

# Kootenai National Forest Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement Appendix C - Inventoried Roadless Areas - Volume 2

United States  
Department  
of Agriculture



Forest Service

Kootenai  
National Forest



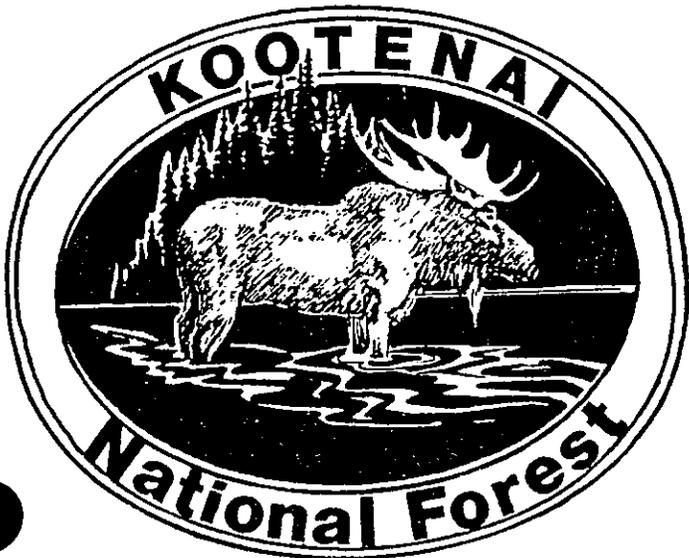
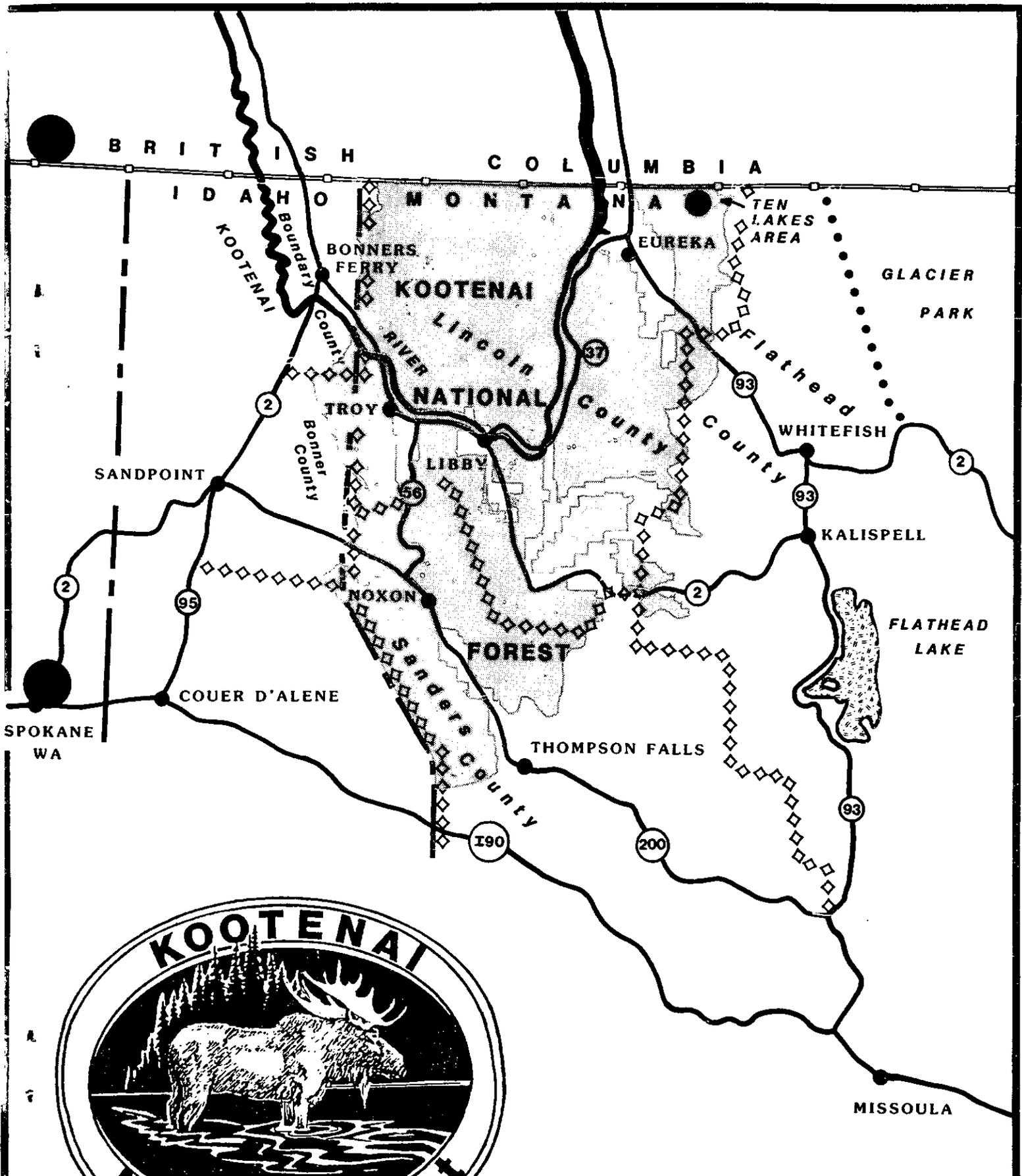
FINAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR THE  
KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST PLAN

APPENDIX C

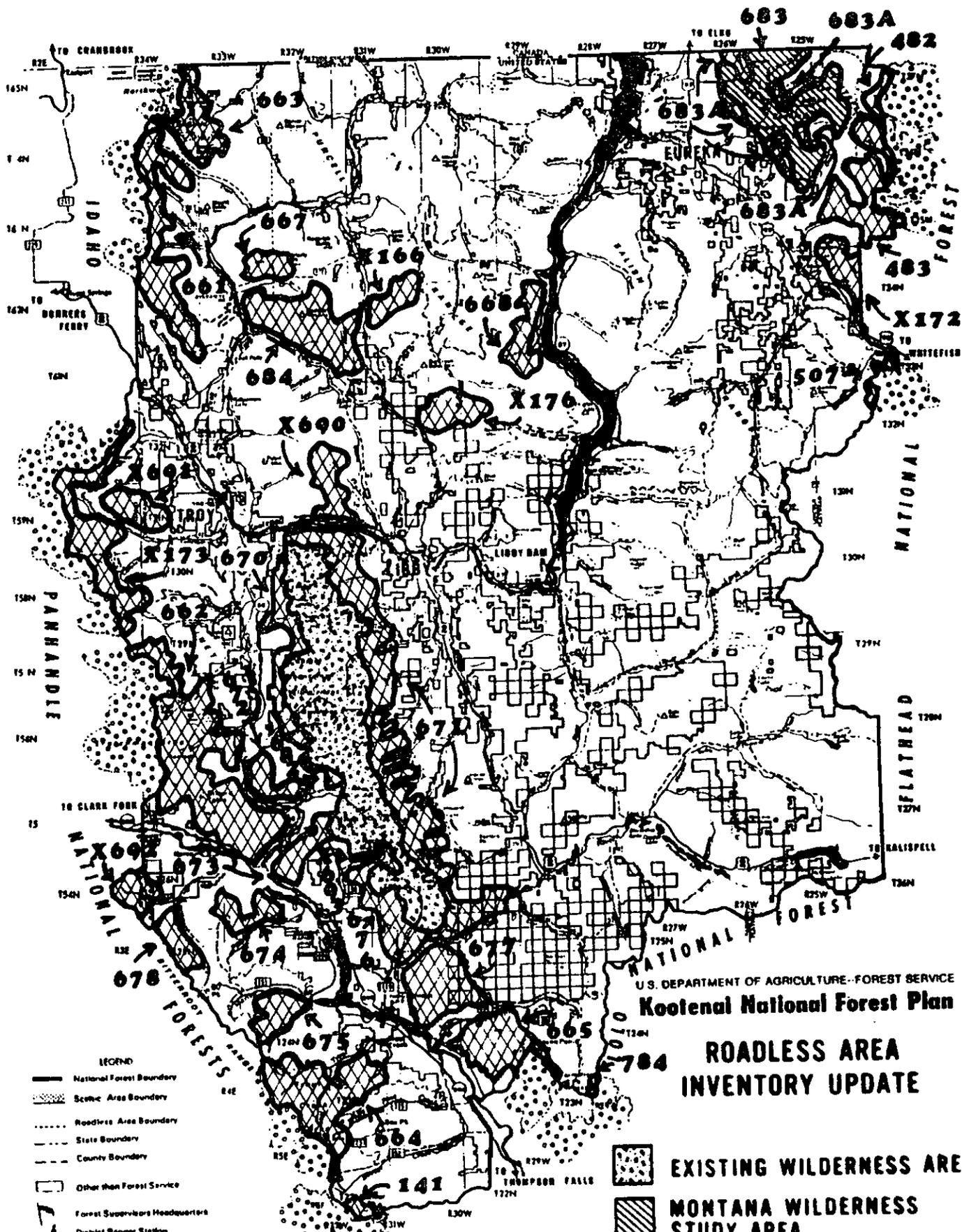
ROADLESS AREA DESCRIPTIONS  
AND EVALUATIONS

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

VOLUME 2



Vicinity Map



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - FOREST SERVICE  
**Kootenai National Forest Plan**

**ROADLESS AREA  
 INVENTORY UPDATE**

- LEGEND**
- National Forest Boundary
  - ▨ Scenic Area Boundary
  - ⋯ Roadless Area Boundary
  - - - State Boundary
  - - - County Boundary
  - Other than Forest Service
  - ⌘ Forest Supervisors Headquarters
  - ⌘ District Ranger Station
  - ▲ Recreation Site, Forest Service
  - ▲ Permanent Look out Station
  - Ⓜ U.S. Highway
  - Ⓢ State Highway

- ▨ EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA
- ▨ MONTANA WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
- ▨ OTHER ROADLESS AREAS
- ▨ CONTIGUOUS ROADLESS AREAS ON ADJACENT FORESTS

12/84

SCALE  
 1" = 10 Miles

APPENDIX C

This Appendix is arranged with the Roadless Areas in the same order as they are presented in the EIS. The following Table of Contents is arranged with the Roadless Areas in alphabetical order for the readers convenience.

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction .....	C-2
Management Area Prescription Assignments .....	C-3
Management Area Identifiers and Definitions .....	C-3a
Proximity Chart .....	C-3b

<u>ROADLESS AREA NAME</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Page</u>
Berray Mountain .....	01672	.....2.....	C-213
Buckhorn Ridge .....	01661	.....1.....	C-154
Cabinet Face East .....	01671	.....1.....	C-58
Cabinet Face West .....	01670	.....1.....	C-46
Cataract .....	01665	.....1.....	C-139
Chippewa Creek .....	01682	.....1.....	C-95
Cube-Iron .....	01784	.....2.....	C-352
East Fork Elk Creek .....	01678	.....2.....	C-224
Flagstaff Mountain .....	01X690	.....2.....	C-253
Galena .....	01677	.....1.....	C-127
Gold Hill .....	01668	.....2.....	C-190
Gold Hill West .....	01X176	.....2.....	C-201
Government Mountain .....	01673	.....1.....	C-72
Grizzly Peak .....	01667	.....2.....	C-276
LeBeau .....	01507	.....2.....	C-352
Lone Cliff Smeads .....	01674	.....2.....	C-234
Maple Peak.....	01141	.....2.....	C-352
Marston Face .....	01X172	.....2.....	C-300
McKay Creek .....	01676	.....1.....	C-83
McNeeley .....	01675	.....2.....	C-244
Northwest Peaks .....	01663	.....1.....	C-167
Roberts Mountain .....	01X691	.....2.....	C-266
Rock Creek .....	01X693	.....1.....	C-105
Roderick .....	01684	.....1.....	C-115
Scotchman Peaks .....	01662	.....1.....	C-5
Ten Lakes (Contiguous Areas)	01683A	.....1.....	C-21
Thompson-Seton .....	01483	.....2.....	C-324
Trout Creek .....	01664	.....1.....	C-31
Tuchuck .....	01482	.....2.....	C-341
West Fork Elk Creek .....	01X692	.....2.....	C-180
Willard-Lake Estelle .....	01173	.....2.....	C-311
Zulu Creek .....	01166	.....2.....	C-289

## APPENDIX C

### **Inventoried Roadless Area Descriptions and Evaluations**

#### Introduction

This appendix discusses each roadless area on the Kootenai that has been studied for wilderness designation. Each discussion includes a description of the area, the resources present, current use and public interest, how each Forest Plan alternative designated the area, the effects of each alternative on the roadless area, and the expected outputs associated with the area in each alternative.

#### **Summary of Changes that occurred between the Draft and Final EIS**

There were no changes in the actual inventory of the Inventoried Roadless Areas between the Draft and Final EIS. There was some new mineral potential information received concerning the Scotchman Peak Roadless Area and it is presented in that roadless area discussion. The Final Plan (Alt. JF) recommends 12,000 acres additional wilderness on Pellick Ridge in the Scotchman Peak Roadless Area and the effects of that recommendation are discussed in that roadless area discussion. The other roadless area discussions remain the same as presented in the Draft EIS. On those roadless areas, the information and results for the Proposed Action (Alt. J) can also be applied to the final Forest Plan (Alt. JF).

#### Management Area Prescription Assignments

Multiple use management prescriptions were grouped into categories (management emphases or designations) which have similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources.

Table C-1 displays these categories and identifies the Management Area Prescriptions.

Table C-2 briefly describes these Management Area Prescriptions and how they can be identified in the Forest Plan Document and map.

Table C-1

## KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTION ASSIGNMENT CATEGORIES  
(Management Emphasis or Designation)

## Designation:

A Wilderness

Mgmt. Area No.

8

Management Area Prescription

Recommended Wilderness

## Designation:

Nonwilderness (Roadless)

Mgmt. Area No.

29

2

5

24 &amp; 1

Management Area Prescription

Primitive Recreation

Semi-primitive Non-motorized Recreation

Viewing

Limited Use Areas

## Designation:

Nonwilderness (Some Development)

Mgmt. Area No.

10

Management Area Prescription

Big Game Winter Range

## Designation:

Nonwilderness (Developed)

Mgmt. Area No.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

Management Area Prescription

Big Game Winter Range/Timber

Big Game Summer Range/Timber

Wildlife/Timber (Old Growth Timber Mgmt.)

Grizzly/Timber

Timber Optimization

Timber/Viewing

Viewing/Timber

Minimum Use due to Regeneration Problems

Minimum Use due to Steep or Unstable Slopes

## KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

## MANAGEMENT AREA IDENTIFICATION

GROUP	MGMT AREA NO.	DEFINITION
RECREAT- ION	29	LARGE AREAS OFFERING ROADLESS RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN A PRIMITIVE SETTING
	2	LARGE AND SMALL AREAS OFFERING ROADLESS RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN A SEMI-PRIMITIVE SETTING
	3	SMALL NATURAL APPEARING AREAS OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ROADED RECREATION IN A SEMI-PRIMITIVE SETTING
	5	NATURAL APPEARING AREAS CONTAINING HIGHLY SENSITIVE VIEWSHEDS
	6	SMALL AREAS CONTAINING CAMPGROUNDS, PICNIC AREAS, SKI AREAS, ETC.
	WILDER- NESS	7
8		AREAS BEING RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS
9		TEN LAKES MONTANA WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
WILD- LIFE, TIMBER & VISUAL QUALITY	10	BIG GAME WINTER RANGE LOCATED ON UNSUITABLE TIMBERLAND
	11	BIG GAME WINTER RANGE LOCATED ON SUITABLE TIMBERLAND
	12	BIG GAME SUMMER RANGE LOCATED ON SUITABLE TIMBERLAND
	13	SMALL AREAS PROVIDING OLD GROWTH TIMBER DIVERSITY
	14	GRIZZLY HABITAT ON SUITABLE TIMBERLAND
	15	SUITABLE TIMBERLANDS MANAGED FOR THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE TIMBER YIELDS
	16	SUITABLE TIMBERLANDS IN A MODERATELY SENSITIVE VIEWSHED
	17	SUITABLE TIMBERLANDS IN A HIGHLY SENSITIVE VIEWSHED
	18	SMALL PRODUCTIVE AREAS THAT HAVE IDENTIFIED REGENERATION PROBLEMS
SPECIAL & OTHER	19	SMALL AREAS THAT ARE STEEP AND COSTLY TO ROAD
	20	RANGER STATIONS AND WORK CENTERS NEEDED FOR FOREST ADMINISTRATION
	21	UNIQUE OR SPECIAL AREAS INCLUDING RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS
	23	POWERLINE TRANAMISSON CORRIDORS
	24	UNPRODUCTIVE LANDS WITH LIMITED USE
	27	LANDS UNDERGOING ACTIVE EXCHANGE WITH OTHER LANDOWNERS
	30	WATER
	1	PRODUCTIVE LANDS WITH LIMITED USE

**REGIONAL WILDERNESS OPPORTUNITIES and PROXIMITY to ROADLESS LANDS  
on the KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST-in air miles**

<u>WILDERNESS</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>DISTANCE</u>
Gospel Hump	Central Idaho	206,000	190
Hells Canyon	Central Idaho	84,000	200
Selway Bitterroot	Central Idaho	1,089,000	150
	Western Montana	251,000	200
Rattlesnake	Western Montana	300,000	120
Scapegoat	Western Montana	240,000	150
Welcome Creek	Western Montana	28,000	150
Anaconda Pintlar	Western Montana	158,000	190
Gates of the Mountains	Western Montana	29,000	220
Cabinet Mountains	Western Montana	94,000	0
Mission Mountains	Western Montana	74,000	90
Great Bear	Western Montana	287,000	120
Bob Marshall	Western Montana	1,009,000	120
Absaroka-Beartooth	South Central Montana	922,000	320
Red Rock Lake	Northeastern Montana	32,000	320
Lee Metcalf	Southwestern Montana	259,000	220

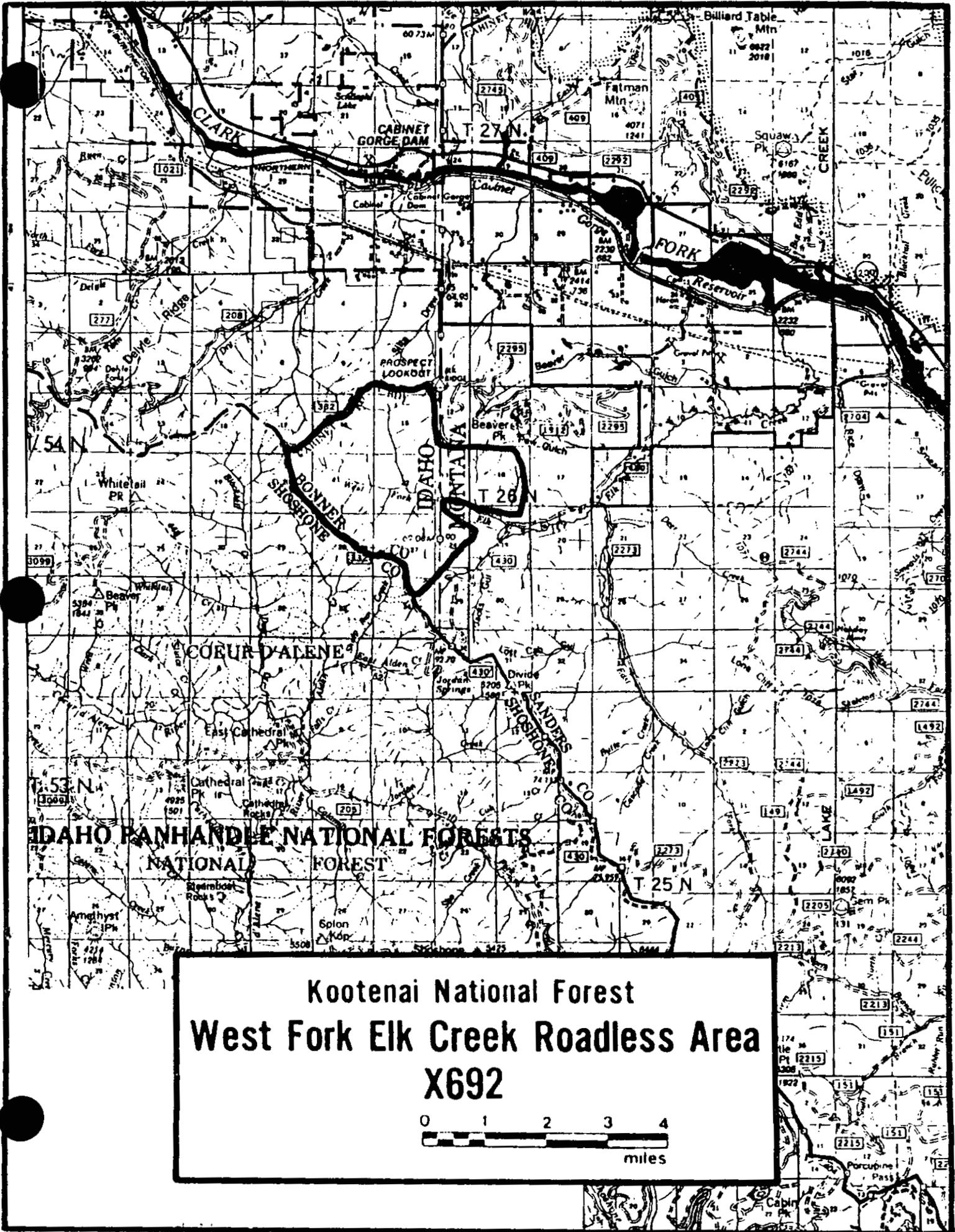
.....  
**SUMMARY:** Total Wilderness less than 100 miles from Kootenai National Forest roadless areas: 2 Areas  
168,000 Acres

Total wilderness 100-200 miles from Kootenai National Forest roadless areas: 9 Areas  
3,273,000 Acres

Total wilderness 200-300 miles from Kootenai National Forest roadless areas: 2 Areas  
343,000 Acres

Total wilderness 300-400 miles from Kootenai National Forest roadless areas: 2 Areas  
954,000 Acres

.....  
**TOTAL AREAS - 15**                      **TOTAL ACRES - 4,378,000**



**Kootenai National Forest  
West Fork Elk Creek Roadless Area  
X692**

0 1 2 3 4  
miles

## KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

West Fork Elk Creek - 01X692            State: Montana and Idaho  
Gross Acres:    4,800                      Net Acres:        4,800

**I. Description**

The area is located in the southwest corner of the Forest, abutting the divide separating the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Access is available via Highway 200 and the main Elk Creek Road.

The area is generally surrounded by Forest management activities such as roads and clearcuts.

The represented ecosystem is Cedar Hemlock Pine Forest.

The area is primarily a low-elevation streambottom with steep, rocky upland slopes. The area constitutes the watershed basin for the upper West Fork Elk Creek. A road to Prospect Lookout straddles a ridgeline which rims the area.

The quality elk hunting experience and the views of the Clark Fork Valley are among the area's attractions.

Current use consists primarily of hunting in the fall (1,000 RVD's).

**II. Capability****A. Natural Integrity and Appearance**

The natural integrity is high with no manmade features to detract from the area's natural appearance.

**B. Opportunities for Solitude**

Despite the area's smallness and compactness, opportunities for solitude are high in the interior, owing to the steep canyon walls. Atop the ridge, opportunities are less so because of the view of existing roads and clearcuts.

**C. Primitive Recreation Opportunities**

Recreation opportunities include hunting and some fishing. The steep canyons provide challenging crosscountry travel.

**D. Other Features**

Special features include the resident elk herd which attracts hunters in the fall.

**E. Manageability and Boundaries**

This is a good example of a "pocket" wilderness: small and compact with a well defined and easily managed boundary. The boundary is set along a strong ridgeline essentially surrounding the area.

## West Fork Elk Cr. 01X692

The area was not identified in the RARE II inventory but was identified later during Unit Planning. The nonconforming uses which would conflict with a wilderness classification for the area are the existing oil & gas leases.

### III. Availability

#### A. Significant Resource Potentials

##### 1. Recreation

The area has the potential to provide 1,400 RVD's of wilderness recreation per year. The current use is estimated to be 1,000 RVD's per year.

##### 2. Wildlife and Fish

The area contains elk summer range which is currently maintaining itself without vegetative manipulation such as prescribed burning.

The West Fork Elk Creek is a cutthroat, brook, and bull trout fishery.

#### B. Other Resources

##### 1. Range

There are no livestock grazing allotments in the area. The grazing potential is transitory range and is considered negligible.

##### 2. Water

Mean annual precipitation for the area is about 55 inches, varying from 38 to 78 inches depending on elevation. The streams normally peak in mid to late May, but may peak in mid-winter from the occasional rain-on-snow events we occasionally experience, at which time the water quality may be degraded.

##### 3. Timber

Approximately 4,400 acres are tentatively suitable timberland capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet per acre per year of timber growth. This timberland is almost entirely located on slopes steeper than 55%. Road construction will be difficult and costly and logging will require the use of cable or helicopter yarding methods.

##### 4. Minerals

The mineral potential is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate.

##### 5. Cultural Resource

There are no identified historic or prehistoric cultural sites. Based upon surveys in similar areas, the probability of prehistoric sites occurring is considered low.

## C. Resource Situation

West Fork Elk Cr. 01X692

Table 1

Category	Unit	Category	Unit
Gross Acres	Acres	4800	
Net Acres	Acres	4800	
Recreation			
Semiprim. Nonmotor. RVDs		1000	
Range			
Suitable Acres	Acres	0	
AUMs	AUMs	0	
Timber			
Tentative Suitable	Acres	4400	
Standing Volume	MMBF	32	
Corridors			
Existing & Potential	No.	0	
Wildlife - T&E			
Grizzly Bear Habitat			
Situation 1	Acres	0	
Situation 2	Acres	0	
Situation 3	Acres	0	
Wildlife - Big Game (Elk, Deer)			
Summer Range Total	Acres	1500	
Winter Range Total	Acres	1300	
Special Uses Existing	No.	0	
Existing Facilities	No.	0	
Significant Fisheries			
Stream Miles	Miles	2	
Stream Habitat	Acres	-	
Lakes	No.	0	
Lake Habitat	Acres	0	
Water Developments			
Existing	No.	0	
Minerals			
Hardrock Potential			
Very High	Acres	-	
High	Acres	-	
Moderate	Acres	-	
Low	Acres	4800	
Mining Claims	No.	0	
Oil & Gas Potential			
Very High	Acres	-	
High	Acres	-	
Moderate	Acres	4800	
Low	Acres	-	
Unknown	Acres	-	
Oil & Gas Leases			
Leases	No.	4	
Leased Acres	Acres	4800	

## D. Management Considerations

## 1. Land Use Authorizations

There are no special uses. Oil & gas leases exist.

## 2. Fire

The area has had a low occurrence of fires in the last 10 years (no fires). The fuels situation is primarily dense conifers with some downed woody materials.

## 3. Insect and Disease

The insect and disease situation is stable with no susceptible stands of lodgepole pine and no insect and disease activity occurring.

## 4. Non-Federal Lands

There are no private lands in the area.

**IV. Need****West Fork Elk Cr. 01X692****A. Proximity to Other Wilderness and to Population Centers**

The West Fork Elk Creek roadless area is located about 25 air miles from the existing Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. Spokane, Washington (110 miles) and Missoula, Montana (160 miles) are the closest large population centers.

**B. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System**

This area is representative of the Cedar Hemlock Pine Forest Ecosystem which is common in the existing wilderness system.

**C. Public Interest**

Because this is a newly defined roadless area, there have been no expressions of wilderness preference or nonpreference.

**V. Alternatives and Environmental Consequences****A. Management Prescription Assignment by Alternative**

Multiple use management prescriptions were grouped into categories (management emphases) which have similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources. The following table displays how the roadless area acreage was designated in each alternative. In addition, the summary of management emphasis further defines the rate of development that is expected to occur in some alternatives as well as the future disposition of the inventoried roadless area.

Table 2. Management Emphasis by Alternative for West Fork Elk Creek Roadless Area.

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVES (M Acres)															
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	
Nonwilderness (Roadless) Primitive/Semiprimitive Recreation, Viewing, Minimum Use Areas	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	1.1	2.3	0	0	4.5	1.1	1.1	0	.3	.4	4.8	
Nonwilderness (Some Development) Big Game Winter Range	.4	.4	.4	0	.4	.4	0	0	0	2.3	2.3	.4	.4	.4	0	
Nonwilderness (Developed) Timber Harvest With Wildlife and/or Viewing Management, Minimum Use Areas due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems	3.3	3.3	3.3	4.8	3.3	2.1	0	0	.3	1.4	1.4	4.4	4.1	4.0	0	
Wilderness Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
.....																
Summary of Management Emphasis:																
Nonwilderness																
Developed - Decade 1:	0	0	0	0	0	.3	0	0	.2	0	0	0	.3	0	0	
Decade 5:	3.3	3.3	3.3	4.8	3.3	2.1	0	0	.3	1.4	1.4	4.4	4.1	4.0	0	
Roadless - Decade 1:	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.5	0	0	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.8	4.8	
Decade 5:	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.7	0	0	4.5	3.4	3.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	4.8	
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres- W. Fk. Elk Cr.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	

**B. Impacts**

West Fork Elk Cr. 01X692

1. **Designation: Wilderness**  
**Management Emphasis: Wilderness**

The West Fork Elk Creek roadless area is designated wilderness in its entirety in both Alternatives G and H. No other alternative recommends wilderness for the area. There are no specific ground-disturbing management activities associated with wilderness areas although the establishment of these areas may, in itself, have effects on other resources and uses.

Wilderness classification will preserve the existing wilderness characteristics of the area. The solitude afforded by the steep canyon walls within the interior of the area would be maintained as would the primitive recreation opportunities. Old-growth timber wildlife habitat would be protected.

There are about 4400 acres of suitable timberland in the area. The opportunity to manage the timber resource would be foregone in Alternatives G and H.

Efforts to improve big-game winter range through burning would not be permitted in wilderness. Likewise, timber harvest to improve summer range would not occur. However, the inability to deliberately increase forage would be offset by the benefits of the security that wilderness affords.

Wilderness will restrict the exploration for, and removal of, mineral resources. Under the Wilderness Act, the land would be withdrawn from mineral entry since no valid mining claims exist. The existing oil and gas leases would be honored, however. This restriction is not considered significant in that the mineral potential is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate. If there is no discovery when a lease expires, then the land will be withdrawn from mineral leasing.

Activities permissible in wilderness, when authorized by the 1964 Wilderness Act or wilderness management plans, can cost more than activities in areas without the restrictions. Restrictions apply primarily to mode of transportation, use of chainsaws in the wilderness, and removing signs of the intrusion after project completion. When permitted, activities such as mineral exploration, disease and pest control, and fire suppression, would be conducted while protecting the wilderness values which, in turn, requires more time, adherence to more stringent requirements, and more money being spent.

Social and economic effects would center around the resource values of recreation, wildlife, wilderness, and timber. Semiprimitive recreation activities such as hunting in a roadless setting would continue. Timberland would not be available in Alternatives G and H, thus not supporting the wood products industry. Those publics valuing wilderness would be supported by this management emphasis.

## West Fork Elk Cr. 01X692

2. Designation: Nonwilderness (Roadless)  
 Management Emphases: Primitive Recreation, Semiprimitive  
 Nonmotorized Recreation, Viewing, and Limited  
 Use Areas

Every alternative, except Alternatives D, G, H, and L, designate a portion of the area to these emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated to roadless management.

Percent of the Area Designated to Roadless Management  
 By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
22	22	22	0	22	47	0	0	93	22	22	0	6	8	100

There are few, if any, ground-disturbing management activities specifically associated with roadlessness. Activities are associated primarily with dispersed recreation including hunting and fishing.

The roadless character of the area will be maintained with these emphases as will the primitive recreation opportunities. Old-growth timber habitat will also be maintained and security for big-game animals will be preserved.

Like wilderness, roadless designations require stiffer requirements for conducting activities, requirements that are designed to protect the qualities inherent in a roadless allocation. Restrictions on access and mode of travel are major limitations for conducting activities, often making the activity more expensive to accomplish. Such activities can include wildlife and fish habitat improvements, mineral, oil and gas exploration/development, insect and disease control, and wildfire suppression.

The social and economic effects are primarily the benefits of semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Timber would not be available for harvest in any of these emphases.

3. Designation: Nonwilderness (Some Development)  
 Management Emphasis: Big Game Winter Range

All alternatives, except Alternatives D, G, H, I, and O designate a portion of the area to this management emphasis. The intent is to manage winter range habitat for the benefit of elk and deer. Prescribed burning is the primary management activity.

The impact on the wilderness and roadless character caused by this emphasis is short-term in nature. The naturalness of the area would be altered shortly after burning but vegetative recovery would make this activity less apparent later on.

Impacts on the timber and mineral resources would be insignificant in this emphasis.

Social and economic effects would be primarily one of support of those publics valuing wildlife in the area.

## West Fork Elk Cr. 01X692

4. Designation: Nonwilderness (Developed)  
 Management Emphasis: Big Game Winter Range Timber, Big Game Summer Range Timber, Wildlife Timber, Grizzly Timber, Timber Optimization, Timber Viewing, Viewing Timber, Minimum Use due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems.

Timber harvest and associated activities, such as road building, have more affect on the physical and biological environment than any of the other forest management activities. The extent of the effects are dependent on management regimes selected. Every Alternative except G, H, and O designates at least a portion of the area to one of these emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated to developmental activities.

Percent of Area Designated to Developmental Activities  
 By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
68	68	68	100	63	43	0	0	6	29	29	91	85	83	0

Only in Alternatives F, I, and M would activities be scheduled to occur in the first decade. (See Table 3 on following page). By the fifth decade, expected road mileage in place would range from 2 to 18 miles in the developmental alternatives.

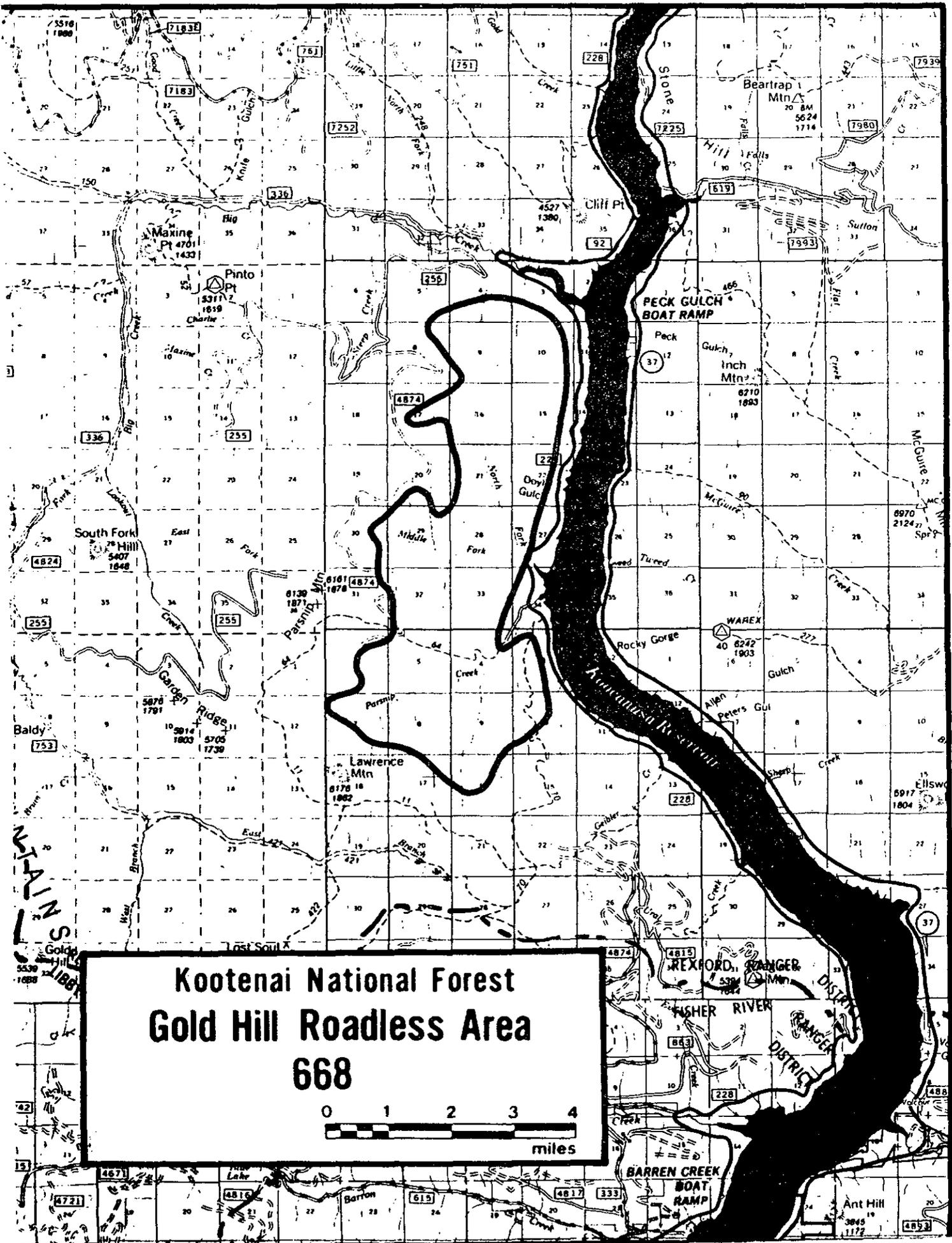
The wilderness resource and roadless character of the area would be impacted by timber cutting units, roads, and other evidence of man's modifications in all Alternatives except G, H, and O. Roading forgoes the opportunity to consider the area for wilderness in the long-term and reduces the opportunity for primitive recreation and experience of solitude.

Timber harvest and roads could result in a short-term reduction in big game cover and security. Activities conducted in big-game habitat are coordinated with wildlife needs and include the closure of roads upon completion of the activity and insuring that adequate cover is left. Long-term benefits to wildlife include maintaining and improving wildlife forage.

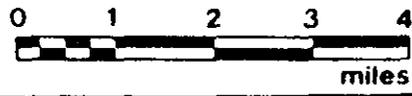
Social and economic effects are related primarily to the resource values of timber, wildlife, wilderness, and recreation. The harvest of timber is important to the economic base of communities in the Forest. Timber from the West Fork Elk Creek roadless area would contribute to the economic base. Hunting experiences could be altered because of the change in the roadless setting to a roaded-natural setting. Road closures would retain the area closer to its existing character. Those publics desiring wilderness or roadless mangement for the area would not be supported by these emphases. Concerns about impacts on big game, and other species could be raised by the activities scheduled in these emphases, but would be addressed by efforts to mitigate the impacts.

Table 3. Decadal Outputs by Alternative for West Fork Elk Creek Roadless Area.

OUTPUT CATEGORY	DECADE	ALTERNATIVES														
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Rec. Wilderness MAcres		0	0	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless MAcres		1.1	1.1	1.1	0	1.1	2.3	0	0	4.5	1.1	1.1	0	.3	.4	4.8
Recreation Prim./Semiprim.MRYDs		4	4	4	0	4	9	14	14	18	2	2	0	1	2	38
Semiprim. Motor.MRYDs		18	18	18	24	18	12	0	0	2	19	19	24	22	22	2
Timber																
Suitable MAcres		3.3	3.3	3.3	4.8	3.3	2.1	0	0	.3	1.4	1.4	4.4	4.1	4.0	0
Volume (MMBF)	1	0	0	0	0	0	.3	0	0	2.2	0	0	0	.3	0	0
	3	12.0	12.0	12.0	17.7	13.0	12.0	0	0	.06	1.7	1.7	12.0	17.0	18.0	0
	5	0	0	0	0	0	7.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.0	0	0
Harvest Acres - MAcres	1	0	0	0	0	0	.3	0	0	.2	0	0	0	.3	0	0
	3	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.3	2.0	1.7	0	0	.06	0.3	0.3	1.7	2.4	3.2	0
	5	0	0	0	0	0	.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	.3	0	0
Roads																
Roads Constructed First Decade - Miles		0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
Total Road Miles Needed by Fifth Decade - Miles		17	17	17	18	17	13	0	0	2	2	2	18	18	18	0
Wildlife - T&E																
Grizzly Bear Habitat MAcres (w/o activity)		NOT APPLICABLE IN THIS ROADLESS AREA														
Wildlife - Big Game																
Summer Range MAcres		.3	.3	.3	.7	.3	2.0	0	0	0	.2	.2	1.6	1.0	1.0	0
Winter Range MAcres		.8	.8	.8	.9	.8	.4	0	0	0	2.3	2.3	.4	.7	.8	0
Minerals & Oil/Gas																
Very High/ High Potential - Accessible MAcres		NOT APPLICABLE IN THIS ROADLESS AREA														



**Kootenai National Forest  
Gold Hill Roadless Area  
668**



REXFORD RANGER DISTRICT  
FISHER RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

BARREN CREEK BOAT RAMP

Ant Hill  
3845  
1172

## KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

Gold Hill - 01668

State: Montana

Gross Acres: 10,700

Net Acres: 10,700

**I. Description**

The area is located along the west shore of Koocanusa Reservoir and includes the Parsnip, Middle Fork, and North Fork drainages.

It is easily accessible from the Forest Development Road, which runs along the west side of the Reservoir. A trail up Parsnip Creek leads to Parsnip Mountain, which lies outside the roadless area boundary.

The area is comprised of three, gentle to steep-sided, densely-forested, drainages separated by well-defined, tree-covered, finger ridges. These ridges emanate from Parsnip and Lawrence Mountains, both of which lie outside the roadless area.

The roadless area is surrounded by developments, ranging from Koocanusa Reservoir on the east to forest management activities such as roads and clearcuts scattered along the remaining perimeter.

The ecosystems represented are Douglas-fir Forest and Western Spruce Fir Forest.

The area's attraction is primarily the whitetail and mule deer herds that attract hunters in the fall.

Current use includes hunting and hiking and is considered light (400 RVD's).

**II. Capability****A. Natural Integrity and Appearance**

There are no developments within the area except several miles of trail, making the overall appearance very natural.

**B. Opportunities for Solitude**

Along the heavily vegetated flat bottoms of Parsnip Creek there are extensive opportunities for solitude. On the more open sideslopes and ridgetops, views and sounds from Koocanusa Reservoir and State Highway 37 would detract from a sense of solitude.

**C. Primitive Recreation Opportunities**

Primitive recreation experiences available include hiking, hunting (deer and elk), and climbing. There are some substantial rock bluffs which could provide a challenging experience for the person interested in rock climbing.

**D. Manageability and Boundaries**

Gold Hill 01668

The area was identified in the RARE II inventory. At that time, the recommendation was for a nonwilderness classification with most of the area allocated to developmental uses. During the 1983 inventory, the area was divided into two portions, labeled Gold Hill and Gold Hill (West), discussed as a separate roadless area. The adjustments shown below affect only the Gold Hill area.

<u>Gross Acres</u>	<u>Net Acres</u>	
17300	17300	RARE II inventory
-7900	-7900	Timber sales scheduled
+1300	+1300	Additional acres identified that meet requirements
10700	10700	1983 roadless inventory

The nonconforming uses that would conflict with a wilderness classification for the area are the existing oil & gas leases.

The boundaries of the roadless area are relatively well defined but could be somewhat difficult to manage in their present location. The boundary to the west is generally located on gentle terrain, and in some areas, along poorly defined edges of old logging areas. The topography along the eastern edge is along a paved road and would be more manageable. The area has a relatively long boundary considering its size.

**III. Availability****A. Significant Resource Potentials****1. Recreation**

The area has the potential of providing about 3,200 RVD's of wilderness recreation per year. Current use is estimated to be 400 RVD's per year.

**2. Wildlife**

Whitetail and mule deer frequent the area, and there are some significant opportunities to manage some of the habitat as mitigation for Kooconusa Reservoir.

Several small tributaries to Kooconusa Reservoir exist as does some reservoir recruitment and/or resident fisheries.

**3. Timber**

Most of the area (10,000 acres) is tentatively suitable timberland capable of providing more than 20 cubic feet per acre per year of timber growth. The south half of the roadless area is primarily steep land with slopes greater than 55%. Road building will be difficult and costly and logging will require cable or helicopter yarding methods. The north half of the roadless area has gentler slopes (20-40%) which will be more conducive to road building and tractor logging methods.



**D. Management Considerations**

Gold Hill 01668

**1. Land Use Authorizations**

There are no special use permits. Oil & gas leases exist.

**2. Fire**

The area has had moderate fire occurrence (11 fires in the last 20 years). The fuels situation is considered dense conifers with thick downed, woody materials as ground fuels.

**3. Insect and Disease**

About 50% of the area contains lodgepole pine that is highly susceptible to Mountain Pine Beetle infestation which is occurring presently. It is estimated that by 1990, the majority of these high risk lodgepole stands will be killed.

**4. Non-Federal Lands**

There are no private lands within the roadless area.

**IV. Need****A. Proximity to Other Wilderness and to Population Centers**

The area is located about 35 miles from Libby, 20 miles from Eureka, and about 30 air miles from the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. The nearest metropolitan areas are Spokane, Washington (210 miles) and Kalispell, Montana (110 miles).

**B. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System**

This area is representative of Douglas-fir and Western Spruce Fir Forest ecosystems which are common in the existing wilderness system.

**C. Public Interest**

Of the 2,500 people commenting on the area during the RARE II public comment period, 56% favored a wilderness designation for the area. RARE II recommended non-wilderness. The Montana Wilderness Association's Alternative "W" (1978) recommended that the entire area (now labeled Gold Hill and Gold Hill (West) be placed in a further planning category. In the public comment period during the Unit Planning process (Ziegler, August 1979), some support for maintaining the Parsnip drainage in a roadless condition was expressed, as well as concern that the bulk of the area be allocated to timber management.

**V. Alternatives and Environmental Consequences****A. Management Prescription Assignment by Alternative**

Multiple use management prescriptions were grouped into categories (management emphases) which have similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources. The following table displays how the roadless area acreage was designated in each alternative. In addition, the summary of management emphasis further defines the rate of development that is expected to occur in some alternatives as well as the future disposition of the inventoried roadless area.

Table 2. Management Emphasis by Alternative for Gold Hill Roadless Area.

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVES (M ACRES)															
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	
Nonwilderness (Roadless) Primitive/Semiprimitive Recreation, Viewing, Minimum Use Areas	3.8	3.5	3.3	.9	3.4	4.4	0	0	2.6	3.6	3.6	.5	1.7	1.7	10.0	
Nonwilderness (Some Dev.) Big Game Winter Range	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	0	0	1.0	2.0	2.0	.5	.5	.5	.7	
Nonwilderness (Developed) Timber Harvest With Wildlife and/or Viewing Management, Minimum Use Areas due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems	6.4	6.7	6.9	9.3	6.8	5.8	0	0	7.1	5.1	5.1	9.7	8.5	8.5	.2	
Wilderness Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	10.7	10.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
.....																
Summary of Management Emphasis:																
Nonwilderness																
Developed - Decade 1:	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.9	3.2	2.3	0	0	1.7	1.5	1.5	2.0	3.2	3.2	0	
Decade 5:	6.4	6.7	6.9	9.3	6.8	5.8	0	0	7.1	5.1	5.1	9.7	8.5	8.5	0	
Roadless - Decade 1:	7.5	7.5	7.5	6.8	7.5	8.4	0	0	9.0	9.2	9.2	8.7	7.5	7.5	10.7	
Decade 5:	4.3	4.0	3.8	1.4	3.9	4.9	0	0	3.6	5.6	5.6	1.0	2.2	2.2	10.7	
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	10.7	10.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres- Gold Hill	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	

## B. Impacts

Gold Hill 01668

1. Designation: Wilderness  
Management Emphasis: Wilderness

The Gold Hill roadless area is recommended for wilderness in its entirety in both Alternatives G and H. No other alternative recommends wilderness for the area. There are no specific ground-disturbing management activities associated with wilderness areas although the establishment of these areas may, in itself, have effects on other resources and uses.

Wilderness classification will preserve the existing wilderness characteristics of the area. The naturalness of the area will be maintained along with the higher solitude opportunities available in the Parsnip Creek drainage. Primitive recreation opportunities will be maximized and old-growth timber wildlife habitat will be protected.

There are approximately 10,000 acres of suitable timberland in the Gold Hill area. Opportunities to manage the timber resource would be unavailable in Alternatives G and H. Opportunities to manage for the mountain pine beetle through salvage harvest would also not be available.

Big game habitat management for both summer and winter range, by either burning or timber harvest would not occur in wilderness. Although forage could not be improved by deliberate management activities, wilderness would provide security for big game by limiting access into the area.

Wilderness will restrict the exploration for, and removal of, mineral resources. Under the Wilderness Act, the land would be withdrawn from mineral entry since no valid mining claims exist. The existing oil and gas leases would be honored, however. This restriction is not considered significant in that the mineral potential is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate. If there is no discovery when a lease expires, then the land will be withdrawn from mineral entry.

Activities permissible in wilderness, when authorized by the 1964 Wilderness Act or wilderness management plans, can cost more than activities in areas without the restrictions. Restrictions apply primarily to mode of transportation, use of chainsaws in the wilderness, and removing signs of the intrusion after project completion. When permitted, activities such as mineral exploration, disease and pest control, and fire suppression, would be conducted while protecting the wilderness values which, in turn, requires more time, adherence to more stringent requirements, and more money being spent.

Social and economic effects would center around the resource values of recreation, wildlife, wilderness, and timber. Semiprimitive recreation activities such as hunting in a roadless setting, would continue. Timberland would not be available in Alternatives G and H, thus not supporting the wood products industry. Those publics valuing wilderness would be supported by this management emphasis.

Gold Hill 01668

2. Designation: Nonwilderness (Roadless)  
 Management Emphases: Primitive Recreation, Semiprimitive  
 Nonmotorized Recreation, Viewing, and  
 Limited Use Areas

Every Alternative except G and H designates a portion of the area to these emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated to roadless management by alternative.

Percent of Area Designated for Roadless Management  
 By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
35	32	30	8	31	41	0	0	24	33	33	4	15	15	93

There are few, if any, ground-disturbing management activities specifically associated with roadless management. Activities are associated primarily with dispersed recreation including hunting and fishing.

The roadless character of the area will be maintained as well as provide for semiprimitive recreation opportunities. Old-growth timber habitat will also be maintained and security for big game will be provided.

Like wilderness, roadless designations require stiffer requirements for conducting activities, requirements that are designed to protect the qualities inherent in a roadless allocation. Restrictions on access and mode of travel are major limitations for conducting activities, often making the activity more expensive to accomplish. Such activities can include wildlife and fish habitat improvements, mineral, oil and gas exploration/development, insect and disease control, and wildfire suppression.

The social/economic benefits of these emphases is associated primarily with semiprimitive recreation. Because timber opportunities would be unavailable in these emphases, the timber industry would not be supported.

3. Designation: Nonwilderness (Some Development)  
 Management Emphasis: Big Game Winter Range

All alternatives, except G and H, designate 4% or more of the area (500 acres) to this management emphasis. Alternative I designates 1,000 acres (9%) while Alternatives J and K designate 2,000 acres (18%) to this emphasis. The intent is to manage big game winter range habitat for the benefit of elk and deer. Prescribed burning is the primary management activity.

The impact on the wilderness and roadless character caused by this emphasis is short term in nature. The naturalness of the area would be altered shortly after burning but vegetative recovery would make this activity less apparent later on.

Gold Hill 01668

Impacts on the timber and mineral resources would be insignificant in this emphasis.

Social and economic effects would be primarily one of support of those publics valuing wildlife in the area.

4. Designation: Nonwilderness (Developed)

Management Emphases: Big Game Winter Range Timber, Big Game Summer Range Timber, Wildlife Timber, Grizzly Timber, Timber Optimization, Timber Viewing, Viewing Timber, Minimum Use due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems.

Timber harvest and associated activities, such as road building, have more affect on the physical and biological environment than and of the other forest management activities. The extent of the effects are dependent on management regimes selected.

Each alternative except G, H, and O, designate a portion of the area to these emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated to developmental activities, by alternative.

Percent of Area Designated to Developmental Activities  
By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
59	62	64	86	63	54	0	0	66	47	47	90	79	79	0

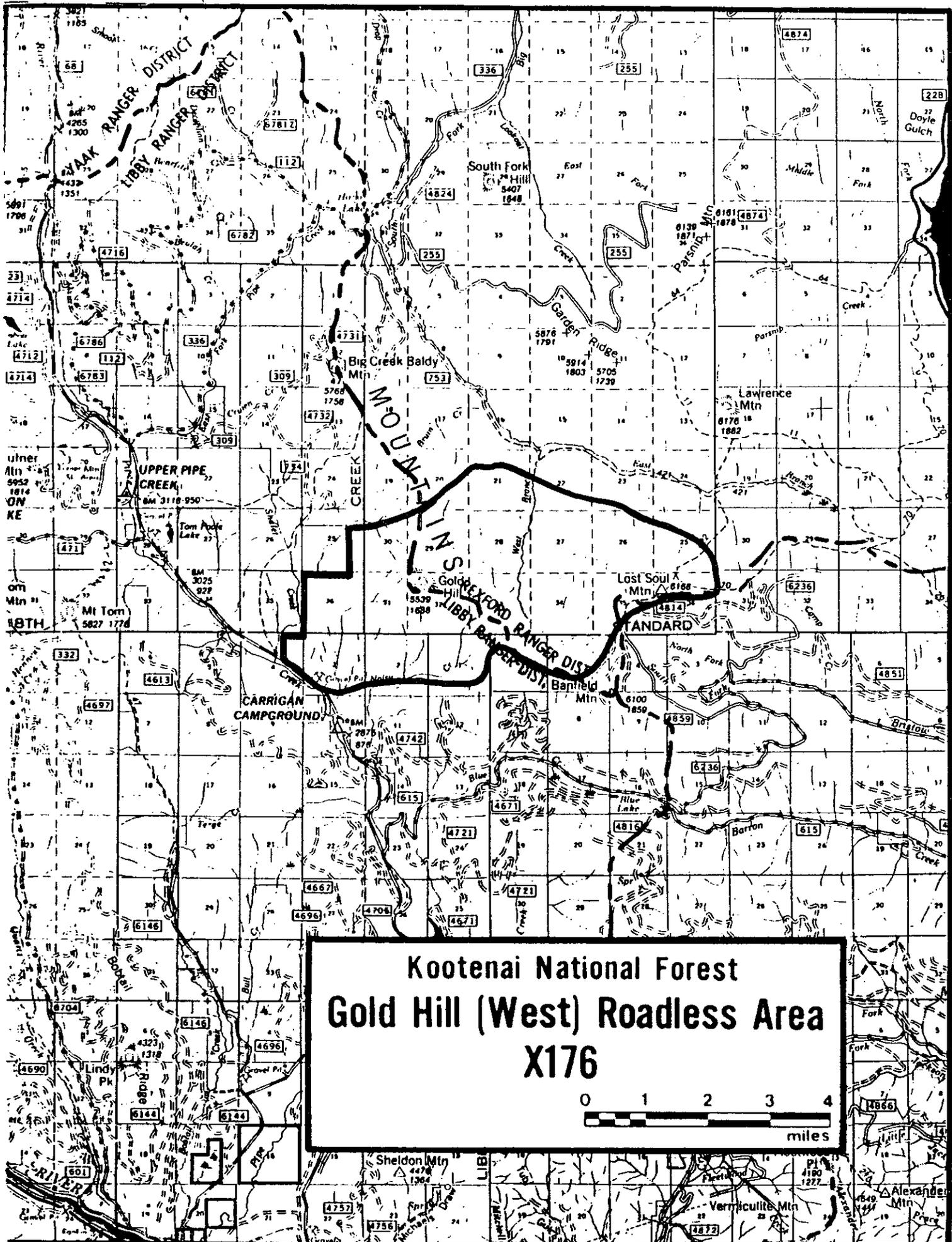
Timber harvest activities, including road building, are scheduled to occur in the first decade in all Alternatives except G, H, and O. (See Table 3 which follows this discussion). Road miles built the first decade range from 18 to 23 miles, depending on the alternative. By the fifth decade, 24 to 40 miles would be in place, again depending on the alternative.

As the area becomes developed, the naturalness of the area will be impacted by timber cutting units, roads, and other evidence of man's modifications. Portions of the area face out into the Koochanusa Reservoir. Activities conducted along these slopes would be highly visible from the Reservoir and from Highway 37. Rooding foregoes the opportunity to consider the area for wilderness by the fifth decade and reduces the opportunity for primitive recreation and experiences of solitude.

Timber harvest and roads could result in a short-term reduction in big game cover and security. Activities conducted in big game habitat are coordinated with wildlife needs and include the closure of roads upon completion of the activity and insuring that adequate cover is left. Long-term benefits to wildlife include maintaining and improving wildlife forage.

Social and economic effects are related primarily to the resource values of timber, wildlife, wilderness, and recreation. The harvest of timber is important to the economic base of communities in the Forests. Timber from the Gold Hill roadless area would contribute to the economic base. Hunting experiences could be altered because of the change in the roadless setting to a roaded-natural setting. Road closures would retain the area closer to its existing character. Those publics desiring wilderness or roadless management for the area would not be supported by these emphases. Concerns about impacts on big game and other species could be raised by the activities scheduled in these emphases, but would be addressed by efforts to mitigate the impacts.





**Kootenai National Forest**  
**Gold Hill (West) Roadless Area**  
**X176**

0 1 2 3 4  
 miles

**KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST**

**Gold Hill (West) - X1176 State: Montana**

**Gross Acres: 10,200 Net Acres: 10,200**

**I. Description**

This area is located in the approximate center of the Kootenai Forest. The area extends east from Pipe Creek Road encompassing Gold Hill and Lost Soul Mountains. Access to the area is provided by the Pipe Creek Road to the trailhead on the South Fork of Big Creek.

The area is formed by the West Branch of the South Fork of Big Creek forming a basin on the east half bordered by Gold Hill in the Center and Lost Soul Mountain on the east. Noisy Creek drains the west half. The east half typically has gentle slopes with Lost Soul Mountain the highest point at 6,168 feet elevation. The west half has steeper topography and the entire area is heavily forested.

The roadless area is generally surrounded by forest management activities such as roads and clearcuts.

The represented ecosystem types are Douglas-fir Forest and Western Spruce Forest.

The roadless area contains grizzly bear habitat, though the extent of the grizzly use is unknown. The area also contains moose, deer, black bear, and beaver. Beaver ponds along the West Branch of the South Fork of Big Creek are one of the attractions of the area.

Recreation use in this area is considered light and is primarily hunting in the fall (300 RVD's).

**II. Capability****A. Natural Integrity and Appearance**

The natural integrity is high with only a primitive hiking trail up the West Branch of the South Fork of Big Creek.

**B. Opportunities for Solitude**

Opportunities for solitude are high, owing to the dense vegetation throughout most of the area and especially in the Noisy Creek Canyon.

**C. Primitive Recreation Opportunities**

Recreation opportunities include hiking, hunting, and fishing. Crosscountry travel through dense forest is the most challenging experience offered in the area.

**D. Other Features**

Water features, beaver dams, and the Noisy Creek Canyon are the area's special features.

**E. Manageability and Boundaries**

Gold Hill (West) 01X176

The area was originally identified in the RARE I inventory. At that time, the recommendation was for a non-wilderness classification with most of the area allocated to developmental uses. During the RARE II inventory, Gold Hill (West) was part of the larger Gold Hill roadless area but during the 1983 inventory, the area was divided into two because of developments that had occurred in the interim. The following adjustments reflect only those made to Gold Hill (West); Gold Hill is discussed as a separate area.

<u>Gross Acres</u>	<u>Net Acres</u>	
29400	29400	RARE I inventory
-3000	-3000	Areas affected by timber sales
-1700	-1700	Areas in intermingled ownership which diminishes wilderness potential
-1200	-1200	Areas that are in a configuration which would make an unsuitable wilderness
-1800	-1800	Acres of private land
-6900	-6900	Acres that are now a part of Gold Hill (see section on Gold Hill)
10200	10200	1983 roadless inventory

The nonconforming uses that would conflict with a wilderness classification for the area are the existing oil & gas leases.

The boundary is not well-defined on the northern portion, corresponding to timber sale activities. The western boundary is formed by private lands while the southern edge conforms to more easily identified topographic features. Some opportunity exists to move the boundaries to more definable and recognizable topographic features.

**III. Availability****A. Significant Resource Potentials****1. Recreation**

The area has the potential to provide about 3,600 RVD's of wilderness recreation per year. Current use is estimated to be 300 RVD's.

**2. Wildlife and Fish**

Gold Hill (West) 01X176

The area contains grizzly bear, whitetail and mule deer, and moose habitat. Most of the big game habitat is summer range. This area encompasses the West Branch of the South Fork of Big Creek which contains cutthroat and possible brook trout. Noisy Creek and a few small tributaries to Pipe Creek on the south half may support resident trout.

**3. Timber**

There are about 9,900 acres of suitable timber land capable of producing more than 20 cubic feet per acre per year of timber growth. Approximately 25 percent of this timberland is located on slopes greater than 55 percent. These steep slope areas are primarily located on the western portion of the roadless area (Noisy Creek). In the eastern portion of the roadless area (West Branch of the South Fork of Big Creek) slopes range from 20 to 55 percent. Road building will be less costly and difficult in this portion. Tractor logging will be permissible on slopes less than 40 percent which make up approximately half of the land area in the West Branch portion.

**B. Other Resources****1. Range**

There are no livestock grazing allotments in the area and the grazing potential is all transitory.

**2. Minerals**

The mineral potential is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate.

**3. Cultural Resources**

There is one known historic cultural site identified in the area but no identified prehistoric sites. Based upon surveys done in similar areas, the probability of sites occurring is considered low.

**4. Water**

Mean annual precipitation for the area is about 32 inches varying from 26 to 40 inches depending on elevation. Only 25 to 40 percent of this amount can be expected to show up as streamflow. Peak runoff is generally in June. Water quality is high in these streams except during the higher spring runoff period.

## C. Resource Situation

Gold Hill (West) 01X176

Table 1

Category	Unit	Category	Unit
Gross Acres	Acres	10200	
Net Acres	Acres	10200	
<b>Recreation</b>			
Semiprim. Nonmotor. RVDs		300	
<b>Range</b>			
Suitable Acres	Acres	0	
AUMs	AUMs	0	
<b>Timber</b>			
Tentative Suitable	Acres	9900	
Standing Volume	MMBF	75	
<b>Corridors</b>			
Existing & Potential	No.	0	
<b>Wildlife - T&amp;E</b>			
<b>Grizzly Bear Habitat</b>			
Situation 1	Acres	-	
Situation 2	Acres	1700	
Situation 3	Acres	-	
<b>Wildlife - Big Game (Elk, Deer)</b>			
Summer Range Total	Acres	9700	
Winter Range Total	Acres	0	
Special Uses Existing	No.	0	
Existing Facilities	No.	0	
<b>Significant Fisheries</b>			
Stream Miles	Miles	-	
Stream Habitat	Acres	-	
Lakes	No.	-	
Lake Habitat	Acres	-	
<b>Water Developments</b>			
Existing	No.	0	
<b>Minerals</b>			
<b>Hardrock Potential</b>			
Very High	Acres	-	
High	Acres	-	
Moderate	Acres	-	
Low	Acres	10200	
Mining Claims	No.	0	
<b>Oil &amp; Gas Potential</b>			
Very High	Acres	-	
High	Acres	-	
Moderate	Acres	10200	
Low	Acres	-	
Unknown	Acres	-	
<b>Oil &amp; Gas Leases</b>			
Leases	No.	4	
Leased Acres	Acres	10200	

## D. Management Considerations

## 1. Land Use Authorizations

There are no special uses in the area. Oil & gas leases exist.

## 2. Fire

The area has had low fire occurrence in the last 20 years (2 fires). The current fuels situation is dense conifer stands with a heavy acculation of downed woody material.

## Gold Hill (West) 01X176

**3. Insect and Disease**

Almost the entire area contains lodgepole pine including stands of mature lodgepole pine which are susceptible to mountain pine beetle infestation. Only minor insect activity is occurring at present (1983).

**4. Non-Federal Lands**

There are no private lands in the defined area.

**IV. Need****A. Proximity to Other Wilderness and to Population Centers**

The area is 20 air miles north of the existing Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. Spokane, Washington (170 miles) and Missoula, Montana (220 miles) are the nearest population centers.

**B. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System**

This area is representative of the Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Ecosystem which is uncommon in the existing wilderness system.

**C. Public Interest**

Gold Hill (West) was evaluated during RARE I and recommended for non-wilderness. During the public comment period for the Big Creek Planning Unit, no expressions of pro-wilderness for the Gold Hill (West) area were voiced. There have been no recent expressions of support for wilderness.

**V. Alternatives and Environmental Consequences****A. Management Prescription Assignment by Alternative**

Multiple use management prescriptions were grouped into categories (management emphases) which have similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources. The following table displays how the roadless area acreage was designated in each alternative. In addition, the summary of management emphasis further defines the rate of development that is expected to occur in some alternatives as well as the future disposition of the inventoried roadless area.

Table 2. Management Emphasis by Alternative for Gold Hill West Roadless Area.

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVES (M Acres)														
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Nonwilderness (Roadless) Primitive/Semiprimitive Recreation, Viewing, Minimum Use Areas	3.7	3.7	3.7	0	3.7	5.4	0	0	1.4	0	0	0	3.7	3.7	10.2
Nonwilderness (Some Development) Special Interest Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.2	1.2	0	0	0	0
Nonwilderness (Developed) Timber Harvest With Wildlife and/or Viewing Management, Minimum Use Areas due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems	6.5	6.5	6.5	10.2	6.5	4.8	0	0	8.8	9.0	9.0	10.2	6.5	6.5	0
Wilderness Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	10.2	10.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
.....															
Summary of Management Emphasis:															
Nonwilderness Developed - Decade 1:	3.6	3.6	3.6	0	3.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.6	0	0
Decade 5:	6.5	6.5	6.5	10.2	6.5	4.8	0	0	8.8	9.0	9.0	10.2	6.5	6.5	0
Roadless - Decade 1:	6.6	6.6	6.6	10.2	6.6	10.2	0	0	10.2	9.0	9.0	10.2	6.6	6.6	10.2
Decade 5:	3.7	3.7	3.7	0	3.7	5.4	0	0	1.4	1.2	1.2	0	3.7	3.7	10.2
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	10.2	10.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Acres- Gold Hill West	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2

**B. Impacts**

Gold Hill (West) 01X176

**1. Designation: Wilderness  
Management Emphasis: Wilderness**

The Gold Hill (West) roadless area is designated wilderness in its entirety in Alternatives G and H. No other alternative recommends wilderness for the area. There are no specific ground-disturbing management activities associated with wilderness areas although the establishment of these areas may, in itself, have effects on other resources and uses.

Wilderness classification will preserve the existing wilderness characteristics of the area. The naturalness of the area will be maintained along with the opportunities for solitude available within the area. Primitive recreation opportunities will be maintained, especially the hiking and hunting opportunities available along the South Fork of Big Creek. Old-growth timber habitat for wildlife would also be maintained.

There are about 9,900 acres of suitable timberland located within the area. In Alternatives G and H, opportunities to manage the timber resource would be foregone. This includes the harvest of lodgepole infested by the mountain pine beetle.

Grizzly bear habitat (Situation 2) is located in this roadless area. Wilderness management would provide security for the bear by prohibiting roading, thereby reducing increases in human activity. However, opportunities to increase forage through burning and timber harvest would not occur.

Opportunities to manage big game summer range using timber harvest would also be foregone, thus limiting the production of forage. However, wilderness will provide security by limiting access into the area.

Wilderness will restrict the exploration for, and removal of, mineral resources. Under the Wilderness Act, the land would be withdrawn from mineral entry since no valid mining claims exist. The existing oil and gas leases would be honored, however. This restriction is not considered significant in that the mineral potential is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate. If there is no discovery when a lease expires, then the land will be withdrawn from mineral leasing.

Activities permissible in wilderness, when authorized by the 1964 Wilderness Act or wilderness management plans, can cost more than activities in areas without the restrictions. Restrictions apply primarily to mode of transportation, use of chainsaws in the wilderness, and removing signs of the intrusion after project completion. When permitted, activities such as mineral exploration, disease and pest control, and fire suppression, would be conducted while protecting the wilderness values which, in turn, requires more time, adherence to more stringent requirements, and more money being spent.

Gold Hill (West) 01X176

Social and economic effects would center around the resource values of recreation, wildlife, wilderness, and timber. Semi-primitive recreation activities such as hunting in a roadless setting, would continue. Timberland would not be available in Alternatives G and H, thus not supporting the wood products industry. Those publics valuing wilderness would be supported by this management emphasis.

2. **Designation: Nonwilderness (Roadless)**  
**Management Emphases: Primitive Recreation, Semi-primitive Nonmotorized Recreation, Viewing, and Limited Use Areas**

Each alternative, except Alternatives D, G, H, J, K, and L designated a portion of the area to these management emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated to roadless management.

**Percent of Area Designated to Roadless Management  
By Alternative**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>O</b>
36	36	36	0	36	52	0	0	13	0	0	0	36	36	100

There are few, if any, ground-disturbing management activities specifically associated with roadlessness. Activities are associated primarily with dispersed recreation including hunting and fishing.

The roadless character of the area will be maintained in these emphases as will the primitive and semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Old-growth timber habitat will be maintained and grizzly habitat will be protected. Security for big game will be provided.

Like wilderness, roadless designations require stiffer requirements for conducting activities, requirements that are designed to protect the qualities inherent in a roadless allocation. Restrictions on access and mode of travel are major limitations for conducting activities, often making the activity more expensive to accomplish. Such activities can include wildlife and fish habitat improvements, mineral, oil and gas exploration/development, insect and disease control, and wildfire suppression.

The social and economic effects are primarily the benefits of semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Timber would not be available for harvest in these emphases.

## Gold Hill (West) 01X176

3. **Designation:** Nonwilderness (Developed)  
**Management Emphases:** Big Game Winter Range Timber, Big Game Summer Range Timber, Wildlife Timber, Grizzly Timber, Timber Optimization, Timber Viewing, Viewing Timber, Minimum Use due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems.

Timber harvest and associated activities, such as road building, have more affect on the physical and biological environment than any of the other forest management activities. The extent of the effects are dependent on management regimes selected. Each alternative, except Alternatives G, H, and O, designate a portion of the area to these emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated for developmental activities in each alternative.

Percent of the Area Designated for Developmental Activities  
By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
63	63	63	100	63	47	0	0	86	88	88	100	63	63	0

Development is scheduled to occur in the first decade in Alternatives A, B, C, E, M, and N. (See Table 3 at the end of this discussion). In the other Alternatives, development will occur either by the third or fifth decade. Miles of road expected to be built to develop the area range from 19 to 57 miles, depending on the alternative.

As development occurs, the naturalness of the area will be impacted by harvest units, roads, and other evidences of man's modifications. Roading foregoes the opportunity to consider the area for wilderness in the long-term and reduces the opportunity for primitive recreation and experiences of solitude.

Timber harvest and roads could result in a short-term reduction in big game cover and security. Activities conducted in big game habitat are coordinated with wildlife needs and include the closure of roads upon completion of the activity and insuring that adequate cover is left. Long-term benefits to wildlife include maintaining and improving wildlife forage.

## Gold Hill (West) 01X176

Timber management activities can directly affect the grizzly population in the short-term by logging activities and the long term by road access into a roadless area. Access into the area could displace the bear and increase the opportunity for human/bear encounters. Timber management activities, if well coordinated, can produce benefits by producing more desirable forage for grizzlies through certain timber harvest and site preparation practices such as small clearcuts and broadcast burning instead of tractor piling. Roads would be closed in a timely manner to minimize human/bear encounters and displacement.

Social and economic effects are related primarily to the resource values of timber, wildlife, wilderness, and recreation. The harvest of timber is important to the economic base of communities in the Forest. Timber from the Gold Hill (West) roadless area would contribute to the economic base. Hunting experiences could be altered because of the change in the roadless setting to a roaded-natural setting. Road closures would retain the area closer to its existing character. Those publics desiring wilderness or roadless management for the area would not be supported by these emphases. Concerns about impacts on grizzly bear, big game, and other species could be raised by the activities scheduled in these emphases, but would be addressed by efforts to mitigate the impacts.

Table 3. Decadal Outputs by Alternative for Gold Hill West Roadless Area.

OUTPUT CATEGORY	DECADE	ALTERNATIVES														
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Rec. Wilderness	MAcres	0	0	0	0	0	0	10.2	10.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless	MAcres	3.7	3.7	3.7	0	3.7	5.4	0	0	1.4	0	0	0	3.7	3.7	10.2
Recreation	Prim./Semiprim. MRVDs	15	18	17	8	18	35	31	31	6	0	0	0	21	15	40
	Semiprim. Motor. MRVDs	32	26	28	37	27	1	0	0	43	485	485	50	21	32	1
Timber	Suitable MAcres	6.5	6.5	6.5	9.9	6.5	4.8	0	0	8.8	9.0	9.0	9.9	6.5	6.5	0
	Volume (MMBF)	1	4.0	4.0	4.0	0	4.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.0	4.0	0
		3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.03	0	0	0
		5	0	0	0	52.9	0	0	0	52.9	.03	.03	53.0	0	0	0
Harvest Acres -	MAcres	1	3.6	3.6	3.6	0	3.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.6	3.6	0
		3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.03	0	0	0
		5	0	0	0	3.6	0	0	0	7.3	.03	.03	3.6	0	0	0
Roads	Roads Constructed															
	First Decade - Miles	19	19	19	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	19	0
	Total Road Miles															
	Needed by Fifth															
	Decade - Miles	19	19	19	57	19	19	0	0	50	21	21	44	30	19	0
Wildlife - T&E	Grizzly Bear															
	Habitat MAcres															
	(w/o activity)	0	0	0	0	0	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.2	0	0	0	1.7
Wildlife - Big Game	Summer Range MAcres	2.8	1.5	2.0	.2	1.7	.2	0	0	1.2	6.6	6.6	2.8	.6	2.8	0
	Winter Range MAcres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minerals & Oil/Gas	Very High/															
	High Potential -															
	Accessible MAcres	NOT APPLICABLE IN THIS ROADLESS AREA														



**KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST**

Berray Mountain - 01672

State: Montana

Gross Acres: 8,600

Net Acres: 8,300

**I. Description**

Located on the east side of Bull River, this area generally lies between the South and East Forks of the Bull River and is accessible from the Bull Lake Road (State Highway 56).

This roadless area is characterized as a high elevation ridgetop setting, with steep cliffs present on the southern and western end. Berray Mountain (6,150 feet) is the highest point in the area. The northern portion contains forested lands but the remainder is generally sparsely forested. Berray Creek, Baker Gulch, and numerous small tributaries of the Bull River drain this area.

The area is surrounded to the north and east by developments such as roads and timber cutting units. Pellick Ridge (part of the Scotchman Peaks roadless area, #662) lies to the south and west, separated by the Bull Lake Road and Bull River.

The ecosystems represented include Douglas-fir and Cedar Hemlock Pine Forests.

Existing use is primarily hunting in the fall and viewing wildlife from the Bull Lake Road. Berray Mountain is considered perhaps the best place on the Forest to view wintering mountain sheep, elk, and deer.

**II. Capability****A. Natural Integrity and Appearance**

Natural integrity and appearance is good with the exception of the recently active Berray Mountain Lookout and several miles of existing trail.

**B. Opportunities for Solitude**

Opportunities for solitude are good in Berray Creek but poor on the south and west facing slopes looking into the Bull River Valley.

**C. Primitive Recreation Opportunities**

Good opportunities for primitive recreation exist such as hiking, camping, and wildlife observation. Challenging experiences include rock climbing and wildlife photography.

**D. Other Features**

Special features include the bighorn sheep herd and grizzly habitat.

**K. Manageability and Boundaries**

Berray Mtn. 01672

Berray Mountain was evaluated in the 1979 RARE II Final EIS and recommended for non-wilderness uses. Since 1979, there have been no changes in the boundary of the area although the acres have been adjusted as shown below.

<u>Gross Acres</u>	<u>Net Acres</u>	
8612	8232	RARE II inventory
8600	8300	1983 roadless inventory

Nonconforming uses include the Berray Mountain Lookout, 300 acres of private land located on the north and east edge of the area and existing oil & gas leases.

The Roadless area is primarily a ridgetop setting with steep slopes on the south and west sides resulting in easily identifiable boundaries. The northern and eastern edges would be more difficult to identify because of their midslope position.

**III. Availability****A. Significant Resource Potentials****1. Recreation**

It is estimated that the area could provide 2,500 RVD's of wilderness recreation per year. Current use is estimated to be 500 RVD's.

**2. Wildlife**

The area contains bighorn sheep, whitetail deer, mule deer and elk winter range, and grizzly habitat. Big game habitat is currently managed by the use of both broadcast and under-burning.

**3. Timber**

The timber productivity of the area is considered poor on the southern half and good on the northern and eastern tips. Approximately 3,700 acres of tentatively suitable land are contained within the roadless area, primarily located on the northern tip. Over 95% of the timberland is located on slopes greater than 55%. Road construction would be difficult and costly. Timber harvesting would require cable or helicopter logging.

**B. Other Resources****1. Fish**

No major fishery occurs in the area.

2. Range Berray Mtn. 01672

There are no livestock grazing allotments in the area and the grazing potential is all transitory range.

## 3. Minerals

The mineral potential is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate.

## 4. Cultural Resource

One historic cultural site, the Berray Mountain Lookout is known to exist. There have been no prehistoric sites located but surveys done in similar locations on the Forest indicate that the probability of sites occurring is low.

## 5. Water

Mean annual precipitation for the area varies from 35 to 100 inches depending on elevation. Runoff from the area would vary from 12 to 55 inches, again depending on elevation. While streams in this area can be expected to peak in June, this area also experiences the mid-winter rain-on-snow storms which have caused considerable damage in the past.

## C. Resource Situation

Berray Mtn. 01672

Table 1

Category	Unit	Category	Unit
Gross Acres	Acres	8600	
Net Acres	Acres	8300	
<b>Recreation</b>			
Semiprim. Nonmotor. RVDs		500	
<b>Range</b>			
Suitable Acres	Acres	0	
AUMs	AUMs	0	
<b>Timber</b>			
Tentative Suitable	Acres	3700	
Standing Volume	MMBF	31	
<b>Corridors</b>			
Existing & Potential	No.	0	
<b>Wildlife - T&amp;E</b>			
Grizzly Bear Habitat			
Situation 1	Acres	8300	
Situation 2	Acres	-	
Situation 3	Acres	-	
<b>Wildlife - Big Game (Elk, Deer, Sheep)</b>			
Summer Range Total	Acres	1800	
Winter Range Total	Acres	4400	
Special Uses Existing	No.	0	
Existing Facilities	No.	0	
<b>Significant Fisheries</b>			
Stream Miles	Miles	0	
Stream Habitat	Acres	0	
Lakes	No.	0	
Lake Habitat	Acres	0	
<b>Water Developments</b>			
Existing	No.	0	
<b>Minerals</b>			
Hardrock Potential			
Very High	Acres		
High	Acres		
Moderate	Acres		
Low	Acres	8300	
Mining Claims	No.	0	
Oil & Gas Potential			
Very High	Acres	-	
High	Acres	-	
Moderate	Acres	8300	
Low	Acres	-	
Unknown	Acres	-	
Oil & Gas Leases			
Leases	No.	4	
Leased Acres	Acres	8300	

**D. Management Considerations**

Berray Mtn. 01672

**1. Land Use Authorizations**

There are no special uses. Oil & gas leases exist.

**2. Fire**

The fire history is a low occurrence (no fires in the last 10 years) and the fuels situation is conifer stands with thick downed, woody material as ground fuels on the northern portion and sparse fuels on the southern face.

**3. Insect and Disease**

About 10% of the area contains mature lodgepole pine that is susceptible to Mountain Pine Beetle but there is no insect activity in the area at present (1983).

**4. Non-Federal Lands**

There are 300 acres of private land located on the northern and eastern edge.

**IV. Need****A. Proximity to Other Wilderness and to Population Centers**

The Berray Mountain roadless area is approximately 105 miles from Spokane, Washington and 3 miles west of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness which is now getting more than 18,000 annual RVD's. This use is beginning to increase and the trend is projected to continue.

**B. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System**

This area is representative of the Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Ecosystem which is uncommon in the existing wilderness system.

**C. Public Interest**

During the RARE II public comment period, over 1,300 people commented on the area, most of whom (87%) opposed a wilderness classification for the area. RARE II recommended non-wilderness. During the Unit Planning process, no direct comments were received concerning the wilderness issue nor have there been recent expressions favoring a wilderness in the area.

**V. Alternatives and Environmental Consequences****A. Management Prescription Assignment by Alternative**

Multiple use management prescriptions were grouped into categories (management emphases) which have similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources. The following table displays how the roadless area acreage was designated in each alternative. In addition, the summary of management emphasis further defines the rate of development that is expected to occur in some alternatives as well as the future disposition of the inventoried roadless area.

Table 2. Management Emphasis by Alternative for Berry Mountain Roadless Area.

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVES (M Acres)															
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	
Nonwilderness (Roadless) Primitive/Semiprimitive Recreation, Viewing, Minimum Use Areas	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	1.2	0	0	.6	0	0	0	.4	.4	3.8	
Nonwilderness (Some Development) Big Game Winter Range	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	0	0	5.6	5.8	5.8	.4	.4	.4	4.5	
Nonwilderness (Developed) Timber Harvest With Wildlife and/or Viewing Management, Minimum Use Areas due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	6.7	0	0	2.1	2.5	2.5	7.9	7.5	7.5	0	
Wilderness Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.3	8.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
.....																
Summary of Management Emphasis:																
Nonwilderness																
Developed - Decade 1:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Decade 5:	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	6.7	0	0	2.1	2.5	2.5	7.9	7.5	7.5	0	
Roadless - Decade 1:	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	0	0	7.5	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	
Decade 5:	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.6	0	0	6.2	5.8	5.8	0.4	0.8	0.8	8.3	
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.3	8.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres- Berry Mtn.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	

**B. Impacts**

Berray Mtn. 01672

1. **Designation: Wilderness**  
**Management Emphasis: Wilderness**

Only Alternatives G and H recommend the entire Berray Mountain roadless area for wilderness. There are no specific ground-disturbing management activities associated with wilderness areas although the establishment of these areas may, in itself, have effects on other resources and uses.

Wilderness classification will preserve the existing wilderness characteristics of the area. The naturalness of the area will be maintained along with the higher solitude opportunities available in the Berray Creek portion. Primitive recreation opportunities would be maximized as well as protection of old-growth timber and associated wildlife habitat.

About 3,700 acres of suitable timberland are in the Berray Mountain roadless area. The opportunity to manage the timber resource would be foregone in Alternatives G and H.

Grizzly bear habitat (situation 1 - critical to the recovery of the species) covers the entire roadless area (see Glossary for definition of habitat situations). Wilderness management would provide security to the bear from roading and related increases in human activity in the area. However, increases in forage through management activities such as burning and timber harvest would not occur.

Past burning efforts to maintain and improve big game (elk, deer, and bighorn sheep) winter range would be discontinued under wilderness management. In the short-term, winter range could decrease although possible increases in the longer term may occur because of openings created by wildfire and/or insect and disease infestations. The habitat on summer range would not be improved or maintained but wilderness management would provide security, i.e., lack of access and human activity in the area.

Wilderness will restrict the exploration for, and removal of, mineral resources. Under the Wilderness Act, the land would be withdrawn from mineral entry since no valid mining claims exist. The existing oil and gas leases would be honored, however. This restriction is not considered significant in that the mineral potential is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate. If there is no discovery when a lease expires, then the land will be withdrawn from mineral leasing.

## Berray Mtn. 01672

Activities permissible in wilderness, when authorized by the 1964 Wilderness Act or wilderness management plans, can cost more than activities in areas without the restrictions. Restrictions apply primarily to mode of transportation, use of chainsaws in the wilderness, and removing signs of the intrusion after project completion. When permitted, activities such as mineral exploration, disease and pest control, and fire suppression, would be conducted while protecting the wilderness values which, in turn, requires more time, adherence to more stringent requirements, and more money being spent.

Social and economic effects would center around the resource values of recreation, wildlife, wilderness, and timber. Semi-primitive recreation activities such as hunting in a roadless setting would continue. Timberland would not be available in alternatives G and H thus not supporting the wood products industry. Those publics valuing wilderness would be supported by this management emphasis.

2. **Designation: Nonwilderness (Roadless)**  
**Management Emphases: Primitive Recreation, Semi-primitive Nonmotorized Recreation, Viewing, and Limited Use Areas**

About five percent or 400 acres of the roadless area is managed in roadless emphases in Alternatives A through E, I, M and N. Alternative F designates 1200 acres and Alternative O, 3,800 acres to these emphases. There are few, if any, ground-disturbing management activities specifically associated with unroaded management.

The roadless character within these emphases will be maintained as well as semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Old growth timber habitat will also be maintained and grizzly habitat will be protected. Security for big game animals would be maintained.

Like wilderness, unroaded management require stiffer requirements for conducting activities, requirements that are designed to protect the qualities inherent in a roadless allocation. Restrictions on access and mode of travel are major limitations for conducting activities, often making the activity more expensive to accomplish. Such activities can include wildlife and fish habitat improvements, mineral, oil and gas exploration/development, insect and disease control, and wildfire suppression. The impacts of the above activities and associated management in this roadless area are judged to be insignificant.

The social and economic effects are primarily the benefits of semi-primitive recreation opportunities.

3. Designation: Nonwilderness(Some Development) Berray Mtn. 01672  
 Mangement Emphasis: Big Game Winter Range

This emphasis is located primarily on the west side of the roadless area along the Bull River. The intent is to manage winter range habitat for the benefit of the elk, deer, and big horn sheep that winter in this area. Prescribed burning is the primary management activity and would be applied when the big game would not be disturbed by the activity. Alternatives A through F and L through N designate about four percent, Alternatives I, J, K designate about 70 percent, and Alternative O designates 55 percent of the roadless area to this emphasis.

The impact on the wilderness and roadless character of the emphasis is short-term in nature. The naturalness of the area is altered by the human activity of burning but vegetative growth after burning would make this activity less apparent.

Impacts on the timber and mineral resource values are insignificant in this emphasis in this roadless area.

Social and economic effects would be primarily one of support of those publics valuing and/or hunting the wildlife in the area.

4. Designation: Nonwilderness (Developed)  
 Management Emphases: Big Game Winter Range Timber, Big Game Summer Range Timber, Wildlife Timber, Grizzly Timber, Timber Optimization, Timber Viewing, Viewing Timber, Minimum Use due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems.

All alternatives except G, H and O designate at last a portion of the area to one of these emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated to developmental activities.

Percent of the Area Designated for Developmental Activities  
 By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
91	91	91	91	91	81	0	0	92	30	30	96	91	91	0

Timber harvest and associated activities such as road building have more effect on the physical and biological environment than any of the other forest management activities. The extent of the effects are dependent on management prescriptions selected.

Timber would not be harvested in the first decade except in Alternative I. (See Table 3 which follows this discussion). However, by the fifth decade, portions of the area would have been harvested in all Alternatives except G, H, and O.

## Berray Mtn. 01672

The wilderness resource and roadless character of the area is maintained for the first ten years, but by the third decade, activities will alter the roadless area. The naturalness of the area will be impacted by harvest units, roads and other evidence of human modifications. The highly visible portions of the area facing into the Bull Lake Valley would not be affected because they are for the most part unsuitable for timber harvest. Roading forgoes the opportunity to consider the area for wilderness in the long-term and reduces the opportunity for primitive recreation and experiences of solitude.

Timber harvest and associated roading could result in a reduction in big game cover and security, but can maintain or improve the wildlife habitat. The impact on security can be mitigated in part by closing roads which would keep human disturbances at lower levels. Timber harvest is scheduled so that hiding cover is not completely removed.

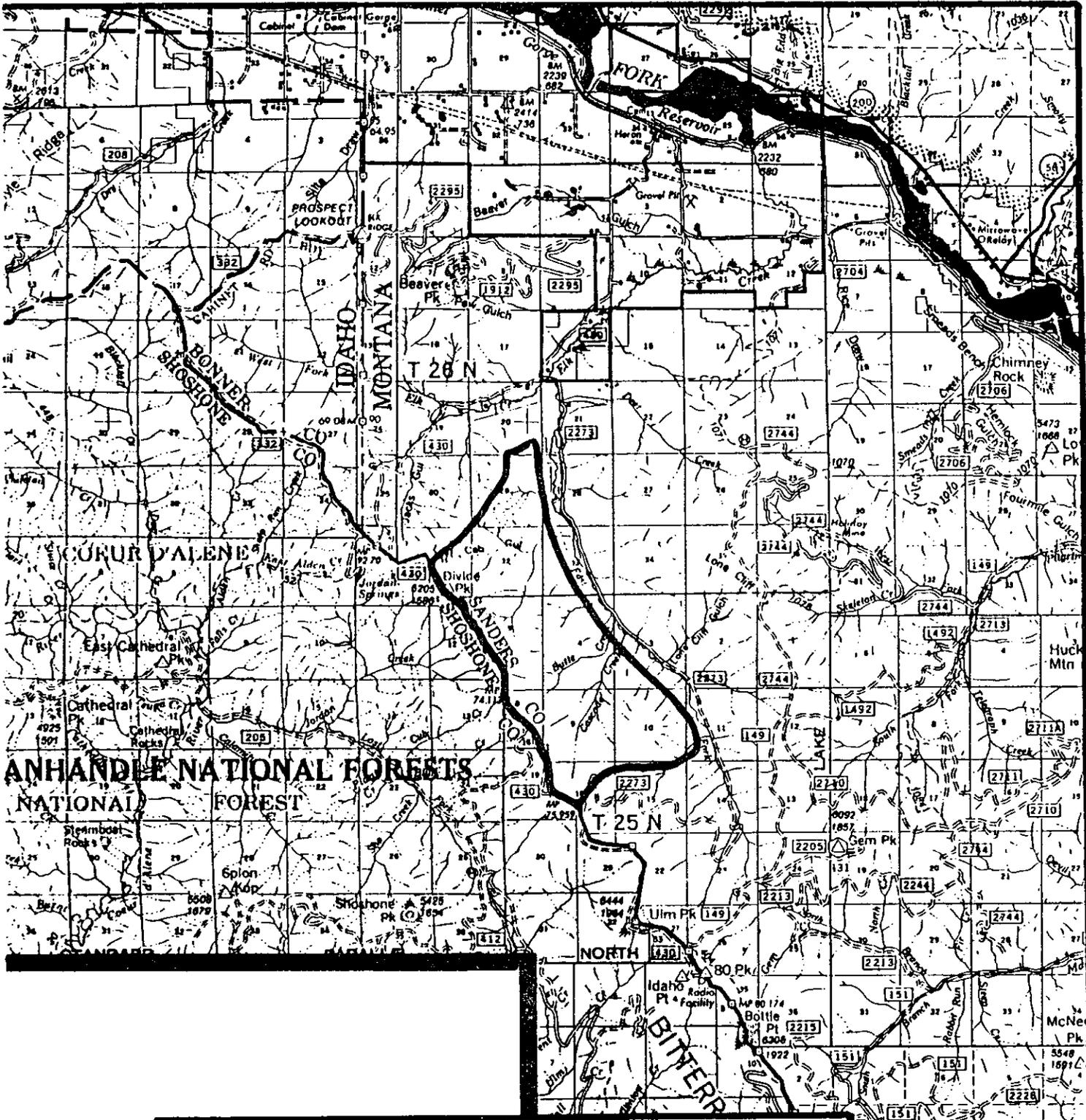
Timber management activities can directly affect the grizzly population in the short-term by logging activities and the long term by road access into a roadless area. Access into the area could displace the bear and increase the opportunity for human/bear encounters. Timber management activities, if well coordinated, can produce positive benefits by producing more desirable forage for grizzlies through certain timber harvest and site preparation practices such as small clearcuts and broadcast burning instead of tractor piling. Road would be closed in a timely manner to minimize human/bear encounters and displacement.

The harvest of some of the mature lodgepole pine (10% of the area) will provide an opportunity for control of insects and disease because all diseased or susceptible trees are removed and a young, vigorous stand is initiated.

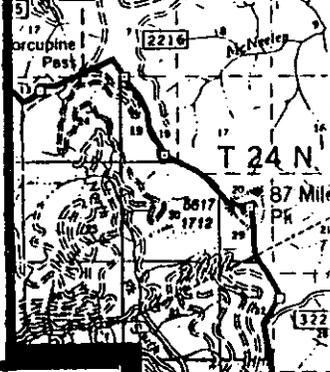
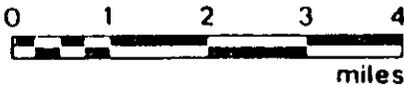
Social and economic effects are related primarily to the resource values of timber, wildlife, wilderness, and recreation. The harvest of timber is important to the economic base of communities in the Forest. Timber from the Berray Mountain roadless area would contribute to the economic base. Hunting experiences could be altered because of the change in the roadless setting to a roaded-natural setting. Road closures would retain the area closer to its existing character. Those publics desiring wilderness or roadless management for the area would not be supported by these emphases. Concerns about impacts on grizzly bear, big game, and other species could be raised by the activities scheduled in these emphases, but should be addressed by the efforts to mitigate the impacts.

Table 3. Decadal Outputs by Alternative for Barray Mountain Roadless Area.

OUTPUT CATEGORY	DEC.	ALTERNATIVES														
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Rec. Wilderness MAcres		0	0	0	0	0	0	8.3	8.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless MAcres		.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	1.2	0	0	.6	0	0	0	.4	.4	3.8
Recreation																
Prim./Semiprim.MRVDs		8	8	8	8	8	9	25	25	1	0	0	0	8	8	15
Semiprim. Motor.MRVDs		29	29	29	29	29	29	0	0	44	37	37	31	29	29	22
Timber																
Suitable MAcres		3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	2.7	0	0	2.1	2.5	2.5	3.7	3.7	3.7	0
Volume (MMBF)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.4	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	8.0	8.0	8.0	15.5	8.0	3.0	0	0	9.2	2.8	3.9	3.0	8.0	8.0	0
	3	7.0	7.0	7.0	4.5	7.0	4.0	0	0	.004	5.8	4.6	6.0	4.0	7.0	0
	5															
Harvest Acres - MAcres																
	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.8	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3	.9	.9	.9	1.8	.9	.1	0	0	.4	.1	.4	.1	.9	.9	0
	5	.3	.3	.3	.2	.3	.2	0	0	.4	.4	.2	.3	.2	.3	0
Roads																
Roads Constructed																
First Decade - Miles		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Road Miles																
Needed by Fifth																
Decade - Miles		12	12	12	14	12	6	0	0	12	8	8	15	12	12	0
Wildlife - T&E																
Grizzly Bear																
Habitat MAcres																
(w/o activity)		.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	1.2	8.3	8.3	.6	0	0	0	.4	.4	3.8
Wildlife - Big Game																
Summer Range MAcres		1.3	1.3	1.3	1.12	1.3	1.3	0	0	1.8	1.2	1.2	1.8	1.2	1.2	0
Winter Range MAcres		4.5	4.5	4.5	5.4	4.5	4.4	0	0	5.6	6.3	6.3	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.4
Minerals & Oil/Gas																
Very High/																
High Potential -																
Accessible MAcres																
		NOT APPLICABLE IN THIS ROADLESS AREA														



**Kootenai National Forest**  
**East Fork Elk Creek Roadless Area**  
**678**



**KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST**

East Fork Elk Creek - 01678                      State: Montana

Gross Acres: 5,000                              Net Acres: 5,000

**I. Description**

The area is located on the Idaho-Montana Divide, in the southwestern corner of the Forest. The area encompasses the Lost Cab Gulch, Butte Creek, and Cascade Creek drainages, all flowing northeasterly.

Access to the area is good from the Clark Fork Valley via the East Fork Elk Creek Road. There are no trails in the area.

The area is primarily a ridgetop situation with a very rugged steep rocky east face. Butte and Cascade Creeks, Cab Gulch and several small unnamed tributaries originate within this area. Divide Peak (5,200 feet) is the dominant feature in the area.

The area is generally surrounded by existing or planned Forest developments such as roads or timber harvesting units.

The represented ecosystems are Cedar Hemlock Pine Forest and Western Spruce Fir Forest.

The hunting opportunities are the primary attractions in the area.

Current use is primarily hunting in the fall. Use is considered light (1,000 RVD's) due to steepness of terrain and lack of trails.

**II. Capability****A. Natural Integrity and Appearance**

The natural integrity and appearance of the area is rated high with no manmade intrusions.

**B. Opportunities for Solitude**

Opportunities for solitude are also rated high in the deep canyons of Cascade and Butte Creeks. Opportunities are moderate in the remainder of the area because the area looks out onto adjacent lands that have been impacted in the past.

**C. Primitive Recreation Opportunities**

High quality elk hunting in a primitive setting is the area's primary recreation attraction and the resident elk herd is the area's most special feature. Challenging hiking experiences are provided by the steep canyon walls of Cascade and Butte Creeks.

**D. Manageability and Boundaries**

East Fork Elk Cr. 01678

The area was identified in the RARE II inventory. At that time the area was recommended for non-wilderness and subsequently allocated to both developmental and nondevelopmental uses.

<u>Gross Acres</u>	<u>Net Acres</u>	
6400	6400	RARE II inventory
-1400	-1400	Timber sale activity
5000	5000	1983 roadless inventory

The nonconforming uses in the area are the existing oil & gas leases.

The area has well-defined, easily managed boundaries consisting of existing roads and a ridgeline.

**III. Availability****A. Significant Resource Potentials****1. Recreation**

The area is estimated to have a potential of providing about 1,600 RVD's of wilderness recreation per year. Some snowmobiling use occurs along the upper end of Cascade Creek, associated with the ridge divide. Current use is about 1,000 RVD's a year.

**2. Wildlife**

The area contains winter range management opportunities.

**3. Timber**

There are 3,700 acres of tentatively suitable timberland capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet per acre per year. Over 90% of the total area has slopes greater than 55%. Road construction would be difficult and costly and timber harvest would require a cable or aerial (helicopter) logging system.

**B. Other Resources****1. Fisheries**

There are no significant fisheries but the area does contain tributaries to East Fork Elk Creek, a cutthroat trout fishery.

**2. Range**

There are no livestock grazing allotments in the area and the grazing potential is considered all transitory.

**3. Minerals**

The mineral potential is low. Oil and gas potential is moderate.



**2. Fire**

East Fork Elk Cr. 01678

The area has had low fire occurrence (no fires in the last 10 years). The fuels situation is considered predominately dense conifer with thick accumulations of woody ground fuels with sparse ground fuels on the higher ridgetops.

**3. Insect and Disease**

There is a limited amount of high risk lodgepole pine but there is no insect and disease activity at present (1983).

**4. Non-Federal Lands**

No private lands are located within the roadless area boundary.

**IV. Need****A. Proximity to Other Wilderness and Population Centers**

East Fork of Elk Creek is about 15 air miles from the existing Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. Spokane, Washington (130 miles) and Missoula, Montana (140 miles) are the closest population centers.

**B. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System**

This area is representative of the Cedar Hemlock Pine and Western Spruce Fir Forests ecosystems which are common in the existing wilderness system.

**C. Public Interest**

During the RARE II public review period, over 1,200 people commented on the area, most of whom (84%) were opposed to a wilderness classification for the area. RARE II recommended non-wilderness. There have been no recent expressions of support for wilderness for the East Fork Elk Creek area.

**V. Alternatives and Environmental Consequences****A. Management Prescription Assignment by Alternative**

Multiple use management prescriptions were grouped into categories (management emphases) which have similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources. The following table displays how the roadless area acreage was designated in each alternative. In addition, the summary of management emphasis further defines the rate of development that is expected to occur in some alternatives as well as the future disposition of the inventoried roadless area.

Table 2. Management Emphasis by Alternative for East Fork Elk Creek Roadless Area.

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVES (M Acres)															
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	
<b>Nonwilderness (Roadless)</b>																
Primitive/Semiprimitive Recreation, Viewing, Minimum Use Areas	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.6	0	0	3.2	.7	.7	0	1.8	1.8	4.2	
<b>Nonwilderness (Some Development)</b>																
Big Game Winter Range	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	0	0	.1	1.3	1.3	.8	.8	.8	.8	
<b>Nonwilderness (Developed)</b>																
Timber Harvest With Wildlife and/or Viewing Management, Minimum Use Areas due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.5	0	0	1.6	2.9	2.9	4.1	2.3	2.3	0	
<b>Wilderness</b>																
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	5.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
.....																
<b>Summary of Management Emphasis:</b>																
<b>Nonwilderness</b>																
Developed - Decade 1:	0	.6	.5	0	0	.6	0	0	0	0	2.9	1.0	0	0	0	
Decade 5:	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.5	0	0	1.6	2.9	2.9	4.1	2.3	2.3	0	
Roadless - Decade 1:	5.0	4.3	4.4	5.0	5.0	4.3	0	0	5.0	5.0	2.0	3.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	
Decade 5:	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.4	0	0	3.3	2.0	2.0	.8	.8	.8	5.0	
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	5.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total Acres- E. Fork. Elk</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	

**B. Impacts**

East Fork Elk Cr. 01678

1. Designation: Wilderness  
Management Emphasis: Wilderness

The East Fork Elk Creek roadless area is recommended for wilderness in its entirety in Alternatives G and H. No other alternative recommends wilderness for the area. There are no specific ground-disturbing management activities associated with wilderness areas although the establishment of these areas may, in itself, have effects on other resources and uses.

Wilderness classification will preserve the existing primitive characteristics of the area which include the opportunities for solitude in the deep canyons of Cascade and Butte Creeks, and the quality roadless elk hunting experience. Primitive recreation opportunities, such as the hiking opportunities in Cascade and Butte Creeks, will be maximized.

There are 3,700 acres of suitable timberland in the roadless area. The opportunity to manage the timber resource would be foregone in Alternatives G and H.

Opportunities to manage either big game winter range through burning, or big game summer range through timber harvest, would be foregone in this emphasis. However, the inability to improve forage opportunities would be offset by the security provided the wildlife because of the limit placed on access.

Wilderness will restrict the exploration for, and removal of, mineral resources. Under the Wilderness Act, the land would be withdrawn from mineral entry since no valid mining claims exist. The existing oil and gas leases would be honored, however. This restriction is not considered significant in that the mineral potential is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate. If there is no discovery when a lease expires, then the land will be withdrawn from mineral leasing.

Activities permissible in wilderness, when authorized by the 1964 Wilderness Act or wilderness management plans, can cost more than activities in areas without the restrictions. Restrictions apply primarily to mode of transportation, use of chainsaws in the wilderness, and removing signs of the intrusion after project completion. When permitted, activities such as mineral exploration, disease and pest control, and fire suppression, would be conducted while protecting the wilderness values which, in turn, requires more time, adherence to more stringent requirements, and more money being spent.

Social and economic effects would center around the resource values of recreation, wildlife, wilderness, and timber. semi-primitive recreation activities such as hunting in a roadless setting, would continue. Timberland would not be available in Alternatives G and H, thus not supporting the wood products industry. Those publics valuing wilderness would be supported by this management emphasis.

East Fork Elk Cr. 01678

2. **Designation:** Nonwilderness (Roadless)  
**Management Emphases:** Primitive Recreation, Semi-primitive  
 Nonmotorized Recreation, Viewing, and  
 Limited Use Areas

Every alternative, except Alternatives G, H, and I, designate a portion of the area to these emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated to roadless management.

Percent of Area Designated Roadless Management  
 By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
36	32	34	32	36	32	0	0	65	14	14	0	36	36	84

There are few, if any, ground-disturbing management activities specifically associated with roadlessness. Activities are associated primarily with dispersed recreation including hunting and fishing.

The roadless character within these emphases will be maintained as well as semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Old growth timber habitat will also be maintained. Security for be game would be maintained.

Like wilderness, roadless designations require stiffer requirements for conducting activities, requirements that are designed to protect the qualities inherent in a roadless allocation. Restrictions on access and mode of travel are major limitations for conducting activities, often making the activity more expensive to accomplish. Such activities can include wildlife and fish habitat improvements, mineral, oil and gas exploration/development, insect and disease control, and wildfire suppression.

The social and economic effects are primarily the benefits of semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Timber would not be available for harvest in these emphases.

3. **Designation:** Nonwilderness (Some Development)  
**Management Emphasis:** Big Game Winter Range

All alternatives, except G and H, designate at least a portion of the area to this emphasis. (See Table 2.) Alternatives J and K designate the most acreage (26% of the area). The intent is to manage winter range habitat for the benefit of elk and deer. Prescribed burning is the primary management activity.

The impact on the wilderness and roadless character caused by this emphasis is short-term in nature. The naturalness of the area would be altered shortly after burning but vegetative recovery would make this activity less apparent later on. Impacts on the timber and mineral resources would be insignificant in this emphasis.

Social and economic effects would be primarily one of support of those publics valuing wildlife in the area.

East Fork Elk Cr. 01678

4. **Designation:** Nonwilderness (Developed)  
**Management Emphases:** Big Game Winter Range Timber, Big Game Summer Range Timber, Wildlife Timber, Grizzly Timber, Timber Optimization, Timber Viewing, Viewing Timber, Minimum Use due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems.

Timber harvest and associated activities, such as road building, have more affect on the physical and biological environment than any of the other forest management activities. The extent of the effects are dependent on management regimes selected. Every alternative, except Alternatives G, H, and O, designates a portion of the area to one or more of these emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated for developmental activities in each alternative.

Percent of the Area Designated to Developmental Activities  
By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
46	50	48	50	46	50	0	0	32	58	58	82	46	46	0

Timber harvest activities are scheduled to occur during the first decade in Alternatives B, C, F, and L. (See Table 3 at the end of this discussion). In all Alternatives except G, H, J, and O, development will occur by the third decade. By the fifth decade, from 3 to 13 miles of road would be in place in developmental alternatives, depending on the alternative.

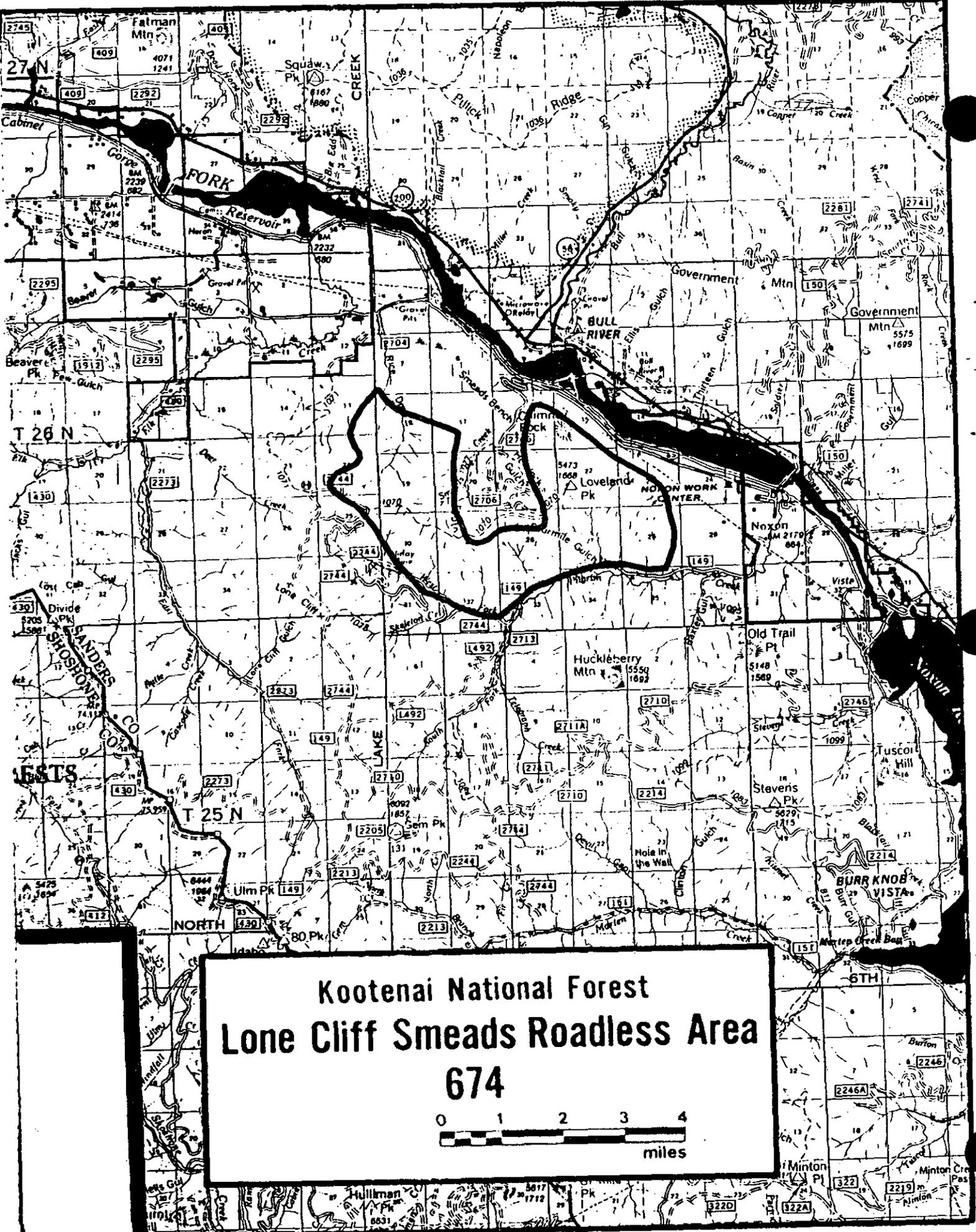
As activities occur, the naturalness of the area is impacted by timber cutting units, roads, and other evidence of man's modifications. Roading forgoes the opportunity to consider the area for wilderness in the long-term and reduces the opportunity for primitive recreation and experiences of solitude.

Timber harvest and roads could result in a short-term reduction in big game cover and security. Activities conducted in big game habitat are coordinated with wildlife needs and include the closure of roads upon completion of the activity and insuring that adequate cover is left. Long-term benefits to wildlife include maintaining and improving wildlife forage.

Social and economic effects are related primarily to the resource values of timber, wildlife, wilderness, and recreation. The harvest of timber is important to the economic base of communities in the Forest. Timber from the East Fork Elk Creek roadless area would contribute to the economic base. Hunting experiences could be altered because of the change in the roadless setting to a roaded natural setting. Road closures would retain the area closer to its existing character. Those publics desiring wilderness or roadless magement for the area would not be supported by these emphases. Concerns about impacts on big game and other species could be raised by the activities scheduled in these emphases, but would be addressed by efforts to mitigate the impacts.

Table 3. Decadal Outputs by Alternative for East Fork Elk Creek Roadless Area.

OUTPUT CATEGORY	DECADE	ALTERNATIVES															
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	
Rec. Wilderness	MAcres	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	5.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Roadless	MAcres	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.6	0	0	3.2	.7	.7	0	1.8	1.8	4.2	
Recreation	Prim./Semiprim.MRVDS	7	7	7	6	7	7	15	15	13	3	3	0	7	7	15	
	Semiprim. Motor.MRVDS	13	14	14	15	13	14	0	0	9	11	11	23	13	13	4	
Timber	Suitable MAcres	2.0	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.5	0	0	1.6	2.9	2.9	3.7	2.3	2.3	0	
	Volume (MMBF)	1	0	12.0	10.0	0	0	12.0	0	0	0	0	12.0	0	0	0	
		3	12.0	5.0	5.0	11.9	4.0	5.0	0	0	4.1	0	7.8	13.0	12.0	12.0	0
		5	6.0	8.0	8.0	6.4	6.0	15.0	0	0	0	0	8.0	6.0	6.0	0	
Harvest Acres -	MAcres	1	0	.6	.5	0	0	.6	0	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	
		3	.5	.2	.2	.5	.2	.2	0	0	1.0	0	.3	.5	.5	.5	0
		5	.3	.3	.3	.2	.2	.6	0	0	0	0	.3	.2	.2	0	
Roads	Roads Constructed																
	First Decade - Miles	0	4	3	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	
	Total Road Miles																
	Needed by Fifth																
	Decade - Miles	9	10	10	9	8	10	0	0	7	3	4	13	9	9	0	
Wildlife - T&E	Grizzly Bear																
	Habitat MAcres																
	(w/o activity)																
Wildlife - Big Game	Summer Range MAcres	.6	1.2	1.1	.6	.6	2.0	0	0	0	.8	.8	.9	.5	.6	0	
	Winter Range MAcres	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	0	0	.1	1.3	1.3	0	.8	.8	.8	
Minerals & Oil/Gas	Very High/																
	High Potential -																
	Accessible MAcres																



**Kootenai National Forest  
Lone Cliff Smeads Roadless Area  
674**



## KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

Lone Cliff Smeads - 01674

State: Montana

Gross Acres: 6,600

Net Acres: 6,600

**I. Description**

This roadless area is located along the south bank of the Clark Fork River, overlooking the Clark Fork Valley. The area is "U"-shaped in configuration, the east part of the "U" containing Chimney Rock and Loveland Peak and the west part the upper reaches of Rice Draw. The lower portion is bordered by the West Fork Pilgrim Creek Road (see map). Access is good via State Highway 200.

The area has primarily steep slopes ( $\frac{1}{2}$ 55%) with narrow ridgetops and narrow valley bottoms and contains the upper reaches of Rice Draw and Smeads Creek and several small tributaries to the West Fork Pilgrim Creek including Fourmile Gulch. Loveland Peak (5,470 feet) is the highest point.

The area is surrounded by timber management activities such as roads and clearcuts.

The represented ecosystems include Douglas-fir, Cedar Hemlock Pine, and Western Spruce Fir Forests.

The area's wildlife, especially elk, make the area a popular hunting spot. Current use consists primarily of hunting in the fall and is considered heavy (1,500 RVD's). The view offered of the Clark Fork Valley is another one of the area's attractions.

**II. Capability****A. Natural Integrity and Appearance**

Natural appearance and integrity are good. Manmade features are lacking except for a few miles of trail to Loveland Peak.

**B. Opportunities for Solitude**

Opportunities for solitude are marginal because much of the roadless areas faces directly into adjoining areas that have roads and clearcuts.

**C. Primitive Recreation Opportunities**

Primitive recreation experiences are primarily hunting and hiking.

**D. Other Features**

Special features include the Loveland Face, a steep slope with distinct snowslide patterns facing into the Clark Fork Valley.

**E. Manageability and Boundaries**

Lone Cliff Smeads 01674

The Lone Cliff Smeads roadless area was identified in the RARE II inventory. The recommendation made was for non-wilderness with most of the area subsequently allocated to developmental uses.

<u>Gross Acres</u>	<u>Net Acres</u>	
14200	14200	RARE II inventory
-7600	-7600	Areas affected by timber sales
6600	6600	1983 roadless inventory

The nonconforming uses which would conflict with a wilderness classification for the area are the existing oil & gas leases.

The setting is primarily a ridgetop situation that results in a difficult boundary management situation because of the number of access points along the edge.

**III. Availability****A. Significant Resource Potentials****1. Recreation**

The area's potential to provide wilderness recreation is estimated to be 2,000 RVD's per year.

**2. Wildlife**

The area contains big game summer and winter range and many habitat management opportunities exist.

**B. Other Resources****1. Fisheries**

No significant fishery occurs; however, this area has some tributary headwaters to Cabinet Gorge Reservoir and Pilgram Creek (brook, cutthroat, rainbow, and brown trout).

**2. Range**

There are no livestock grazing allotments in the area and the grazing potential is primarily transitory range.

**3. Timber**

Approximately 4,100 acres are suitable timberland. The majority of this suitable land is west of Chimney Rock and Loveland Peak, with the most productive land located in Rice Draw, Smeads Creek, and Hemlock Gulch. As mentioned before, side slopes are steep ( $\frac{1}{2}$ 55%) and logging systems will be primarily cable.



**D. Management Considerations**

Lone Cliff Smeads 01674

**1. Land Use Authorizations**

There are no special uses in the area. Oil & gas leases exist.

**2. Fire**

Fire occurrence is low (no fires in the last 10 years) and the fuels situation is predominately dense conifer stands with thick, downed, woody material as ground fuels.

**3. Insect and Disease**

No known insect and disease problems are occurring or are anticipated.

**4. Non-Federal Lands**

There are no private lands in the area.

**IV. Need****A. Proximity to Other Wilderness and to Population Centers**

This roadless area is approximately 100 miles from Spokane, Washington and 10 miles from the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness, which are now getting more than 18,000 RVD's per year. This use is beginning to increase rapidly and is projected to increase steadily.

**B. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System**

This area is representative of the Douglas-fir, Cedar Hemlock Pine, and Western Spruce Fir Forests ecosystems and as such, are not uncommon in the existing wilderness preservation system.

**C. Public Interest**

During the RARE II public review period, over 1,300 people commented on the area, most of whom (86%) were opposed to a wilderness designation for the area. RARE II recommended non-wilderness. During the Unit Planning process (Bull River-Clark Fork) no expressions favoring wilderness for the area were voiced nor has there been recent support for wilderness.

**V. Alternatives and Environmental Consequences****A. Management Prescription Assignment by Alternative**

Multiple use management prescriptions were grouped into categories (management emphases) which have similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources. The following table displays how the roadless area acreage was designated in each alternative. In addition, the summary of management emphasis further defines the rate of development that is expected to occur in some alternatives as well as the future disposition of the inventoried roadless area.

Table 2. Management Emphasis by Alternative for Lone Cliff Smoags Roadless Area.

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVES (M Acres)															
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	
Nonwilderness (Roadless) Primitive/Semiprimitive Recreation, Viewing, Minimum Use Areas	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	1.4	.2	0	0	1.3	1.3	0	.2	.2	4.2	
Nonwilderness (Some Dev.) Big Game Winter Range	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	.9	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	
Nonwilderness (Developed) Timber Harvest With Wildlife and/or Viewing Management, Minimum Use Areas due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	2.7	3.9	0	5.6	2.6	2.6	4.1	3.9	3.9	0	
Wilderness Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
.....																
Summary of Management Emphasis:																
Nonwilderness																
Developed - Decade 1:	.9	.9	.9	.9	.9	.9	.9	0	.7	.7	.7	.9	.1	.9	0	
Decade 5:	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	2.7	3.9	0	5.6	2.6	2.6	4.1	3.9	3.9	0	
Roadless - Decade 1:	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	0	5.2	5.8	5.8	5.6	6.4	5.6	6.6	
Decade 5:	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	0	0.9	3.9	3.9	2.4	2.6	2.6	6.6	
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres- Lone Cliff Smoags	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	

**B. Impacts**

Lone Cliff Smeads 01674

1. Designation: Wilderness  
Management Emphasis: Wilderness

The Lone Cliff Smead roadless area is recommended for wilderness in its entirety only in Alternative H. No other alternative recommends wilderness for the area. There are no specific ground-disturbing management activities associated with wilderness areas although the establishment of these areas may, in itself, have effects on other resources and uses.

A wilderness classification for the area will preserve the primitive character of the area. The quality roadless hunting experiences available will be protected and old growth timber habitat will be provided.

There are about 4,100 acres of suitable timberland in the area that would be unavailable for harvest in Alternative H. This inability to manage the timber resource would primarily affect wildlife habitat management as the opportunity to improve forage and create openings would be foregone.

Big game summer range (about 1,800 acres) and winter range (2,300 acres) would not be managed under this emphasis, through either burning or timber harvest. However, big game would be benefitted by the security that wilderness would provide.

Wilderness will restrict the exploration for, and removal of, mineral resources. Under the Wilderness Act, the land would be withdrawn from mineral entry since no valid mining claims exist. The existing oil and gas leases would be honored, however. This restriction is not considered significant in that the mineral potential is generally low (a portion is rated as moderate) and the oil and gas potential is moderate. If there is no discovery when a lease expires, then the land will be withdrawn from mineral leasing.

Activities permissible in wilderness, when authorized by the 1964 Wilderness Act or wilderness management plans, can cost more than activities in areas without the restrictions. Restrictions apply primarily to mode of transportation, use of chainsaws in the wilderness, and removing signs of the intrusion after project completion. When permitted, activities such as mineral exploration, disease and pest control, and fire suppression, would be conducted while protecting the wilderness values which, in turn, requires more time, adherence to more stringent requirements, and more money being spent.

Social and economic effects would center around the resource values of recreation, wildlife, wilderness, and timber. semi-primitive recreation activities such as hunting in a roadless setting, would continue. Timberland would not be available in Alternative H, thus not supporting the wood products industry. Those publics valuing wilderness would be supported by this management emphasis.

Lone Cliff Smeads 01674

2. **Designation:** Nonwilderness (Roadless)  
**Management Emphases:** Primitive Recreation, Semi-primitive  
 Nonmotorized Recreation, Viewing, and Limited  
 Use Areas

Every alternative, except Alternatives H, I, and L, designates a portion of the area to these management emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated to roadless management.

Percent of the Area Designated to Roadless Management  
 By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
3	3	3	3	3	21	3	0	0	20	20	0	3	3	63

There are few, if any, ground-disturbing management activities specifically associated with roadlessness. Activities are associated primarily with dispersed recreation including hunting and fishing.

The roadless character of the area will be maintained in these emphases. Primitive recreation opportunities will be maximized and old growth timber habitat will be protected. Security for big game will be provided.

Like wilderness, roadless designations require stiffer requirements for conducting activities, requirements that are designed to protect the qualities inherent in a roadless allocation. Restrictions on access and mode of travel are major limitations for conducting activities, often making the activity more expensive to accomplish. Such activities can include wildlife and fish habitat improvements, mineral, oil and gas exploration/development, insect and disease control, and wildfire suppression.

The social and economic effects are primarily the benefits of semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Timber would not be available for harvest under these emphases.

3. **Designation:** Nonwilderness (Some Development)  
**Management Emphasis:** Big Game Winter Range

All alternatives, except Alternative H, designate a portion of the area to this management emphasis. Alternative I designates 13% of the area (900 acres) while Alternatives J and K each designate 40% of the area (2,600 acres). All other alternatives designate 36% of the area (2,400 acres). This emphasis is located throughout the area. The intent is to manage winter range habitat for the benefit of elk and deer. Prescribed burning is the primary management activity.

The impact on the wilderness and roadless character caused by this emphasis is short-term in nature. The naturalness of the area would be altered shortly after burning but vegetative recovery would make this activity less apparent later on. Impacts on the timber and mineral resources would be insignificant in this emphasis.

Social and economic effects would be primarily one of support of those publics valuing wildlife in the area.

## Lone Cliff Smeads 01674

4. **Designation:** Nonwilderness (Developed)  
**Management Emphases:** Big Game Winter Range Timber, Big Game Summer Range Timber, Wildlife Timber, Grizzly Timber, Timber Optimization, Timber Viewing, Viewing Timber, Minimum Use due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems.

Timber harvest and associated activities, such as road building, have more affect on the physical and biological environment than any of the other forest management activities. The extent of the effects are dependent on management regimes selected. Every alternative, except Alternatives H and O, designates a portion of the area to these emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated to developmental activities.

Percent of the Area Designated for Developmental Activities  
By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
60	60	60	60	60	41	60	0	87	40	40	63	60	60	0

In all alternatives where these emphases occur, development is scheduled to take place sometime during the first decade. (See Table 3 at the end of this discussion). During the first decade, from 1 to 6 miles of road will be in place, depending on the alternative, and by the fifth decade, 8 to 19 miles of road will be in place.

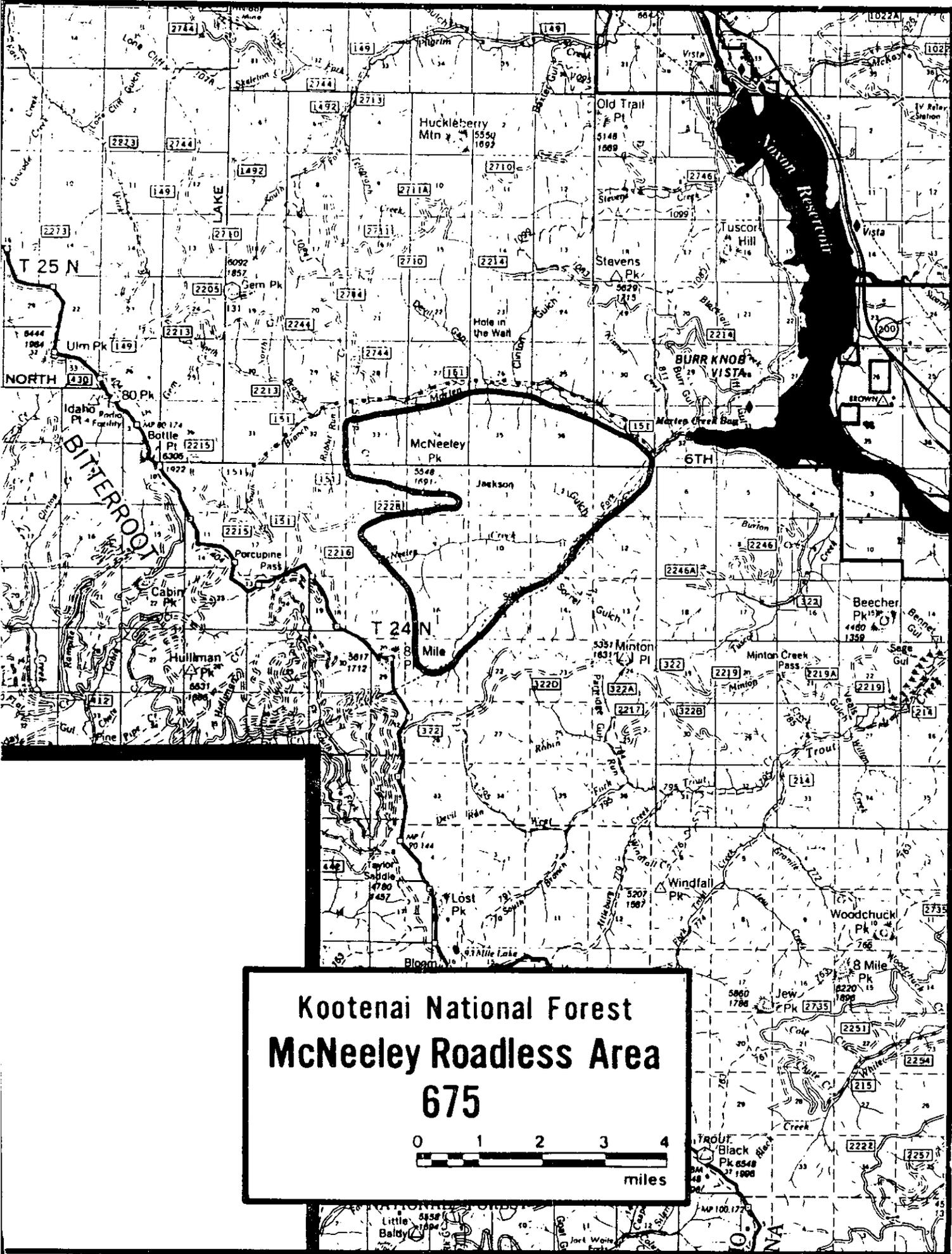
The naturalness of the area will be impacted by timber cutting units and roads. The north facing portion of the area faces into the Clark Fork Valley and is highly visible from Highway 200. Activities conducted here would impact the view. Roading foregoes the opportunity to consider the area for wilderness in the long-term and reduces the opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation experiences.

Timber harvest and roads could result in a short-term reduction in big game cover and security. Activities conducted in big game habitat are coordinated with wildlife needs and include the closure of roads upon completion of the activity and insuring that adequate cover is left. Long-term benefits to wildlife include maintaining and improving wildlife forage.

Social and economic effects are related primarily to the resource values of timber, wildlife, wilderness, and recreation. The harvest of timber is important to the economic base of communities in the Forest. Timber from the Lone Cliff Smeads roadless area would contribute to the economic base. Hunting experiences could be altered because of the change in the roadless setting to a roaded natural setting. Road closures would retain the area closer to its existing character. Those publics desiring wilderness or roadless management for the area would not be supported by these emphases. Concerns about impacts on big game and other species could be raised by the activities scheduled in these emphases, but would be addressed by efforts to mitigate the impacts.

Table 3. Decadal Outputs by Alternative for Lone Cliffs Smoeds Roadless Area.

OUTPUT CATEGORY	DECADE	ALTERNATIVES														
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Rec. Wilderness MAcres		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless MAcres		.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	1.4	.2	0	0	1.3	1.3	0	.2	.2	4.2
Recreation																
Prim./Semiprim.MRYDs		2	2	2	2	2	7	2	20	0	1	1	0	2	2	17
Semiprim. Motor.MRYDs		31	31	31	31	31	32	31	0	47	37	37	31	31	31	12
Timber																
Suitable MAcres		3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	2.7	3.9	0	2.6	2.6	2.6	4.1	3.9	3.9	0
Volume (MMBF)	1	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	0	.4	15.2	15.2	20.0	1.0	20.0	0
	3	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.4	16.0	8.0	7.8	0	8.9	7.6	7.6	16.0	15.0	16.0	0
	5	12.0	12.9	12.0	12.9	12.9	13.0	12.9	0	13.6	12.3	12.3	13.0	11.0	13.0	0
Harvest Acres - MAcres	1	.9	.9	.9	.9	.9	.9	.9	0	.7	.7	.7	.9	.06	.9	0
	3	.9	.9	.9	1.6	.9	.3	.4	0	.6	.3	.3	.9	1.5	1.6	0
	5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	0	1.3	.5	.5	.5	.4	.5	0
Roads																
Roads Constructed																
First Decade - Miles		4	4	4	4	4	3	4	0	6	3	3	5	1	4	0
Total Road Miles																
Needed by Fifth																
Decade - Miles		18	18	18	18	18	9	18	0	8	8	8	19	16	18	0
Wildlife - T&E																
Grizzly Bear																
Habitat MAcres																
(w/o activity)																
Wildlife - Big Game																
Summer Range MAcres		0	.5	0	0	0	2.4	0	0	0	2.3	2.3	1.0	.06	0	0
Winter Range MAcres		2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	1.7	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Minerals & Oil/Gas																
Very High/																
High Potential -																
Accessible MAcres																



**Kootenai National Forest  
McNeeley Roadless Area  
675**

0 1 2 3 4  
miles

**KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST**

McNeeley - 01675

State: Montana

Gross Acres: 7,700

Net Acres: 7,700

**I. Description**

The area is located due west of the Noxon Reservoir in the Clark Fork Valley, reached via Marten Creek Road from State Highway 200.

Jackson Gulch, McNeeley Creek and several unnamed tributaries to both the South Branch and South Forks of Marten Creek either originate within or traverse this roadless area.

The south-facing slopes along the South Fork of Marten Creek, McNeeley Creek, and Jackson Gulch are steep and open with very scattered groups of trees. Slopes are also very steep but tree covered into Marten Creek. Slopes are more moderate around the McNeeley Peak ridgeline and Upper McNeeley Creek. Most of the roadless area burned in the 1930's and much of this land has not regenerated to trees. Approximately 75 percent of this unit is suitable for timber production, and about one-third of the unit is important big game winter range.

The area is bordered by timber harvest activities such as roads and clearcuts, particularly in the west, and by a powerline corridor to the south. The Marten Creek Road borders the northern portion.

The area's elk population attracts hunters in the fall as does the quality of the back country hunting experience.

Currents uses, including hunting in the fall, are approximately 1,500 RVD's per year.

**II. Capability****A. Natural Integrity and Appearance**

The natural integrity of the area is high with no manmade features to detract from the natural appearance

**B. Opportunities for Solitude**

Opportunities for solitude are moderate due to the visual intrusion of the powerline corridor bordering the southern portion and the Marten Creek Road running along the northern border.

**C. Primitive Recreation Opportunities**

Primitive recreation opportunities include elk hunting. The elk hunting experience provides the most challenge in the area and is the special attraction for most people.

**D. Manageability and Boundaries**

McNeeley 01675

The McNeeley roadless area was identified during RARE II. The recommendation at that time was for non-wilderness and the area was subsequently allocated to both developmental and nondevelopmental uses. The difference in the RARE II acres and the 1983 Inventory acres shown below reflect an adjustment made to reconcile the acres with those established in the Forest data base.

<u>Gross Acres</u>	<u>Net Acres</u>	
8800	8800	RARE II inventory
-1100	-1100	Data Base Adjustment
7700	7700	1983 roadless inventory

The nonconforming uses that would conflict with a wilderness classification for the area are the existing oil & gas leases.

The manageability of the present boundary is generally good except on the western edge where the border does not follow well defined topographic features. The boundary in other areas is satisfactory, following roads and the powerline corridor.

**III. Availability****A. Significant Resource Potentials****1. Recreation**

It is estimated that a potential of 2,600 RVD's of wilderness recreation could be provided per year. Current use is estimated at 1,500 RVD's per year.

**2. Wildlife**

Opportunities exist on south slopes of the roadless area, particularly in the South Fork of Marten Creek, for elk winter range management (burning).

**3. Timber**

Approximately 5,400 acres are suitable timberland capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet per acre per year of timber growth. Over 90% of this timberland is located on slopes steeper than 55%. Road building will be difficult and costly and logging will require use of cable or helicopter yarding methods.

**B. Other Resources****1. Fisheries**

No significant fisheries occur in this roadless area. However, there are some tributaries that flow into Marten Creek which supports brook, rainbow, and cutthroat trout.



**D. Management Considerations**

McNeeley 01675

**1. Land Use Authorizations**

There are no special uses. Oil & gas leases exist.

**2. Fire**

The area has had a low occurrence of fire (no fires in the last 10 years). The fuels situation in the area is healthy conifer stands with sparse undergrowth and thin layers of ground fuels.

**3. Insect and Disease**

The insect and disease situation is stable, with about 10% of the stands being susceptible mature lodgepole pine but no insect or disease activity presently occurring (1983).

**4. Non-Federal Lands**

There are no private lands in the area.

**IV. Need****A. Proximity to Other Wilderness and to Population Centers**

The McNeeley roadless area is about 10 air miles from the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. Spokane, Washington (110 miles) and Missoula, Montana (160 miles) are the nearest large population centers.

**B. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System**

This area is representative of the Western Spruce Fir Forest ecosystem which is common in the existing wilderness system.

**B. Public Interest**

During the RARE II public review period, over 1,300 people commented on the area, most of whom (86%) were opposed to a wilderness classification for the area. RARE II recommended non-wilderness. During the Unit Planning process, no direct support for wilderness was expressed nor has there been any recently.

**V. Alternatives and Environmental Consequences****A. Management Prescription Assignment by Alternative**

Multiple use management prescriptions were grouped into categories (management emphases) which have similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources. The following table displays how the roadless area acreage was designated in each alternative. In addition, the summary of management emphasis further defines the rate of development that is expected to occur in some alternatives as well as the future disposition of the inventoried roadless area.

Table 2. Management Emphasis by Alternative for McNeeley Roadless Area.

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVES (M Acres)														
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Nonwilderness (Roadless) Primitive/Semiprimitive Recreation, Viewing, Minimum Use Areas	1.6	1.4	1.4	0	1.4	2.1	1.4	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	5.4
Nonwilderness (Some Dev.) Big Game Winter Range	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.9	2.5	2.5	0	0	0	2.3
Nonwilderness (Developed) Timber Harvest With Wildlife and/or Viewing Management, Minimum Use Areas due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems	6.0	6.3	6.3	7.7	6.3	5.6	6.3	0	5.3	5.2	5.2	7.7	7.7	7.7	0
Wilderness Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
.....															
Summary of Management Emphasis:															
Nonwilderness															
Developed - Decade 1:	.1	.1	.2	0	.2	0	.2	0	0	0	0	0	.1	.1	0
Decade 5:	6.0	6.3	6.3	7.7	6.3	5.6	6.3	0	5.3	5.2	5.2	7.7	7.7	7.7	0
Roadless - Decade 1:	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.7	7.5	0	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.7
Decade 5:	1.6	1.4	1.4	0	1.4	2.1	1.4	0	1.4	2.5	2.5	0	0	0	5.4
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Acres- McNeeley	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7

**B. Impacts**

McNeeley 01675

1. **Designation: Wilderness**  
**Management Emphasis: Wilderness**

The McNeeley roadless area is recommended for wilderness in its entirety in Alternative H. No other Alternative recommends wilderness for the area. There are no specific ground-disturbing management activities associated with wilderness areas although the establishment of these areas may, in itself, have effects on other resources and uses.

In Alternative H (all wilderness), the primitive character of the area would be maintained. The opportunities for solitude, although considered moderate in quality, would be maintained as would the quality roadless elk hunting experiences offered in the area.

There are about 5,400 acres of suitable timberland in the area, none of which would be harvested in Alternative H. This inability to harvest timber would affect wildlife habitat improvement and salvage of lodgepole pine infested by the mountain pine beetle.

Big game winter range improvement activities, through the use of burning, would not occur in this emphasis. This inability to produce forage would be offset by the benefits of security that wilderness provides by limiting access into the area.

Wilderness will restrict the exploration for, and removal of, mineral resources. Under the Wilderness Act, the land would be withdrawn from mineral entry since no valid mining claims exist. The existing oil and gas leases would be honored, however. This restriction is not considered significant in that the mineral potential is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate. If there is no discovery when a lease expires, then the land will be withdrawn from mineral leasing.

Activities permissible in wilderness, when authorized by the 1964 Wilderness Act or wilderness management plans, can cost more than activities in areas without the restrictions. Restrictions apply primarily to mode of transportation, use of chainsaws in the wilderness, and removing signs of the intrusion after project completion. When permitted, activities such as mineral exploration, disease and pest control, and fire suppression, would be conducted while protecting the wilderness values which, in turn, requires more time, adherence to more stringent requirements, and more money being spent.

Social and economic effects would center around the resource values of recreation, wildlife, wilderness, and timber. Semi-primitive recreation activities such as hunting in a roadless setting, would continue. Timberland would not be available in Alternative H, thus not supporting the wood products industry. Those publics valuing wilderness would be supported by this management emphasis.

McNeeley 01675

2. **Designation:** Nonwilderness (Roadless)  
**Management Emphases:** Primitive Recreation, Semi-primitive  
 Nonmotorized Recreation, Viewing, and Limited  
 Use Areas

Alternatives A, B, C, E, F, G, I, and O designate portions of the area to these emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated to roadless management.

Percent of Area Designated to Roadless Management  
 By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
21	18	18	0	18	28	18	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	70

There are few, if any, ground-disturbing management activities specifically associated with roadlessness. Activities are associated primarily with dispersed recreation including hunting and fishing.

The roadless character within these emphases will be maintained as well as semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Old growth timber habitat will be provided as well as security for big game.

Like wilderness, roadless designations require stiffer requirements for conducting activities, requirements that are designed to protect the qualities inherent in a roadless allocation. Restrictions on access and mode of travel are major limitations for conducting activities, often making the activity more expensive to accomplish. Such activities can include wildlife and fish habitat improvements, mineral, oil and gas exploration/development, insect and disease control, and wildfire suppression.

The social and economic effects are primarily the benefits of semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Timber would not be available for harvest in these emphases.

3. **Designation:** Nonwilderness (Some Development)  
**Management Emphasis:** Big Game Winter Range

Alternatives I, J, K, and O designate from 26% to 33% of the area to this emphasis. This emphasis is located along the south slope of the roadless area, primarily in the South Fork of Marten Creek. The intent is to manage winter range habitat for the benefit of elk and deer. Prescribed burning is the primary management activity.

The impact on the wilderness and roadless character caused by this emphasis is short-term in nature. The naturalness of the area would be altered shortly after burning but vegetative recovery would make this activity less apparent later on.

Impacts on the timber and mineral resources would be insignificant in this emphasis.

Social and economic effects would be primarily one of support of those publics valuing wildlife in the area.

McNeeley 01675

4. **Designation:** Nonwilderness (Developed)  
**Management Emphases:** Big Game Winter Range Timber, Big Game Summer Range Timber, Wildlife Timber, Grizzly Timber, Timber Optimization, Timber Viewing, Viewing Timber, Minimum Use due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems.

Timber harvest and associated activities, such as road building, have more affect on the physical and biological environment than any of the other forest management activities. The extent of the effects are dependent on management regimes selected. Every Alternative except H and O designates a portion of the area to one of these emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated to developmental activities by alternative.

Percent of Area Designated for Developmental Activities  
By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
80	82	82	100	82	72	82	0	68	67	67	100	100	100	0

Timber harvest activities are scheduled to occur in the first decade in Alternatives A, B, C, E, G, M, and N. (See Table 3 at the end of this section.) In all Alternatives except H and O, activities will occur by or during the third decade. From 15 to 22 miles of road will be in place, depending on the alternative.

As activities take place, the naturalness of the area will be impacted by timber cutting units, roads, and other evidence of man's modifications. Roading foregoes the opportunity to consider the area for wilderness in the long-term and reduces the opportunity for primitive recreation and experiences of solitude.

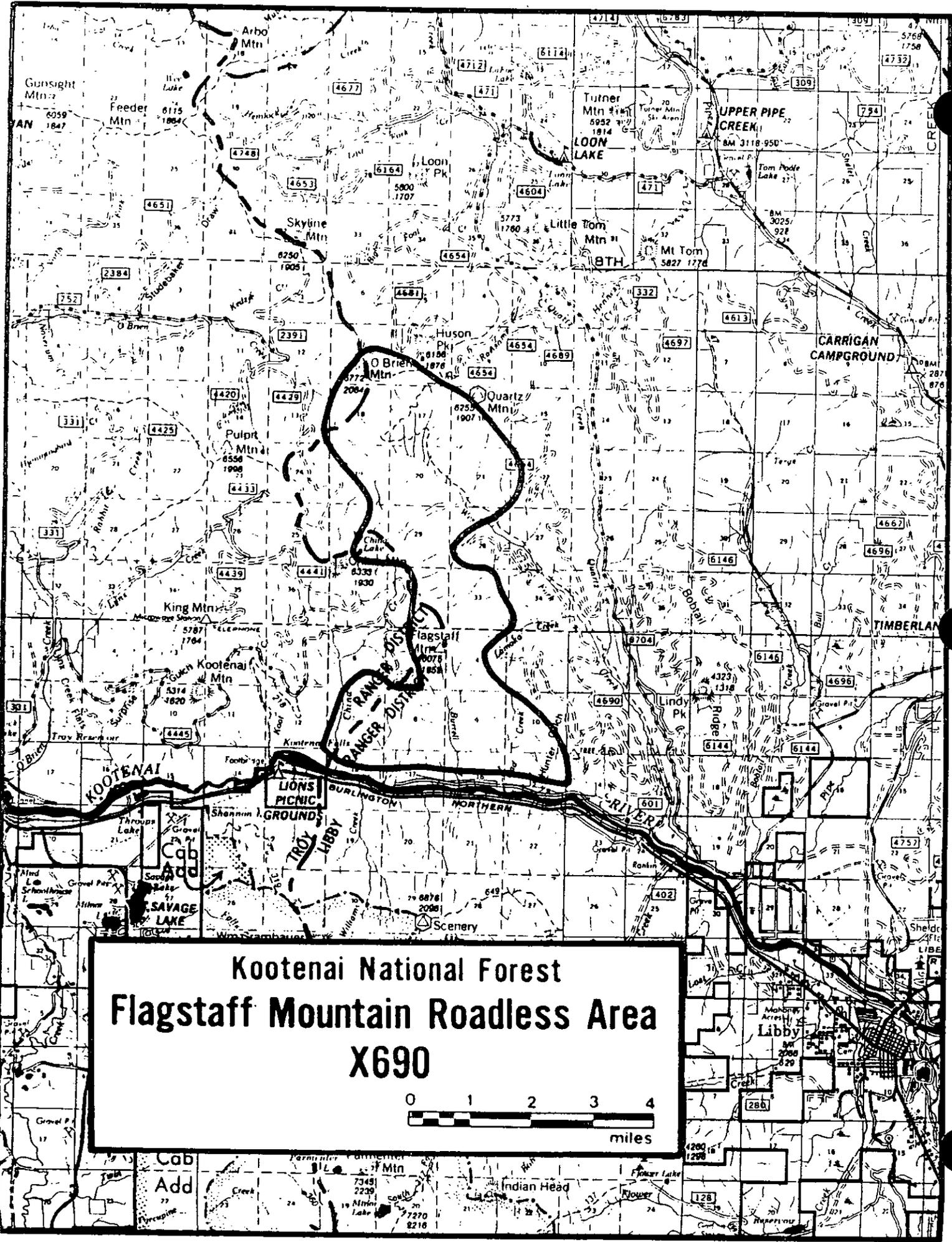
Timber harvest and roads could result in a short-term reduction in big game cover and security. Activities conducted in big game habitat are coordinated with wildlife needs and include the closure of roads upon completion of the activity and insuring that adequate cover is left. Long-term benefits to wildlife include maintaining and improving wildlife forage.

Social and economic effects are related primarily to the resource values of timber, wildlife, wilderness, and recreation. The harvest of timber is important to the economic base of communities in the Forest. Timber from the McNeeley roadless area would contribute to the economic base. Hunting experiences could be altered because of the change in the roadless setting to a roaded natural setting. Road closures would retain the area closer to its existing character. Those publics desiring wilderness or roadless management for the area would not be supported by these emphases. Concerns about impacts on big game and other species could be raised by the activities scheduled in these emphases, but would be addressed by efforts to mitigate the impacts.

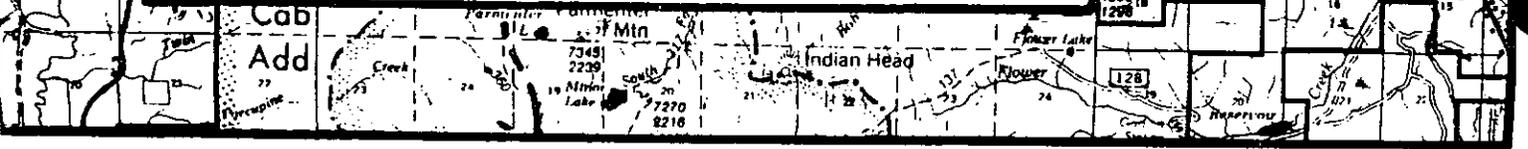
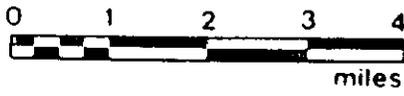
Table 3. Decadal Outputs by Alternative for McNeely Roadless Area.

OUTPUT CATEGORY	DECADE	ALTERNATIVES														
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Rec. Wilderness MAcres		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless MAcres		1.6	1.4	1.4	0	1.4	2.1	1.4	0	.5	0	0	0	0	0	5.4
Recreation																
Prim./Semiprim.MRVDS		7	6	6	0	6	9	6	23	2	0	0	0	0	0	22
Semiprim. Motor.MRVDS		27	28	29	35	29	25	29	0	39	26	26	35	35	35	9
Timber																
Suitable MAcres		5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	0	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.4	5.4	0
Volume (MMBF)	1	.1	.1	.1	0	.2	0	.2	0	0	0	0	0	.1	.1	0
	3	31.0	28.0	36.0	52.1	28.0	22.0	28.0	0	14.6	11.8	11.8	46.0	46.0	46.0	0
	5	0	0	0	3.6	0	17.0	0	0	1.8	2.0	0	0	0	0	0
Harvest Acres - MAcres	1	.1	.1	.2	0	.2	0	.2	0	0	0	0	0	.1	.1	0
	3	2.6	2.5	2.8	5.0	2.5	1.6	2.5	0	2.1	1.7	1.7	4.3	4.2	4.2	0
	5	0	0	0	.2	0	1.2	0	0	.1	.2	0	0	0	0	0
Roads																
Roads Constructed																
First Decade - Miles	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Total Road Miles																
Needed by Fifth																
Decade - Miles	19	19	19	22	19	19	19	19	0	20	15	15	21	21	21	0
Wildlife - T&E																
Grizzly Bear																
Habitat MAcres																
(w/o activity)		NOT APPLICABLE TO THIS ROADLESS AREA														
Wildlife - Big Game																
Summer Range MAcres	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1	4.5	2.1	0	0	2.5	2.5	1.8	2.2	2.1	0	
Winter Range MAcres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.9	2.5	2.5	0	0	0	2.3	
Minerals & Oil/Gas																
Very High/																
High Potential -																
Accessible MAcres		NOT APPLICABLE TO THIS ROADLESS AREA														

C-252



**Kootenai National Forest  
Flagstaff Mountain Roadless Area  
X690**



**KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST****Flagstaff Mountain - X1690****State: Montana****Gross Acres: 9,500****Net Acres: 9,500****I. Description**

The area is located just north of and adjacent to the Kootenai River between Hunter Gulch and China Creek, running north to O'Brien Mountain. Access is provided via the Kootenai River Road, Quartz Creek Road, and roads leading up O'Brien Creek, Lynx Creek, and Kootenai Mountain. A National Recreation Trail traverses the Quartz Creek portion of the roadless area.

The area is primarily a ridgetop setting with some open grassland sidehills in the vicinity of West Fork Quartz Creek. The area is dominated by Flagstaff Mountain (6,100 feet), O'Brien Mountain (6,800 feet), and Quartz Mountain (6,300 feet) lying just outside the boundary. The area contains some timberlands in the upper reaches of West Fork Quartz Creek. The north end of this area includes China Lake and much of the headwaters of the West Fork Quartz Creek. China, Burrell, and Dad Creeks and Hunter Gulch drain to the south directly into the Kootenai River.

The area is generally surrounded by Forest developments such as roads and clearcuts.

The ecosystem types represented are Western Ponderosa Forest and Western Spruce Fir Forest.

The area contains bighorn sheep, primarily on the face overlooking the Kootenai River. Viewing them from Highway 2 in the spring is one of the area's main attractions.

Current use is light and consists primarily of hunting in the fall (500 RVD's).

**II. Capability****A. Natural Integrity and Appearance**

The natural integrity of the area is fairly high with the remains of the Flagstaff Lookout, and a trail up the West Fork Quartz Creek, being the only manmade features.

**B. Opportunities for Solitude**

Opportunities for solitude are high in the north and around the West Fork Quartz Creek but low on the south end where the area faces into the Kootenai River. The Quartz Mountain Lookout, just outside the boundary on the north edge, is also visible from points within the roadless area.

**C. Primitive Recreation Opportunities**

Primitive recreation opportunities include hiking and hunting and bighorn sheep observation and hunting in the Kootenai Canyon.

**D. Other Features**

Flagstaff Mtn. 01X690

Observing and then approaching bighorn sheep is certainly one of the more challenging aspects of the area, as well as one of the more special features. Other special features include the old growth timber stream bottom in West Fork and the big, open grassy burn in the West Fork Quartz Creek.

**E. Manageability and Boundaries**

The Flagstaff roadless area was not identified in the RARE II inventory and, thus, no adjustments to the RARE II acres could have been made.

The nonconforming uses that would conflict with a wilderness classification are the existing oil & gas leases.

The area's configuration, size, and the fact that the boundary is located generally on developed rather than topographic lines, makes this a difficult wilderness boundary to manage. Contributing to the difficulty are the many drainages the area borders or encompasses.

**III. Availability****A. Significant Resource Potentials****1. Recreation**

The area has the potential to provide about 3,000 RVD's of wilderness recreation per year. Current use is estimated at 500 RVD's per year.

**2. Wildlife and Fish**

The area contains bighorn sheep habitat, whitetail and mule deer summer range, and elk habitat. Some opportunities exist for winter range management on the south face next to the Kootenai River.

The upper reach and headwaters of West Fork Quartz Creek, a migratory fish stream for the Kootenai River, is located in this roadless area which contains cutthroat, bull, and brook trout. In addition, this roadless area has several small direct tributaries to the Kootenai that also may provide fish recruitment.

**3. Timber**

The area contains about 6,500 acres of tentatively suitable timberlands capable of producing greater than 20 cubic feet per acre per year of timber growth. Approximately 90% of this timberland is located on slopes steeper than 55%. Road construction will be difficult and costly and timber harvesting systems will require cable or aerial (helicopter) logging.

**B. Other Resources**

Flagstaff Mtn. 01X690

**1. Range**

There are no livestock grazing allotments in the area and the grazing potential is mostly transitory.

**2. Minerals**

The mineral potential is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate.

**3. Cultural Resources**

There is one historic site and no identified prehistoric sites in the area. The area does border the Kootenai Falls Proposed Archaeological District, containing significant prehistoric sites. Based on surveys done in similar areas, however, the probability of prehistoric sites occurring elsewhere in the area is considered low.

**4. Water**

Mean annual precipitation varies from 25 to 85 inches, depending on elevation. Runoff is low from the lower south slope positions but becomes high in the upper West Fork because runoff efficiency is over 50%, based on aspect and elevation. Water quality is good except during the seasonal peak flow events.

## C. Resource Situation

Flagstaff Mtn. 01X690

Table 1

Category	Unit	Category	Unit
Gross Acres	Acres	9500	
Net Acres	Acres	9500	
<b>Recreation</b>			
Semiprim. Nonmotor. RVDs		500	
<b>Range</b>			
Suitable Acres	Acres	0	
AUMs	AUMs	0	
<b>Timber</b>			
Tentative Suitable	Acres	6500	
Standing Volume	MMBF	63	
<b>Corridors</b>			
Existing & Potential	No.	0	
<b>Wildlife - T&amp;E</b>			
<b>Grizzly Bear Habitat</b>			
Situation 1	Acres	-	
Situation 2	Acres	9500	
Situation 3	Acres	-	
<b>Wildlife - Big Game (Elk, Deer, Sheep)</b>			
Summer Range Total	Acres	5400	
Winter Range Total	Acres	4100	
Special Uses Existing	No.	0	
Existing Facilities	No.	0	
<b>Significant Fisheries</b>			
Stream Miles	Miles	2	
Stream Habitat	Acres	-	
Lakes	No.	0	
Lake Habitat	Acres	0	
<b>Water Developments</b>			
Existing	No.	0	
<b>Minerals</b>			
<b>Hardrock Potential</b>			
Very High	Acres	-	
High	Acres	-	
Moderate	Acres	-	
Low	Acres	9500	
Mining Claims	No.	0	
<b>Oil &amp; Gas Potential</b>			
Very High	Acres	-	
High	Acres	-	
Moderate	Acres	9500	
Low	Acres	-	
Unknown	Acres	-	
<b>Oil &amp; Gas Leases</b>			
Leases	No.	5	
Leased Acres	Acres	6200	

## D. Management Consideration

## 1. Land Use Authorizations

There are no special uses. Oil & gas leases exist.

## 2. Fire

The area has had low fire occurrence in the last 20 years (8 fires). The fuels situation is primarily dense conifers with downed woody materials in the northern part of the area and open pine stands with grasses and forbs for ground fuels in the southern part.

## 3. Insect and Disease

About 10% of the area contains high risk lodgepole pine stands but there is no insect or disease activity at the present (1983).

**4. Non-Federal Lands**

There are no private lands in the area.

**IV. Need****A. Proximity to Other Wilderness and to Population Centers**

The Flagstaff roadless area is just across the Kootenai River (north) from the existing Cabinet Mountains Wilderness (approximately 1 mile). Spokane, Washington (150 miles) and Missoula, Montana (195 miles) are the nearest large population centers.

**B. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System**

This area is representative of the Western Ponderosa and Western Spruce Fir Forest ecosystems which are common in the existing wilderness system.

**C. Public Interest**

This is a newly identified roadless area since RARE II. There have been no recent expressions of support for wilderness for the area but concerns have been voiced in past planning efforts for protecting the roadlessness of West Fork Quartz Creek.

**V. Alternatives and Environmental Consequences****A. Management Prescription Assignment by Alternative**

Multiple use management prescriptions were grouped into categories (management emphases) which have similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources. The following table displays how the roadless area acreage was designated in each alternative. In addition, the summary of management emphasis further defines the rate of development that is expected to occur in some alternatives as well as the future disposition of the inventoried roadless area.

Table 2. Management Emphasis by Alternative for Flagstaff Mountain Roadless Area.

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVES (M Acres)														
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Nonwilderness (Roadless) Primitive/Semiprimitive Recreation, Viewing, Minimum Use Areas	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.8	3.5	2.8	0	1.2	3.9	3.9	.1	2.7	2.9	6.5
Nonwilderness (Some Dev.) Big Game Winter Range	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Nonwilderness (Developed) Timber Harvest With Wildlife and/or Viewing Management, Minimum Use Areas due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.0	3.7	0	4.3	2.0	2.0	6.4	3.8	3.6	0
Wilderness Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
.....															
Summary of Management Emphasis															
Nonwilderness															
Developed - Decade 1:	1.8	1.8	1.8	.1	1.8	0	1.8	0	.3	0	0	0	1.8	1.8	0
Decade 5:	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.0	3.7	0	4.3	2.0	2.0	6.4	3.8	3.6	0
Roadless - Decade 1:	7.7	7.7	7.7	9.4	7.7	9.5	7.7	0	9.2	9.5	9.5	9.5	7.7	7.7	0
Decade 5:	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.8	6.5	5.8	0	5.2	7.5	7.5	3.1	5.7	5.9	9.5
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Acres- Flagstaff Mtn.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5

**B. Impacts**

Flagstaff Mtn. 01X690

1. **Designation: Wilderness**  
**Management Emphasis: Wilderness**

The Flagstaff roadless area is recommended for wilderness in its entirety in Alternative H. No other alternative recommends wilderness for the area. There are no specific ground-disturbing management activities associated with wilderness areas although the establishment of these areas may, in itself, have effects on other resources and uses.

Wilderness classification will preserve the primitive quality of the area; specifically, the high quality solitude opportunities in the West Fork Quartz Creek drainage, and the primitive recreation opportunities including hunting and observing bighorn sheep. Old growth timber wildlife habitat will be protected and security provided for big game and grizzly bears.

There are about 6,500 acres of suitable timberland in the area that would be foregone in Alternative H. This inability to manage the timber resource affects wildlife habitat management and salvage of dead and dying lodgepole afflicted by the mountain pine beetle.

Grizzly bear habitat (Situation 2 - see glossary) covers virtually the entire roadless area. Wilderness management would provide security for the bear by prohibiting roading thereby reducing increases in human activity. However, opportunities to increase forage through burning and timber harvest would not occur.

Opportunities to manage big game summer and winter range would not occur, either by burning or timber harvest. As with grizzly bears, however, this inability to harvest timber would be offset by the security that would be provided in a wilderness designation.

Wilderness will restrict the exploration for, and removal of, mineral resources. Under the Wilderness Act, the land would be withdrawn from mineral entry since no valid mining claims exist. The existing oil and gas leases would be honored, however. This restriction is not considered significant in that the mineral potential is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate. If there is no discovery when a lease expires, then the land will be withdrawn from mineral leasing.

Activities permissible in wilderness, when authorized by the 1964 Wilderness Act or wilderness management plans, can cost more than activities in areas without the restrictions. Restrictions apply primarily to mode of transportation, use of chainsaws in the wilderness, and removing signs of the intrusion after project completion. When permitted, activities such as mineral exploration, disease and pest control, and fire suppression, would be conducted while protecting the wilderness values which, in turn, requires more time, adherence to more stringent requirements, and more money being spent.

## Flagstaff Mtn. 01X690

Social and economic effects would center around the resource values of recreation, wildlife, wilderness, and timber. semi-primitive recreation activities such as hunting in a roadless setting, would continue. Timberland would not be available in Alternative H, thus not supporting the wood products industry. Those publics valuing wilderness would be supported by this management emphasis.

2. **Designation: Nonwilderness (Roadless)**  
**Management Emphases: Primitive Recreation, Semi-primitive Nonmotorized Recreation, Viewing, and Limited Use Areas**

Every alternative except H designates a portion of the area to these management emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated to roadless management, by alternative.

Percent of the Area Designated for Roadless Management  
By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
32	30	29	28	29	36	29	0	12	41	41	2	28	30	69

There are few, if any, ground-disturbing management activities specifically associated with roadlessness. Activities are associated primarily with dispersed recreation including hunting and fishing.

The roadless character within the area would be preserved in these management emphases, as would the primitive recreation opportunities. Old growth timber habitat will be maintained and grizzly habitat will be protected. Security for big game will be provided.

Like wilderness, roadless designations require stiffer requirements for conducting activities, requirements that are designed to protect the qualities inherent in a roadless allocation. Restrictions on access and mode of travel are major limitations for conducting activities, often making the activity more expensive to accomplish. Such activities can include wildlife and fish habitat improvements, mineral, oil and gas exploration/development, insect and disease control, and wildfire suppression.

The social and economic effects are primarily the benefits of semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Timber would not be available for harvest in these emphases.

3. **Designation: Nonwilderness (Some Development)**  
**Management Emphasis: Big Game Winter Range**

All alternatives, except Alternative H, designate at least 31% of the area (3,000 acres), to this management emphasis. Alternatives I, J, and K designate 42% (4,000 acres), 36% (3,500 acres), and 35% respectively, to this emphasis. This emphasis is located primarily on slopes facing south into the Kootenai River Valley. The intent is to manage winter range habitat for the benefit of big horn sheep. Prescribed burning is the primary management activity.

The impact on the wilderness and roadless character caused by this emphasis is short-term in nature. The naturalness of the area would be altered shortly after burning but vegetative recovery would make this activity less apparent later on.

Impacts on the timber and mineral resources would be insignificant in this emphasis.

Social and economic effects would be primarily one of support of those publics valuing wildlife in the area.

4. **Designation: Nonwilderness (Developed)**  
**Management Emphasis: Big Game Winter Range Timber, Big Game Summer Range Timber, Wildlife Timber, Grizzly Timber, Timber Optimization, Timber Viewing, Viewing Timber, Minimum Use due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems.**

Timber harvest and associated activities, such as road building, have more affect on the physical and biological environment than any of the other forest management activities. The extent of the effects are dependent on management regimes selected. Every Alternative except H and O designates a portion of the area to one of these management emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated to developmental activities, by alternative.

**Percent of Area Designated to Developmental Activities  
 By Alternative**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
36	39	40	41	40	33	40	0	46	23	23	67	41	39	0

In all alternatives where these emphases occur, except Alternatives F, J, K, and L, activity will occur during the first decade. (See Table 3 at the end of this section.) In all developmental alternatives (all but H and O), activity will occur in the fifth decade.

As the area becomes developed, the naturalness of the area will be impacted by timber cutting units and roads. Expected road mileage ranges from 10 to 32 miles, depending on the alternative. Roading foregoes the opportunity to consider the area for wilderness in the long-term and reduces the opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation experiences.

## Flagstaff Mtn. 01X690

Timber harvest and roads could result in a short-term reduction in big game cover and security. Activities conducted in big game habitat are coordinated with wildlife needs and include the closure of roads upon completion of the activity and insuring that adequate cover is left. Long-term benefits to wildlife include maintaining and improving wildlife forage.

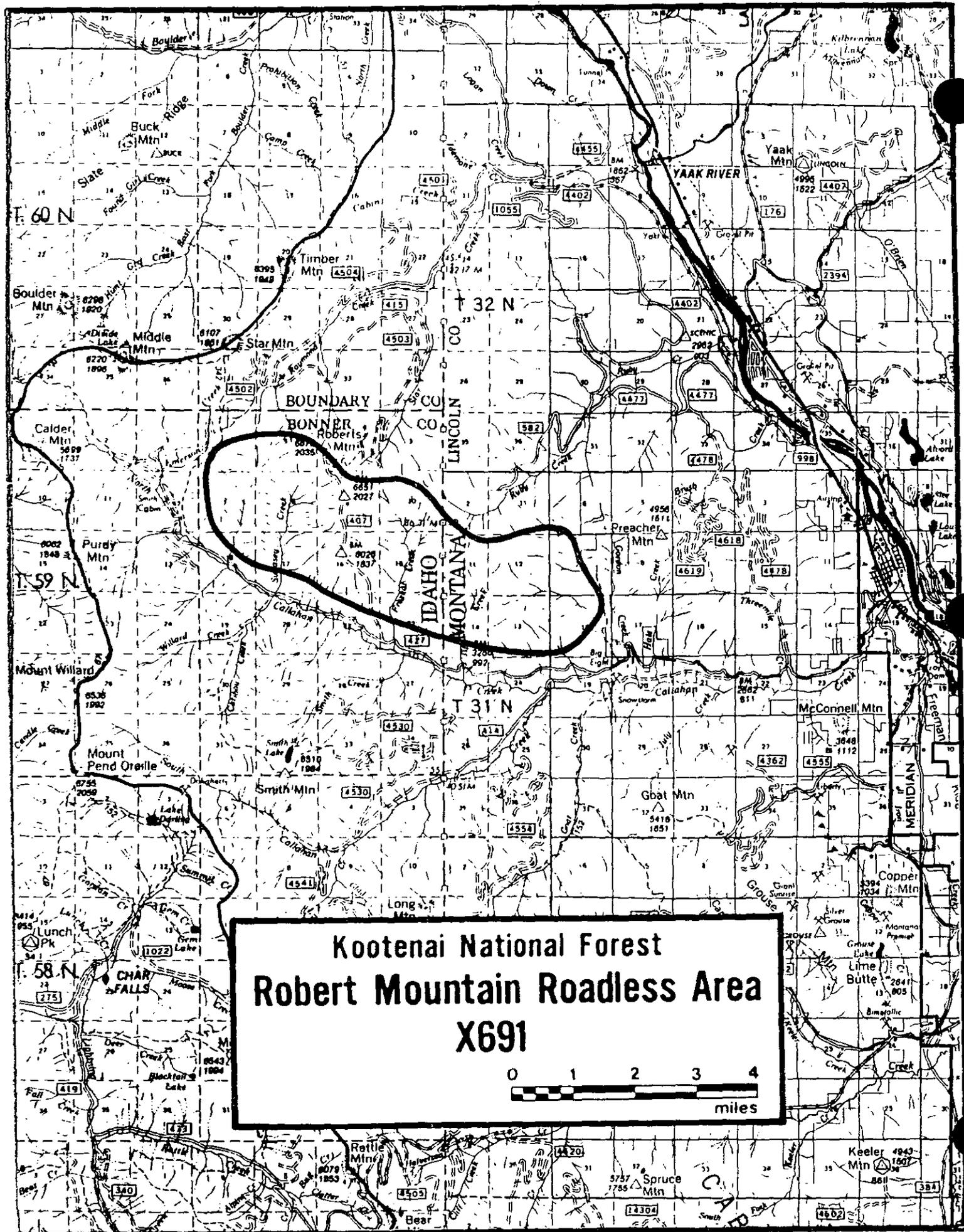
Timber management activities can directly affect the grizzly population in the short-term by logging activities and the long-term by road access into a roadless area. Access into the area could displace the bear and increase the opportunity for human/bear encounters. Timber management activities, if well coordinated, can produce benefits by producing more desirable forage for grizzlies through certain timber harvest and site preparation practices such as small clearcuts and broadcast burning instead of tractor piling. Roads would be closed in a timely manner to minimize human/bear encounters and displacement.

The harvest of some of the mature lodgepole pine will provide an opportunity for control of insects and disease because all diseased or susceptible trees are removed and a young, vigorous stand is installed.

Social and economic effects are related primarily to the resource values of timber, wildlife, wilderness, and recreation. The harvest of timber is important to the economic base of communities in the Forest. Timber from the Flagstaff Mountain roadless area would contribute to the economic base. Hunting experiences could be altered because of the change in the roadless setting to a roaded natural setting. Road closures would retain the area closer to its existing character. Those publics desiring wilderness or roadless management for the area would not be supported by these emphases. Concerns about impacts on grizzly bear, big game, and other species could be raised by the activities scheduled in these emphases, but would be addressed by efforts to mitigate the impacts.

Table 3. Decadal Outputs by Alternative for Flagstaff Mountain Roadless Area.

OUTPUT CATEGORY	DECADE	ALTERNATIVES														
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Rec. Wilderness Acres		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless MAcres		3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.8	3.5	2.8	0	1.2	3.9	3.9	.05	2.7	2.9	6.5
Recreation																
Prim./Semiprim.MRVDS		14	14	14	14	14	14	14	26	9	16	16	3	13	15	26
Semiprim. Motor.MRVDS		28	28	29	28	28	30	29	0	23	28	28	42	30	27	15
Timber																
Suitable MAcres		3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.0	3.7	0	4.3	2.0	2.0	6.4	3.8	3.6	0
Volume (MMBF)	1	6.0	6.0	6.0	4.1	6.0	0	5.7	0	.3	0	0	0	6.0	6.0	0
	3	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.0	0	2.0	0	0	0	0	2.0	2.0	2.0	0
	5	8.0	8.0	8.0	31.8	8.0	5.0	8.0	0	19.2	.01	.01	31.0	8.0	8.0	0
Harvest Acres - MAcres	1	1.8	1.8	1.8	.1	1.8	0	1.8	0	.3	0	0	0	1.8	1.8	0
	3	.07	.07	.07	.07	.07	0	.07	0	0	0	0	.06	.07	.07	0
	5	.4	.4	.4	2.0	.4	.3	.4	0	1.3	.01	1.5	4.4	.4	.4	0
Roads																
Roads Constructed																
First Decade - Miles		9	9	9	1	9	0	9	0	1	0	0	0	9	9	0
Total Road Miles																
Needed by Fifth																
Decade - Miles		13	13	13	13	13	10	13	0	8	12	12	32	13	13	0
Wildlife - T&E																
Grizzly Bear																
Habitat MAcres																
(w/o activity)		2.6	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.4	3.5	2.4	2.5	1.2	3.9	3.9	.05	2.7	2.9	2.5
Wildlife - Big Game																
Summer Range MAcres		1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	3.0	1.1	0	0	2.0	2.0	3.8	1.3	.9	0
Winter Range MAcres		3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Minerals & Oil/Gas																
Very High/																
High Potential -																
Accessible MAcres		NOT APPLICABLE IN THIS ROADLESS AREA														



**Kootenai National Forest  
Robert Mountain Roadless Area  
X691**

0 1 2 3 4  
miles

## KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

Roberts Mountain	01X691	State:	Montana	State:	Idaho
Gross Acres:	8,000	Net Acres:	2,700	Net Acres:	5,300

**I. Description**

The area is located on the west central edge of the Forest (near the Idaho-Montana State Line), immediately north of the Callahan Creek Road. Access is provided via Highway 2 and the Callahan Creek Road. A trail along the divide between Sweasey and Frezkat Creeks leads to Roberts Mountain, which is just outside the roadless boundary. This trail is erroneously shown as a road on the current Kootenai National Forest base map.

The area is primarily a south exposure mountainside setting, generally vegetated throughout. The area is dominated by the divide between Sweasey and Frezkat Creeks, 6,000 to 6,600 feet. Sweasey, Frezkat, and Jill Creeks as well as unnamed tributaries to North Fork Callahan and Gordon Creeks, originate in this area.

The area is surrounded by Forest management activities such as roads and clearcuts.

Wildlife in the area, including grizzly bear, deer, and elk are the primary attractions of the area.

Current recreation uses include hunting in the fall and the total use is considered light (500 RVD's).

**II. Capability****A. Natural Integrity and Appearance**

The natural integrity is rated high with no manmade features detracting from the natural appearance.

**B. Opportunities for Solitude**

The vegetative cover provides moderate opportunities for solitude although the size and configuration would serve to limit the opportunities.

**C. Primitive Recreation Opportunities**

Primitive recreation experiences provided include ridgetop hiking and hunting.

**E. Manageability and Boundaries**

The Roberts Mountain roadless area was identified in the 1983 roadless inventory.

The nonconforming uses that would conflict with a wilderness designation for the area are the oil & gas leases.

The boundary of the area can be considered relatively good from a management standpoint, with a ridgeline defining the north boundary and a road on the south.

### III. Availability

#### A. Significant Resource Potentials

##### 1. Recreation

The area has the potential of providing about 2,700 RVD's of wilderness recreation per year. Current use is estimated to be 500 RVD's.

##### 2. Wildlife and Fish

The area contains grizzly habitat, elk summer range, and excellent whitetail deer habitat. Some management opportunities exist, particularly along the south slopes between Sweasey and Frezkat Creeks.

The area is partial headwaters for Callahan (rainbow, cutthroat, and bull trout), Star (brook, cutthroat, rainbow, and bull trout), and Ruby Creeks (cutthroat and rainbow trout).

##### 3. Timber

There are about 6,900 acres of suitable timberland capable of producing greater than 20 cubic feet per acre per year of timber growth. Over 90% of this timberland is on slopes steeper than 55%. Road construction will be difficult and costly and timber harvesting will require cable or helicopter logging. Some regeneration problem areas are located in the northwest corner.

#### B. Other Resources

##### 1. Range

There are no livestock grazing allotments in the area and the area's potential for grazing is considered all transitory.

##### 2. Minerals

The mineral potential is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate.

##### 3. Cultural Resource

There are no identified historic or prehistoric cultural sites in the area. Based upon surveys done in similar areas, the probability of prehistoric sites occurring is considered low.

## 4. Water

Roberts Mtn. 01X691

Mean annual precipitation for the area is about 65 inches, varying between 50 to 105 inches depending on elevation. Except during occasional rain or snow events, the water quality is high.

## C. Resource Situation

Roberts Mtn. 01X691

Table 1

Category	Unit	Category	Unit
Gross Acres	Acres	8000	
Net Acres	Acres	8000	
<b>Recreation</b>			
Semiprim. Nonmotor. RVDs		500	
<b>Range</b>			
Suitable Acres	Acres	0	
AUMs	AUMs	0	
<b>Timber</b>			
Tentative Suitable	Acres	6900	
Standing Volume	MMBF	102	
<b>Corridors</b>			
Existing & Potential	No.	0	
<b>Wildlife - T&amp;E</b>			
<b>Grizzly Bear Habitat</b>			
Situation 1	Acres	3000	
Situation 2	Acres	3000	
Situation 3	Acres	-	
<b>Wildlife - Big Game (Elk, Deer)</b>			
Summer Range Total	Acres	6000	
Winter Range Total	Acres	0	
Special Uses Existing	No.	0	
Existing Facilities	No.	0	
<b>Significant Fisheries</b>			
Stream Miles	Miles	0	
Stream Habitat	Acres	0	
Lakes	No.	0	
Lake Habitat	Acres	0	
<b>Water Developments</b>			
Existing	No.	0	
<b>Minerals</b>			
<b>Hardrock Potential</b>			
Very High	Acres	-	
High	Acres	-	
Moderate	Acres	-	
Low	Acres	8000	
Mining Claims	No.	0	
<b>Oil &amp; Gas Potential</b>			
Very High	Acres	-	
High	Acres	-	
Moderate	Acres	8000	
Low	Acres	-	
Unknown	Acres	-	
<b>Oil &amp; Gas Leases</b>			
Leases	No.	4	
Leased Acres	Acres	5500	

## D. Management Considerations

## 1. Land Use Authorizations

There are no special uses. Oil & gas leases exist.

## 2. Fire

The area has had low fire occurrence in the last 20 years (five fires). The fuels situation is predominately dense conifer with downed woody material.

## Roberts Mtn. 01X691

**3. Insect and Disease**

About 10% of the area contains mature lodgepole pine susceptible to Mountain Pine Beetle infestation but no insect activity has been identified to date (1983).

**4. Non-Federal Lands**

There are no private lands in the area.

**IV. Need****A. Proximity to Other Wilderness and to Population Centers**

The area is about 10 air miles from the existing Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. Spokane, Washington (170 miles) and Missoula, Montana (210 miles) are the closest large population centers.

**B. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System**

This area is representative of the Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Ecosystem which is uncommon in the existing wilderness system.

**C. Public Interest**

This is a newly identified roadless area, since RARE II, so there have been no inputs received concerning the wilderness qualities of Roberts Mountain.

**V. Alternatives and Environmental Consequences****A. Management Prescription Assignment by Alternative**

Multiple use management prescriptions were grouped into categories (management emphases) which have similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources. The following table displays how the roadless area acreage was designated in each alternative. In addition, the summary of management emphasis further defines the rate of development that is expected to occur in some alternatives as well as the future disposition of the inventoried roadless area.

Table 2. Management Emphasis by Alternative for Roberts Mountain Roadless Area.

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVES (M Acres)														
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
<b>Nonwilderness (Roadless)</b>															
Primitive/Semiprimitive Recreation, Viewing, Minimum Use Areas	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	2.3	1.1	0	1.9	5.5	5.5	1.1	1.1	1.1	8.0
<b>Nonwilderness (Developed)</b>															
Timber Harvest With Wildlife and/or Viewing Management, Minimum Use Areas due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	5.7	6.9	0	6.1	2.5	2.5	6.9	6.9	6.9	0
<b>Wilderness</b>															
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
.....															
<b>Summary of Management Emphasis:</b>															
<b>Nonwilderness</b>															
Developed - Decade 1:	.5	.5	.5	.8	.5	.8	.5	0	.1	0	0	.8	.8	.8	0
Decade 5:	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	5.7	6.9	0	6.1	2.5	2.5	6.9	6.9	6.9	0
Roadless - Decade 1:	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.8	7.5	7.2	7.5	0	7.9	8.0	8.0	7.2	7.2	7.2	8.0
Decade 5:	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	2.3	1.1	0	1.9	5.5	5.5	1.1	1.1	1.1	8.0
<b>Recommended Wilderness</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Acres- Roberts Mtn.</b>	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0

**B. Impacts**

Roberts Mtn. 01X691

**1. Designation: Wilderness  
Management Emphasis: Wilderness**

The Roberts Mountain roadless area is recommended for wilderness in its entirety in Alternative H. No other alternative recommends wilderness for the area. There are no specific ground-disturbing management activities associated with wilderness areas although the establishment of these areas may, in itself, have effects on other resources and uses.

A wilderness classification would preserve the existing primitive character of the area, including the opportunities for solitude that are present and the primitive recreation experiences of ridgetop hiking and hunting.

There are about 6,900 acres of suitable timberland located in the area, the management of which would be foregone in Alternative H, the full wilderness alternative.

Grizzly bear habitat (Situations 1 and 2 - see glossary) covers most of the area. A wilderness classification would prohibit the management of the habitat by burning or timber harvest to increase forage opportunities. However, this inability to directly manage the habitat would be offset by the security provided the grizzly bear by a wilderness designation because of the limited access into the area.

Opportunities to manage the big game summer range habitat, about 6,000 acres, through the use of timber harvesting would also be foregone in wilderness. But, as with grizzly bear, the security offered in wilderness would be beneficial to the elk and deer as access would be limited.

Wilderness will restrict the exploration for, and removal of, mineral resources. Under the Wilderness Act, the land would be withdrawn from mineral entry since no valid mining claims exist. The existing oil and gas leases would be honored, however. This restriction is not considered significant in that the mineral potential is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate. If there is no discovery when a lease expires, then the land will be withdrawn from mineral leasing.

Activities permissible in wilderness, when authorized by the 1964 Wilderness Act or wilderness management plans, can cost more than activities in areas without the restrictions. Restrictions apply primarily to mode of transportation, use of chainsaws in the wilderness, and removing signs of the intrusion after project completion. When permitted, activities such as mineral exploration, disease and pest control, and fire suppression, would be conducted while protecting the wilderness values which, in turn, requires more time, adherence to more stringent requirements, and more money being spent.

## Roberts Mtn. 01X691

Social and economic effects would center around the resource values of recreation, wildlife, wilderness, and timber. semi-primitive recreation activities such as hunting in a roadless setting, would continue. Timberland would not be available in Alternative H, thus not supporting the wood products industry. Those publics valuing wilderness would be supported by this management emphasis.

2. Designation: Nonwilderness (Roadless)  
 Management Emphases: Primitive Recreation, Semi-primitive Nonmotorized Recreation, Viewing, and Limited Use Areas

Each alternative, except Alternative H, designates a portion of the area to roadless management. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated to these management emphases, by alternative.

Percent of the Area Designated for Roadless Management  
 By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
13	13	13	13	13	29	13	0	23	68	68	13	13	13	100

There are few, if any, ground-disturbing management activities specifically associated with roadlessness. Activities are associated primarily with dispersed recreation including hunting and fishing.

The roadless character of the area will be maintained in these emphases. Primitive recreation opportunities will be maintained as will old growth timber wildlife habitat. Grizzly habitat will be protected and security for grizzly and big game will be provided.

Like wilderness, roadless designations require stiffer requirements for conducting activities, requirements that are designed to protect the qualities inherent in a roadless allocation. Restrictions on access and mode of travel are major limitations for conducting activities, often making the activity more expensive to accomplish. Such activities can include wildlife and fish habitat improvements, mineral, oil and gas exploration/development, insect and disease control, and wildfire suppression.

The social and economic effects are primarily the benefits of semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Timber would not be available for harvest in these emphases.

## Roberts Mtn. 01X691

3. **Designation:** Nonwilderness (Developed)  
**Management Emphases:** Big Game Winter Range Timber, Big Game Summer Range Timber, Wildlife Timber, Grizzly Timber, Timber Optimization, Timber Viewing, Viewing Timber, Minimum Use due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems.

Timber harvest and associated activities, such as road building, have more affect on the physical and biological environment than any of the other forest management activities. The extent of the effects are dependent on management regimes selected. Each alternative, except Alternatives H and O, designates a portion of the area to one of these emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated for developmental activities, by alternative.

Percent of the Area Designated for Developmental Activities  
By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
87	87	87	87	87	71	87	0	77	32	32	87	87	87	0

In all alternatives, except Alternatives H, J, K, and O, development will occur in the first decade. (See Table 3 at the end of this section.) Specifically, timber will be harvested and roads will be built. In all Alternatives except H and O, development will occur by the third decade. By the fifth decade, anticipated total road mileage ranges from 12 to 35 miles, depending on the alternative.

As activities occur, the naturalness of the area will be impacted by timber cutting units, and roads, and the sounds of man's activities. Roading forgoes the opportunity to consider the area for wilderness in the long-term and reduces the opportunity for primitive recreation and experiences of solitude.

Timber harvest and roads could result in a short-term reduction in big game cover and security. Activities conducted in big game habitat are coordinated with wildlife needs and include the closure of roads upon completion of the activity and insuring that adequate cover is left. Long-term benefits to wildlife include maintaining and improving wildlife forage.

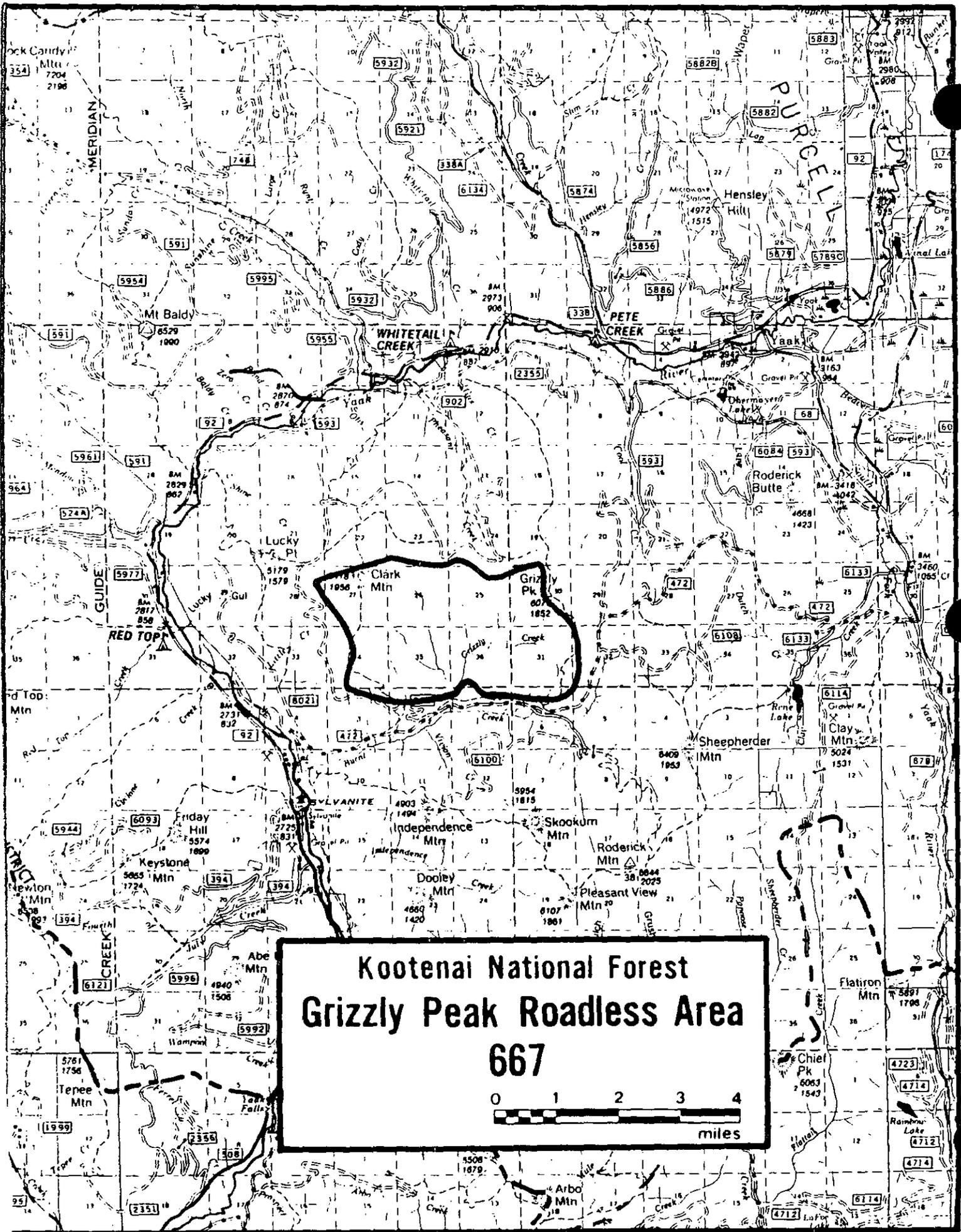
Timber management activities can directly affect the grizzly population in the short-term by logging activities and the long term by road access into a roadless area. Access into the area could displace the bear and increase the opportunity for human/bear encounters. Timber management activities, if well coordinated, can produce benefits by producing more desirable forage for grizzlies through certain timber harvest and site preparation practices such as small clearcuts and broadcast burning instead of tractor piling. Roads would be closed in a timely manner to minimize human/bear encounters and displacement.

## Roberts Mtn 01X691

Social and economic effects are related primarily to the resource values of timber, wildlife, wilderness, and recreation. The harvest of timber is important to the economic base of communities in the Forest. Timber from the Roberts Mountain roadless area would contribute to the economic base. Hunting experiences could be altered because of the change in the roadless setting to a roaded-natural setting. Road closures would retain the area closer to its existing character. Those publics desiring wilderness or roadless management for the area would not be supported by these emphases. Concerns about impacts on grizzly bear, big game, and other species could be raised by the activities scheduled in these emphases, but would be addressed by efforts to mitigate the impacts.

Table 3. Decadal Outputs by Alternative for Roberts Mountain Roadless Area.

OUTPUT CATEGORY	DECADE	ALTERNATIVES														
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Rec. Wilderness MAcres		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless MAcres		1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	2.3	1.1	0	1.9	5.5	5.5	1.1	1.1	1.1	8.0
Recreation																
Prim./Semiprim.MRVds		7	7	7	5	7	10	5	24	8	24	24	8	8	8	32
Semiprim. Motor.MRVds		31	31	31	33	31	27	33	0	15	8	8	29	29	29	0
Timber																
Suitable MAcres		6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	5.7	6.9	0	6.1	2.5	2.5	6.9	6.9	6.9	0
Volume (MMBF)	1	11.0	11.0	11.0	18.3	11.0	18.0	16.0	0	.4	0	0	18.0	18.0	18.0	0
	3	24.0	24.0	24.0	46.5	24.0	17.0	24.0	0	31.2	6.7	6.7	46.0	43.0	46.0	0
	5	11.0	11.0	11.0	15.2	11.0	12.0	11.0	0	20.1	0	0	12.0	12.0	12.0	0
Harvest Acres - MAcres	1	.5	.5	.5	.8	.5	.8	.8	0	.05	0	0	.8	.8	.8	0
	3	1.6	1.6	1.6	2.7	1.6	.7	1.6	0	2.0	.2	.2	2.6	2.6	2.8	0
	5	.4	.4	.4	.6	.4	.5	.4	0	.8	0	0	.5	.5	.5	0
Roads																
Roads Constructed First Decade - Miles		3	3	3	5	3	5	4	0	1	0	0	5	5	5	0
Total Road Miles Needed by Fifth Decade - Miles		28	28	28	35	28	21	29	0	23	12	12	34	29	29	0
Wildlife - T&E																
Grizzly Bear Habitat MAcres (w/o activity)		1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	2.3	1.1	8.0	1.9	5.5	5.5	1.1	1.1	1.1	8.0
Wildlife - Big Game																
Summer Range MAcres		4.0	4.0	4.1	4.6	4.6	5.5	4.6	0	1.1	1.7	1.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	0
Minerals & Oil/Gas																
Very High/ High Potential - Accessible MAcres		NOT APPLICABLE TO THIS ROADLESS AREA														



**Kootenai National Forest**  
**Grizzly Peak Roadless Area**  
**667**

0 1 2 3 4  
 miles

**KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST**

Grizzly Peak - 01667

State: Montana

Gross Acres: 6,000

Net Acres: 6,000

**I. Description**

The area is located in the north end of the Forest, northeast of the Sylvanite Ranger Station, immediately north of the Burnt Creek Road (No. 472). The area is readily accessible from the Burnt Creek Road which is reached via the Yaak Road (Forest Highway 92). Trails in the area are limited to one, on the west side, leading up to Clark Mountain.

The area is formed by the Grizzly Creek drainage, fanning up from the Burnt Creek Road, culminating at the main ridge running from Clark Mountain (6400 feet) to Grizzly Peak (6100 feet). These two peaks dominate the roadless area. The area also includes a second order tributary to Burnt Creek and the Yaak River. The roadless area has generally forested stream bottoms but more open ground along the main ridge.

The area is surrounded by timber management activities such as roads with clearcuts on the north side of the main ridge.

The ecosystem represented in the area is Cedar Hemlock Pine Forest.

The area supports grizzly bear and mule deer. The views offered by the Clark Mountain - Grizzly Peak ridge are another attraction.

The area currently receives hunting use especially in the fall (1,000 RVD's). The remoteness and lack of specific recreation features, such as fishing lakes, tend to limit other recreation.

**II. Capability****A. Natural Integrity and Appearance**

The natural integrity of the roadless area is high, with nothing but a few miles of ridgetop trail affecting the natural appearance.

**B. Opportunities for Solitude**

Although it is difficult to get more than a mile from an existing road, the opportunities for solitude are relatively good, as there is an almost continuous canopy of trees in the Grizzly Creek valley, and the surrounding roads are lightly used. On the more open Grizzly Peak and Clark Mountain, the solitude would be lower, with the views of the highly developed surrounding land.

**C. Primitive Recreation Opportunities**

Much of the primitive recreation taking place within the roadless area is hunting deer and elk in the fall. The drainage is known for quality mule deer hunting. There are excellent camping spots along the open grassy ridges of Grizzly Peak and Clark Mountain. Bow or rifle hunting for big game animals provides a challenging experience.

**D. Manageability and Boundaries**

Grizzly Peak 01667

The area was identified in the RARE II inventory. The recommendation was for non-wilderness classification and the area was subsequently allocated to both developmental and nondevelopmental uses.

<u>Gross Acres</u>	<u>Net Acres</u>	
5900	5900	RARE II inventory
6000	6000	1983 roadless inventory

The nonconforming uses that would conflict with a wilderness classification for the area are the existing oil & gas leases.

The Grizzly Peak roadless area is essentially one single drainage, in its entirety for the most part, and as such should be manageable from a boundary standpoint. The roadless area is surrounded by roads, but three sides have topographic features strong enough to form a boundary. The fourth side on the south is the Burnt Creek Road, the main access to the area.

**III. Availability****A. Significant Resource Potentials****1. Recreation**

The area has the potential of providing about 1,800 RVD's of roadless recreation per year. Current use is estimated to be 1,000 RVD's per year.

**2. Wildlife**

The area contains grizzly habitat and deer, elk, and moose winter range. This winter range is managed by the use of prescribed fire to enhance browse forage. The Forest Wildlife Biologist has determined that if the prescribed burning were discontinued, there would not be significant impacts to the maintenance of the wildlife in the roadless area.

**3. Timber**

There are 5,000 acres of suitable timberland in the Grizzly Peak roadless area capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet per acre per year of timber growth. Approximately 50% of this timberland is on slopes steeper than 55%. Road construction on these slopes will be difficult and costly. Logging will require the use of cable or helicopter yarding methods. The remainder of the timberland is located on slopes that range from 20-55%. Road construction will be less costly on these slopes and logging will utilize a combination of tractor and cable yarding methods.

**B. Other Resources****Grizzly Peak 01667****1. Fisheries**

Grizzly Creek, a major tributary to Burnt Creek, flows through this area and provides fish habitat for cutthroat, rainbow, and brook trout,

**2. Minerals**

The mineral potential is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate.

**3. Cultural Resources**

There is one known historic cultural site in the area, the Clark Mountain Patrol Station. The area has not been extensively surveyed for prehistoric sites and thus no sites have been identified. Based upon surveys in similar locales, the probability of prehistoric sites occurring is considered low.

**4. Water**

Mean annual precipitation in the area varies from 45 to 70 inches depending on elevation. Runoff would vary from 17 to 35 inches, again, depending on elevation. Water quality is high, interrupted only briefly by high runoff events such as spring snowmelt.



**Grizzly Peak 01667****3. Insect and Disease**

70-75% of the area contains mature lodgepole pine susceptible to Mountain Pine beetle infestation which has recently started. Within 10 years, it is expected that these mature stands will be killed.

**4. Non-Federal Lands**

There are no private lands in this area.

**IV. Need****A. Proximity to Other Wilderness and to Population Centers**

The existing Cabinet Mountains Wilderness is located 30 air miles to the south of the area. The Cabinets receive over 18,000 RVD's annually and this use is steadily increasing.

Grizzly Peak roadless area is about 40 miles by road from Libby, Montana and 150 miles from the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and Spokane, Washington areas.

**B. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System**

This area is representative of the Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Ecosystem which is uncommon in the existing wilderness system.

**C. Public Interest**

During the RARE II public review period, over 1,300 people commented on the area. Most (85%) were opposed to a wilderness classification for the area. RARE II recommended non-wilderness. Responses to the Unit Plan in which Grizzly Peak is located (Cool-Burnt, December 1979) were few but did include some support for a primitive-type designation.

The area is currently used primarily for hunting in the Fall.

**V. Alternatives and Environmental Consequences****A. Management Prescription Assignment by Alternative**

Multiple use management prescriptions were grouped into categories (management emphases) which have similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources. The following table displays how the roadless area acreage was designated in each alternative. In addition, the summary of management emphasis further defines the rate of development that is expected to occur in some alternatives as well as the future disposition of the inventoried roadless area.

Table 2. Management Emphasis by Alternative for Grizzly Peak Roadless Area.

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVES (M ACRES)														
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Nonwilderness (Roadless) Primitive/Semiprimitive Recreation, Viewing, Minimum Use Areas	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.2	0	2.3	3.1	3.1	1.0	1.2	1.2	6.0
Nonwilderness (Some Dev.) Big Game Winter Range	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.4	.4	0	0	0	0
Nonwilderness (Developed) Timber Harvest With Wildlife and/or Viewing Management, Minimum Use Areas due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.8	5.0	4.8	0	3.7	2.5	2.5	5.0	4.8	4.8	0
Wilderness Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
.....															
Summary of Management Emphasis:															
Nonwilderness															
Developed - Decade 1:	0	0	0	0	0	.3	0	0	2.7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Decade 5:	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.6	5.0	4.8	0	3.7	2.5	2.5	5.0	4.8	4.8	0
Roadless - Decade 1:	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.7	6.0	0	3.3	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Decade 5:	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.2	0	2.3	3.5	3.5	1.0	1.2	1.2	6.0
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Acres- Grizzly Peak	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0

**B. Impacts**

Grizzly Peak 01667

1. **Designation: Wilderness**  
**Management Emphasis: Wilderness**

The Grizzly Peak roadless area is recommended for wilderness in its entirety in Alternative H. No other alternative recommends wilderness for the area. There are no specific ground-disturbing management activities associated with wilderness areas although the establishment of these areas may, in itself, have effects on other resources and uses.

A wilderness classification will preserve the primitive character of the area. Specifically, the opportunities present for solitude within the interior of the area and the quality roadless hunting experiences will be maintained. Old growth timber habitat will be protected.

There are about 5,000 acres of suitable timberland in the area that would be foregone in Alternative H (full wilderness classification). This would affect primarily the ability to manage big game and grizzly habitat through timber harvest and the ability to salvage dead and dying lodgepole infested by the mountain pine beetle.

Grizzly bear habitat (Situation 1 - critical to the recovery of the species) covers almost the entire roadless area. Wilderness management would provide security to the bear by prohibiting roading thereby reducing increases in human activity. However, opportunities to increase forage through burning and timber harvest would not occur.

Opportunities to manage big game summer and winter range by burning and timber harvest would be foregone in this emphasis. As with the grizzly bear, however, this lack of opportunity would be offset by the benefits of habitat security that wilderness could afford.

Wilderness will restrict the exploration for, and removal of, mineral resources. Under the Wilderness Act, the land would be withdrawn from mineral entry since no valid mining claims exist. The existing oil and gas leases would be honored, however. This restriction is not considered significant in that the mineral potential is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate. If there is no discovery when a lease expires, then the land will be withdrawn from mineral leasing.

Activities permissible in wilderness, when authorized by the 1964 Wilderness Act or wilderness management plans, can cost more than activities in areas without the restrictions. Restrictions apply primarily to mode of transportation, use of chainsaws in the wilderness, and removing signs of the intrusion after project completion. When permitted, activities such as mineral exploration, disease and pest control, and fire suppression, would be conducted while protecting the wilderness values which, in turn, requires more time, adherence to more stringent requirements, and more money being spent.

Social and economic effects would center around the resource values of recreation, wildlife, wilderness, and timber. Semi-primitive recreation activities such as hunting in a roadless setting, would continue. Timberland would not be available in Alternative H, thus not supporting the wood products industry. Those publics valuing wilderness would be supported by this management emphasis.

2. **Designation:** Nonwilderness (Roadless)  
**Management Emphases:** Primitive Recreation, Semi-primitive Nonmotorized Recreation, Viewing, and Limited Use Areas

Each alternative, except Alternative H, designates a portion of the area to these management emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated to roadless management, by alternative.

Percent of the Area Designated for Roadless Management  
By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
20	20	20	23	20	16	20	0	38	51	51	16	20	20	100

There are few, if any, ground-disturbing management activities specifically associated with roadlessness. Activities are associated primarily with dispersed recreation including hunting and fishing.

The roadless character of the area will be preserved in these emphases as will the primitive recreation opportunities present in the area. Old growth timber habitat will be maintained and grizzly bear habitat will be protected. Security for big game will be provided.

Like wilderness, roadless designations require stiffer requirements for conducting activities, requirements that are designed to protect the qualities inherent in a roadless allocation. Restrictions on access and mode of travel are major limitations for conducting activities, often making the activity more expensive to accomplish. Such activities can include wildlife and fish habitat improvements, mineral, oil and gas exploration/development, insect and disease control, and wildfire suppression.

The social and economic effects are primarily the benefits of semi-primitive recreation opportunities. The timber resource would not be available for harvest in these emphases.

3. **Designation:** Nonwilderness (Some Development)  
**Management Emphasis:** Big Game Winter Range

Alternatives J and K designate about 8% of the area (400 acres) to this management emphasis. The intent is to manage winter range habitat for the benefit of moose, elk and deer. Prescribed burning is the primary management activity.

## Grizzly Peak 01667

The impact on the wilderness and roadless character caused by this emphasis is short-term in nature. The naturalness of the area would be altered shortly after burning but vegetative recovery would make this activity less apparent later on.

Impacts on the timber and mineral resources would be insignificant in this emphasis.

Social and economic effects would be primarily one of support of those publics valuing wildlife in the area.

4. **Designation:** Nonwilderness (Developed)  
**Management Emphasis:** Big Game Winter Range Timber, Big Game Summer Range Timber, Wildlife Timber, Grizzly Timber, Timber Optimization, Timber Viewing, Viewing Timber, Minimum Use due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems.

Every alternative, except Alternatives H and O, designate a portion of the area to one of these management emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated for developmental activities.

Percent of the Area Designated for Developmental Activities  
By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
80	80	80	77	80	84	80	0	62	41	41	84	80	80	0

Timber harvest and associated activities, such as road building, have more affect on the physical and biological environment than any of the other forest management activities. The extent of the effects are dependent on management regimes selected.

No alternative projects development to occur during the first decade except Alternatives F and I. (See Table 3 at the end of this section.) However, by the third decade, the naturalness of the area will be impacted by timber cutting units and roads as development occurs in all alternatives except H and O. From 14 to 27 miles of road will be needed to develop the area, depending on the alternative. Roading foregoes the opportunity for wilderness consideration in the long-term, and reduces the oppourtunties for solitude and primitive recreation.

Timber harvest and roads could result in a short-term reduction in big game cover and security. Activities conducted in big game habitat are coordinated with wildlife needs and include the closure of roads upon completion of the activity and insuring that adequate cover is left. Long-term benefits to wildlife include maintaining and improving wildlife forage.

## Grizzly Peak 01667

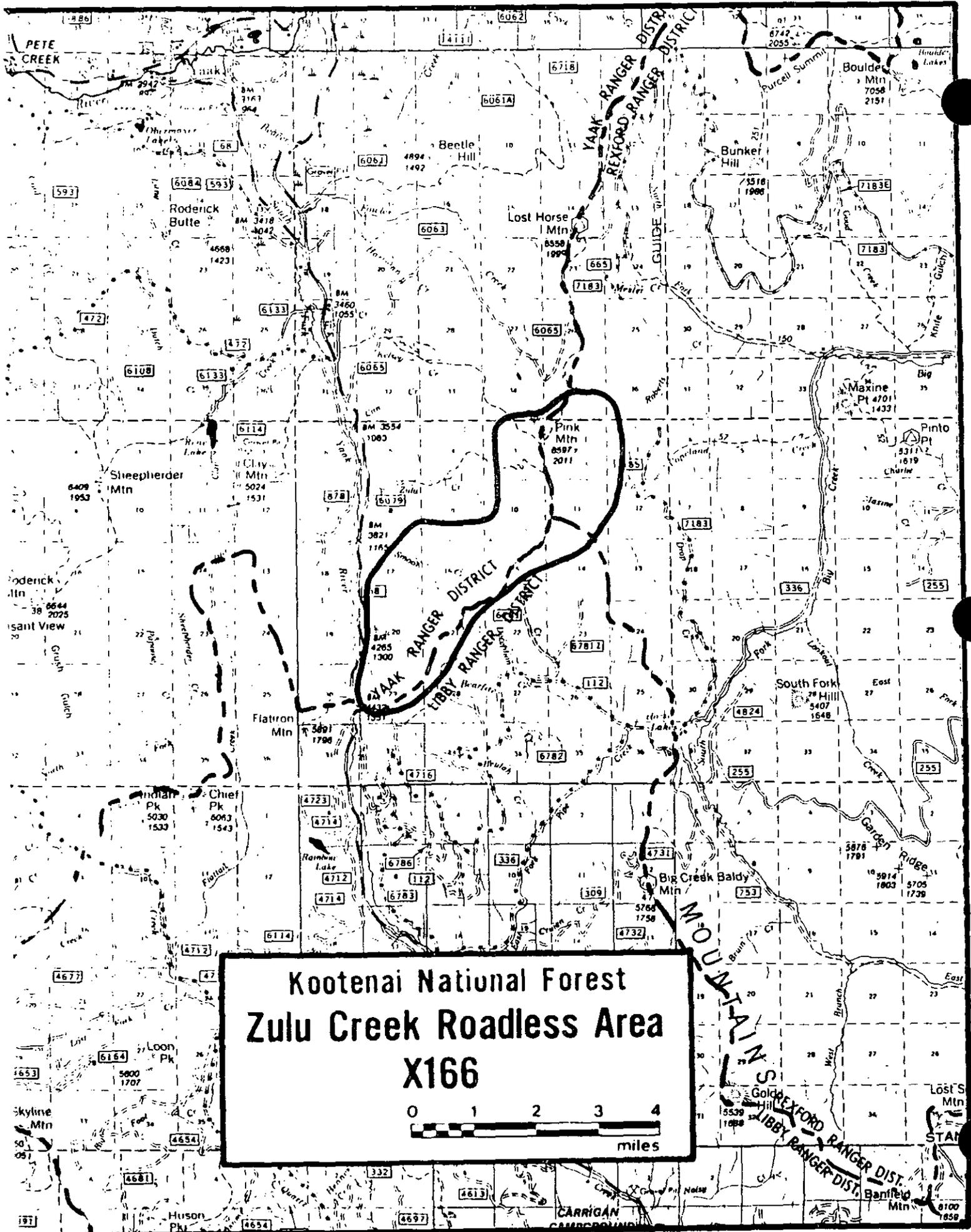
Timber management activities can directly affect the grizzly population in the short-term by logging activities and the long term by road access into a roadless area. Access into the area could displace the bear and increase the opportunity for human/bear encounters. Timber management activities, if well coordinated, can produce benefits by producing more desirable forage for grizzlies through certain timber harvest and site preparation practices such as small clearcuts and broadcast burning instead of tractor piling. Roads would be closed in a timely manner to minimize human/bear encounters and displacement.

The harvest of some of the mature lodgepole pine will provide an opportunity for control of insects and disease because all diseased or susceptible tress are removed and a young, vigorous stand is initiated.

Social and economic effects are related primarily to the resource values of timber, wildlife, wilderness, and recreation. The harvest of timber is important to the economic base of communities in the Forest. Timber from the Grizzly Peak roadless area would contribute to the economic base. Hunting experiences could be altered because of the change in the roadless setting to a roaded natural setting. Road closures would retain the area closer to its existing character. Those publics desiring wilderness or roadless mangement for the area would not be supported by these emphases. Concerns about impacts on grizzly bear, big game, and other species could be raised by the activities scheduled in these emphases, but would be addressed by efforts to mitigate the impacts.

Table 3. Decadal Outputs by Alternative for Grizzly Peak Roadless Area.

OUTPUT CATEGORY	DECADE	ALTERNATIVES														
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Rec. Wilderness MAcres		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless MAcres		1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.2	0	2.3	3.1	3.1	1.0	1.2	1.2	6.0
Recreation																
Prim./Semiprim.MRVDS		14	10	10	11	14	14	14	18	9	15	15	10	14	14	24
Semiprim. Motor.MRVDS		9	15	15	14	9	9	9	0	18	10	10	15	9	9	0
Timber																
Suitable MAcres		4.8	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.8	5.0	4.8	0	3.7	2.5	2.5	5.0	4.8	4.8	0
Volume (MMBF)	1	0	0	0	0	0	7.3	0	0	15.1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3	23.0	23.0	23.0	3.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	0	0	10.7	10.7	3.0	23.0	23.0	0
	5	5.0	5.0	5.0	15.1	5.0	16.0	5.0	0	0	10.6	10.6	4.0	15.0	4.0	0
Harvest Acres - MAcres	1	0	0	0	0	0	.3	0	0	2.7	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3	2.9	2.9	2.9	.1	2.9	3.0	2.9	0	0	1.8	1.8	.1	3.0	2.9	0
	5	.2	.2	.2	.7	.2	.7	.2	0	0	.5	.5	.2	.7	.2	0
Roads																
Roads Constructed																
First Decade - Miles		0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Road Miles																
Needed by Fifth																
Decade - Miles		23	23	23	26	23	27	23	0	16	14	14	23	26	23	0
Wildlife - T&E																
Grizzly Bear																
Habitat MAcres																
(w/o activity)		1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.2	6.0	2.3	3.1	3.1	1.0	1.2	1.2	6.0
Wildlife - Big Game																
Summer Range MAcres		1.8	3.0	3.0	2.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0	0	0	3.0	1.8	1.8	0
Winter Range MAcres		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.5	2.1	2.1	0	0	0	0
Minerals & Oil/Gas																
Very High/																
High Potential -																
Accessible MAcres		NOT APPLICABLE IN THIS ROADLESS AREA														



**Kootenai National Forest**  
**Zulu Creek Roadless Area**  
**X166**

0 1 2 3 4  
 miles

**KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST**

Zulu Creek - 01X166

State: Montana

Gross Acres: 6,400

Net Acres: 6,400

**I. Description**

The Zulu Creek roadless area is located between the Pipe Creek Divide and Pink Mountain, running in a southwest to northeast direction. Access is provided via the Pipe Creek Road and a trail system exists on the main ridge.

The area is primarily rolling timberland with a ridgeline running from Pipe Creek Summit (4,400 feet) to Pink Mountain (6,600 feet). The headwaters for Smoot, Zulu, and Copeland Creeks all originate in this roadless area, as do some small unnamed tributaries of the South Fork Yaak River.

The southeastern edge is bordered largely by Forest developments such as roads and cutting unit, while the remaining surroundings are less developed.

The represented ecosystems are Douglas-fir Forest and Western Spruce Fir Forest.

The area's wildlife, including grizzly, and the potholes and wet meadows in the southern half are among the area's attractions.

Current recreation use consists primarily of hunting in the fall and snowmobiling in winter (500 RVD's).

**II. Capability****A. Natural Integrity and Appearance**

The natural integrity is high with only a few miles of hiking trails around Pink Mountain.

**B. Opportunities for Solitude**

Opportunities for solitude vary from high to moderate. Opportunities are more available in the densely vegetated streambottoms and less so on the open ridges of Pink Mountain where views of past timber management activities are apparent.

**C. Primitive Recreation Opportunities**

Primitive recreation opportunities include ridgetop hiking and hunting. Crosscountry travel through dense woods is a challenging experience also offered.

**D. Other Features**

Among the special features of the area are wet meadows in the lower portion and the open ridges around Pink Mountain.

**E. Manageability and Boundaries**

Zulu Cr. 01X166

The area was identified during the RARE I effort and in the interim, has retained its roadless qualities although the Zulu Creek area was allocated primarily to developmental uses.

<u>Gross Acres</u>	<u>Net Acres</u>	
7800	7800	RARE I inventory
-1400	-1400	Area affected by existing timber sales
6400	6400	1983 inventory

The nonconforming uses that would conflict with a wilderness classification in the area are the existing oil & gas leases.

The present boundary could be improved by placing it on more definite, stronger topographic features. As presently configured, the area is small with an over-abundance of access from several directions.

**III. Availability****A. Significant Resource Potentials****1. Recreation**

The area has the potential to contribute about 1,800 RVD's of wilderness recreation per year. The snowmobile use now occurring in the area around Pink Mountain would conflict with a wilderness classification. Current use is estimated to be about 500 RVD's per year.

**2. Wildlife**

Seventy-eight percent of the roadless area is grizzly habitat. Mule deer and moose habitat are also present though management opportunities are limited.

**3. Timber**

There are 5,600 acres of suitable timberland capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet per acre per year of timber growth. Approximately 80% of this timberland is located on slopes ranging from 20 to 55%. Road construction will not be difficult and logging can utilize both tractor and cable yarding methods.

**B. Other Resources****1. Fisheries**

This area does not have any significant fisheries but contains the headwaters for some tributaries to the South Fork of the Yaak River and Big Creek.

**2. Range**

There are no grazing allotments in the area and the grazing potential is all transitory.



**D. Management Considerations**

Zulu Cr. 01X166

**1. Land Use Authorizations**

There are no special uses. Oil & gas leases exist.

**2. Fire**

The area has had low fire occurrence (2 fires in the last 20 years). The fuels situation is dense conifer stands with an accumulation of downed, woody material as ground fuels.

**3. Insect and Disease**

Ninety percent of the area contains mature lodgepole pine stands susceptible to Mountain Pine Beetle attack. Insect activity is occurring on the north boundary.

**4. Non-Federal Lands**

There are no private lands in the area.

**IV. Need****A. Proximity to Other Wilderness and to Population Centers**

The area is about 20 air miles from the existing Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. Spokane, Washington (180 miles) and Missoula, Montana (240 miles) are the nearest large population centers.

**B. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System**

This area is representative of the Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Ecosystem which is uncommon in the existing wilderness system.

**C. Public Interest**

Zulu was evaluated during RARE II and the recommendation was for non-wilderness. Public comments received during the Unit Planning process did not address the question of wilderness for the area and there has been no recent support expressed for wilderness.

**V. Alternatives and Environmental Consequences****A. Management Prescription Assignment by Alternative**

Multiple use management prescriptions were grouped into categories (management emphases) which have similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources. The following table displays how the roadless area acreage was designated in each alternative. In addition, the summary of management emphasis further defines the rate of development that is expected to occur in some alternatives as well as the future disposition of the inventoried roadless area.

Table 2. Management Emphasis by Alternative for Zulu Roadless Area.

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVES (M Acres)															
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	
Nonwilderness (Roadless) Primitive/Semiprimitive Recreation, Viewing, Minimum Use Areas	3.3	3.3	3.3	2.8	3.3	4.6	3.3	0	.1	.5	.5	.8	4.1	4.1	6.4	
Nonwilderness (Developed) Timber Harvest With Wildlife and/or Viewing Management, Minimum Use Areas due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.6	3.1	1.8	3.1	0	6.3	5.9	5.9	5.6	2.3	2.3	0	
Wilderness Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
.....																
Summary of Management Emphasis:																
Nonwilderness																
Developed - Decade 1:	.2	.2	.2	0	.2	0	.2	0	0	.2	.2	1.8	.2	.2	0	
Decade 5:	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.6	3.1	1.8	3.1	0	6.3	5.9	5.9	5.6	2.3	2.3	0	
Roadless - Decade 1:	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	6.2	0	6.4	6.2	6.2	4.6	6.2	6.2	6.4	
Decade 5:	3.3	3.3	3.3	2.8	3.3	4.6	3.3	0	.1	.5	.5	.8	4.1	4.1	6.4	
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Acres- Zulu	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	

**B. Impacts**

Zulu Cr. 01X166

**1. Designation: Wilderness  
Management Emphasis: Wilderness**

The Zulu Creek roadless area is recommended for wilderness designation in its entirety in Alternative H. No other alternative recommends wilderness for the area. There are no specific ground-disturbing management activities associated with wilderness areas although the establishment of these areas may, in itself, have effects on other resources and uses.

A wilderness classification for the area will protect the primitive characteristics present including the opportunities for solitude within the densely vegetated streambottoms and wet meadows, and the quality roadless hunting opportunities.

There are about 5,600 acres of suitable timberland that would be unavailable for management in the full wilderness Alternative H. This would affect the ability to manage big game summer range and to salvage lodgepole pine timber that becomes infested by the mountain pine beetle.

The inability to manage for big game summer range through timber harvest would be offset by the benefits to wildlife resulting from the security provided by wilderness. This security takes the form of limiting access into the area which, if unabated, can be disruptive to wildlife.

About 78% of the area contains grizzly habitat (Situations 1 and 2 - see glossary). Wilderness management would provide security for the bear from roading and the resultant increase in human activity. However, increases in forage through management activities such as timber harvest and burning would not occur.

Wilderness will restrict the exploration for, and removal of, mineral resources. Under the Wilderness Act, the land would be withdrawn from mineral entry since no valid mining claims exist. The existing oil and gas leases would be honored, however. This restriction is not considered significant in that the mineral potential is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate. If there is no discovery when a lease expires, then the land will be withdrawn from mineral leasing.

Activities permissible in wilderness, when authorized by the 1964 Wilderness Act or wilderness management plans, can cost more than activities in areas without the restrictions. Restrictions apply primarily to mode of transportation, use of chainsaws in the wilderness, and removing signs of the intrusion after project completion. When permitted, activities such as mineral exploration, disease and pest control, and fire suppression, would be conducted while protecting the wilderness values which, in turn, requires more time, adherence to more stringent requirements, and more money being spent.

## Zulu Cr. 01X166

Social and economic effects would center around the resource values of recreation, wildlife, wilderness, and timber. semi-primitive recreation activities such as hunting in a roadless setting, would continue. Timberland would not be available in Alternative H, thus not supporting the wood products industry. Those publics valuing wilderness would be supported by this management emphasis.

2. **Designation: Nonwilderness (Roadless)**  
**Management Emphases: Primitive Recreation, Semi-primitive Nonmotorized Recreation, Viewing, and Limited Use Areas**

Each alternative, except Alternative H, designates a portion of the area to these management emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated to roadless management in each alternative.

Percent of Area Designated to Roadless Management  
By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
51	51	51	43	51	71	51	0	1	7	7	12	64	64	100

There are few, if any, ground-disturbing management activities specifically associated with roadlessness. Activities are associated primarily with dispersed recreation including hunting and fishing.

The roadless character within the area will be maintained as will the semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Old growth timber habitat will be maintained and the grizzly habitat will be protected. Security for big game will be provided.

Like wilderness, roadless designations require stiffer requirements for conducting activities, requirements that are designed to protect the qualities inherent in a roadless allocation. Restrictions on access and mode of travel are major limitations for conducting activities, often making the activity more expensive to accomplish. Such activities can include wildlife and fish habitat improvements, mineral, oil and gas exploration/development, insect and disease control, and wildfire suppression.

The social and economic effects are primarily the benefits of semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Timber would not be available for harvest in these emphases.

Zulu Cr. 01X166

3. Designation: Nonwilderness (Developed)  
 Management Emphases: Big Game Winter Range Timber, Big Game Summer Range Timber, Wildlife Timber, Grizzly Timber, Timber Optimization, Timber Viewing, Viewing Timber, Minimum Use due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems.

Timber harvest and associated activities, such as road building, have more affect on the physical and biological environment than any of the other forest management activities. The extent of the effects are dependent on management regimes selected. Each alternative designates a portion of the area to one of these emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated for developmental activities, by alternative.

Percent of the Area Designated for Developmental Activities  
 By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
49	49	49	57	49	29	49	0	99	93	93	88	36	36	0

In all alternatives, except Alternatives D, F, H, I, L and O, development would occur in the first decade, specifically timber harvesting and road building. (See Table 3 at the end of this section.) In all alternatives except H and O, development will occur by the third decade. Road mileage required to develop the area ranges from 5 to 32 miles, depending on the alternative.

As development occurs, the naturalness of the area will be impacted by timber cutting units, roads, and other activities. Roading foregoes the opportunity to consider the area for wilderness in the long-term and reduces the opportunity for primitive recreation and experiences of solitude.

Timber harvest and roads could result in a short-term reduction in big game cover and security. Activities conducted in big game habitat are coordinated with wildlife needs and include the closure of roads upon completion of the activity and insuring that adequate cover is left. Long-term benefits to wildlife include maintaining and improving wildlife forage.

Timber management activities can directly affect the grizzly population in the short-term by logging activities and the long term by road access into a roadless area. Access into the area could displace the bear and increase the opportunity for human/bear encounters. Timber management activities, if well coordinated, can produce benefits by producing more desirable forage for grizzlies through certain timber harvest and site preparation practices such as small clearcuts and broadcast burning instead of tractor piling. Roads would be closed in a timely manner to minimize human/bear encounters and displacement.

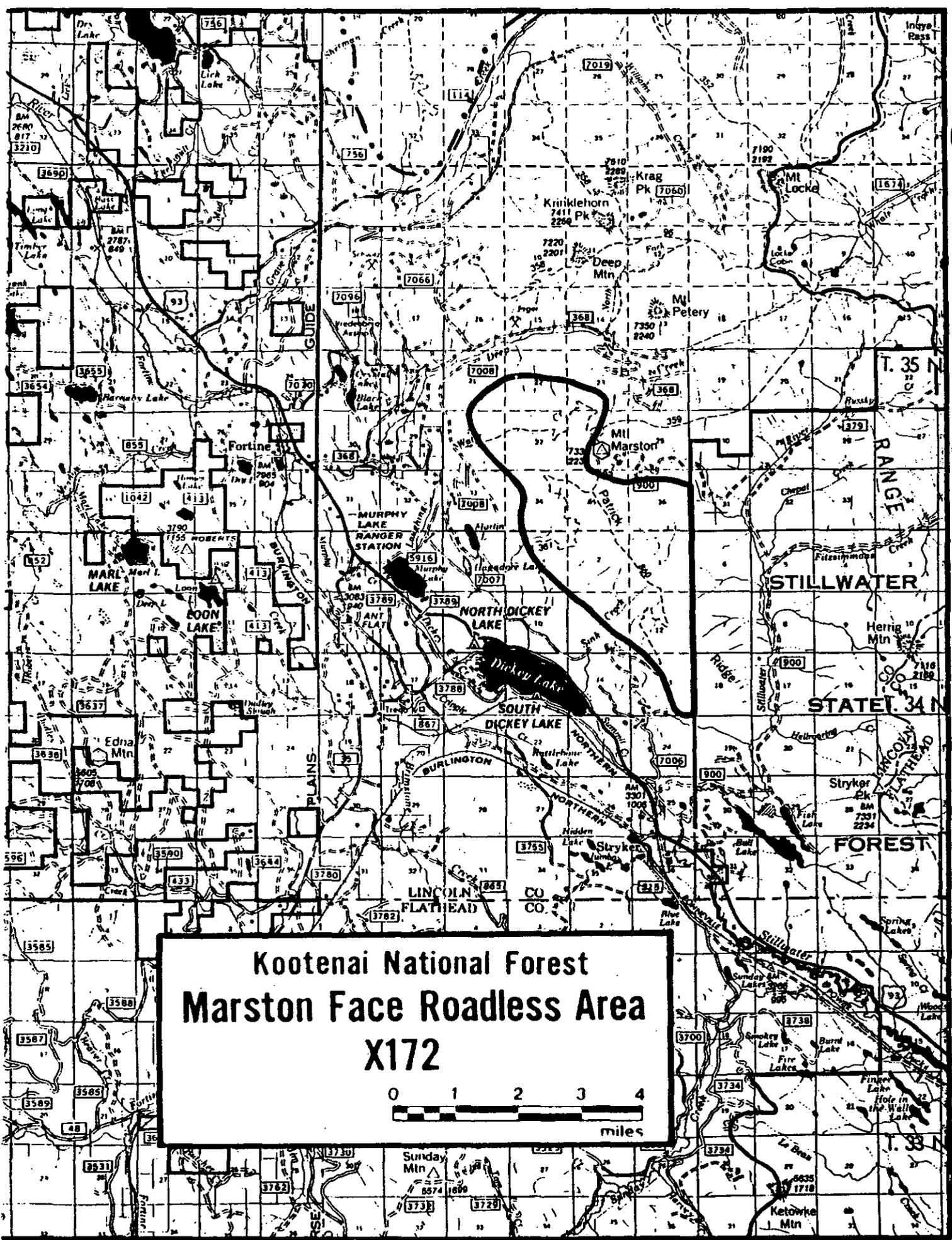
## Zulu Cr. 01X166

Social and economic effects are related primarily to the resource values of timber, wildlife, wilderness, and recreation. The harvest of timber is important to the economic base of communities in the Forest. Timber from the Zulu Creek roadless area would contribute to the economic base. Hunting experiences could be altered because of the change in the roadless setting to a roaded natural setting. Road closures would retain the area closer to its existing character. Those publics desiring wilderness or roadless management for the area would not be supported by these emphases. Concerns about impacts on grizzly bear, big game, and other species could be raised by the activities scheduled in these emphases, but would be addressed by efforts to mitigate the impacts.

Table 3. Decadal Outputs by Alternative for Zulu Roadless Area.

OUTPUT CATEGORY	DECADE	ALTERNATIVES														
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Rec. Wilderness	MAcres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless	MAcres	3.3	3.3	3.3	2.8	3.3	4.6	3.3	0	.1	.5	.5	.8	4.1	4.1	6.4
Recreation	Prim./Semi-prim. MRVDs	14	16	15	9	14	21	14	19	10	13	13	0	14	16	23
	Semi-prim. Motor MRVDs	11	6	9	16	11	4	11	0	11	11	11	28	11	6	0
Timber	Suitable MAcres	2.2	2.2	2.2	3.6	2.2	1.8	2.2	0	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	2.3	2.3	0
	Volume (MMBF)	1	.2	.2	.2	0	.2	0	.2	0	.2	.2	0	.2	.2	0
		3	0	0	21.2	0	0	0	0	21.2	0	0	21.0	0	0	0
		5	0	0	3.5	0	0	0	0	3.5	.02	.02	0	0	0	0
Harvest Acres -	MAcres	1	.2	.2	0	.2	0	.2	0	0	.2	.2	0	.2	.2	0
		3	0	0	.9	0	0	0	0	.9	0	0	1.1	0	0	0
		5	0	0	.2	0	0	0	0	3.5	.02	1.9	0	0	0	0
Roads	Roads Constructed															
	First Decade - Miles	2	2	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	2	12	2	2	0
	Total Road Miles															
	Needed by Fifth															
	Decade - Miles	5	5	5	17	5	3	5	0	32	27	27	26	5	5	0
Wildlife - T&E	Grizzly Bear															
	Habitat MAcres															
	(w/o activity)	3.3	3.3	3.3	2.8	3.3	4.6	3.3	5.0	.1	.5	.5	.8	4.1	4.1	5.0
Wildlife - Big Game	Summer Range MAcres	1.9	1.0	1.4	1.0	1.9	.9	1.9	0	0	0	0	3.4	1.9	1.0	0
Minerals & Oil/Gas	Very High/															
	High Potential -															
	Accessible MAcres	NOT APPLICABLE TO THIS ROADLESS AREA														

**Kootenai National Forest  
Marston Face Roadless Area  
X172**



**KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST****Marston Face 01X172****State: Montana****Gross Acres: 6,000****Net Acres: 6,000****I. Description**

The area is located in the northeastern corner of the Forest, extending along Patrick Ridge northwesterly from the Stillwater State Forest on the east. The area is accessible from Highway 93 and the Deep Creek Road. Trails radiate from Mount Marston (just outside the area boundary) along Patrick Ridge and along Laughing Water Creek.

The area is primarily a long ridge with a steep westerly slope of limited productivity. The rest of the area contains forested lands. Sink Creek, Laughing Water Creek, several small, unnamed tributaries, and the main tributary to Martin Lake all originate within this area. Mount Marston (elevation 7300 feet) dominates the area although it lies outside the area boundary.

Marston Face roadless area is surrounded on three sides by roads and clearcuts.

The represented ecosystems are Douglas-fir Forest and Western Spruce Fir Forest.

Wildlife, including grizzly bear, and views of the Tobacco Valley and Glacier Park are among the area's primary attractions.

Existing use is light (500 RVD's per year) and consists primarily of hunting in the fall.

**II. Capability****A. Natural Integrity and Appearance**

The natural integrity is high as is the overall natural appearance. There are several miles of hiking trails.

**B. Opportunities for Solitude**

Opportunities for solitude are generally high, especially in the Laughing Water Creek drainage and less so along Patrick Ridge which looks into the Tobacco Valley.

**C. Primitive Recreation Opportunities**

Primitive recreation opportunities include hiking, hunting, and wildlife observation, including grizzly bear. Crosscountry travel is the biggest challenge offered and the panoramic views of Glacier Park and the Canadian Rockies are among the area's special features. The Mount Marston Road, just outside the area boundary, is the highest road in the northwest; at 7,300 feet, it is 600 feet higher than Logan Pass on the Going-To-The-Sun Highway in Glacier Park.

**D. Manageability and Boundaries**

Marston Face 01X172

The Marston Face roadless area was inventoried during RARE I. The recommendation made was for non-wilderness and the area was allocated primarily to roadless forms of management. As such, most of the area remained eligible for inclusion in the 1983 roadless inventory.

<u>Gross Acres</u>	<u>Net Acres</u>	
6400	6400	RARE I inventory
- 400	- 400	Area affected by timber sales
6000	6000	1983 roadless inventory

The nonconforming uses that would conflict with a wilderness classification in the area are the oil & gas leases.

Overall, the manageability of the boundary would prove difficult. Although the west boundary is located at the base of a slope, (a well-defined topographic feature), the remaining boundary is more arbitrary. The north boundary is determined by past developments such as roads and timber harvesting. The east boundary is the Stillwater State Forest.

**III. Availability****A. Significant Resource Potentials****1. Recreation**

It is estimated that approximately 1,000 RVD's of wilderness recreation could be provided by the area. Current use is estimated to be 500 RVD's per year.

**2. Wildlife**

The area contains mule deer and elk winter range and excellent grizzly habitat. Some wildlife management opportunities through burning exist on the lower south-facing slopes.

**3. Minerals**

Mineral potential is low but the oil and gas potential is moderate.

**B. Other Resources****1. Fisheries**

There are no significant fisheries in the area.

**2. Range**

There are no livestock grazing allotments in the area and the grazing potential is all transitory.



**D. Management Considerations**

Marston Face 01X172

**1. Land Use Authorizations**

There are no special uses. There are oil & gas leases.

**2. Insect and Disease**

The insect and disease situation is relatively stable with no large stands of mature lodgepole pine or spruce susceptible to insect and disease attack.

**3. Fire**

The area has had a low amount of fires (2 fires in the last 20 years). The fuels situation consists primarily of dense conifer stands with heavy accumulations of woody ground fuels.

**4. Non-Federal Lands**

There are no private lands in the area.

**IV. Need****A. Proximity to Other Wilderness and to Population Centers**

The area is about 25 air miles from Glacier National Park, 50 air miles from the existing Cabinet Mountains Wilderness, and 4 miles from the Ten Lakes Montana Wilderness Study Area. Missoula, Montana (180 miles) and the Flathead Valley area (60 miles) are the closest large population centers.

**B. Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System**

This area is representative of the Northern Continental Divide Grizzly Bear Ecosystem which is represented in the existing wilderness system.

**C. Public Interest**

The area was evaluated in RARE I and recommended for non-wilderness. Responses to the Unit Plan for the area (Dickey-Sunday Unit Plan, 1976) did not reveal strong support for a wilderness designation in the area. Concern was expressed, however, that the area should remain in a primitive state. No recent expressions of support for a wilderness in the area have been made.

**V. Alternatives and Environmental Consequences****A. Management Prescription Assignment by Alternative**

Multiple use management prescriptions were grouped into categories (management emphases) which have similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources. The following table displays how the roadless area acreage was designated in each alternative. In addition, the summary of management emphasis further defines the rate of development that is expected to occur in some alternatives as well as the future disposition of the inventoried roadless area.

Table 2. Management Emphasis by Alternative for Marston Face Roadless Area.

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS	ALTERNATIVES (M Acres)														
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Nonwilderness (Roadless) Primitive/Semiprimitive Recreation, Viewing, Minimum Use Areas	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.7	5.1	0	5.6	3.8	3.8	5.1	5.1	5.1	6.0
Nonwilderness (Some Dev.) Big Game Winter Range	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.4	2.1	2.1	0	0	0	0
Nonwilderness (Developed) Timber Harvest With Wildlife and/or Viewing Management, Minimum Use Areas due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems	.9	.9	.9	.9	.9	.3	.9	0	0	.1	.1	.9	.9	.9	0
Wilderness Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
.....															
Summary of Management Emphasis:															
Nonwilderness															
Developed - Decade 1:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Decade 5:	0	0	0	.9	0	0	0	0	0	.1	.1	0	0	0	0
Roadless - Decade 1:	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Decade 5:	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	0	6.0	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Acres- Marston Face	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0

## B. Impacts

Marston Face 01X172

1. Designation: Wilderness  
Management Emphasis: Wilderness

The Marston Face roadless area is recommended for wilderness in its entirety in Alternative H. No other alternative recommends wilderness for the area. There are no specific ground-disturbing management activities associated with wilderness areas although the establishment of these areas may, in itself, have effects on other resources and uses.

A wilderness designation will preserve the primitive character of the area, specifically the opportunities for solitude to be found in the Laughing Water Creek drainage and the hiking and roadless hunting experiences afforded in the area.

There are about 900 acres of suitable timberland in the area that would be unavailable for management in Alternative H. In most alternatives, however, this timberland is not scheduled for harvest because of the steep slopes involved. (See Table 3 at the end of this section.) Thus, the effect on the timber resource is not considered significant.

Grizzly bear habitat (Situations 1 and 2 - see glossary) covers the entire roadless area. Wilderness management would provide security for the bear by prohibiting roading, thereby reducing increases in human activity. However, opportunities to increase forage through burning and advantageous timber harvest would not occur.

Opportunities to manage big game winter and summer ranges by burning and timber harvest would also be foregone in wilderness. This would affect about 2,300 acres of summer range and 1,400 acres of winter range. But, as with grizzly bears, this inability to deliberately increase forage through management activities would be offset by the benefits of the security provided by wilderness.

Wilderness will restrict the exploration for, and removal of, mineral resources. Under the Wilderness Act, the land would be withdrawn from mineral entry since no valid mining claims exist. The existing oil and gas leases would be honored, however. This restriction is not considered significant in that the mineral potential is low and the oil and gas potential is moderate. If there is no discovery when a lease expires, then the land will be withdrawn from mineral leasing.

Activities permissible in wilderness, when authorized by the 1964 Wilderness Act or wilderness management plans, can cost more than activities in areas without the restrictions. Restrictions apply primarily to mode of transportation, use of chainsaws in the wilderness, and removing signs of the intrusion after project completion. When permitted, activities such as mineral exploration, disease and pest control, and fire suppression, would be conducted while protecting the wilderness values which, in turn, requires more time, adherence to more stringent requirements, and more money being spent.

## Marston Face 01X172

Social and economic effects would center around the resource values of recreation, wildlife, wilderness, and timber. Semiprimitive recreation activities such as hunting in a roadless setting, would continue. Timberland would not be available in Alternative H, thus not supporting the wood products industry. Those publics valuing wilderness would be supported by this management emphasis.

2. **Designation:** Nonwilderness (Roadless)  
**Management Emphases:** Primitive Recreation, Semiprimitive Nonmotorized Recreation, Viewing, and Limited Use Areas

Every alternative except H designates a portion of the area to these management emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated to roadless management, by alternative.

Percent of the Area Designated to Roadless Management  
By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
85	85	85	85	85	95	85	0	93	63	63	85	85	85	100

There are few, if any, ground-disturbing management activities specifically associated with roadlessness. Activities are associated primarily with dispersed recreation including hunting and fishing.

The roadless character of the area will be maintained in these emphases. Solitude and primitive recreation opportunities will be maintained and maximized. Old growth timber habitat will be provided and grizzly habitat will be protected. Security for big game will be maintained.

Like wilderness, roadless designations require stiffer requirements for conducting activities, requirements that are designed to protect the qualities inherent in a roadless allocation. Restrictions on access and mode of travel are major limitations for conducting activities, often making the activity more expensive to accomplish. Such activities can include wildlife and fish habitat improvements, mineral, oil and gas exploration/development, insect and disease control, and wildfire suppression.

The social and economic affects are primarily the benefits of semiprimitive recreation opportunities. Timber would not be available for harvest in these emphases.

## Marston Face 01X172

3. **Designation:** Nonwilderness (Some Development)  
**Management Emphasis:** Big Game Winter Range

Alternatives I, J, and K designate 7%, 35%, and 35% of the area, respectively, to this emphasis. The intent is to manage winter range habitat for the benefit of elk and deer. Prescribed burning is the primary management activity.

The impact on the wilderness and roadless character caused by this emphasis is short-term in nature. The naturalness of the area would be altered shortly after burning but vegetative recovery would make this activity less apparent later on.

Impacts on the timber and mineral resources would be insignificant in this emphasis.

Social and economic effects would be primarily one of support of those publics valuing wildlife in the area.

4. **Designation:** Nonwilderness (Developed)  
**Management Emphasis:** Big Game Winter Range Timber, Big Game Summer Range Timber, Wildlife Timber, Grizzly Timber, Timber Optimization, Timber Viewing, Viewing Timber, Minimum Use due to Steep Slopes or Regeneration Problems.

Timber harvest and associated activities, such as road building, have more affect on the physical and biological environment than any of the other forest management activities. The extent of the effects are dependent on management regimes selected. Each alternative, except Alternatives H, I, and O, designates a portion of the area to one of these emphases. The following chart displays the percent of the area designated to developmental activities.

Percent of the Area Designated to Developmental Activities  
 By Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
15	15	15	15	15	5	15	0	0	1	1	15	15	15	0

In no alternative are activities scheduled to occur in the first decade (see Table 3). In fact, only in Alternatives D, J, and K are activities scheduled to take place at all. Although the designations are made for developmental activities, specifically timber management for big game and grizzly habitat, there are no plans to harvest timber in the next fifty years. This is because of the steep terrain involved, making the timber less desirable for harvest.

## Marston Face 01X172

In those Alternatives (D, J, and K) where activities will occur, the naturalness of the area will be impacted by timber cutting units and roads, sometime in the third decade. Rooding will remove the opportunity to consider the area for wilderness in the long-term and reduce the opportunity for primitive recreation and experiences of solitude. Expected miles of road range from 6 miles in Alternative D, to 1 mile in Alternatives J and K.

Timber harvest and roads could result in a short-term reduction in big game cover and security. Activities conducted in big game habitat are coordinated with wildlife needs and include the closure of roads upon completion of the activity and insuring that adequate cover is left. Long-term benefits to wildlife include maintaining and improving wildlife forage.

Timber management activities can directly affect the grizzly population in the short-term by logging activities and the long term by road access into a roadless area. Access into the area could displace the bear and increase the opportunity for human/bear encounters. Timber management activities, if well coordinated, can produce benefits by producing more desirable forage for grizzlies through certain timber harvest and site preparation practices such as small clearcuts and broadcast burning instead of tractor piling. Roads would be closed in a timely manner to minimize human/bear encounters and displacement.

Social and economic effects are related primarily to the resource values of timber, wildlife, wilderness, and recreation. The harvest of timber is important to the economic base of communities in the Forest. Timber from the Marston Face roadless area would contribute to the economic base. Hunting experiences could be altered because of the change in the roadless setting to a roaded natural setting. Road closures would retain the area closer to its existing character. Those publics desiring wilderness or roadless mangement for the area would not be supported by these emphases. Concerns about impacts on grizzly bear, big game, and other species could be raised by the activities scheduled in these emphases, but would be addressed by efforts to mitigate the impacts.

Table 3. Decadal Outputs by Alternative for Marston Face Roadless Area.

OUTPUT CATEGORY	DECADE	ALTERNATIVES														
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Rec. Wilderness MAcres		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless MAcres		5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.7	5.1	0	5.6	3.8	3.8	5.1	5.1	5.1	6.0
Recreation																
Prim./Semiprim.MRYDs		22	22	22	21	22	23	22	18	23	15	15	22	22	22	24
Semiprim. Motor.MRYDs		1	1	1	4	1	1	1	0	2	11	11	1	1	1	0
Timber																
Suitable MAcres		.9	.9	.9	.9	.9	.3	.9	0	0	.1	.1	.9	.9	.9	0
Volume (MMBF)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3	0	0	0	4.3	0	0	0	0	0	.6	.6	0	0	0	0
	5	0	0	0	5.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harvest Acres - MAcres	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3	0	0	0	.6	0	0	0	0	0	.09	.09	0	0	0	0
	5	0	0	0	.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roads																
Roads Constructed																
First Decade - Miles		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Road Miles																
Needed by Fifth																
Decade - Miles		0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Wildlife - T&E																
Grizzly Bear																
Habitat MAcres																
(w/o activity)		5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.7	5.1	6.0	5.6	3.8	3.8	5.1	5.1	5.1	6.0
Wildlife - Big Game																
Summer Range MAcres		.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	0	0	0	0	.3	.3	.3	0
Winter Range MAcres		0	0	0	.6	0	0	0	0	.4	2.2	2.2	0	0	0	0
Minerals & Oil/Gas																
Very High/																
High Potential -																
Accessible MAcres		NOT APPLICABLE IN THIS ROADLESS AREA														



## MT. WILLARD-LAKE ESTELLE (01X173)

## I. DESCRIPTION

<u>Size</u>	<u>Gross Acres</u>	<u>Net Acres</u>
Kootenai NF	18,400	18,400
Idaho Panhandle NF	<u>38,646</u>	<u>35,275</u>
Total	57,046	53,675

This area is located 13 miles northeast of Sandpoint, Idaho, and 9 miles southeast of Bonners Ferry, Idaho. The area is along the divide that separates the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The majority of this roadless area lies in the Bonners Ferry and Sandpoint Ranger Districts of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The area runs north-south extending from North Creek in Boundary County to Benning Mountain in Bonner County. Only 300 acres, in the Survey Mountain area, are in Lincoln County, Montana. Access is provided by gravel roads in several drainages, particularly Raymond Creek, North Callahan Creek, Keeler Creek, Grouse Creek, and Boulder Creek, and high elevation access near Lunch Peak.

The roadless area is long and narrow. It follows a ridge which is a watershed divide between the Pend Oreille and Kootenai River watersheds. Average width is 4 miles and length is approximately 14 miles. The highest peak is Mt. Pend Oreille, with an elevation of 6,755 feet. The lowest elevation within this roadless area is approximately 3,500 feet. The landtype was shaped by both continental and alpine glaciation. Six mountain lakes are included within this area. The disintegrating granitic rock and soil types found in this area make this area particularly prone to erosion and stream channel damage. Development along the boundaries has created irregular boundaries.

Most of this area is high alpine forest type with interspersed rocky and grassy openings near the ridgetops. Diversity of vegetative types is most pronounced near the high elevation ridgetops. Forest types include mixed conifer stands common to northern Idaho in the lower elevations and alpine fir, lodgepole pine, and an occasional whitebark pine in the highest elevations.

Trail 67, a popular hiking trail, follows along much of the main ridgetop within this roadless area. Views along the trail include: Lake Pend Oreille, the Cabinet Mountains, the Selkirk Mountains, and the Purcell Trench. Numerous trails also allow easy access into the mountain lakes. Lake Darling, Gem Lake, Moose Lake, Lake Estelle, and Blacktail Lake provide recreational opportunities for camping, fishing, and hiking. The headwaters of numerous small creeks support catchable size trout. Current use is light to moderate and consists of hunting, hiking, and snowmobiling near Benning Mountain.

Wildlife species of most interest to visitors include elk, moose, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, and grouse. This roadless area has a significant amount of habitat for the threatened grizzly bear. A rare remnant population of pure strain native rainbow trout exists in the upper drainages of the Kootenai National Forest portion.

## II. CAPABILITY

Willard-Lake Estelle 01X173

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Natural Integrity. Impacts from human activity in this area have been relatively minor. In the past, some hardrock mining exploration occurred, but evidence of these diggings has been reduced substantially by weathering processes. The Dougherty Mine is a well known mine located east of Mt. Pend Oreille and north of Lake Darling. The owner has inquired about road access. Trails that are not maintained quickly become overgrown with trees and shrubs. The trails to existing lakes are maintained and receive heavy use by backpackers and fishermen. This heavy use has caused some vegetative resource damage around the mountain lakes.

2. Natural Appearance. Since the area is narrow and encompasses a high ridge, people visiting can frequently view human activities and development near the periphery of this roadless area. Roads, timber harvest areas, and activities along Lake Pend Oreille are some of the activities viewed from this area.

3. Solitude. This roadless area possesses high opportunity for solitude because of its large size and diversity of topography. Some areas, such as the ridgetop trail, do offer views of man's activities. It possesses diversity in vegetation because of substantial differences in elevations. With the diversity in elevations, people are not normally concentrated in one area. The divide which is near the Montana-Idaho border attracts people because of its relatively high mountain peaks and vistas. The mountain lakes concentrate people because of the water attraction and fishery values. The periphery of this area can be accessed by numerous roads. The sounds from logging activity and roads near the periphery of the area have the potential of penetrating upwards to one mile inside the roadless area.

4. Primitive Recreation Opportunities. This area offers an opportunity for recreational activities around high mountain lakes. Topography within this roadless area is not unique to northern Idaho. Since this area is quite narrow it offers only limited challenges to the more experienced backpacker. Much of the terrain below the main divide has poor trail access. Hunting, fishing, camping, scenic viewing, hiking, and horseback riding are some of the recreational activities occurring within this roadless area.

5. Other Features. The local population considers it as good bear country. The area contains grizzly bear habitat. There are patches of old-growth timber stands which have escaped the early 1900 forest fires.

The Hunt Girl Research Natural Area is located in the northwest quarter of this area.

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests have not been surveyed for cultural resources but surveys in similar areas on the Kootenai National Forest indicate low probabilities of discovery of cultural sites.

The hiking experience on a trail along a long, unbroken alpine ridge, with views of the Pend Oreille Lake region, is the area's special feature.

## Willard Lake Estelle 01X173

B. Wilderness Manageability and Boundaries. This roadless area is a long, narrow unit. Boundaries are not well defined on major terrain or other recognized features. Boundaries generally contour along steep hillsides to avoid roads and logging activities which are on the lower slopes.

This roadless area has considerable variation in width along its long axis. The area becomes narrow at the headwaters of major drainages. Because most of these drainages have road development or private lands up close to the main divide, these intrusions would make it very difficult to establish a logical wilderness boundary. Private lands are also incorporated within this unit boundary. It would be very difficult to purchase or trade for many of these lands because of the number of owners involved. Boundary adjustments to exclude the private lands would only serve to make the area narrower than it already is.

Recreation and other resource uses not requiring surface disturbance can be managed in the Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle area while protecting the wilderness character. Mineral exploration can be controlled with present Federal regulations, although some impacts can be expected.

Future hardrock mineral development is the main uncertainty in addressing manageability because the existing laws allow for the exploration and development of hardrock minerals. The owner of the Dougherty Mine has requested road access to his claim.

## Willard Lake Estelle 01X173

Table 1

## Selected Resource Values

## Total Combined Idaho Panhandle and Kootenai Forests

<u>Category</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>X01173</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Unit</u>	
Gross Acres	Acres	57046	Corridors		
Net Acres	Acres	53675	Existing and Potential	No.	0
Range			Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Existing Obligated			Grizzly Bear		
Suitable	Acres	0	Situation 1	Acres	22631
Allotments	No.	0	Situation 2	Acres	10437
AUMs	No.	0	Situation 3	Acres	0
Existing Vacant			Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Suitable	Acres	0	Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0	Gray Wolf	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0	Wildlife-Big Game		
Proposed			Summer Habitat	Acres	17400
Suitable	Acres	0	Winter Habitat	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0	Specific-Elk		
Timber			Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Tentative			Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Suitable	Acres	27087	Specific-Deer		
Standing Volume	MMBF	537	Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Minerals Potential			Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Very High	Acres	0	Significant Fisheries		
High	Acres	5760	Stream Miles	Miles	3
Moderate	Acres	30155	Stream Habitat	Acres	1
Low	Acres	17768	Lakes	No.	5
Mining Claims	No.	13	Lake Habitat	Acres	50
Oil and Gas Potential*			Water Developments		
Very High	Acres	0	Existing	No.	0
High	Acres	0	Recreation		
Moderate	Acres		Primitive	RVDs	5500
Low	Acres	53675	Semiprimitive		
Oil and Gas Leases			Nonmotorized	RVDs	4800
Leases	No.	0	Motorized	RVDs	0
Leased Area	Acres	0	Roaded Natural	RVDs	0

\*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

## Willard Lake Estelle 01X173

## Idaho Panhandle Portion

<u>Category</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>X01173</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>X01173</u>
Gross Acres	Acres	38646	Corridors		
Net Acres	Acres	35275	Existing and Potential	No.	0
Range			Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Existing Obligated			Grizzly Bear		
Suitable	Acres	0	Situation 1	Acres	8831
Allotments	No.	0	Situation 2	Acres	7237
AUMs	No.	0	Situation 3	Acres	0
Existing Vacant			Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Suitable	Acres	0	Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0	Gray Wolf	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0	Wildlife-Big Game		
Proposed			Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Suitable	Acres	0	Winter Habitat	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0	Specific-Elk		
Timber			Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Tentative			Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Suitable	Acres	17787	Specific-Deer		
Standing Volume	MMBF	417	Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Minerals Potential			Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Very High	Acres	0	Significant Fisheries		
High	Acres	5760	Stream Miles	Miles	1
Moderate	Acres	29515	Stream Habitat	Acres	1
Low	Acres	0	Lakes	No.	5
Mining Claims	No.	12	Lake Habitat	Acres	50
Oil and Gas Potential*			Water Developments		
Very High	Acres	0	Existing	No.	0
High	Acres	0	Recreation		
Moderate	Acres		Primitive	RVDs	0
Low	Acres	35275	Semiprimitive		
Oil and Gas Leases			Nonmotorized	RVDs	2800
Leases	No.	0	Motorized	RVDs	0
Leased Area	Acres	0	Roaded Natural	RVDs	0

\*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

## Willard Lake Estelle 01X173

## Kootenai Portion

<u>Category</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>X01173</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>X01173</u>
Gross Acres	Acres	18400	Corridors		
Net Acres	Acres	18400	Existing and Potential	No.	
0					
Range			Wildlife-Threatened and Endangered-Habitat		
Existing Obligated			Grizzly Bear		
Suitable	Acres	0	Situation 1	Acres	13800
Allotments	No.	0	Situation 2	Acres	3200
AUMs	No.	0	Situation 3	Acres	0
Existing Vacant			Bald Eagle	Acres	0
Suitable	Acres	0	Mountain Caribou	Acres	0
Allotments	No.	0	Gray Wolf	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0	Wildlife-Big Game		
Proposed			Summer Habitat	Acres	17400
Suitable	Acres	0	Winter Habitat	Acres	0
AUMs	No.	0	Specific-Elk		
Timber			Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Tentative			Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Suitable	Acres	9300	Specific-Deer		
Standing Volume	MMBF	120	Summer Habitat	Acres	0
Minerals Potential			Winter Habitat	Acres	0
Very High	Acres	0	Significant Fisheries		
High	Acres	0	Stream Miles	Miles	2
Moderate	Acres	640	Stream Habitat	Acres	0
Low	Acres	17768	Lakes	No.	0
Mining Claims	No.	1	Lake Habitat	Acres	0
Oil and Gas Potential*			Water Developments		
Very High	Acres	0	Existing	No.	0
High	Acres	0	Recreation		
Moderate	Acres	0	Primitive	RVDs	5500
Low	Acres	18400	Semiprimitive		
Oil and Gas Leases			Nonmotorized	RVDs	2000
Leases	No.	0	Motorized	RVDs	0
Leased Area	Acres	0	Roaded Natural	RVDs	0

\*Rating also includes uranium, geothermal, and other energy resources.

**A. Resource Values**

Willard Lake Estelle 01X173

1. **Recreation.** Current recreation use in the area includes hiking, fishing, camping, hunting, and some snowmobiling near Benning Mountain. Trail 67 follows along much of the main ridgetop within this roadless area and is a popular hiking trail. Views from this trail include Lake Pend Oreille, the Cabinet Mountains, the Selkirk Mountains, and the Purcell Trench. Numerous hiking trails also provide easy access into the mountain lake where recreationists enjoy fishing and camping opportunities.

2. **Wildlife.** Wildlife inhabitants include elk, moose, black bear, whitetail deer, mule deer, and grouse. This roadless area has a significant amount of habitat for the threatened grizzly bear. A rare remnant population of pure strain native rainbow trout exists in the upper drainages of the Kootenai National Forest portion. Much of this area is also good habitat for big game animals.

3. **Timber.** About 27,000 acres of this area is considered suitable for timber production. Suitable lands are along the lower elevations and in most cases, could be efficiently managed for timber. Portions of these suitable lands support old-growth, higher risk timber stands. Access to these stands can be gained by the extension of existing timber harvest roads in the immediate lower elevations. Road construction on the Kootenai National Forest portion will be difficult and costly. Logging would require cable and helicopter systems.

4. **Minerals.** All of the area has a medium mineral potential. There are several known mineral occurrences in the area, all of which are associated with the sills. Glacial deposits are fairly extensive in the area, making exploration difficult. There are presently 12 unpatented mining claims. All of the area is under application for oil and gas leases. The potential for oil and gas is low due to lack of information.

5. **Range.** Sheep grazed this area prior to the 1960s; however, there are no sheep or cattle allotments at this time.

**B. Other Management Considerations**

1. **Fire.** Although large fires occurred in the area in the early 1900s, the number of fires occurring annually is low.

**IV. NEED**

A. **Contribution to National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS).** This area would contribute high subalpine ecosystems with several scenic lakes, grizzly bear habitat, and habitat for a rare rainbow trout strain. Wilderness designation would preserve water quality in an area that is naturally susceptible to erosion.

B. **Public Interest and Concerns.** During the RARE I and Unit Plan process, concern was expressed for maintaining the primitive qualities of the area. Little support was voiced for a wilderness designation. No expressions have been made recently (1982). RARE II allocated the area to non-wilderness.

**C. Proximity to Designated Wilderness and to Population Centers**

Table 3, Parts A and B, display wilderness opportunities and proximity to roadless areas on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The closest wilderness area is the Cabinet Wilderness in western Montana, approximately 100 miles to the northeast. There is access to 1.6 million acres of wilderness located within 200 miles of Coeur d'Alene, as well as an additional 5.8 million acres within 300 miles (northern Idaho, eastern Washington and Oregon, and western Montana).

**V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Multiple use management prescriptions were grouped into categories (management emphases) which have similar impacts on the wilderness and roadless resources. The following table displays how the roadless area acreage was designated in each alternative. In addition, the summary of management emphasis further defines the rate of development that is expected to occur in some alternatives as well as the future disposition of the inventoried roadless area.



**B. Impacts**

Willard Lake Estelle 01X173

**1. Designation: Wilderness****Management Emphasis: Wilderness****Management Prescription: Wilderness**

This management emphasis occurs in Alternatives 3 and 10. This designation will preserve and enhance wilderness attributes. Current motorized uses (such as mining and trail maintenance) and other uses or facilities not compatible with wilderness management would be eliminated. Timber harvest on 27,800 acres would be foregone. The goal of this allocation would be to protect and preserve its natural condition.

The long, narrow ridge is generally bordered by developments where human activity, such as roads and timber sales, is evident. Other attributes generally associated with wilderness, such as solitude and semi-primitive recreation opportunities, are preserved.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

- Wilderness values are preserved and enhanced.
- Wilderness area would be increased.
- Visual quality would be retained.
- Water quality and fisheries would remain at their present high level.
- The Hunt Girl Research Natural Area would remain in its present isolated condition.
- Threatened and endangered species habitat for grizzly bear would not be disturbed.
- The remnant population of native rainbow trout would be assured of continued, undisturbed stream habitat.
- Recreation opportunities would continue to be primitive or semi-primitive.
- Security for all fish and game animals would be maintained.
- Diversity would tend toward old growth.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Since wilderness precludes timber harvest and mineral development, the related industries would not be supported by this emphasis. From a social aspect, the public valuing wilderness would be supported as well as those people who desire to view the area in its unaltered state.

## Willard Lake Estelle 01X173

## 2. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Roadless Recreation

Management Prescription: Roadless Recreation,  
 Timber Management, Minimum Level

This management emphasis occurs in Alternatives 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12. Approximately 32,000 acres are allocated to roadless recreation, 11,000 acres to timber management, and 10,000 acres to minimum management.

Approximately 16,000 acres of tentatively suitable timberland would not be available.

Minerals, oil, and gas, if discovered, would continue to be available.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

- Wilderness characteristics would be compromised on about 20,000 acres. The reduction in size would adversely impact the remaining area.
- Visual quality will decline.
- The Hunt Girl Research Natural Area would be preserved.
- Primitive and semi-primitive recreation opportunities would be foregone on 20,000 acres.
- Big game habitat and security would be adversely affected; road closures are essential mitigation to minimize the adverse impact.
- Water quality and fisheries habitat would decline, but not significantly.
- Habitat for the rare rainbow trout strain is preserved.
- Grizzly bear habitat would be managed to support a recovered population. Road closures to mitigate the increased disturbance caused by roads are not 100 percent effective, but monitoring of bear habitat and populations will insure the goal of a recovered population is met.

Social and economic effects center on the resource values of timber, minerals, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness. Timber and mineral resources would be available, thus supporting the wood products and minerals industries. The change in recreation setting could be disruptive to those publics using the area for primitive or semi-primitive recreation as well as publics viewing the area.

## Willard Lake Estelle 01X173

## 3. Designation: Non-wilderness

Management Emphasis: Minimum Level

Management Prescription: Minimum Level, Timber, Roadless  
Recreation

This management emphasis occurs in Alternatives 2, 4, and 6. Approximately 17,000 acres are designated for roadless recreation, 18,000 acres for timber, and 18,000 acres for minimum management.

Approximately 10,000 acres of tentatively suitable timberland are not available.

Minerals, oil, and gas, if discovered, remain available.

The Hunt Girl Research Natural Area is maintained.

The non-priced benefits or costs would be:

- Wilderness values would remain on about 18,000 acres.
- Visual quality would decline.
- Semi-primitive recreation opportunities would decline.
- Habitat for the rare rainbow trout strain would be preserved.
- Habitat for grizzly bear would be maintained to support a recovered population. The increased roading of this emphasis, as compared to the previous non-wilderness alternative, carries a slightly higher risk of road closure breaching.
- Security for game animals would be compromised. Road closures are essential mitigation to minimize this impact.
- Water quality and fisheries would be adversely impacted, but only slightly.
- Tendency would be toward old growth and even-aged stands less than 100 year of age.
- Wilderness values would be foregone on about 25,000 acres. This would lower the quality of the remaining potential wilderness.



## FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST AND KOOTENAI NATIONAL FORESTS

MT. THOMPSON SETON 01483

(RARE II NO. 01483, RARE I NOS., 171, 124-125)

<u>Total Gross Acres:</u>	71,750	<u>Total Net Acres:</u>	71,750
Flathead National Forest	52,650	Flathead National Forest	52,650
Kootenai National Forest	19,100	Kootenai National Forest	19,100

**I. DESCRIPTION**

Thompson-Seton Roadless Area is located in the north end of the Flathead National Forest, 6 miles south of the Canadian border. It is one of seven roadless areas located in what is often referred to as the "North Fork." The North Fork region lies adjacent to Glacier National Park and is bordered by the North Fork of the Flathead River on the east and the Whitefish Mountain Range or Divide on the west.

The Flathead National Forest is the lead Forest for this roadless area evaluation. The Kootenai National Forest portion lies within Lincoln County, and the Flathead National Forest portion is in Flathead County. The Whitefish Divide forms the Flathead - Lincoln County boundary as well as the Flathead - Kootenai National Forest boundaries.

This area is generally bounded on the north by the Trail Creek Road, on the east by roaded timberland, on the south by the Red Meadow and Deep Creek Roads and other roaded Forest land and on the west by the Williams Creek, Graves Creek and Blue Sky Creek Roads. Whale Creek, Blue Sky Creek and Williams Creeks are roaded and form deep incisions into this roadless area. Also, old, low standard roads penetrate into the Shorty Creek and Moose Creek drainages. These roads have been closed to public use for many years; hence, this area is considered by some people to be essentially roadless.

The topographical character of the area consists of rugged mountaineous terrain, with several major peaks over 7,000 feet, forested ridges and steep narrow glaciated canyons. Major peaks include: Cleft Rock, Mount Thompson Seton, Mt. Locke, Mt. Lewis, Krinklehorn Peak, Deep Mountain, Mt. Petery, Huntsberger Peak, Mt. Young, Lake Mountain, Whitefish Mountain, Link Mountain, Akinkoka Peak and Nasukoin Mountain. Nasukoin Mountain at 8,086 feet, is the highest peak in the Whitefish Mountain Range. Valley bottoms range as low as 4,200 feet.

Major drainages include: Shorty Creek, Moose Creek, Akinkoka Creek, Cleft Creek, Inuya Creek, Yakinakak Creek, Ninko Creek and Teepee Creek. Much of the area consists of broad ridges between drainages such as Trail, Whale, Red Meadow, Williams, Deep and Blue Sky Creek.

Much of the northern and eastern portion of the area burned in the 1910, 1917, and 1929 fires. The predominant tree species in the burned-over areas are lodgepole pine and larch. Primary ecosystems present include whitebark pine/subalpine fir on the ridgetops, and subalpine fir/bear grass on the southeast to southwest aspects. Timber types vary from whitebark pine at the upper limits to Engelmann spruce at the lower limits. There is considerable volume of commercial timber in this area.

**Thompson-Seton 01483**

This area includes some of the finest grizzly bear habitat in the United States. It contains all the necessary grizzly bear habitat components\* as well as key population centers. Sightings of the gray wolf, an endangered species, has increased during 1983. It is believed that wolves from Canada are becoming established in this area. Biologists believe the North Fork of the Flathead River drainage is the most likely location in the Rocky Mountains for re-establishing a viable gray wolf population.

Other wildlife species present include mule deer, black bear, whitetailed deer, wolverine, the hoary marmot, golden eagle, and the lynx. There is a possibility of occasional use of this area by mountain caribou ranging down from Canada. Efforts are being made to confirm the existence and extent of caribou use through special surveys and observations by work crews and cooperators.

Whale Creek and the Whale Lake area is an important fishery for bull trout. The number of high mountain lakes within the area makes this roadless unit unique from others on the District. There are approximately 15 lakes, including those known as the Chain Lakes. Several lakes in the Mt. Young area provide a good trout fishery.

Scenic attractiveness of the area is very good due to the variety of landscapes within the area and the adjacent scenes into Glacier Park from the Whitefish range. The area is extremely remote and has limited access, which has resulted in light use by recreationists. Present use consists primarily of fall big-game hunting with lesser amounts of day-use trips by hikers and horseback users. A portion of the Whitefish Divide Trail south of Mt. Young has been designated a National Recreational Trail. This trail would terminate at the Meadow Creek Road on the southern boundary of the area. The land around Red Meadow Lake is noted for its scenic value in the fall when the shrub covered slopes around the lake turn color.

**II. CAPABILITY****A. Natural Integrity and Appearance**

This Roadless Area, as it stands, has many intrusions around the edges in the form of existing roads and scars left by old logging roads. Also, there are many visible cutting units, especially in the Shorty Creek Area which has been managed as a roadless area for several years under the current Land Management Unit Plan. Some respondents objected to the inclusion of old roads and cutting units in the roadless inventory. These intrusions do impact the natural integrity of the area; however, it is felt that these impacts can be lessened with time and boundary adjustments. After boundary adjustments, the effect of human activity in the area would be minor and natural integrity judged to be high.

Internal impacts consist of the Mt. Thompson Seton Lookout and approximately 26 miles of low standard trail, but these impacts do not appreciably alter the long-term ecological processes. The appearance of this area has been influenced by natural processes with very little impact by man other than the previously mentioned roads and trails. Visitors to the area would feel that the greater portion maintains a natural appearance.

**B. Opportunities for Solitude**

Thompson-Seton 01483

There are many off-site intrusions in the form of timber harvest and roads penetrating the area. However, opportunities for solitude do exist over the greater portion of this area. The distance from perimeter to core varies from less than 1 mile to approximately 7 miles with good vegetative and topographic screening, and the extensive trail system allows a visitor to get away from the off-site intrusions.

**C. Primitive Recreation Opportunities**

The area has a moderate potential for primitive recreation opportunity. There is evidence of previous logging activities and roads, but this is localized and the majority of the area has not been impacted by man's activities. The diversity of the terrain adds to the visitor's primitive experience. Particularly rugged and challenging terrain is found in the Deep Creek - Mt. Krinklehorn and Mt. Thompson Seton vicinities.

**D. Other Features**

The area is considered to have good scenic value due to the numerous mountain lakes within the area and the panoramic views into Glacier National Park from the ridges.

**E. Manageability and Boundaries**

This area generally contains well-defined boundaries set along topographic features or along roads. The boundaries could be adjusted to exclude the old roads and thus improve the wilderness characteristics. Conversely, inclusion of these intrusions would be undesirable from a manageable boundary standpoint if the area should be managed as wilderness.

Approximately 6,490 acres have been added to the Thompson Seton RARE II inventory in the Mt. Young-Nasakoin area. RARE II did not inventory these areas, because they were already allocated in the North Fork Unit Plan when the inventory was conducted. An additional 10,400 acres were added from the Kootenai Forest Deep Creek area for the same reason, and 3,000 more from updated mapping of contiguous roadless area. A downward adjustment of 700 acres was made after recalculating the area using current data base information. After considering public comments expressing concern or opposition to including some old logging roads and cutting units in the Shorty Creek area, it was decided not to adjust the roadless inventory boundary. The reason for this is that most of the area with intrusions had been allocated and managed as a roadless area by the North Fork Unit Plan and therefore, it should receive evaluation for wilderness management.

### III. AVAILABILITY

#### A. Resource Potentials

The discussion that follows refers to resources present within this roadless area other than the previously discussed wilderness resource. The chart on the previous page summarizes the existing resource potential for this roadless area.

#### Wildlife

This area contains some of the best grizzly bear habitat in the lower 48 states and is considered very important for the recovery of the grizzly bear to a level that would allow this species to be removed from the threatened and endangered list. Recent destruction of many of the pine nut producing whitebark pine trees by the mountain pine beetle and regrowth of timber in the 1910 and 1929 burn areas, are viewed as potentially adverse to future grizzly bear production. Sustained production of essential grizzly habitat components is needed from the area to assure recovery of the grizzly bear from the threatened status.

This area is also considered important for the recovery of the endangered gray wolf.

The headwaters of Blue Sky, Williams, Whale, and Lewis Creek provide habitat for both migratory and resident cutthroat and bull trout and contain spawning habitat. Upper Deep Creek runs through this area and supports cutthroat and brook trout with the lower reaches also having bull and rainbow trout. Also included are the headwaters for Williams and Deep Creek.

#### Minerals

This area is within the Montana Overthrust Belt. The area is rated as having high oil and gas potential. There is continuous seismic investigation in this area. Hardrock mineral potential is considered to be low.

#### Timber

Whitebark pine and alpine larch are long-lived species and are major stand components above 6,000 feet in elevation. In 1978 the lodgepole pine and whitebark pine in the Mt. Thompson Seton Roadless Area began experiencing an epidemic infestation of mountain pine beetle. Between 1978 and 1982 this insect had spread throughout the lodgepole pine and whitebark pine stands resulting in moderate mortality throughout this roadless area. The spruce bark beetle is active in the Kootenai National Forest portions of the area. This mortality results in a buildup of ground fuel and greatly increases the risk of large wildfires.

There are approximately 14,000 acres of potentially suitable timberlands included in the Flathead portion of the area. Most of these stands are on steep slopes and timber management costs are generally high. Little of the Kootenai National Forest portion of the area is suitable for commercial timber management.

MT THOMPSON-SETON ROADLESS AREA

<u>Category</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Flathead</u>	<u>Kootenai</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Flathead</u>	<u>Kootenai</u>
Gross Acres	Acres	52,650	19,100	Wildlife - Big Game			
Net Acres	Acres	52,650	19,100	Summer Habitat	Acres	0	0
				Winter Habitat	Acres	0	0
Recreation				Significant Fisheries			
Primitive	RVD's	0	0	Stream Miles	Miles	13	0
Semiprim. Nonmotor	RVD's	788	403	Stream Habitat	Hab. Ac.	15	0
Semiprim. Motor.	RVD's	324	0	Lakes	No.	8	0
Roaded Natural	RVD's	288	0	Lake Habitat	Hab. Ac.	87	0
Range				Water Developments			
Existing Obligated				Existing	No.	0	0
Suitable	Acres	0	0	Minerals			
Allotments	No.	0	0	Hardrock Potential			
AUM's	AUM's	0	0	Very High	Acres	0	0
Existing Vacant				High	Acres	0	0
Suitable	Acres	0	0	Moderate	Acres	0	0
Allotments	No.	0	0	Low	Acres	52,650	19,100
AUM's	AUM's	0	0	Mining Claims	No.	0	0
Proposed				Oil & Gas Potential			
Suitable	Acres	0	0	Very High	Acres	0	0
AUM's	AUM's	0	0	High	Acres	52,650	19,100
Timber				Moderate	Acres	0	0
Tentative Suitable	Acres	14,290	4,700	Low	Acres	0	0
Standing Volume	MBF	96,028	30,000	Oil & Gas Leases			
Corridors				Leases No.		15	2
Exist. & Potential	No.	1	1	Leased Area	Acres	27,727	2,000
Wildlife - T&E							
Grizzly Bear Habitat							
Situation 1	Acres	52,650	19,100				
Situation 2	Acres	0	0				
Situation 3	Acres	0	0				
Gray Wolf							
Habitat	Acres	52,650	19,100				

C-327A

### Recreation

Recreation uses include hunting and fishing, with some use from snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, camping, hiking and horseback use along the numerous trails. The relatively small amount of current recreational use the area receives is attributed to the fact that an abundance of high quality wilderness opportunities exist in the Forest zone of influence along with the fact that the Thompson Seton area is not well known in population centers. Current use is primarily from local residents.

### Land Use Authorizations

There are no private inholdings or special uses within this area. There is no potential for domestic grazing.

### **B. Management Considerations**

The area as inventoried presents moderate probability for successful wilderness management. Probability of successful management would be increased if the area were merged with the Tuchuck and Mt. Hefty areas to the north, to form a more manageable wilderness unit. Merged or managed separately, moderate risks would be involved in containing the natural forces of fire or insect and disease outbreaks within the areas.

The area offers outstanding grizzly research opportunities.

High costs and low probability of success is anticipated for future grizzly habitat management needs if use of mechanized equipment for prescribed burning or other vegetative treatment is foregone under wilderness management.

## **IV. NEED**

### **A. Proximity to Designated Wildernesses and to Population Centers.**

Refer to Table C-1 for Wilderness proximity data. In addition to the National Forest Wilderness and Roadless areas listed in the table, the Thompson Seton area is located just a few miles west of the 1,000,000 acre Glacier National Park. A large part of Glacier Park is currently being studied for wilderness classification.

Additional roadless and wilderness areas are available in Provincial Parks and Forest lands within 100 miles in Canada.

### **B. Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System.**

The vegetative habitat types, plant species, most animal species, and geologic types known to exist in this area are well represented in existing wilderness areas. The area has national significance due to its potential contribution to grizzly bear/gray wolf recovery.

**C. Public Interests**

Thompson-Seton 01483

Past public involvement for the 1979 RARE II study showed that half of those responding supported nonwilderness management. The final RARE II allocation was nonwilderness.

Intensity of public opinion conflict in this area has been increased since the RARE II process due to the continued emergence of national issues such as potential oil and gas resources and grizzly bear habitat.

The September 1983 public involvement on the current roadless inventory on the Thompson Seton area, showed that more than half of those responding favored nonwilderness management. The three "North End" roadless areas, Thompson Seton, Tuchuck, and Mt. Hefty received similar support. The Young-Nasakoin area and the Kootenai Deep Creek areas had lower levels of expressed interest for wilderness than the Thompson Seton portion inventoried in RARE II. The expressed demand for timber harvest in the "North End" roadless areas is second highest among all Flathead roadless areas.

Public input in 1983 has also shown that local environmental groups have strong feelings about the wilderness potential of this area. Their concerns are linked to the protection of the grizzly bear and other wildlife species. They believe the best way to protect the bear would be through wilderness classification of the area. Timber and oil and gas interests have strong feelings that properly controlled industrial activities can be conducted in the area without adverse effects on the bear and if properly planned, long-term benefits to bear habitat productivity could be provided.

**V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES****A. Management Prescription Assignment by Alternative**

A breakdown of the land allocations for the Thompson Seton Roadless Area is displayed in Table C-2 of this Appendix for all 16 Draft Forest Plan Alternatives. The roadless area would be managed differently under the various alternatives in order to contribute appropriately to meeting the Forest objectives in each case. The allocations are summarized below by management emphasis.

ALTERNATIVE ALLOCATION BY MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS

Management Emphasis*	Alternatives (Acres) 1/							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless	19,505 (15,100)	49,320 (14,100)	57,160 (17,100)	30,082 (14,100)	66,600 (17,100)	40,320 (2,100)	19,920 (19,100)	26,715 (14,000)
Minimum Level	0	2,834	0	26,280	950	0	0	0
Wildlife	48,245	0	0	0	0	40	30,350	41,154 (5,000)
Timber W/Roads	4,000 (4,000)	18,881 (5,000)	11,719 (2,000)	15,353 (5,000)	4,200 (2,000)	31,390 (17,000)	21,480	2,599 (100)
Timber W/O Roads	0	715	2,871	35	0	0	0	1,282
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,750 (19,100)</b>							

Summary of Management Emphases

Decade

ROADED	1	700	3,920	1,600	600	500	6,620	4,240	2,250
	5	12,461	22,430	14,590	15,353	5,150	31,430	21,480	8,856
ROADLESS	1	71,050	67,838	70,150	71,150	71,250	65,130	67,510	69,500
	5	84,211	49,320	57,160	55,797	66,600	40,320	50,270	62,894
WILDERNESS	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Includes the Kootenai National Forest acres allocated under a similar alternative as the Flathead National Forest Alternative. Acres in ( ) are Kootenai National Forest portion.

The following chart displays the comparison between Flathead National Forest and Kootenai National Forest alternatives.

Flathead National Forest  
Alternative(s)

Kootenai National Forest  
Alternative(s)

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7 CD  
8  
9  
10  
11 PA  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16

A  
A  
A  
A  
A  
A  
M  
I  
A  
H  
G  
J  
A  
A  
G  
H  
H

\* Mineral resource development is subject to the General Mining Law, Mineral Leasing Laws and related laws and regulations. See Section V, Part B, of this roadless area writeup for further discussion.

ALTERNATIVE ALLOCATION BY MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS

Management Emphasis\*

Alternatives (Acres) 1/

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Wilderness	71,750 (19,100)	28,000 (5,700)	0	0	0	28,000 (5,700)	71,750 (19,100)	71,750 (19,100)
Roadless	0	38,620 (11,400)	29,715 (17,000)	26,715 (14,000)	26,715 (14,000)	24,777 (13,000)	0	0
Minimum Level	0	930	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wildlife	0	0	36,754 (600)	41,154 (5,000)	41,154 (5,000)	16,374 (300)	0	0
Timber W/Roads	0	4,200 (2,000)	3,999 (1,500)	2,599 (100)	2,599 (100)	2,599 (100)	0	0
Timber W/O Roads	0	0	1,282	1,282	1,282	745	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,750</b> <b>(19,100)</b>							

Summary of Management Emphases

		<u>Decade</u>							
ROADED	1	0	500	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,140	0	0
	5	0	4,200	8,715	9,514	9,514	5,299	0	0
ROADLESS	1	0	43,250	69,775	69,775	69,775	70,610	0	0
	5	0	39,550	63,035	62,236	62,236	38,451	0	0
WILDERNESS	1	71,750	28,000	0	0	0	28,000	71,750	71,750
	5	71,750	28,000	0	0	0	28,000	71,750	71,750

1/ Includes the Kootenai National Forest acres allocated under a similar alternative as the Flathead National Forest Alternative. Acres in ( ) are Kootenai National Forest portion.

The following chart displays the comparison between Flathead National Forest and Kootenai National Forest alternatives.

Flathead National Forest  
Alternative(s)

Kootenai National Forest  
Alternative(s)

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7 CD  
8  
9  
10  
11 PA  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16

A  
A  
A  
A  
A  
N  
I  
A  
H  
G  
J  
A  
A  
G  
H  
H

\* Mineral resource development is subject to the General Mining Law, Mineral Leasing Laws and related laws and regulations. See Section V, Part B, of this roadless area writeup for further discussion.

## B. Impacts

Thompson-Seton 01483

1. Designation: Wilderness  
Management Emphasis: Wilderness

The entire Thompson Seton Roadless Area is allocated to wilderness under Alternatives 9, 15 and 16. Alternatives 10 and 14 recommend for wilderness only the northern portion of the area.

Wilderness allocation will preserve or enhance wilderness attributes. Current uses which may not conform with wilderness management include oil and gas leasing. Of the 71,750 acres, 29,727 acres have been leased. No timber harvest would be permitted, and 18,990 acres available for timber production would be forgone.

Wilderness allocation would offer not only protection for the wilderness attributes of the area but would also provide additional security for grizzly bear.

Highlighting of the area on National maps could result in more recreational pressure. Also, the option for treating vegetation for grizzly habitat component objectives through the use of natural or planned ignitions in a wilderness environment while protecting adjacent nonwilderness resources would be expensive.

Current contracts for oil and gas leases, special uses, or grazing would probably be permitted to run their course with emphasis on contract administration to protect wilderness attributes. Oil and gas exploration and development costs would be increased. Exploration activities in the nonleased portion of the area would be prohibited.

The nonpriced components are affected as follows:

- Visual quality would be preserved.
- National Wilderness Preservation System lands will increase.
- Grizzly bear, elk, and other wildlife species would have increased security.
- Diversity would tend towards climax vegetation but could be maintained near current levels if successful fire management programs were implemented.
- Water quality and fisheries quality would be maintained at natural levels.
- Local employment and income would decrease due to a reduced timber base and nonwilderness recreational opportunities.
- Nonpriced spiritual, scientific, and esthetic values would be fully preserved.
- All nonpriced benefits of wilderness such as spiritual values, natural appearance, gene pool and other scientific values would be provided.

The potential economic benefits of wilderness classification for this area are judged to be small due to the abundance of high quality wilderness on the Forest along with the low recreational carrying capacity of the area especially in light of grizzly bear habitat needs.

2. Designation: Nonwilderness  
Management Emphasis: Roadless

Thompson-Seton 01483

Alternatives 1 through 8, 10 and 14, allocate from 1 percent of the roadless area in Alternative 7, to 93 percent in Alternative 5 to roadless management. There are no roadless allocations made in alternatives 9, 15 and 16 because the total area is allocated to wilderness. Under Alternatives 11, 12, and 13, a large portion of this roadless area would be managed as part of the Trail Creek Grizzly Bear Management Area (Refer to Chapter II, Page II-25, Alternative 11 Proposed Action, Resource Objectives Flathead National Forest Draft EIS).

The effects of the roadless allocation is to maintain the roadless resource by establishing a management objective of keeping the area roadless. Other resources are managed subject to the primary roadless objective. Wilderness attributes may be affected to different degrees depending on the recreation or wildlife habitat objectives of local areas. Modification of natural systems to accommodate multiple-use objectives is most noticeable when trails, campsites, or other recreation facilities are constructed and maintained.

Vegetation management practices for wildlife habitat or other purposes may involve prescribed burning. Motorized equipment, such as chainsaws, helicopters, motorbikes, and snowmobiles, are often used to facilitate cost efficient management or maintenance activities or as part of the recreation opportunities. Although these activities or uses affect wilderness attributes at the time of implementation, they are short-term effects and the wilderness attributes could be easily reclaimed by eliminating the use and allowing vegetation to regrow.

The nonpriced components are affected as follows:

- Visual quality will be retained.
- Semiprimitive motorized and nonmotorized and primitive recreation opportunities will be maintained.
- Grizzly bear and other wildlife security will be maintained.
- Diversity will be maintained at current or higher levels.
- Water quality and fisheries will be maintained or improved.
- Employment and income from woods products will not be provided.
- Many nonpriced benefits of wilderness such as spiritual values, natural appearance, gene pool and other scientific values would be provided.

The roadless resource could be impacted by exploration and development of mineral resources. This resource development is subject to the General Mining Law, Mineral Leasing Laws and related laws and regulations. The Bureau of Land Management is the final authority for Federal mineral management. The probability of roading and development in this area is remote. If such development is proposed and implemented, it would be integrated into surface resource management to the extent that is reasonable. The most probable mineral development in this area is oil and gas. Oil and gas activity is highly speculative and seldom proceeds beyond preliminary exploration or exploratory drilling. The probability of occurrence sharply diminishes with each step.

Thompson-Seton 01483

Although these activities would be mitigated to be consistent with roadless management objectives, some of the nonpriced components would be affected in the field development stage as follows:

- Existing visual conditions may be temporarily lowered.
- Introduction of roads and exploration activities adversely affect the quality of the recreation setting.
- Wildlife security would be reduced and temporary displacement from normal seasonal ranges may occur.
- Employment and income from the oil and gas resource would be provided.

3. **Designation: Nonwilderness**  
**Management Emphasis: Minimum Level**

Minimum management is allocated on areas which are not needed to meet objectives of alternatives. Alternatives 2, 4, 5 and 10 allocate from 1 to 37 percent of the area to minimum management.

The effect of this prescription is to "do nothing" except to maintain existing improvements and resources. In Alternative 4 which allocates a large contiguous area to this prescription, no developments would occur due to surface resources. Alternatives 2, 5, and 10 allocate small areas which are not contiguous. The management direction may provide for roads to cross these areas to support management objectives of adjacent management units. The geographic configurations of the allocations in each alternative in relation to adjacent management units determine the effects minimum management may have on wilderness attributes. The small isolated areas allocated to minimum management do not need to be managed in order to achieve the objectives of each alternative. Alternative 4 allocates substantial roadless areas to this prescription to minimize costs and maximize revenues. These areas are the lands between the suitable timberlands and the ridgetop recreation trails.

The nonpriced components are affected as follows:

- Visual quality will be retained.
- Semiprimitive motorized and nonmotorized and primitive recreation opportunities will be available but not by management design.
- Grizzly bear and other wildlife species will have security maintained.
- Diversity would tend toward climax species.
- Water quality and fisheries would not be affected by management activities.
- Minimum contribution to employment and income would result as there will be no commodity outputs and only incidental recreation use.
- Many nonpriced wilderness benefits may be provided by this management prescription since only minimum cost care taking activities, such as fire protection, would affect the land.

4. Designation: Nonwilderness  
Management Emphasis: Wildlife

Thompson-Seton 01483

This management emphasis includes those areas allocated to grizzly bear management and riparian/wildlife. Alternatives 2 through 5, 9, 10, 15 and 16 do not allocate any acreage under these management prescriptions. The remaining 8 alternatives allocate from less than 1 percent in Alternative 6 to 67 percent in Alternative 1. Under this management emphasis, commodity outputs or recreational use of the land is subordinate to managing the natural ecosystems for wildlife habitat. Development and manipulation of vegetation may be required to achieve the habitat objectives. If such treatments involve commercial timber stands, timber harvest volume may be a byproduct of achieving or maintaining habitat objectives. The timber harvest is scheduled if the project treatments of local habitats involve enough commercial timber stands that regular periodic harvest volume can be predicted.

These prescriptions affect wilderness attributes differently than those where timber management and economics require development and a relatively high level of human activities. Due to wildlife security and cover requirements, these prescriptions require a high degree of constraint on human activities. The result is some reduction in wilderness attributes compared to wilderness and roadless management amenities, but less than management prescriptions with timber harvest and roading as firm objectives.

The nonpriced components are affected as follows:

- Visual quality will be appropriate to the local area as determined for individual management areas. The most common will provide modification.
- A high level of semiprimitive recreation is provided.
- Grizzly bear and other wildlife species will have a high level of security.
- Diversity and nongame species habitat would be provided.
- Water quality and fisheries habitat will be maintained or improved.
- The prescriptions will provide some support of woods products jobs and a high level of support to recreation industry employment and income due to the role of wildlife in providing a recreation resource base.

Alternative 1 would maximize protection and management for grizzly bear habitat over most of the area. This management would permit activities which would maintain or improve grizzly bear habitat over the long term based on complete habitat component mapping and analysis. No development would occur in the higher elevation alpine ridges and basins thus, the roadless resource would be preserved for approximately 75 percent of the area. Due to the grizzly habitat emphasis, recreational use in areas such as the Chain Lakes area would not be encouraged. Future recreational use will be limited if conflicts with bear management are identified. Development in the suitable timberland area would proceed very slowly under grizzly emphasis.

## Thompson-Seton 01483

Projections estimate timber would be harvested very slowly and rotations would be 180 years or more. This management is anticipated to offset a likely decline in future bear habitat productivity due to natural processes of timber regrowth, declining huckleberry production on old burn areas and mountain pine beetle mortality in mature pine nut producing whitebark pine stands. The area at high elevations would continue to appear natural even though vegetative patterns may be considerably influenced by man. Where bear habitat needs require conversion of merchantable timber stands, modification of the land, through conventional roading and logging, is anticipated. Opportunities for solitude would likely remain very good under grizzly management due to the year-long road closures when they are not being used for habitat management purposes and the low level of activities.

Under the Proposed Action (Alternative 11) and also under Alternatives 12 and 13, the Flathead National Forest proposes to manage a portion of the Glacier View District as the Trail Creek Grizzly Bear Management Area. This would include a large portion of the Thompson Seton Roadless Area, and would provide an opportunity for research while providing a high level of security for not only the grizzly bear, but other wildlife species as well.

Oil and gas activity may occur even though it is not allocated. Effects from this activity would be the same as discussed under the Roadless Management Prescription.

5. **Designation: Nonwilderness**  
**Management Emphasis: Timber with Roads**

Alternatives 1 through 8 and 10 through 14 allocate from 3 to 44 percent of the total roadless area to roaded timber management. The consequences of these allocations are a loss of wilderness attributes at the time of implementation of timber harvest or support activities requiring roads. The roadless resource and wilderness attributes of natural integrity, natural appearance, opportunity for solitude, and primitive recreation are foregone when these management prescriptions are implemented.

The nonpriced components are affected as follows:

- Visual quality will be modification or maximum modification where man's activities will dominate the landscape.
- Semiprimitive nonmotorized and wilderness recreation attributes would be foregone within 50 years.
- Elk security and big game hunting opportunities would be reduced but mitigated in travel plans depending on local needs.
- Diversity would be optimized and nongame wildlife would be maintained.
- Water quality and fisheries would be adversely affected but mitigated according to local needs.
- Grizzly bear and gray wolf habitat would be suboptimal but mitigated according to local needs.
- Local economic stability would be provided by supporting the highest level of woods products industry jobs.

Thompson-Seton 01483

These prescriptions provide for a wide range of multiple-use benefits both priced and nonpriced. The flow of these benefits in place of roadless and wilderness attributes depends on the specific location and timing of implementation of timber management practices.

Alternative 6 would have the most immediate effects on the roadless resource by accessing the most acres for timber management in Decade 1. Under the preferred alternative the only areas accessed for timber harvest in Decade 1 are east of Nasukoin Mountain in the lower elevations of the Flathead National Forest portion. The Kootenai National Forest's preferred alternative allocated to timber management in Decade 1 approximately 600 acres in the Graves Creek area and another smaller portion in the Deep Creek area.

**6. Designation: Nonwilderness  
Management Emphasis: Timber Without Roads**

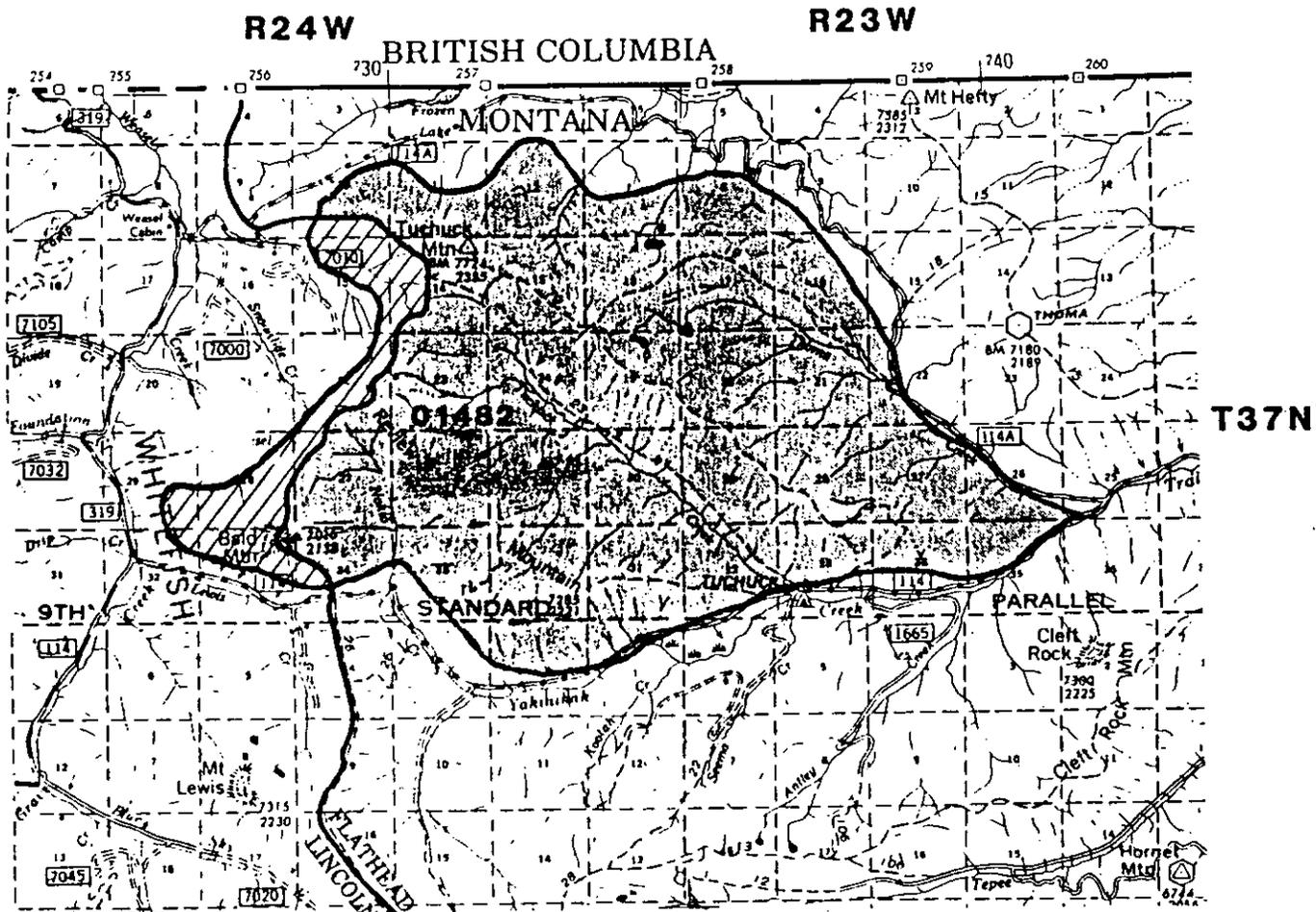
Alternatives 2 through 4, 8, and 11 through 14 allocate from less than 1 percent of the roadless area in Alternative 4 to 4 percent in Alternative 3 towards roadless timber management.

These are areas with commercial timber potential on steep, rugged terrain mostly within 1 mile of a road. Logging would employ aerial yarding systems, and no roads would be constructed. Implementation would impact the vegetation and would not reach long distances into roadless areas. Since the land itself would not be changed, wilderness attributes could be easily reclaimed after implementation by vegetative regrowth. Implementation would proceed slowly for all alternatives allocating these prescriptions. Only a few acres would be affected in Decades 1 and 2. Most allocated areas would have harvesting by Decade 5 when economic efficiency of the prescription are projected to be best. The prescription would not make significant changes in economic or social effects until Decade 4, when implementation is projected to increase. The first decade timber harvest scheduled under this prescription could be relocated to other areas without affected objectives or outputs of the alternative.

The nonpriced components are affected as follows:

- Visual quality objectives appropriate to local areas will be part of project design with modification the most common VQO.
- Semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation would be provided with wilderness attributes retained or recoverable after implementation.
- Elk and grizzly security would be maintained.
- Diversity of plant and animal communities would be maintained or improved in the long term.
- Water quality and fisheries would not be affected.
- Support of local employment and income would be less than timber roaded due to the lower intensity of timber management.

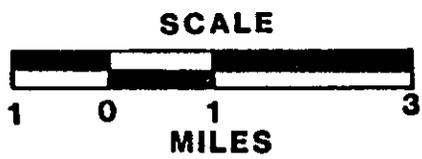
Oil and gas activity would be limited to seismic surveys, because all slopes in this management prescription are greater than 60 percent. All areas leased contain a no-surface occupancy stipulation.



# TUCHUCK 01482 ROADLESS AREA



-  ROADLESS AREA ON FNF
-  ROADLESS AREA ON KNF



**FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST AND KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST**

TUCHUCK 01482 (RARE II No. 01482)

<u>Total Gross Acres:</u>	19,820	<u>Total Net Acres:</u>	19,820
Flathead National Forest	17,520	Flathead National Forest	17,520
Kootenai National Forest	2,300	Kootenai National Forest	2,300

**I. DESCRIPTION**

Tuchuck Roadless Area is located in the north end of the Flathead National Forest, 3 miles south of the Canadian border. It is one of seven roadless areas located in what is often referred to as the "North Fork". The North Fork region lies adjacent to Glacier National Park and is bordered by the North Fork of the Flathead River on the east and the Whitefish Mountain Range or Divide on the west.

The Flathead National Forest is the lead Forest for this Roadless Area Evaluation. The Kootenai National Forest portion lies within Lincoln County, and the Flathead National Forest portion is in Flathead County. The Whitefish Divide forms the Flathead - Lincoln County boundary as well as the Flathead - Kootenai National Forest boundaries.

This area borders timber harvest land on the north. The Thoma - Frozen Lake Road on the east, Trail Creek Road on the south, and the Kootenai National Forest on the west. The site is accessed by the North Fork Road from Columbia Falls and by Graves Creek Road from the west.

The area varies from 4,800 feet to 7,751 feet in elevation. Tuchuck Mountain (7,724 feet) and Review Mountain (7,286 feet) are the two highest peaks. Topography consists of typical steep, narrow alpine glaciated canyons with glacial cirque headwalls, glacial trough walls, high elevation slab rock, and glacial tills.

The site is drained primarily by Tuchuck and Thoma Creeks. There are six small lakes in the northern portion of the area, but only one is known to support a fish population.

This roadless area has some of the most important grizzly bear habitat on the Flathead Forest. During 1983, the gray wolf activity increased significantly south of the Canadian/Montana border. All the necessary habitat components for grizzly bear and gray wolf are represented. Biologists believe the North Fork of the Flathead River drainage is the most likely location in the Rocky Mountains for re-establishing a viable gray wolf population. The area is also used as summer range by a herd of approximately 50 head of elk. Other wildlife species present include mule deer, black bear, whitetail deer, wolverine, the hoary marmot, golden eagle, and the lynx.

Most of the area burned in the 1910, 1917, and 1929 fires. The predominant tree species in the burned over area is lodgepole pine, western larch, Douglas-fir, Engelmann spruce, and subalpine fir. Alpine fir, alpine larch, and whitebark pine exist at elevations over 6,000 feet, but the overall timber productivity of this area is low.

Tuchuck 01482

Within the Tuchuck drainage, 1,592 acres has been proposed for designation as a research natural area because of the unique geology and vegetative community.

The area is extremely remote and has limited access which has resulted in light use by recreationists. Use occurs mostly during the big game hunting season with minor amounts of day trips by hikers and horseback users.

## II. CAPABILITY

### A. Natural Integrity and Appearance

There are very few impacts affecting the natural integrity of this area. Those impacts present include approximately 20 miles of low standard trail. Generally, the appearance of this area has been influenced by natural processes with very little impact by man.

### B. Opportunities for Solitude

There are only a few off-site impacts, mostly in the form of timber harvests and roads. Topographic and vegetative screening is generally very good. The Tuchuck area is far from any local geographic centers and there is little chance of meeting other people within the area.

### C. Primitive Recreation Opportunities

Because the Tuchuck Roadless Area is relatively small (approximately 5 miles across) the area is considered to have a low potential for primitive recreation; however, topographic and vegetative screening is considered to be very good. Also included in this area are several limestone caves providing exploration opportunities.

### D. Other Features

No endangered or threatened plant species have been identified; however, there is supposition that some areas may contain rare plant species.

Special geological features include limestone caves and several sinkholes evident in the Thoma Creek drainage.

The adjacent Trail Creek drainage was used as a major tribal route by the Kootenai Indians in their travels to and from the eastern plains on hunting expeditions.

### E. Manageability and Boundaries

There are no necessary boundary changes to be made within the Flathead National Forest portion of this area. The boundary in the Kootenai National Forest is reasonably well-defined, although it lacks strong topographic features. A portion of the boundary is located along a weakly defined edge of development (logged spruce bays) which create boundary management difficulties.

### III. AVAILABILITY

#### A. Resource Potentials

The discussion that follows refers to resources present within this Roadless Area other than the previously discussed wilderness resource. The chart on the previous page summarizes the existing resources of this roadless area.

##### Wildlife

This area contains some of the best grizzly bear habitat in the lower 48 states and is considered very important for the recovery of the grizzly bear to a level that would allow this species to be removed from the threatened and endangered list. Recent destruction of many of the pine nut producing whitebark pine trees by the mountain pine beetle and regrowth of timber in the 1910 and 1929 burn areas, are viewed as potentially adverse to future grizzly bear production. Sustained production of essential grizzly habitat components is needed from the area to assure recovery of the grizzly bear from the threatened status.

This area is also considered important for the recovery of the endangered gray wolf.

Trail Creek (Yakinikak) and its tributaries below the mouth of Thoma Creek are closed to fishing due to spawning bull trout. Native cutthroat trout inhabit Tuchuck Creek and Upper Trail Creek. The streams within the Kootenai National Forest portion may not support habitat for fish, however, they are the headwaters to Weasel Creek, a cutthroat stream. Water quality and food organisms from these tributaries influence downstream fisheries. Weasel Lake supports cutthroat and bull trout.

##### Minerals

This area is within the Montana Overthrust Belt. The area is rated as having high oil and gas potential. There is continuous seismic investigation in this area. Hardrock mineral potential is considered to be low.

##### Timber

Whitebark pine and alpine larch are long-lived species and are major stand components above 6,000 feet in elevation. In 1978 the lodgepole pine and whitebark pine in the Tuchuck roadless area experienced an infestation of mountain pine beetle. Between 1978 and 1982, this insect has spread throughout the overmature lodgepole pine and whitebark pine stands, resulting in moderate mortality throughout this roadless area. Tuchuck is adjacent to Canada, where they have also experienced infestations of mountain pine beetle and spruce bark beetle. Extensive salvage logging of both lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce is presently occurring on the Canadian side of the border.

There are approximately 5,400 acres of potentially suitable timberlands included in the Flathead portion of the area. Most of these stands are on steep slopes and timber management costs are generally high. There are 2,000 acres of the Kootenai National Forest portion suitable for commercial timber management.

TUCHUCK ROADLESS AREA (01482)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Flathead</u>	<u>Kootenai</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Flathead</u>	<u>Kootenai</u>
Gross Acres	Acres	17,520	2,300	Wildlife - Big Game			
Net Acres	Acres	17,520	2,300	Summer Habitat	Acres	0	0
				Winter Habitat	Acres	0	0
Recreation				Significant Fisheries			
Primitive	RVD's	260	26	Stream Miles	Miles	4	0
Semiprim. Nonmotor	RVD's	0	0	Stream Habitat	Hab. Ac.	0.5	0
Semiprim. Motor.	RVD's	90	20	Lakes	No.	0	0
Roaded Natural	RVD's	0	0	Lake Habitat	Hab. Ac.	0	0
Range				Water Developments			
Existing Obligated				Existing	No.	0	0
Suitable	Acres	0	0	Minerals			
Allotments	No.	0	0	Hardrock Potential			
AUM's	AUM's	0	0	Very High	Acres	0	0
Existing Vacant				High	Acres	0	0
Suitable	Acres	0	0	Moderate	Acres	0	0
Allotments	No.	0	0	Low	Acres	17,520	2,300
AUM's	AUM's	0	0	Mining Claims	No.	0	0
Proposed				Oil & Gas Potential			
Suitable	Acres	0	0	Very High	Acres	0	0
AUM's	AUM's	0	0	High	Acres	17,520	2,300
Timber				Moderate	Acres	0	0
Tentative Suitable	Acres	5,442	2,000	Low	Acres	0	0
Standing Volume	MBF	22,978	8,445	Oil & Gas Leases			
Corridors				Leases No.		0	1
Exist. & Potential	No.	0	0	Leased Area	Acres	0	1,000
Wildlife - T&E							
Grizzly Bear Habitat							
Situation 1	Acres	17,520	2,300				
Situation 2	Acres	0	0				
Situation 3	Acres	0	0				
Gray Wolf Habitat	Acres	17,520	2,300				

**Recreation**

Tuchuck 01482

Recreation uses include primarily hunting and fishing, with some use from snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, camping, hiking and horseback use along the trails.

**Land Use Authorizations**

There are no private inholdings or special uses within the interior of this area. There is no potential for domestic grazing.

**B. Management Considerations**

The area as inventoried presents moderate probability of success of wilderness management. Probability of successful management would be increased if the area were merged with the Thompson-Seton area to the south and Mt. Hefty area to the northeast, to form a more manageable wilderness unit. Merged or managed separately, moderate risks would be involved in containing natural forces of fire or insect and disease outbreaks within the areas.

The area offers outstanding grizzly bear research opportunities.

High costs and low probability of success is anticipated for future grizzly habitat management needs if use of mechanized equipment for prescribed burning or other vegetative treatment is foregone under wilderness management.

**IV. NEED****A. Proximity to designated Wildernesses and to Population Centers**

Refer to Table C-1, Parts A and B for proximity data. In addition to the National Forest Wilderness and Roadless areas listed in the table, the Tuchuck area is located just a few miles west of the 1,000,000 acre Glacier National Park. A large part of Glacier Park is currently being studied for Wilderness classification. Additional roadless and wilderness areas are available in Provincial Parks and Forest lands within 100 miles in Canada. The relatively small amount of current recreational use the area receives is attributed to the fact that an abundance of high quality wilderness opportunities exist in the Forest zone of influence along with the fact that the Tuchuck area is not well known in population centers. Current use is primarily from local residents.

**B. Contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System.**

There are few vegetative habitat types, plant or animal species, or geologic types known to exist in this area that are not currently represented in existing wilderness areas; however, a portion of this roadless area has been proposed as a Research Natural Area due to its unique topography. The area has national significance due to its potential contribution to grizzly bear/gray wolf recovery.

## C. Public Interests

Tuchuck 01482

Local environmental groups have strong feelings about the wilderness potential of this area. Their concerns are linked to the protection of the grizzly bear. They believe the best way to protect the bear would be through wilderness classification of the area.

The timber and oil and gas interests also have strong feelings that properly controlled industrial activities can be conducted in the area without adverse effects on the bear and if properly planned, long-term benefits to bear habitat productivity could be provided.

Intensity of public opinion conflict in this area has been increased since the RARE II inventory due to the continued emergence of the national significance of potential oil and gas resources and grizzly bear habitat.

Past public involvement for the 1979 RARE II study showed that a large percentage of those responding supported nonwilderness management. The final RARE II allocation was nonwilderness.

The September 1983, public involvement on the current roadless inventory on the Tuchuck area, showed that more than half of those responding favored nonwilderness management. The three "North End" roadless areas, Thompson-Seton, Tuchuck, and Mt. Hefty received similar supports. The expressed demand for timber harvest in the "North End" roadless areas is second highest among all Flathead roadless areas.

V. ALTERNATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

## A. Management Prescription Assignment by Alternative

A breakdown of the land allocations for the Tuchuck Roadless Area is displayed in the following Table of this Appendix for all 16 Draft Forest Plan Alternatives. The roadless area would be managed differently in the various alternatives in order to contribute appropriately to meeting Forest objectives in each case. The allocations are summarized on next page by management emphasis.

ALTERNATIVE ALLOCATION BY MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS

Management Emphasis\*

Alternatives (Acres) 1/

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless	0	14,503	17,418 (2,300)	14,860	19,820 (2,300)	10,970 (300)	4,170 (2,300)	0
Minimum Level	1,800 (1,800)	182	0	968	0	0	0	0
Wildlife	17,520	0	0	0	0	0	0	17,520
Timber W/Roads	500 (500)	5,135 (2,300)	2,402	3,992 (2,300)	0	8,850 (2,000)	15,650	2,300 (2,300)
Timber W/O Roads	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,820 (2,300)</b>							

Summary of Management Emphases

	<u>Decade</u>								
ROADED	1	0	740	0	0	0	1,040	480	0
	5	2,720	5,317	2,402	4,420	0	8,850	4,481	2,720
ROADLESS	1	19,820	18,540	19,820	19,820	19,820	18,740	19,340	19,820
	5	17,099	13,963	16,878	14,860	19,820	10,970	15,399	17,100
WILDERNESS	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Includes the Kootenai National Forest acres allocated under a similar alternative as the Flathead National Forest Alternative. Acres in ( ) are Kootenai National Forest portion.

The following chart displays the comparison between Flathead National Forest and Kootenai National Forest alternatives.

Flathead National Forest Alternative(s)	Kootenai National Forest Alternative(s)
1	A
2	A
3	A
4	A
5	A
6	M
7 CD	I
8	A
9	H
10	G
11 PA	J
12	A
13	A
14	G
15	H
16	H

\* Mineral resource development is subject to the General Mining Law, Mineral Leasing Laws and related laws and regulations. See Section V, Part B, of this roadless area writeup for further discussion.

ALTERNATIVE ALLOCATION BY MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS

Management Emphasis*	Alternatives (Acres) 1/							
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Wilderness	19,820 (2,300)	19,820 (2,300)	0	0	0	19,820 (2,300)	19,820 (2,300)	19,820 (2,300)
Roadless	0	0	2,300 (2,300)	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Level	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wildlife	0	0	17,520	17,520	17,520	0	0	0
Timber W/Roads	0	0	0	2,300 (2,300)	2,300 (2,300)	0	0	0
Timber W/O Roads	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	19,820 (2,300)	19,820 (2,300)	19,820 (2,300)	19,820 (2,300)	19,820 (2,300)	19,820 (2,300)	19,820 (2,300)	19,820 (2,300)

Summary of Management Emphases

		Decade							
ROADED	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5	0	0	2,720	2,720	2,720	0	0	0
ROADLESS	1	0	0	19,820	19,820	19,820	0	0	0
	5	0	0	17,100	17,100	17,100	0	0	0
WILDERNESS	1	19,820	19,820	0	0	0	19,820	19,820	19,820
	5	19,820	19,820	0	0	0	19,820	19,820	19,820

1/ Includes the Kootenai National Forest acres allocated under a similar alternative as the Flathead National Forest Alternative. Acres in ( ) are Kootenai National Forest portion.

The following chart displays the comparison between Flathead National Forest and Kootenai National Forest alternatives.

Flathead National Forest  
Alternative(s)

Kootenai National Forest  
Alternative(s)

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7 CD  
8  
9  
10  
11 PA  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16

A  
A  
A  
A  
A  
M  
I  
A  
H  
G  
J  
A  
A  
G  
H  
H

\* Mineral resource development is subject to the General Mining Law, Mineral Leasing Laws and related laws and regulations. See Section V, Part B, of this roadless area writeup for further discussion.

**B. Impacts**

Tuchuck 01482

**1. Designation: Wilderness  
Management Emphasis: Wilderness**

The entire Tuchuck Roadless Area is allocated to wilderness under Alternatives 9, 10, 14, 15 and 16.

Wilderness allocation will preserve or enhance wilderness attributes. Current uses involving motorized recreation, trail maintenance, wildlife habitat improvement, and other uses or facilities not compatible with wilderness management would be eliminated. No timber harvest would be permitted, and 7,442 acres (total, both Forests) available for timber production would be foregone.

Wilderness allocation would offer not only protection for the wilderness attributes of the area but would also provide additional security for grizzly bear.

Highlighting of the area on National maps could result in more recreational pressure. Also, the option for treating vegetation for grizzly habitat component objectives through the use of natural or planned ignitions in a wilderness environment while protecting adjacent nonwilderness resources would be expensive.

Current contracts for oil and gas leases, special uses, or grazing would probably be permitted to run their course with emphasis on contract administration to protect wilderness attributes. Oil and gas exploration and development costs will be increased. Exploration activities in the nonleased portion of the area would be prohibited.

The nonpriced components are affected as follows:

- Visual quality would be preserved.
- National Wilderness Preservation System lands will increase.
- Grizzly bear, elk, and other wildlife species would have increased security.
- Diversity would tend towards climax vegetation but could be maintained near current levels if successful fire management programs were implemented.
- Water quality and fisheries quality would be maintained at natural levels.
- Local employment and income would decrease due to a reduced timber base and nonwilderness recreational opportunities.
- All nonpriced benefits of wilderness such as spiritual values, gene pool, and other scientific values and natural appearance will be provided.

The potential economic benefits of wilderness classification for this area are judged to be small due to the abundance of high quality wilderness within the Forest along with the low recreational carrying capacity of the area, especially in light of grizzly bear habitat needs.

2. Designation: Nonwilderness  
 Management Emphasis: Roadless

Tuchuck 01482

Alternatives 1 through 8 and 11 through 13 allocate from 12 percent to 100 percent of the area to roadless management. There are no roadless allocations made in alternatives 9, 10, 14, 15 and 16 because the total area is allocated to wilderness. Under Alternatives 11, 12 and 13, all of this roadless area would be managed as part of the Trail Creek Grizzly Bear Management Area (Refer to Chapter II, Page II-25 , Alternative 11 Proposed Action, Resource Objectives).

The effect of the roadless allocation is to maintain the roadless resource by establishing a management objective of keeping the area roadless. Other resources are managed subject to the primary roadless objective. Wilderness attributes may be affected to different degrees depending on the recreation or wildlife habitat objectives of local areas. Modification of natural systems to accomodate multiple-use objectives is most noticeable when trails, campsites, or other recreation facilities are constructed and maintained.

Vegetation management practices for wildlife habitat or other purposes may involve prescribed burning. Motorized equipment, such as chainsaws, helicopters, motorbikes, and snowmobiles, are often used to facilitate cost efficient management or maintenance activities or as part of the recreation opportunities. Although these activities or uses affect wilderness attributes at the time of implementation, they are short-term effects and the wilderness attributes could be easily reclaimed by eliminating the use and allowing vegetation to regrow.

The nonpriced components are affected as follows:

- Visual quality will be retained.
- Semiprimitive motorized and nonmotorized and primitive recreation opportunities will be maintained.
- Grizzly bear and other wildlife security will be maintained.
- Diversity will be maintained at current or higher levels.
- Water quality and fisheries will be maintained or improved.
- Employment and income from wood products will not be provided.
- Many nonpriced benefits of wilderness such as spiritual values, natural appearance, gene pool and other scientific values would be provided.

The roadless resource could be impacted by exploration and development of mineral resources. This resource development is subject to the General Mining Law, Mineral Leasing Laws and related laws and regulations. The Bureau of Land Management is the final authority for Federal mineral management. The probability of roading and development in this area is remote. If such development is proposed and implemented, it would be integrated into surface resource management to the extent that is reasonable. The most probable mineral development in this area is oil and gas. Oil and gas activity is highly speculative and seldom proceeds beyond preliminary exploration or exploratory drilling. The probability of occurrence sharply diminishes with each step.

Tuchuck 01482

Although these activities would be mitigated to be consistent with roadless management objectives, some of the nonpriced components would be affected in the field development stage as follows:

- Existing visual conditions may be temporarily lowered.
- Introduction of roads and exploration activities adversely affect the quality of the recreation setting.
- Wildlife security would be reduced and temporary displacement from normal seasonal ranges may occur.
- Employment and income from the oil and gas resources would be provided.

**3. Designation: Nonwilderness  
Management Emphasis: Minimum Level**

Minimum management is allocated on areas which are not needed to meet objectives of alternatives. Alternatives 2 and 4 allocate from 1 to 5 percent of the area to minimum management.

The effect of this prescription is to "do nothing" except to maintain existing improvements and resources. Alternatives 2 and 4 allocate small areas which are not contiguous. The management direction may provide for roads to cross these areas to support management objectives of adjacent management units. The geographic configurations of the allocations in each alternative in relation to adjacent management units determine the effects minimum management may have on wilderness attributes. The small isolated areas allocated to minimum management are not needed to be managed in order to achieve the objectives of each alternative.

The nonpriced benefits are affected as follows:

- Visual quality will be retained.
- Semiprimitive motorized and nonmotorized and primitive recreation opportunities will be available but not by management design.
- Grizzly bear and other wildlife species will have security maintained.
- Diversity would tend toward climax species.
- Water quality and fisheries would not be affected by management activities.
- Minimum contribution to employment and income would result as there will be no commodity outputs and only incidental recreation use.
- Many nonpriced wilderness benefits may still be provided by this management prescription since only minimum cost care taking activities, such as fire protection, would affect the land.

4. Designation: Nonwilderness  
 Management Emphasis: Wildlife

Tuchuck 01482

This management emphasis includes those areas allocated to grizzly bear management and riparian wildlife. Alternatives 2 through 7, 9, 10, 14, 15 and 16 do not allocate any acreage under these management prescriptions. The remaining 5 alternatives allocate all of the Flathead National Forest portion to wildlife management. Under this management emphasis, commodity outputs or recreational use of the land is subordinate to managing the natural ecosystems for wildlife habitat. Development and manipulation of vegetation may be required to achieve the habitat objectives. If such treatments involve commercial timber stands, timber harvest volume may be a byproduct of achieving or maintaining habitat objectives. The timber harvest is scheduled if the project treatments of local habitats involve enough commercial timber stands that regular periodic harvest volume can be predicted.

These prescriptions affect wilderness attributes differently than those where timber management and economics require development and a relatively high level of human activities. Due to wildlife security and cover requirements, these prescriptions require a high degree of constraints on human activities result in some reductions in wilderness attributes, compared to wilderness and roadless management amenities than management prescriptions with timber harvest and roading as firm objectives.

The nonpriced benefits are affected as follows:

- Visual quality will be appropriate to the local area as determined for individual management areas. The most common will provide modification.
- A high level of semiprimitive recreation is provided.
- Grizzly bear and other wildlife species will have a high level of security.
- Diversity and nongame species habitat would be provided.
- Water quality and fisheries habitat will be maintained or improved.
- The prescriptions will provide some support of woods products jobs and a high level of support to recreation industry employment and income due to the role of wildlife in providing a recreation resource base.

Alternatives that allocate 100 percent of the roadless area to wildlife management would maximize protection and management for grizzly bear habitat over the entire area. This management would permit activities which would maintain or improve grizzly bear habitat over the long term based on complete habitat component mapping and analysis. No development would occur in the higher elevation alpine ridges and basins, thus the roadless resource would be preserved for approximately 75 percent of the area. Due to the grizzly habitat emphasis, recreational use would not be encouraged. Future recreational use will be limited if conflicts with bear management are identified. Development in the suitable timberland area would proceed very slowly under grizzly emphasis. Projections estimate timber would be harvested very slowly and rotations would be 180 years or more. This management is anticipated to offset a likely decline in future bear habitat productivity due to natural processes of timber regrowth, declining huckleberry production on old burn areas, and mountain pine beetle mortality in mature pine nut producing whitebark pine stands.

## Tuchuck 01482

The appearance of the area at high elevations would continue to appear natural even though vegetative patterns may be considerably influenced by man. Where bear habitat needs require conversion of merchantable timber stands, modification of the land through conventional roading and logging is anticipated. Opportunities for solitude would likely remain very good under grizzly management due to the year-long road closures, when the roads are not being used for habitat management purposes, and the low level of activity within the area.

Under the Proposed Action (Alternative 11) and also under Alternatives 12 and 13, the Flathead National Forest proposes to manage a portion of the Glacier View District as the Trail Creek Grizzly Bear Management Area. This would include all of the Tuchuck Roadless Area, and would provide an opportunity for research while providing a high level of security for the grizzly bear.

Oil and gas activity may occur even though it is not allocated. Effects from this activity would be the same as discussed under the Roadless Management Prescription.

5. **Designation: Nonwilderness**  
**Management Emphasis: Timber with Roads**

Alternatives 2 through 4, 6, and 7 allocate from 12 to 79 percent of the total roadless area to roaded timber management. The consequences of these allocations is a loss of wilderness attributes at the time of implementation of timber harvest or support activities requiring roads. The roadless resource and wilderness attributes of natural integrity, natural appearance, opportunity for solitude, and primitive recreation are foregone when these management prescriptions are implemented.

The nonpriced benefits affected are as follows:

- Visual quality will be modification or maximum modification where man's activities will dominate the landscape.
- Semiprimitive nonmotorized and wilderness recreation attributes would be foregone within 50 years.
- Elk security and big game hunting opportunities would be reduced but mitigated in travel plans depending on local needs.
- Diversity would be optimized and nongame wildlife would be maintained.
- Water quality and fisheries would be adversely affected but mitigated according to local needs.
- Grizzly bear and gray wolf habitat would be suboptimal but mitigated according to local needs.
- Local economic stability would be provided by supporting the highest level of woods products industry jobs.

These prescriptions provide for a wide range of multiple-use benefits both priced and nonpriced. The flow of these benefits in place of roadless and wilderness attributes depends on the specific location and timing of implementation of timber management practices.

Alternatives 6 and 7 would have the most immediate effects on the roadless resource by accessing the most acres for timber management in Decade 1.

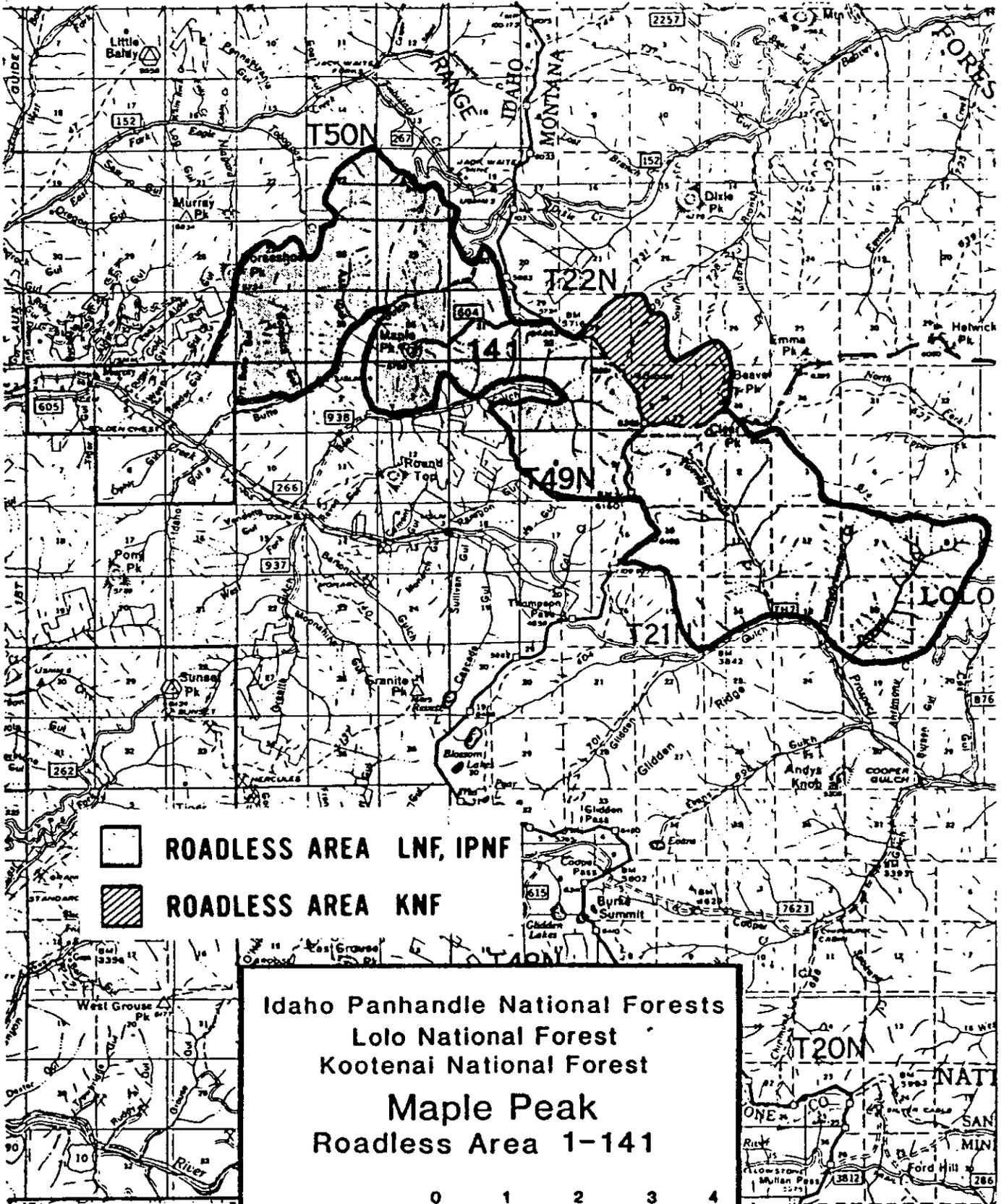
Shared Roadless Areas With Other Forest Lead

Three roadless areas on which other Forests have the lead responsibility, are not included in this appendix. They are Maple Peak, #01141 - 17,000 acres total (Idaho Panhandle), Cube-Iron, #01784 - 38,000 acres total (Lolo), and LeBeau, #01507 - 6200 acres total (Flathead). The Kootenai's share of these areas is small and the designations proposed by the alternatives are not considered to significantly effect the resource. Detailed descriptions of the areas and the proposed action can be found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statements for the Flathead National Forest (LeBeau), the Lolo National Forest (Cube-Iron), and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (Maple Peak). These documents can be obtained by requesting a copy from the Kootenai National Forest or the respective forest. The designations for the areas on the Kootenai are:

Maple Peak (1,400 acres) - designated to roadless management in all alternatives except H where the designation is proposed wilderness. Vicinity map is displayed on page C-353.

Cube-Iron (1,200 acres) - designated to roadless management in all alternatives except H where the designation is proposed wilderness. Vicinity map is displayed on page C-354.

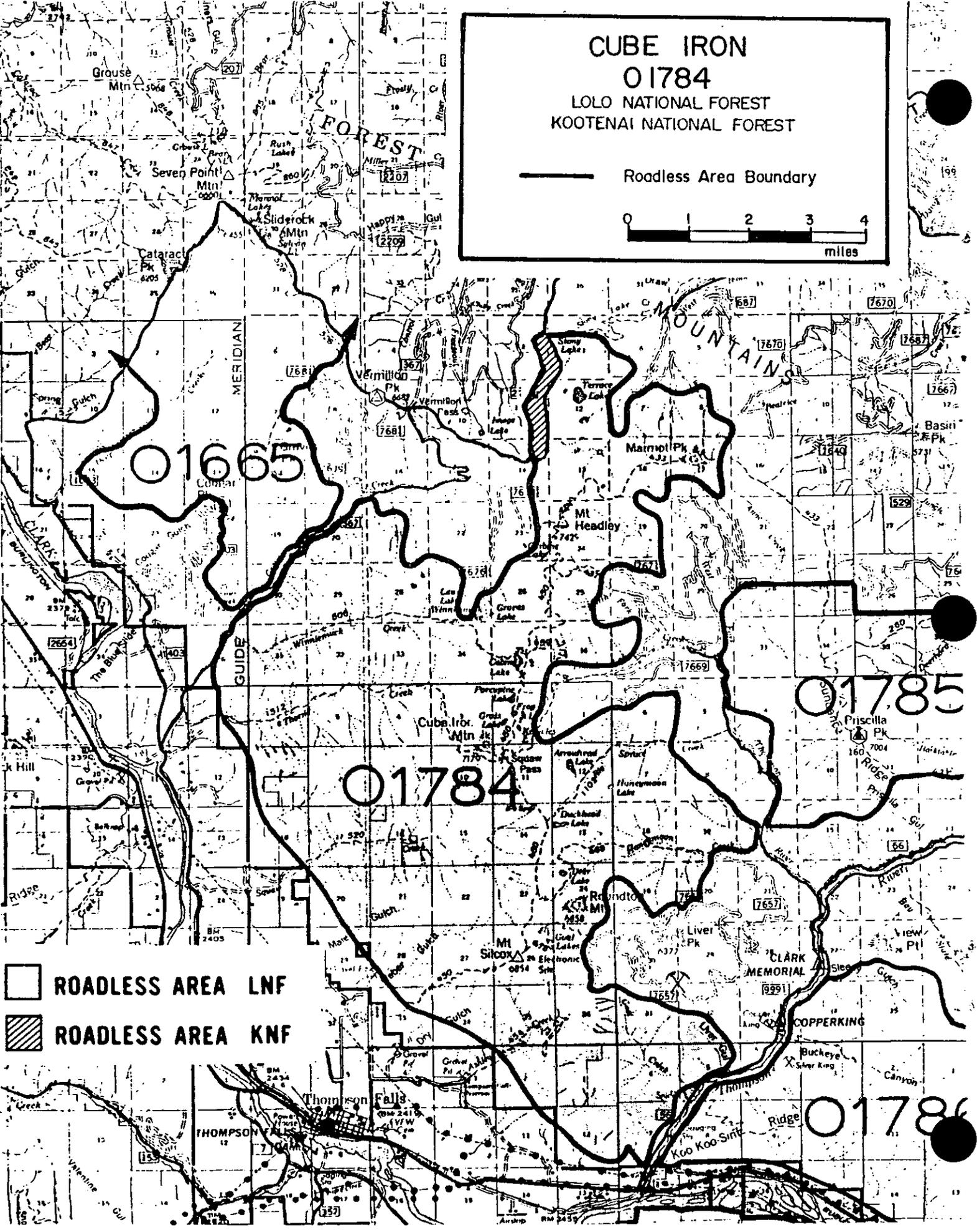
LeBeau (700 acres) - designated for developmental activities in all alternatives except H where the designation is proposed wilderness, and Alternatives I, J, and K where the designation is nonmotorized recreation. Vicinity map is displayed on page C-355.



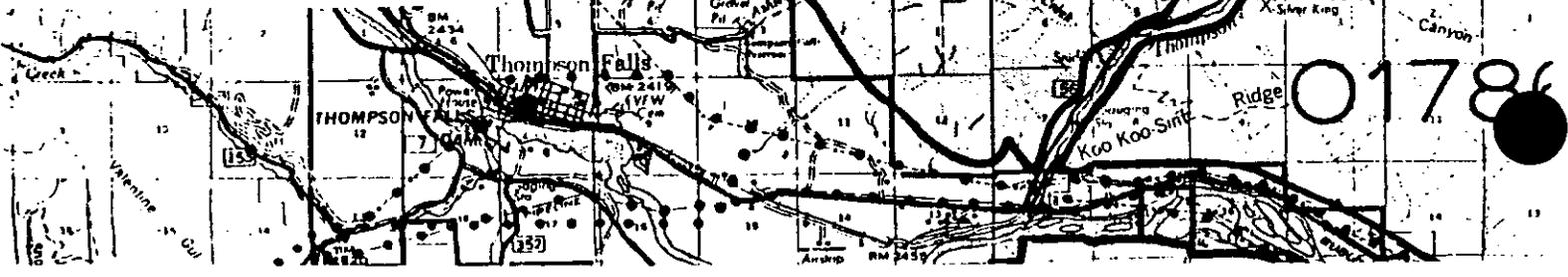
# CUBE IRON 01784

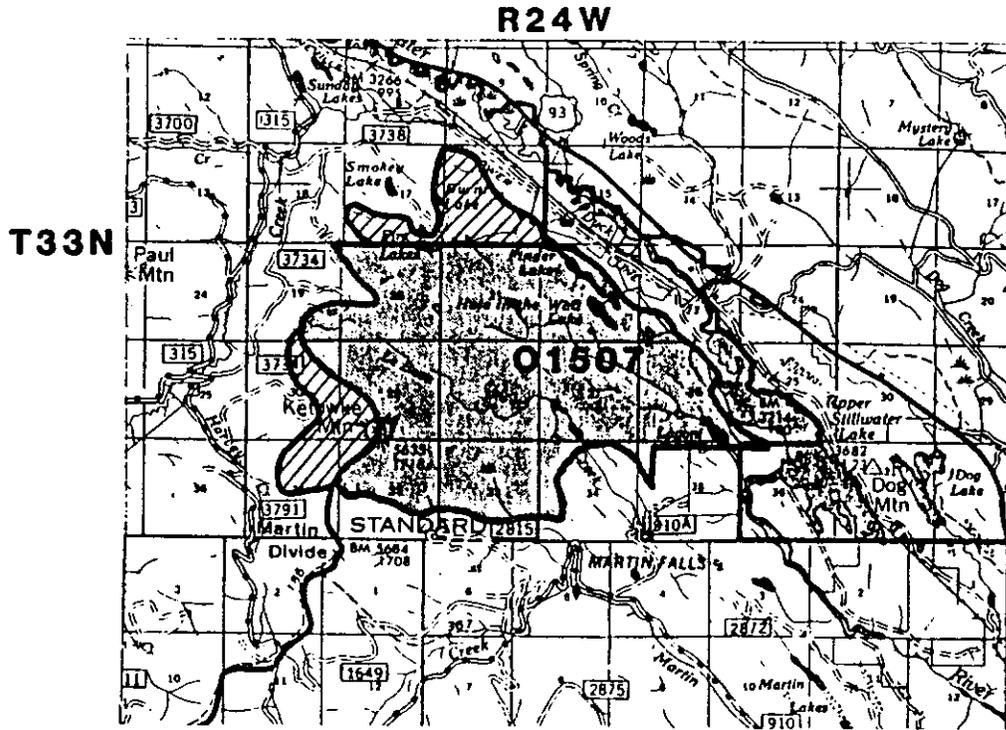
LOLO NATIONAL FOREST  
KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

— Roadless Area Boundary



-  ROADLESS AREA LNF
-  ROADLESS AREA KNF





# LEBEAU 01507 ROADLESS AREA

 ROADLESS AREA FNF

 ROADLESS AREA KNF

