constructed.
2. Trails may be constructed but none are planned.
3. This site is classified as a corridor avoidance area.

FirePrescribed Fire

Planned Ignitions:

May be used for hazard reduction or removal of any activity fuels.

Unplanned Ignitions:

Will not be used as prescribed fire.

Wildfire

Suppression Strategy:

Critical Fire Season:

All wildfires will be controlled.

Noncritical Fire Season:

If an analysis of the time of year, and the expected fire behavior discloses no effects 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:

1. Suppression tactics are limited only by the standards for this area, and the Management Standards for the Forest.
2. Because of the soil types the use of dozers requires Forest Supervisor approval.

D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planned - First Decade

None planned.

Projected - Second Decade

None projected.

E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

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-1 through C-10
Range	D-2
Minerals	G-1
Human & Comm Dev.	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 23

1,690 ACRES

A. DESCRIPTION

This MA is composed entirely of the existing electric transmission corridor on the south end of the Forest which crosses along the south boundary of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area. There is a low-standard access road providing repair and inspection access for the entire length. Vegetation varies from shrubs to small conifers. All acres are in grizzly situations 1 and 2.

B. GOALS

Provide for the transmission of electricity in a safe and efficient manner. Protect the adjacent wilderness character, contribute to the diversity of surrounding wildlife habitat, and provide as much security as possible for the grizzly bear.

C. STANDARDS

1. These standards will also apply to any future corridors which may be located and approved.
2. The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter II of this plan applies to this MA.

Recreation

1. The VQO is maximum modification.
2. The ROS class is predominantly rural.
3. Over-snow vehicles are allowed when conflicts with big game can be avoided.

Wildlife and Fish

1. Vegetation control will be coordinated with wildlife use to provide forage for winter range at the lower elevations.
2. Security for wildlife will be provided by regulating access along the corridor. Regulation may include seasonal closures to all motorized vehicles but powerline maintenance personnel.
3. Any activity in this MA will be required to leave no trash or other grizzly attractant. Standards and guidelines specified in Appendix 8 (Grizzly Management Situation Guidelines) will be applied for all activities on grizzly habitat.
4. Controls will be determined site specifically, but any herbicide used may not enter any water course.

Range

Grazing domestic livestock is permitted on the portions where grazing is also permitted on the adjacent MA.

Timber

1. This MA is not suitable for timber production.
2. Culture and harvest of Christmas trees or other products which can safely be grown and harvested under the powerline is permitted.
3. Harvest units in adjacent MA's should be planned to add visual diversity to the corridor edges.

Soil, Water, and Air

1. Soil and Water Conservation Practices will guide the implementation and mitigation of all land disturbing activities.
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.
3. Public motorized access may be restricted because of the need to control erosion on steep grades.

Minerals and Geology

1. Refer to Forest Standards for locatable minerals. Seasonal restrictions, may occur.
2. Seasonal restrictions may be required for oil and gas leases and geophysical activities.
3. Generally, disposal of common minerals will not be permitted.

Facilities

1. The powerline access roads will be open to maintenance crews at all times.
2. Public access may be restricted based on the access restrictions of adjacent MA's.
3. Open roads will be maintained at level 2 or better.
4. Because of some steep grades on access roads, erosion control measures including structures, drainage dips, etc. will be inspected annually and constructed or maintained to prevent soil loss.

FirePrescribed Fire

Planned Ignitions:

Planned ignitions for disposal of activity fuels or wildlife habitat enhancement are permitted.

Unplanned Ignitions:

Unplanned ignitions as prescribed fire are not permitted.

Wildfire

All seasons:

All wildfires will be controlled.

D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planned - First Decade

None planned.

Projected - Second Decade

None projected.

E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Recreation	A-3, A-5, A-7
Range	D-1, D-2
Human & Comm Dev.	H-3, H-4
Facilities	L-1, L-2

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

MANAGEMENT AREA 24

23,115 ACRES

A. DESCRIPTION

This MA usually occurs in small parcels at mid to high elevations and has relatively little productive capacity for many of the surface resources on the Forest. The MA is moderate to steep, usually rocky with thin soils, and often occurs on glacially-scoured ridgetops, walls, or talus slopes. This MA usually exists as inclusions within larger MA's that are productive for timber, T & E species, other wildlife, or recreation.

B. GOALS

Manage for site protection, primarily, and for any wildlife resources that may be inherent.

C. STANDARDS

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

Recreation

1. The VQO is partial retention in areas of high visual significance, modification in areas of moderate visual significance and maximum modification in areas of low visual significance.
2. ORV use is not permitted.
3. ROS class is predominantly semi-primitive nonmotorized, and semi-primitive motorized.

Range

Domestic livestock grazing is not permitted.

Timber

1. This MA is not suitable for timber production.
2. Timber harvest is permissible on a case-by-case basis.

Wildlife and Fish

1. Wildlife habitat will generally be managed in a natural condition, but enhancement may occur, using prescribed fire as an acceptable tool.
2. Standards and Guidelines specified in Appendix 8 (Grizzly Management Situation Guidelines) will be applied for all activities on grizzly habitat.

Soil, Water, and Air

1. Insure soil and water stability and water quality by minimizing any surface disturbance on sensitive soils.
2. Soil erosion monitoring will occur with any ground disturbing activity.
3. Soil and Water Conservation Practices will guide the implementation of any land-disturbing activities.
4. 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.

Lands

No special uses, rights-of-way, easements, or cost-share agreements are foreseen. If they occur, they will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Minerals and Geology

1. Refer to Forest standards for locatable minerals. Seasonal restrictions may occur.
2. Generally, disposal of common minerals will not be permitted.

Facilities

1. This MA requires no roads, however the most efficient route, or even the only route to an adjacent MA may be through this MA. Roads may be constructed only if a suitable route can be located consistent with all the standards of this MA.
2. Local roads will be closed (level 1) unless this is inconsistent with management of adjacent MA's.

FirePrescribed Fire

Planned Ignitions:

Will not usually be used in this MA.

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 wildfires will be controlled.

Noncritical Fire Season:

1. Wildfires will normally be controlled.
2. If an analysis of the time of year and the 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 land whether protected by the National Forest or the State of Montana.)

1. Tactics will emphasize the least possible disturbance.
2. Use of dozers requires Forest Supervisor approval.

D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planned - First Decade

None planned.

Projected - Second Decade

None projected.

E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Recreation	A-3, A-7
Range	D-2
Human & Comm Dev.	H-3, H-4
Facilities	L-1

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

MANAGEMENT AREA 29

26,290 ACRES

A. DESCRIPTION

This MA consists of two roadless and undeveloped areas, Trout Creek and Cataract Creek. Both are in Sanders county on the Cabinet Ranger District. Both are inventoried roadless areas and complete descriptions of both areas can be found in Appendix C of the Final EIS for this Forest Plan.

The Trout Creek area is located on the southern boundary of the Forest adjacent to the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. It is part of the 1910 burn. Timber productivity varies from low to medium with a few inclusions of highly productive land along the stream bottoms. The elevation ranges from 2,600' to 6,500' and the area is widely known for the large number of elk it supports. A portion of the area has been identified as having high mineral potential.

The Cataract Creek area is located on the southern boundary of the Forest adjacent to the Lolo National Forest. Like Trout Creek it is part of the 1910 burn. Timber productivity is medium to low with a few areas that are highly productive. Elevations range from 2,700' to 7,000'. The area is grizzly situations 1 and 2, and most species of big game can also be found. There are no existing roads.

B. GOALS

Manage the MA in a natural condition free from the evidence of man, for non-motorized and roadless recreation. Maintain and enhance the habitat for big game to provide roadless hunting opportunities. Maintain the visual quality of the area. Within grizzly situations 1 and 2 provide habitat and security to contribute to the eventual recovery of the species.

C. STANDARDS

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

Recreation

1. The VQO is retention.
2. The ROS class is predominantly primitive. Some semi-primitive non-motorized and semi-primitive motorized opportunities occur adjacent to existing roads and trailheads.
3. Trails will be closed to all motorized vehicles.
4. ORV use is not permitted.
5. Trails will be maintained at level 1 or 2.

Wildlife and Fish

1. Wildlife habitat will be managed in a natural condition. Habitat enhancement may occur using prescribed fire.
2. Any activity that conflicts with grizzly bear management in Situation 1 and 2 lands will be modified or prohibited. Standards and guidelines specified in Appendix 8 (Grizzly Management Situation Guidelines) will be applied for all activities on grizzly habitat.
3. Any habitat enhancement activity must maintain or enhance cavity-dependent habitat.
4. Old-growth stands are rare in this MA and will be protected.
5. Isolated enclaves of pure-strain trout species will be identified and preserved.

Range

1. Grazing of domestic livestock is not permitted.
2. Recreational pack stock grazing will be allowed except in areas of overuse and at popular and heavily-used sites.

Riparian (See Riparian Area, Chapter II.)

Timber

1. This MA is unsuitable for timber production.
2. Timber harvest will not occur.
3. Establish vegetation necessary to protect the soil, but reforestation for timber harvest is not applicable.

Soil, Water, and Air

1. All site rehabilitation projects will be done in a manner that protects the primitive 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.

Minerals and Geology

1. Refer to Forest Standards for locatable minerals. Seasonal restrictions may occur.
2. No surface occupancy for oil and gas leases and geophysical activities.
3. Generally, disposal of common minerals will not be permitted.

Lands

1. No cost-share agreements are permitted.
2. Rights-of-way, and easements will normally not be permitted, but each will be examined on a case-by-case basis. To be allowed they must be scheduled and located so that there is no conflict with recreation use, grizzly, or other wildlife.

Facilities

1. No new roads will be constructed.
2. New trails will be constructed if use on existing trails is so great that resource damage is occurring, or if additional recreation demand can be accommodated by providing more trails. No new trails will be built in grizzly situations 1 and 2 if they conflict with grizzly 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:

Planned ignitions may be used for wildlife habitat enhancement or fuels reduction.

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 catastrophic fire in the future.
2. At any time 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 types necessary for declaring an unplanned ignition a prescribed fire.

WildfireSuppression 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 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:

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

D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planned - First Decade - Average annual

1. Trail Construction/Reconstruction	0.4 miles
2. Wildlife Habitat Improvement	140 acres
3. Fish Habitat Improvement	6 acres
4. Fuel Treatment	106 acres

Projected - Second Decade - Average annual

1. Trail Construction/Reconstruction	0.4 miles
2. Wildlife Habitat Improvement	140 acres
3. Fish Habitat Improvement	6 acres
4. Fuel Treatment	110 acres

E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

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-1 through C-10
Range	D-2
Minerals	G-1
Human & Comm Dev.	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 30

36,680 ACRES

A. DESCRIPTION

This MA consists of the surface of major lakes large enough so that the water oriented activities are not necessarily associated with the adjacent MA's. Most of the area is Lake Kooconusa, a reservoir formed behind Libby Dam. During the winter months the level of the reservoir is lowered as power is generated and in preparation for the spring runoff. The drawdown area, the area between high pool and low pool, is characterized by generally steep slopes, some benches, and no vegetation. The area between high and low water on all other water bodies is considered a riparian area.

B. GOALS

Provide for and manage water-oriented recreation activities including swimming, fishing, pleasure boating, and water skiing. Manage the drawdown area to protect the soil, water quality, fisheries, wildlife, and cultural resources.

C. STANDARDS

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

Recreation

1. The VQO is not applicable. The nature of the drawdown area does not lend itself to visual management.
2. ORV use is permitted in the drawdown area provided there is no conflict with soil protection, water quality, or protection of cultural sites.
3. If demand for developed recreation sites exceeds supply, private concessionaires will be sought for development.
4. The ROS class is associated with adjacent MA's and is predominantly roaded-natural.

Wildlife and Fish

1. Activities will be scheduled to prevent conflict with wildlife use in adjacent MA's, particularly winter range use around the reservoir.
2. Activities will be conducted to prevent siltation in the lake or in the streams that provide spawning habitat for both resident and migratory fish.

Range

There is no opportunity for domestic livestock grazing.

Timber

1. Not suitable for timber production.
2. Landing areas for timber harvest on adjacent MA's are permitted if there is no conflict with soil protection, water quality, cultural site protection, or recreation use.
3. Debris removed from the reservoir will be made available for salvage or firewood.

Soil

Any land disturbing activities in the drawdown area will be guided by Soil and Water Conservation Practices.

Water

Overnight boat use is permitted unless water quality standards are violated.

Minerals and Geology

1. Refer to Forest standards for locatable minerals. Seasonal restrictions may occur.
2. Stipulate no surface occupancy for oil and gas leases.
3. Disposal of common minerals may be permitted in the drawdown area if there are no conflicts with other resources.

Lands

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

Facilities

1. No permanent roads are anticipated.
2. Boat launch sites are permitted.
3. This MA is classified as a corridor avoidance area (See Appendix 15).

D. SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Planned - First Decade

None planned.

Projected - Second Decade

None projected.

E. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Recreation	A-5, A-7
Wildlife and fish	C-10
Range	D-2

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