

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #1 - Council Mountain Unit - Council District

Area Location and Characteristics:

T. 16N., R 1 and 2 E.

The Council Mountain roadless area is located on the Council District of the Payette National Forest in the eastern part of Adams County, Idaho, containing approximately 11,000 acres.

General Description:

This area is the top of one mountain, for which it is named, drained on all sides by the Weiser River and its tributaries. Most of the area is in the crest multiple-use zone. There is a proposed winter sports area on the east facing slopes and a proposed recreation site near the Deseret Cabin.

There is one mining claim located in Section 18, T 16 N., R. 1E.

There is a small herd of elk in this area, which is heavily hunted. The deer population is fair. Wildlife and domestic animals graze over the entire area.

General geology varies from steep bench cirque headlands on top of the mountain to rocky glacial scoured and dissected mountain slope lands around the lower sections. Soils range from shallow to deep loamy skeletal soils. All aspects are present with slopes ranging from 10 to 80 percent. Watershed values are important in this unit and must be given full consideration in development plans.

Timber:

The majority of this area is non-commercial timber type and there are no plans to put the area under timber harvest management. Small fingers of commercial timber penetrate the edges of the area and will be considered in future harvest plans.

Range:

This area is part of the Council Mountain Cattle Allotment. The range is in poor to fair condition. Cattle make good use of the many open parks found here. The area would be an important part of any grazing system set up on the rest of the allotment.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #2 - Hells Canyon Seven Devils Scenic Area Unit-  
Council District

Area Location and Characteristics:

T. 20, 21, and 22 N., R. 2, 3, and 4 W.

This portion of the Hells Canyon Seven Devils Scenic Area is on the Council District of the Payette National Forest in the northern part of Adams County, Idaho. Other parts of the area are in the Nezperce National Forest, Idaho to the north and in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest to the west in Oregon. The area contains approximately 54,000 acres on the Council District portion.

General Description:

The area is very rugged river breaks of the deepest river gorge in North America. A paved road follows the bottom of the canyon for 17 miles from the Scenic Area boundary near Homestead, Oregon to the Hells Canyon Dam at the mouth of Deep Creek. The Kleinschmidt grade leaves Snake River near the southern boundary of the Scenic Area and climbs out onto a ridge above the canyon to end at Sheep Rock above the Hells Canyon Dam. Another road goes into the Scenic Area about seven miles from Smith Mountain to Black Lake. The latter two roads are unimproved dirt roads with yearly maintenance by the Forest Service. Low grade trails are the only other means of access into the area.

Elevation differences are 8957 at Monument Peak north of Black Lake to 1464 feet at Brush Creek at the north Payette Forest boundary.

The southern end of the Scenic Area is practically covered by mining claims. Claims decrease in number toward the north, the Red Ledge Mine in Deep Creek being the main one in the northern portion.

The lower river breaks are important winter range for deer, not many elk have been seen. The Idaho Fish and Game Department plans to release mountain sheep in the north end of the area in 1973 or 1974.

Land characteristics vary considerably throughout the area and so does the erodability. Slopes range from 40% to 90% on the rocky ridges. Careful evaluation of these characteristics will be needed in any proposed development of the area.

Timber:

Timber resource within the area is generally of minor commercial importance with very little timber found below 4,000 feet elevation. The timber in the area is mostly along stream bottoms and on north facing slopes. The aesthetic and watershed values are high. No timber sales are planned at the present time and it is doubtful if any will be planned in the near future.

Range:

Grazing by domestic livestock is steadily diminishing in the area. The erosive characteristics of the soil and the need to graze small bands of sheep, to protect the soil, are making it uneconomical to graze.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #3 - Patrick Butte-Lava Ridge Unit-  
New Meadows District

Location and Characteristics

This 58,000 acre unroaded area lies northeast of New Meadows. It is bordered by State, BLM, and private lands on the north and west; intensively managed Payette National Forest land on the south; and Little French Creek roadless unit on the east. This area is characterized by high peaks (7 over 8,000 ft.) and rocky ridgelines dotted with 45 high mountain lakes (many of which are situated in cirque basins) and interspersed with deeply incised tributaries of the Salmon and Little Salmon Rivers. The area is relatively unique in that it is a transition zone between the Columbia River basalts and the Idaho Batholith granitics. Spectacular contrasts in geology create outstanding scenery.

Existing and Potential Resource Uses

Timber:

Little of the area is classed as containing merchantable timber. Because of the problems concerning the soil and hydrology of the area, conventional logging methods and their road systems cannot be considered to harvest this timber.

Range:

The entire area is included within boundaries of established grazing allotments. Most of the area is grazed by sheep, but parts of two cattle allotments are involved. Some overgrazing exists. Winter and transitory range for big game exists at the lower elevations.

Wildlife:

The area supports a large variety of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians. Big game animals include mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, bear, and bighorn sheep (rare). Habitat exists for mountain goats and moose but none are present. The Canadian lynx and pine martin, classed as "unique" by the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fishery and Wildlife, occur in the area. Bald eagles, also classed as "unique", are inhabitants. Anadromous fish present are steelhead trout and chinook salmon. Resident trout fisheries occur in many of the lakes and streams.

Watershed:

All drainages of the area yield high water volumes. Maintenance of water quality is extremely important in all drainages because of domestic water supply, anadromous and resident fisheries, irrigation, and/or livestock and wildlife water supply.

Recreation:

Recreation use is primarily during the summer and fall. The activities are primarily backpacking, fishing, horse riding, hunting, sight seeing, and trail machine riding. The area is readily accessible on all sides by

peripheral roads and trails. Present internal trail systems, with higher standards needed in some areas, appear to be adequate to serve the area. The area offers unique geologic, scenic, mountain lake concentration, wildlife variety, roadless qualities, and ease of access from all sides.

Minerals:

There is no known mining activity in the area at present. There has been some in the past.

Other:

Two sections of State of Idaho land are located within the area. They are sections 16 and 36, T 23N., R2E, Boise Meridian.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #14 - Black Tip Unit - McCall District

Location: T. 21N., R. 3E., B.M., Idaho

The Black Tip area is on the Payette Forest, west central Idaho, in Valley County. It is Crest Zone, isolated by its rugged qualities with limited trail access, lying between Fisher Creek to the west, French Creek divide to the north and North Fork Payette River to the east. Glacial scoured lands north of Granite Lake mark the south boundary.

Acreage: 6,000 acres, all National Forest land.

General Description:

Except for narrow stringers of valley train or meadow lands, it is characterized as alpine type, or Upper Forest Zone. Land forms are primarily rocky to very rocky glacial scoured lands, rocky ridge lands and scoured cirque basin lands. Except for fringe areas around 6500 foot elevation most lands range from 7000 to 8000 feet. Several unnamed peaks exceed 8300 feet above sea level.

Precipitation mostly as deep snow packs, November to May or June, produces heavy run-off primarily in May and June.

Elk and deer summer in the area and provide hunting during fall until snow and weather move them to wintering areas.

Commercial quality timber of mixed species, primarily Engelmann Spruce-sub alpine fir, is found mostly in isolated bottom stringers or small basins.

Two isolated small lakes are the primary fishing attraction although several minor streams provide trout fishing.

Water production, wildlife, recreation and grazing are primary anticipated uses for the area.

Permitted domestic sheep graze the more open range between early July and early October.

There has been extensive prospecting in this unit but there are no known commercial mineral deposits or active mines.

Summary Analysis-Unroaded Area #5 - Payette Lakes Unit - McCall District

Location: T. 19N., T.20N., T.21N., R. 4 E., B.M., Idaho.

The unit is a long, relatively narrow band of highly glaciated lands lying in west central Idaho in Valley County, Idaho. These lands lie between Northfork of Lakefork drainage to the east and south, Twenty-mile - Trail Creek drainage divide with the South Fork of the Salmon River divide along the north and east borders. The westerly boundary is at the beginning of crest type lands east of the North Fork Payette River.

Acreage: 29,000 acres, National Forest lands including two sections (1280 acres) of State of Idaho Land.

General Description:

The rugged area becomes abruptly remote with many jumping off points for hikers or horseback riders. Good to primitive trails traverse the area and provide access to many of the 19 fishing lakes. Hiking distance is no more than 6 miles to the most remote lake. Excellent fly fishing is available on the many small creeks within this zone.

The area is essentially above 6500 feet elevation while the main divide averages above 8000 feet. Storm Peak, the highest point in the area, is 9,040 feet above sea level. Lands are characterized by a high percentage of glacial scoured lands with isolated stringers of valley train, meadows and small basins.

The area is alpine or upper forest zone. Commercially classed timber types are mostly isolated in rocky basins, or stringers of moraine or valley train lands.

Deep snow packs, persisting from November until May or June, have water yield comparable to any area of the region.

Portions of five sheep allotments are within the area, with grazing on more open areas from July until September.

Elk and deer browse the area as summer range, staying until snows and adverse weather move them out.

Big game summer ranges, scenic qualities, mountain lake and stream fishing, high quality and quantity water production, recreation, and grazing are the greatest assets of the area.

There has been extensive prospecting in this unit, but there are no known commercial mineral deposits or active mines.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #6 - Lakefork-Kennally Unit - McCall District

Location: T. 17N., R. 4 and 5E.; T. 18N., R. 4 and 5E.; T.19N., R. 4 and 5E.;  
T.20N., R.4E.

The area is bordered to the west by North Fork of Lakefork Creek water and travel influence zone on the north end, and to the east by the divide with the South Fork of the Salmon River. The east boundary continues south along the divide between the Southfork of the Salmon River and Lakefork-Boulder, Rapid and Kennally Creeks. Boundary to the south is the Goldfork drainage east of South Fork of Kennally Creek. West boundary is the Crest Zone line extending across the upper reaches of the Kennally-Powelson-Rapid Creek drainages and westward to include the upper reaches of Rapid Creek. The west boundary continues along Crest Zone line to include upper slopes of Jughandle Mountain, Louie Lake-Boulder Lake, Boulder Mountain and the Shaw Twin Lakes to the base of the mountains south of Lakefork Creek, excluding the lower Lakefork drainage around the water influence zone boundaries.

Acreage:

36,000 acres National Forest land and enclosing three State of Idaho sections and a portion of a fourth, approximately 2000 acres.

General Description:

The area is characterized by spectacular peaks, "U" shaped glaciated valleys, cirque basins, and steep mountain slopes. Most of these lands are classified as Crest Zone. It has remained roadless as a reflection of the high costs of road access to reach isolated areas containing relatively small volumes of timber with little chance of regaining construction investment. The narrow stringers of valley train land or meadow are subject to intensive and concentrated surface run-off. Average yield of run-off for Lakefork drainage is 40.72 inches of water per acre. Approximately 85% of this run-off occurs in a 90 day period mid-April to July, which is probably representative of this unit. Snow slides are common on steeper, open slopes in many of the drainages.

Recreation centers around fishing, hiking and hunting. A good to primitive network of trails provide access at least to the vicinity of 19 fishing lakes. Six additional lakes have potential for development as trout fisheries. Most of the main creeks within the unit afford good trout fishing although trout are not large.

Big game, including deer and elk, make extensive use of the area except during winter. A few mountain goat summer along the North Fork Payette-South Fork Salmon River divide. An occasional moose may be seen each year.

The area is mostly above 6500 feet elevation, with primary ridges and the divide common to the South Fork of the Salmon River averaging near 8000 feet. Nick Peak, the highest, and one of the more spectacular peaks is 9,041 feet above sea level.

The area is highly complimentary to the recreational growth of McCall.

Domestic sheep from 4 grazing allotments graze over much of the open or brushy areas from early July to September.

Primary anticipated uses are water production, recreation, fishing, hunting and grazing.

There has been extensive prospecting in this unit but there are no known commercial mineral deposits or active mines.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #7 - Lick Creek North Unit - Krassel District

Location: T. 20N., R4E and 5E.

The area is north of Forest Highway #48. Major drainages involved are Lick Creek and North Fork of Lick Creek.

Acreage: Approximately 13,000 acres, all National Forest.

General Description: All of the unit is in strongly glaciated lands. It contains some spectacular alpine and sub-alpine scenery.

Resources

Range: The Lick Creek sheep and goat allotment is included within this unit. Current use is usually 1500 dry's for one month.

Timber: The unit is not suited for timber growth. A few stands of spruce, Alpine fir, and lodgepole pine are largely uneconomical for harvest.

Recreation: The area contains numerous fishing lakes and country of high scenic value. Popularity of this area for back packing is increasing rapidly.

Minerals: There are no known deposits of valuable minerals on the area. No active mining claims are present.

Wildlife: The area furnishes summer habitat for big game. A small herd of mountain goats also inhabits the area.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #8 - Split Creek Unit - Krassel District

Location: T. 21N., R5E; and 20 N., R. 5E.

The major drainage is Split Creek.

Acreage: Approximately 6,000 acres, all National Forest.

General Description: The area contains a stringer of geologically stable land with low erosion hazards. Hillsides on the lower portion are steep and considered unstable.

Resources

Range: The area was grazed by sheep in past years. There are no allotments present today and the area is not considered suitable for this use.

Timber: The area contains a good stand of merchantable white fir, ponderosa pine, and douglas fir. Land types involved do not preclude road building or timber harvest activity using acceptable methods.

Recreation: There are no unique recreational features within the area, and use is limited to big game hunting.

Wildlife: The area furnishes summer habitat for big game animals.

Minerals: There are no known deposits of valuable minerals on the area. Active mining claims are not present.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #9 - Lick Creek South Unit - Krassel District

Location: The area extends south from Forest Highway #48 to The Boise National Forest boundary.

Acreege: Approximately 49,000 acres.

General Description: The area has been strongly glaciated. It contains some spectacular alpine and sub-alpine scenery including numerous mountain peaks.

Resources

Range: Lick Creek sheep and goat allotment covers the Cly Creek and Tsum Creek drainages. Use is in conjunction with Lick Creek North allotment and is currently 1500 dry ewes on an alternating year basis. The remainder of this unit has been grazed in the past, but is not suited for this use.

Timber: The unit is not suited for timber growth. A few stands of spruce, Alpine fir, lodgepole pine, and Douglas fir are largely uneconomical for harvest.

Recreation: The area contains numerous fishing lakes and country of high scenic value. Popularity of this area for off road recreation is increasing rapidly.

Wildlife: The area furnishes summer habitat for big game. A small herd of mountain goats inhabit the unit.

Minerals: There are no known deposits of valuable minerals on the area. No active mining claims are present.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #10 - Six Mile Ridge Unit - Krassel District

Location: T. 19N., R. 6E.

The area is bordered on the east by South Fork Salmon River and on the west by the North Fork of Buckhorn Creek.

Acreage: Approximately 10,000 acres all National Forest.

General Description: The area is extremely steep with most slopes exceeding 50%. It is considered geologically unstable with high erosion hazards.

Resources

Range: The area was grazed by sheep in past years. There are no allotments present today and it is not considered suitable for this use.

Timber: The area contains merchantable stands of white fir, ponderosa pine, and douglas fir. Due to problems of access, harvest would have to involve roadless logging methods.

Recreation: Recreational use is limited to big game hunting. This use is restricted due to lack of access. There are no unique recreational values involved.

Wildlife: The area furnishes some key winter habitat for big game animals.

Watershed: Land types involved include most of the unstable types defined. Due to erosion hazards, the primary value is watershed conditions to maintain an adequate aquatic environment in the South Fork.

Minerals: There are no known deposits of valuable minerals on the area. There are no active mining operations on the area.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #11 - White Rock Unit - Krassel District

Location: T. 17N., R6E and T. 18N, R 6E.

The area is west of the South Fork Salmon River and includes the lower portions of Blackmare and Cougar Creek drainages.

Acreage: Approximately 13,000 acres, all National Forest land.

General Description: The area is extremely steep with most slopes averaging over 50%. It is considered one of the most geologically unstable areas on The South Fork Salmon River drainage. Soils are characteristically very shallow and of granitic origin. Land types involved exhibit severe hazards for road building.

Resources

Range: The area was grazed by sheep in past years; but no allotments exist today. The area is not suited for this use.

Timber: The unit contains merchantable stands of white fir, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, and spruce. Due to problems of access, harvest would have to involve roadless logging methods.

Recreation: Recreational use of this area is almost non-existent. Steepness and lack of fishable water or unique scenic values restricts use.

Wildlife: The area provides summer habitat at higher elevations and some winter habitat at lower elevations.

Watershed: In view of the amount of highly unstable land types, a primary value is watershed to maintain an adequate aquatic environment in the South Fork Salmon River.

Minerals: There are no known deposits of valuable minerals on the area. No active mining claims are present.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #12 - Indian Ridge Unit - Krassel District

Location: T. 17N., R7E; T. 18N., R7E; T. 19N., R6E.

The area is bordered on the east and south by The Boise National Forest. Principal drainages involved are Fourmile Creek and Caton Creek.

Acreage: Approximately 36,000 acres, all National Forest land.

General Description: The area is generally very steep with many slopes exceeding 50%. Land types at lower elevations are considered very unstable. Road development opportunities are characterized by high development costs with low development values involved.

Resources

Range: The area was grazed by sheep in past years; but no allotments exist today. The area is not considered suitable for this use.

Timber: The unit contains merchantable stands of white fir, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and lodgepole pine. Due to problems of access, harvest would have to involve roadless logging methods.

Recreation: Caton Lake is included in this unit and provides excellent fishing. Remoteness and steep topography limits recreational use. Lack of access restricts big game hunting to persons with horses or to those who hire the outfitter operating in this area.

Wildlife: The area furnishes both winter and summer habitat for big game animals. Lower elevations are considered important wintering areas.

Watershed: The large amount of highly unstable land types makes watershed a primary value. Any activity must consider watershed values and the need to maintain an adequate aquatic environment in The South Fork Salmon River.

Minerals: There are no known deposits of valuable minerals on the area. Active mining claims are not present.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #13 - Eagle Rock Unit - Krassel District

Location: T. 18N., R 7E; T. 18N., R 6E.

The principal drainage involved is Camp Creek.

Acreage: Approximately 8,000 acres, all National Forest.

General Description: The area is considered moderately high in productivity with moderate to moderately high erosion hazards. The area immediately west was roaded and logged starting in 1948. All roads in this adjoining area have been subsequently closed for watershed purposes.

Resources

Range: The area was grazed by sheep in past years, but no allotments exist today. The area is not considered suitable for this use.

Timber: The unit contains merchantable stands of white fir, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and lodgepole pine. Construction of special service roads designed to fit the fragile land could allow harvest of this resource.

Wildlife: Lower elevations furnish important winter habitat for big game.

Recreation: Recreational use is restricted to big game hunters with horses. Due to remoteness and topography, little recreational use occurs. There are no unique recreational values.

Watershed: Land types involved are moderate to moderately high in erosion hazard. Maintenance of proper watershed conditions is important as the aquatic habitat of South Fork Salmon River is involved.

Minerals: There are no known deposits of valuable minerals on the area. Active mining claims are not present.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #14 - Parks Peak to Blue Lake Unit -  
Kraschel District

Location: T. 21N., R 6E.; T. 20N., R 6E.; T. 20N., R 7E; T. 19N., R 7E.

The area is east of the Secesh River and North of Forest Highway #48.

Acreage: Approximately 61,000 acres.

General Description: Much of the area is extremely steep with slopes averaging over 50%. Some of the higher elevations contain land types which are considered geologically stable, however, these areas are surrounded by land types considered very unstable. A considerable acreage has been burned over by three large fires - Sheep Creek, Circle End and Fritzer Creek.

Resources

Range: The area was previously grazed by both sheep and cattle, but no allotments exist today. The area is generally not considered suitable for this use.

Timber: The area contains merchantable stands of white fir, ponderosa pine, and Douglas fir. Road development opportunities are not considered feasible under current conditions. Utilization of this resource would have to involve roadless methods.

Recreation: The South Fork Salmon River flows through a narrow gorge dissecting the area and furnishes some splendid scenic views. This stretch of river has recently received use by kayak enthusiasts, and is rated as excellent water for expert kayakers. Blue lake is a fishable mountain lake and receives light use. Current recreational use is largely big game hunting and is limited to persons with horses or to those who hire an outfitter operating in the area.

Watershed: In view of the large amount of highly unstable land involved, a primary value is watershed conditions to maintain an adequate aquatic environment on the South Fork.

Wildlife: The area furnishes some key winter habitat for big game.

Minerals: There are no known deposits of valuable minerals on the area. Active mining claims are not present.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #15 - French Creek Unit - Warren District

Location: T21N, R22N and T23N; Ranges 3E and 4E. The headwaters of the 42,000 acre unit lays just over the divide from the headwaters of N. Fork Payette River. The land shows strong evidence of glacial scouring throughout the upper half of the drainage. The lower half is strongly dissected fluvial land with numerous bluffs, rocky outcrops and oversteepened slopes. Panoramic views of the drainage are vast and interesting; but, they are not considered unique or dramatic. Access to the unit is from FH 21 and Road 50313.

General Description

Wildlife: Use is limited due to extensive sheep grazing throughout the area. Both elk and deer exist, but numbers are limited. French Creek and some 6 small lakes in the area support good populations of small size native cutthroat.

Recreation: Existing use is presently limited. Big game hunting attracts most visitors, although fishing on the lower end of French Creek and trips to several lakes occur annually. Existing trails are oriented toward fire and other administration access rather than recreation access at this time.

Minerals: Recent activity is limited to staking considerable area of mineralized ground in the Squaw Point vicinity.

Watershed: Overall watershed conditions are in a state of repair. Past abuse, mostly sheep trailing, resulted in severely depleted vegetation on ridge tops and meadow lands. Present use is more dispersed with reduced numbers allowing general improvement in watershed conditions.

Timber: Stands of high value, moderately low volume pine and fir are scattered throughout the area.

Range: Grazing in this area is by sheep. The ridges and grassy meadows are extensively used and show scars of past abuse. Forage values are high in this summer and fall range.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area # 16 - Loon Lake Unit - Warren District

Location: T20, 21, 22N; R4,5 and 6E. This high elevation area exhibits cirque basins, headwalls, and lofty peaks, resulting from the glacial sculpturing. Loon Lake and Loon Creek, as well as the Victor Lakes (3) and Storm Peak Lake offer a rewarding challenge to the hearty angler. The scenery is both inspiring and majestic with peaks surpassing the 9,000 feet level. The main attraction of the area is Loon Lake, a 40 acre body of water currently receiving moderate use. Existing access is a bike trail from Secesh Meadows, 6 miles north to Loon Lake. Encloses approximately 37,000 acres.

General Description

Wildlife: Area provides summer range for deer and elk. Big game hunting is limited to early season.

Recreation: Described in earlier description. Fishing in larger streams is generally good for native cutthroat.

Minerals: Some claims in the Diamond Ridge area. No active producing mines.

Watershed: Soils in this area are generally thin mantled with little vegetative cover. Development of any kind in this unit must consider the fragile nature of the watershed.

Timber: High elevation Engelmann spruce and sub-alpine fir, in widely scattered patches and stream bottoms are present. Expensive road construction due to heavy rock and numerous wet areas has precluded the resource from management.

Range: The western portion of the area receives light to moderate sheep use. Suitable feed is scarce and patchy, being mostly confined to wet, brushy meadows and stream bottoms. Additional livestock use is impractical.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area # 17 - Bear Creek-Pony Creek Unit -  
Warren District

Location: T21 and 22N., R6 and 7E. Includes unroaded portion of Pony Creek to and including Bear Creek drainage. Encloses approximately 22,000 acres.

General Description

Wildlife: This unit contains a resident population of deer and elk providing both summer and winter ranges. Lack of trail access limits big game hunting.

Recreation: Lower Bear Creek offers fair fishing for native cutthroat, although difficult access restricts use to one or two parties per year. There is no other existing recreation use in this area.

Minerals: No known activity.

Watershed: Typical thin mantled steep South Fork of Salmon River terrain. Portion can be developed with care.

Timber: Good ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir stands occur in this zone. The stands are generally contiguous in nature occurring between 4500 foot and 6500 foot elevations. Timber values above and below these elevations are minimal.

Range: No allotments exist in this area and the lower open slopes are too fragile to permit use by domestic livestock.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #18 - Elk Creek Unit - Warren District

Location: T20, 21N; R7, 8E. Includes Middle, South and West Forks of Elk Creek and small drainages into South Fork to district boundary between Hall and Savage Creeks. Encloses approximately 26,000 acres.

General Description

Wildlife: Supports resident population of deer and elk providing both summer and winter range. Unit receives considerable hunting pressure from both a commercial outfitter and private hunters.

Recreation: The several high lakes and larger streams provide native cutthroat, but access restricts use. Existing trails are sub-standard. The upper elevations of this unit are spectacular and offer opportunity for recreational development.

Minerals: No known claims.

Watershed: Typical thin mantled steep South Fork of Salmon River terrain. Portion can be developed with care.

Timber: Good timber stands occur in this unit from around 4500 feet to 6500 feet elevations. Stands in this zone are ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and spruce. Elevation above and below this zone have little timber value.

Range: No allotments exist in this unit and the lower open slopes are too fragile to permit use by domestic livestock.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #19 - Deering Creek Unit - Warren District

Location: T22, 23 N., R7, 8E. This area of 10,000 acres is west of the divide between Porphyry Creek and the heads of Rattlesnake and Deering Creeks. The Fluvial Lands are productive, supporting continuous stands of timber on moderately steep to steep slopes. Scenery and topography are not considered unique. Downfall and heavy brush restrict foot travel to a few bare ridges and established trails.

General Description

Wildlife: Both deer and elk range in this unit. The area receives heavy hunting pressure. Access is primarily from Pilot Peak Road No. 341.

Recreation: Little other than hunting at this time.

Minerals: No known commercial deposits of minerals. There has been hydraulic mining along the South Fork in past years.

Watershed: Typical thin mantled steep South Fork of Salmon River terrain. Portion can be developed with care.

Timber: The area is characterized by continuous stands of high volume, high value ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. Road access and moderately high road construction costs coupled with high log hauling costs have postponed initial development.

Range: The area is included in the Porphyry Creek C&H grazing allotment. The amount of suitable range is quite limited; and, past use has resulted in some abuse. Steps are being taken to adjust livestock numbers to be compatible with the suitable range. Use is concentrated on the flats along Deering Creek.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #21 - Salmon River to Smith Creek Unit -  
Warren District

Location: T22N, 23N, and 24N; R4, R5, R6, R7 and R8E. This 79,000 acre area is characterized by moderately steep, moderately dissected fluvial slopes that were extensively burned in the 1930's. "Dog-hair" stands of coniferous reproduction and brush, associated with heavy downfall makes foot travel impractical. Scenery and vistas are unimpressive with no unique features occurring. The lower reaches of the area is the Riverbreak Zone of the lower South Fork of Salmon River. This portion of the area is rocky, oversteepened canyon land with fragile slopes that prohibit travel.

Wildlife: This unit provides year around habitat for both deer and elk. Most is hunted by commercial outfitters.

Minerals: Considerable exploration work has been done on California Creek and Rabbit Creek. Extent or value of minerals is unknown.

Watershed: This unit is typical Idaho Batholith, with a thin mantle of soil and little vegetative cover.

Timber: Much of the area was burned over in the 1930's leaving large stands of sapling and pole-size reproductions. A few stands of mature and overmature pine and fir escaped the fires and offer management opportunities.

Range: There is no domestic livestock grazing on this area; furthermore, there is no suitable range for livestock.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #22 - Pinnacle Unit - Big Creek District

Area Location and Characteristics

This area consists of approximately 40,000 acres in T.19N., R.9E.; T.19N., R.10E.; T.20N., R.9E. and T.21N., R.9E., Boise Meridian.

The area is on the Payette National Forest in eastern Valley County in central Idaho. The area is bordered on the east by the Idaho Primitive Area, on the west by the road from Yellowpine, Idaho to Big Creek Ranger Station, and on the south by the road from Yellowpine to Stibnite, Idaho which follows the East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River.

Elevations vary from 9270 feet at the summit of the Pinnacle to approximately 4800 feet on the East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River: a major portion of the land has slopes steeper than 45 percent. There is very little flat land and slopes steeper than 70 percent are common. Productivity in general would range from low to medium with an inherent erosion hazard of moderate to moderately high and high.

Existing and Potential Resource Uses:

Timber:

Timber volumes are relatively low which combined with costly roads, difficulty of regeneration, steep slopes and the erosion hazard would make timber operations extremely marginal. In addition, an extremely long haul on low standard roads would be necessary to get logs to a sawmill at present. There is no logging on the area at present.

Range:

The area has been grazed by sheep in the past, but is not used at present. The forage value is limited due to the general low productivity of the land, steep slopes and the erosion hazard.

Wildlife:

The area provides summer range for several species of big game which include elk, mule deer, goats and bighorn sheep. Black bear and cougar are also present. Blue grouse, Franklin grouse and ruffed grouse are present. There are also many nongame species present. There is a very limited amount of winter use by big game along the East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River.

Fish are present in the larger streams and some, such as Jacobs Ladder Creek, provide limited spawning areas for Chinook salmon and steelhead. The high lakes present provide the best fishing.

Hunting and fishing attract a large part of the people who visit the area.

Watershed:

The area receives the majority of its precipitation in the form of snow. The watershed must be maintained in good condition to prevent erosion during the spring runoff. It is an important source of water.

Recreation:

Although use at the present time is light the area invites a dispersed form of recreation and provides excellent scenery. Fishing and hunting are the main forms of recreation at present. The area provides excellent opportunity for cross country hiking although trails are limited. There is a considerable amount of camping at certain sites along the roads which border this area.

Minerals:

There is no active mining within the area at present. Mineral values are unknown although extensive prospecting has occurred in the area. Stibnite and Cinnabar mines are adjacent and the Thunder Mountain Area is nearby. It is possible that mineral values may be present which could provide considerable impact on the area.

Summary Analysis-Unroaded Area #23 - Logan Mtn.-Quartz Cr. Unit - Big Creek  
District

Area Location and Characteristics

This area of approximately 28,000 acres is located in T.19N., R.8E.; T.20N., R.8E.; T.20N., R.9E.; T.21N., R.8E.; and T.21N., R.9E., Boise Meridian.

The area is on the Payette National Forest in eastern Valley County in central Idaho. It is near the Idaho Primitive Area, but not adjacent to it. The area is bordered on the north by the Logan Cr. road to the Moscow Mine, the eastern boundary is the road from Big Creek R.S. to Yellowpine, Idaho and the western boundary follows the western boundary of the Big Creek Ranger District from Mount Eldridge to the Yellowpine-McCall road.

Elevations vary from 9225 feet at the summit of Greeley Mountain to approximately 4750 feet on the East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River near Yellowpine. It is rough, steep country with very little flat ground and slopes over 70 percent common. In general, the inherent erosion hazard for the entire area is moderate to moderately high and high. Productivity is low to medium with some small areas of greater potential.

Existing and Potential Resource Uses

Timber:

There is no logging on the area at present. Timber volumes are low and combined with steep slopes, rock and the erosion hazard would be very expensive to log. The long haul and poor roads to a sawmill would be an additional high cost.

Range:

The area has been grazed by sheep in the past. Forage production is not high and the steep slopes plus rugged terrain make distribution difficult and expensive. For these reasons it is doubtful that grazing will be of major importance in the future.

Wildlife:

Wildlife is an important resource on the area. The area provides summer range and also some winter range, along the East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River, for big game. Big game species present within the area are black bear, mule deer, elk, mountain lion, goat and bighorn sheep. The bear, deer and elk are common and the sheep and goats rare. Blue grouse, Franklin grouse, and ruffed grouse are also present. There are numerous nongame species present.

There is excellent trout fishing in the high lakes. It is typical of high lake fishing and can be a feast or famine situation. The scenery is always excellent, however.

Hunting and fishing are major attractions to people visiting this area.

Watershed:

The area is an important source of water. Precipitation occurs mainly in the form of snow. Spring runoff requires a stable watershed to prevent erosion and provide high quality water.

Recreation:

Use within the area is light although it invites a dispersed form of recreation and provides excellent scenery. Fishing and hunting are the main forms of recreation at present. There is a lack of trails within the area, but cross country hiking can be done. There is a considerable amount of camping at certain sites along the roads bordering this area.

Minerals:

There is one mine in limited operation adjacent to this area in Quartz Creek. Mineral values are unknown within the area although extensive prospecting has occurred. There is some mining interest in adjacent areas such as Quartz Creek, Profile Summit, Government Creek and Logan Creek. It is possible that mineral values may be present which could provide considerable impact on the area.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #24 and part of 2a - Rapid River Unit -  
New Meadows District

Location and Characteristics

The Rapid River unit, an unroaded area of about 44,000 acres, is the upper half or headwater portion of Rapid River. This unit lies adjacent to the Lockwood-Pollock unit to the east; the lower half of Rapid River and the Seven Devils Mountains to the north (Nezperce National Forest R-1); the unroaded area of Deep Creek and Granite Creek to the west (Council District, Payette National Forest); and the intensively managed Forest Service land to the south and southeast (New Meadows District, Payette National Forest). Elevation ranges from 3,200 feet at the Forest boundary on the north to 8,957 feet on Monument Peak on the west. The volcanic action, uplifting, glaciation and subsequent erosive action of the Seven Devils Mountains formed the rugged topography of the area and provided a spectacular scenic environment. The western edge of the area is within the Hells Canyon-Seven Devils Scenic Area and is the District's part of unit 2a shown on the map.

Existing and Potential Resource Uses

Timber:

There is merchantable timber on the area but much of it lies on land now classed as unroadable and non-logging due to steep topography, watershed conditions, and access.

Range:

There are portions of four sheep and two cattle allotments within the unit. About 450 cattle use the northeast corner of the area for about 1 month. The remainder of the area is used by about 2,000 sheep for about 2 months. Past overgrazing, particularly in the upper reaches along the western side of the unit has resulted in recent adjustments of sheep numbers. Some competition between domestic livestock and big game exists on important winter and transitory range.

Wildlife:

Rapid River contains an anadromous steelhead trout and chinook salmon fishery (both artificial and natural) in addition to a resident trout fishery. The Circle "C" Salmon Hatchery is located on Rapid River downstream from the Forest boundary. This hatchery was established as mitigation for dam construction on the Middle Snake River and is an attempt to preserve the chinook salmon fishery lost because of the dams. Mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, bear, and mountain goat are the big game animals occurring on the area. Canadian lynx, wolverine, and pine martin, which are classed as "unique" by the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fishery and Wildlife, are known to occur. Important habitat for numerous mammals and birds besides the above is found within the area.

Watershed:

This area yields the major portion of the high quality water necessary for the operation of the Circle "C" Salmon Hatchery. Watershed problems resulting from past mining activity, overgrazing, and natural land slumps have occurred in the past and do presently occur in varying degrees.

Recreation:

Recreation use is primarily during the summer and fall. Use over most of the area is moderate, except for Black Lake which is heavy. Most activity consists of hiking, fishing, trail machine riding, sightseeing, and hunting. Four high mountain lakes and Rapid River provide a fishery. Evidences and artifacts of past mining provide historical interest. Varying degrees of trail access exist within the area.

Minerals:

The area is rich in mining history, especially along the western edge of the area. At present there is no mining activity.

Location and Characteristics

The Lockwood-Pollock unit is a 10,000 acre area of unroaded land on the west side of the Little Salmon River, half way between Riggins and New Meadows, Idaho. This area is boundaried on the north by the Nezperce National Forest; on the east by State, BIM and private lands; on the west by the Rapid River unit; and on the south by intensively managed Payette National Forest land. There is no scenery of an outstanding or spectacular nature within the area. However, the scenic value of stands of timber that have been untouched by man does exist.

Existing and Potential Resource Uses

Timber:

There are stands of merchantable timber on the area. Because of the steep topography and possible watershed problems associated with road construction, this area has not been cut over. Possible road locations compatible with good watershed management is presently under study.

Range:

The area is grazed by sheep on the extreme south end and cattle on the balance of the area. Some overgrazing exists. About 450 cattle use the area for about one month, and 1,000 sheep for another one month.

Wildlife:

Deer, elk, bear, and grouse populations are good. Elk calving grounds and wallows exist on the area. Winter and transitory range for big game occurs at the lower elevations. Important habitat for other mammals and birds is provided within the area. An anadromous steelhead trout and chinook salmon fishery as well as a resident trout fishery exists in Boulder Creek. The remaining streams do not contain a fishery.

Watershed:

Water yield is relatively high for the area. Some watershed problems resulting from overgrazing and natural land slumps have occurred. Possible road locations through the area are limited because of land slump hazards and the possible watershed damage resulting from roads.

Recreation:

Recreation use, except for hunting, is light. The trail system and access are very poor.

Minerals:

No past or present mining.

Other:

One special use permit, a range cabin, is in the head of Squirrel Creek.

Summary Analysis - Unroaded Area #26 - Little French Creek Unit -  
New Meadows District

Location and Characteristics

Little French Creek, an unroaded area of about 12,000 acres, lies north-east of New Meadows. The area is completely surrounded by Payette National Forest land. It is bordered on the northwest by the Patrick Butte-Lava Ridge roadless unit and the French Creek roadless area to the east (McCall and Warren Districts). The area is characterized by an extensive mountain meadow system in the glacial valley floor and several well developed cirque basins in the headwaters of the Little French Creek drainage.

Existing and Potential Resource Uses

Timber:

The majority of the timber is classed as non-commercial. Some scattered, small pockets of merchantable timber are on or near Center Ridge.

Range:

The area is within the Little French Creek S&G Allotment.

Wildlife:

Big game animals include mule deer, elk, black bear, and bighorn sheep (rare). Habitat exists for mountain goats and moose but none are known to inhabit the area. Important elk calving grounds and wallows are located within the area. The pine martin and Canadian lynx, classed as "unique", are known to occur. Numerous mammals and birds in addition to the above inhabit the area. Trout fisheries are present in Little French Creek and Mac Han Lake.

Watershed:

This area drains into French Creek which is a tributary of the Salmon River. Presently high quality water is yielded from the area.

Recreation:

Hunting and fishing are the primary recreational uses of the area. There is access on three sides by peripheral roads and all sides by trails. The present trail system is adequate to serve the area for foot and horse travel.

Minerals:

There are no known mineral claims in the area.

Other:

One special use permit, a range cabin, is within the area.