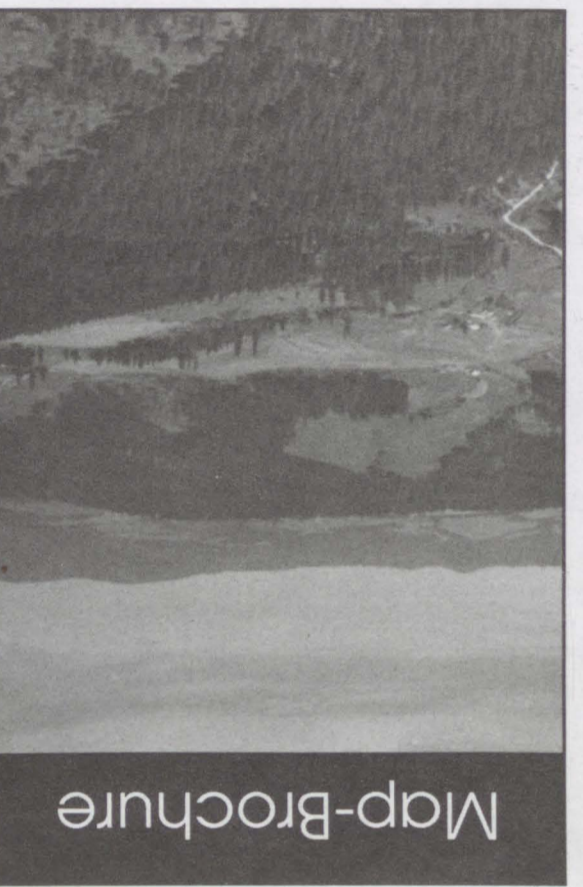




College of Forestry,
Wildlife and Range
Sciences

University of Idaho
Experimental Forest



Map-Brochure

Please Help Us Protect The Experimental Forest, By Observing The Following Rules

- Forest roads are narrow and winding. Please travel no faster than 15 mph.
- Forest fire danger is high during summer months. Open fires are prohibited from May 15 to October 20.
- The Experimental Forest is managed for many purposes - Christmas tree production is not one of them. Please cut your tree in designated areas outside the forest.
- Firewood cutting is allowed with valid permits. Please contact the College of FWR at 885-6444 to obtain one.
- Help Keep our forest beautiful. Please pack out what you pack in.

Enjoy your visit !

Welcome

Everyone is welcome to explore the University of Idaho Experimental Forest, a multiple-use, working forest administered by the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences (FWR). Activities such as timber, watershed, wildlife and range management, as well as many types of recreation, take place on the forest.

The Experimental Forest serves three important purposes:

- It provides students at the university a field laboratory in which to observe and practice what they have learned in the classroom.
- It provides an area in which to demonstrate to the public the latest forest land management techniques.
- And it provides a land base for research projects conducted by faculty and students of the College of FWR.

The Experimental Forest consists primarily of four large management units: Flat Creek, West Hatter Creek, East Hatter Creek and Big Meadow Creek. These units, together with the smaller Guernsey and Blodgett Outdoor Classrooms, total over 7000 acres.



History

When the College of FWR (then called the School of Forestry) was established in 1917, the idea of an experimental forest was born. Francis G. Miller, the first dean, recognized the need to obtain forest land for research and student training.

In 1932 Dean Miller's dream was fulfilled. The Forest Development Company (now Potlatch Corp., Inc.) of Lewiston, Idaho made the first of several donations of land, which would eventually total a gift of over 6,500 acres. A combination of other donations, exchanges and purchases has brought the acreage to its present 7,300.

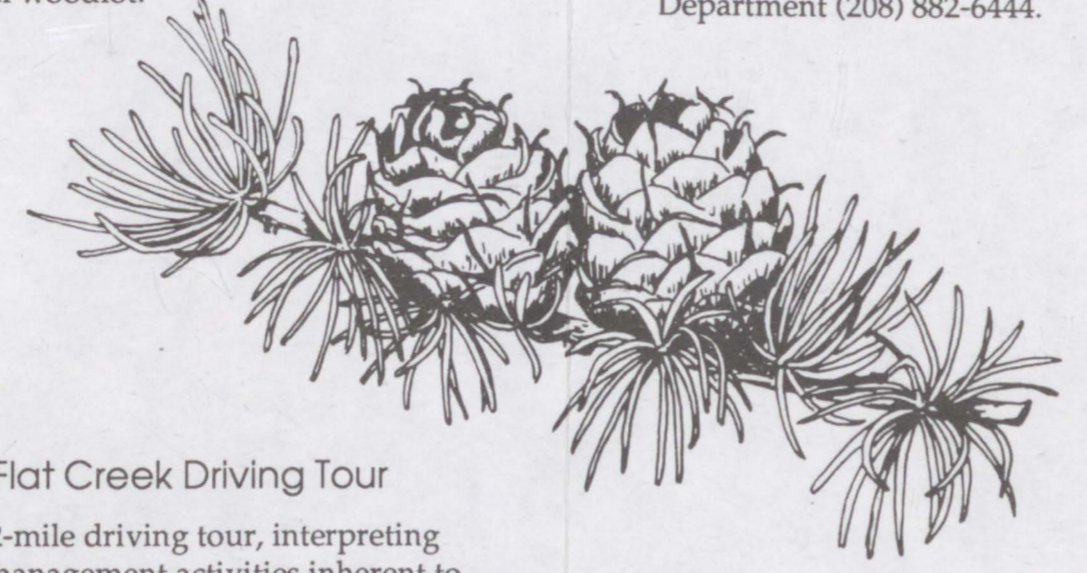
For many years, the forest was used primarily as an outdoor classroom and laboratory. But in 1971, alumnus ('39) and forest nursery manager Frank Pitkin took on the added chore of forest manager. He gathered together some used logging equipment, a few chain saws, and some capable students. The student logging crew was born. Still going strong, the student logging crew has become a symbol of the college's "hands-on" educational tradition.



Places of Interest

Pinestia - The Guernsey Outdoor Classroom

A picturesque, 47 1/2-acre woodlot located amidst the rolling wheat fields north of Princeton. Stroll the 3/4-mile interpretive trail through Pinestia and learn of its history and its role today as a model woodlot.



Flat Creek Driving Tour

A 4 1/2-mile driving tour, interpreting many management activities inherent to modern forestry. The tour follows Brown's Meadow Road through the forest's beautiful Flat Creek Unit. Bring a picnic basket and make a day of it.

Big Meadow Creek Recreation Area

A large grassy meadow complete with picnic tables and fire grates, located four miles north of Troy. Evidence still remains of the CCC camp that occupied Big Meadow in the 1930's. This is an excellent place to spend a summer day.

Recreation

The Experimental Forest offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities.

Big Meadow Creek Recreation Area, four miles northwest of Troy, is an ideal setting for family and group picnics. Those interested in hiking or mountain biking, can explore the forest's abundance of old roads and trails. A forest management trail at the Hemlock Natural Area and a planned nature trail at Big Meadow Creek offer opportunities for those interested in expanding their knowledge of forests and forestry.

Hunting is also a popular recreational activity on the forest. Deer, elk and small game birds are found in abundance. All hunting is subject to Idaho Fish and Game regulations, and hunting is not allowed within a quarter-mile of the Flat Creek cabin, Big Meadow Creek Recreation Area or any active timber sale.

When the winter snows come, the Experimental Forest is a cross-country skier's delight. The wide roads are ideal for beginners, while the steeper trails will challenge the experts. Snowmobilers also find exciting wintertime sport on the forest. Care should be taken, however, to avoid elk and deer wintering grounds in Brown's Meadow and the East Hatter Creek Unit.



Flat Creek Cabin

Built in the early 1950's, this cabin once served as a temporary home to foresters, loggers and researchers working on the Experimental Forest. Today it is a retreat for U I faculty, staff and students, and any others wishing to "get away from it all." For more information contact the U I Forest Resources Department (208) 882-6444.



Education

The Experimental Forest is an outdoor classroom and field laboratory exemplifying the College of FWR's tradition of "hands-on" training. Up to 20 different classes use the forest for lab trips and outdoor classroom exercises. Each fall, students taking the Prescribed Burning Lab use prescribed fire to prepare harvest units for future planting or natural regeneration. In the spring, students plant seedlings grown in the U of I Forest Research Nursery on sites prepared the previous fall. During summer months selected students can work on the student logging crew, helping to accomplish the majority of the forest's timber harvest activities.

The Experimental Forest is managed on a sustained yield basis, where students help plan the harvests, design the road systems and write the silvicultural prescriptions. A data base of resource information on the forest is maintained and utilized by instructors in the classroom. The Experimental Forest is an invaluable resource to College of FWR students; it provides them with that most fundamental of all learning tools - first hand experience.

Hemlock Trail

An easy 3/4-mile trail located on the Flat Creek Unit of the forest. This trail allows one to experience a variety of forest management applications, as it winds through an old-growth natural area, a shelterwood cut and two strip clearcuts. The trail also affords excellent views of the surrounding countryside.



Management

The Experimental Forest is managed under the multiple-use concept. This ensures a broad array of forest conditions and silvicultural practices that are the basis for instructional, demonstration and research activities.

Timber provides much of the income for the Experimental Forest whether it is harvested by the student logging crew or sold as stumpage. This income supports forest research and development projects as well as roads, gates, interpretive signs and brochures, equipment, seedlings and fire protection.

A wide variety of timber harvest practices are interspersed across the Experimental Forest. Clearcuts, the most noticeable method, range from 2



The Forest Environment

The Experimental Forest is a diverse forest typical of the drier mountains of northern Idaho. Precipitation averages 27 inches per year, with the majority falling as rain and snow during the fall, winter and spring. Grand fir and Douglas-fir are the most common tree species. Western redcedar, ponderosa pine, western larch, western white pine, lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, western hemlock and subalpine fir are also found in varying quantities.

Shrub species dominate in many areas, with ninebark, ocean-spray, willow and redstem ceanothus as the common tall and medium shrubs. Low shrubs consist of snowberry, rose, thimbleberry and spiraea. The understory is rich with forbs and grasses such as trillium, wild ginger, fairy slipper, pinegrass and Idaho fescue.

The many stages of plant succession on the Experimental Forest allow for a wide variety of wildlife species. The forest is year-round home to elk, white-tailed deer and mule deer. Other forest dwellers include black bear, coyote, bobcat, mountain lion and an occasional



moose. Small mammals on the forest include beaver, snowshoe hare, porcupine and weasel. Birds abound during nesting season, with robins, common flickers, chickadees and thrushes making use of the varied habitats. The great horned owl and red-tailed hawk can also be found on the forest.



Research and Demonstration

The Experimental Forest is close to campus and similar to much of the forested area of Idaho, two facts that attract faculty and others interested in performing research on a wide range of topics. Over 100 research projects, ranging from the effects of fire on the germination and establishment of conifer seeds to the use of various habitats by white-tailed deer, have either been completed or are currently underway.

In 1949, a nine-foot-high fence was erected around 800 acres in the East Hatter Creek Unit to provide a controlled condition for research on deer. One of the more interesting studies in this enclosure was that of deer behavior when a caged cougar was introduced into the area.

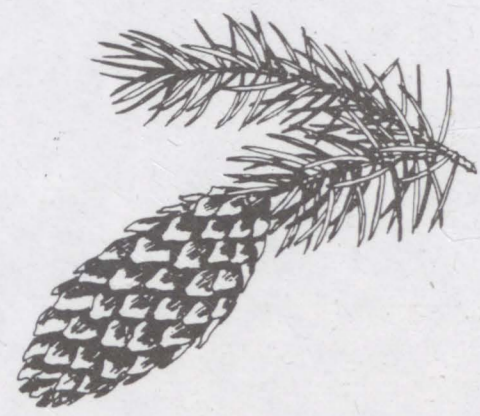
The proximity to campus also allows students and the general public an opportunity to observe results of the latest research and applications of the latest forest management techniques. Resource professionals, woodland owners, teachers, youth groups and the general public visit the forest for tours, demonstrations, workshops and shortcourses.



Student Management Unit

Students in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences have an excellent opportunity to hone their management skills by taking charge of a portion of the Experimental Forest. On the 182-acre Student Management Unit (SMU), students from each of the college's five disciplines inventory, plan, implement and monitor various land management activities. Students planning shelterwood cuts and thinning operations on the unit's Tamarack Road area work with others planning interpretive trails and picnic facilities at the SMU's Big Meadow Creek Recreation Area. By working together, students not only learn multiple-use management skills but also develop the valuable communication, teamwork and leadership skills needed by today's resource professionals.





Road Access

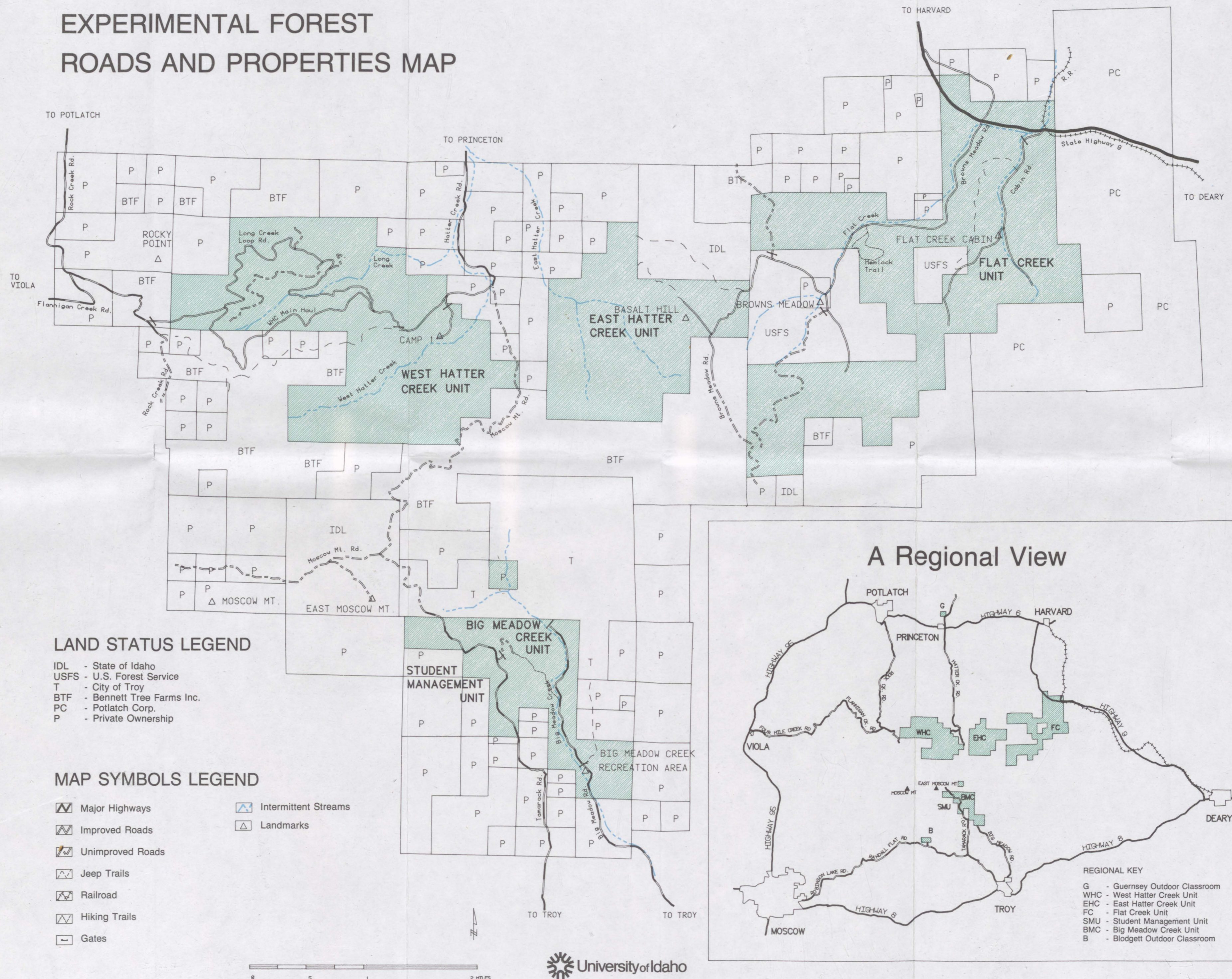
Over 40 miles of gravel and dirt roads are maintained by the Experimental Forest to provide access for management activities. Although many of the roads are closed to general use, others remain open as a courtesy to the public.

Forest roads may be closed for a number of reasons. During times of wet weather, closing a road to public traffic reduces erosion. A road may also be closed due to management activities, or because it is no longer needed.

As you drive on Experimental Forest roads, you will often encounter signs indicating that you are entering or leaving UI property. Land-use policies are determined by the landowners, so please, watch for property boundaries and the changes in policy they represent.



UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXPERIMENTAL FOREST ROADS AND PROPERTIES MAP

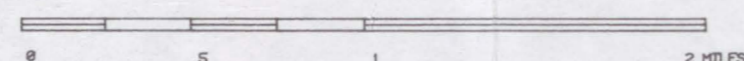


LAND STATUS LEGEND

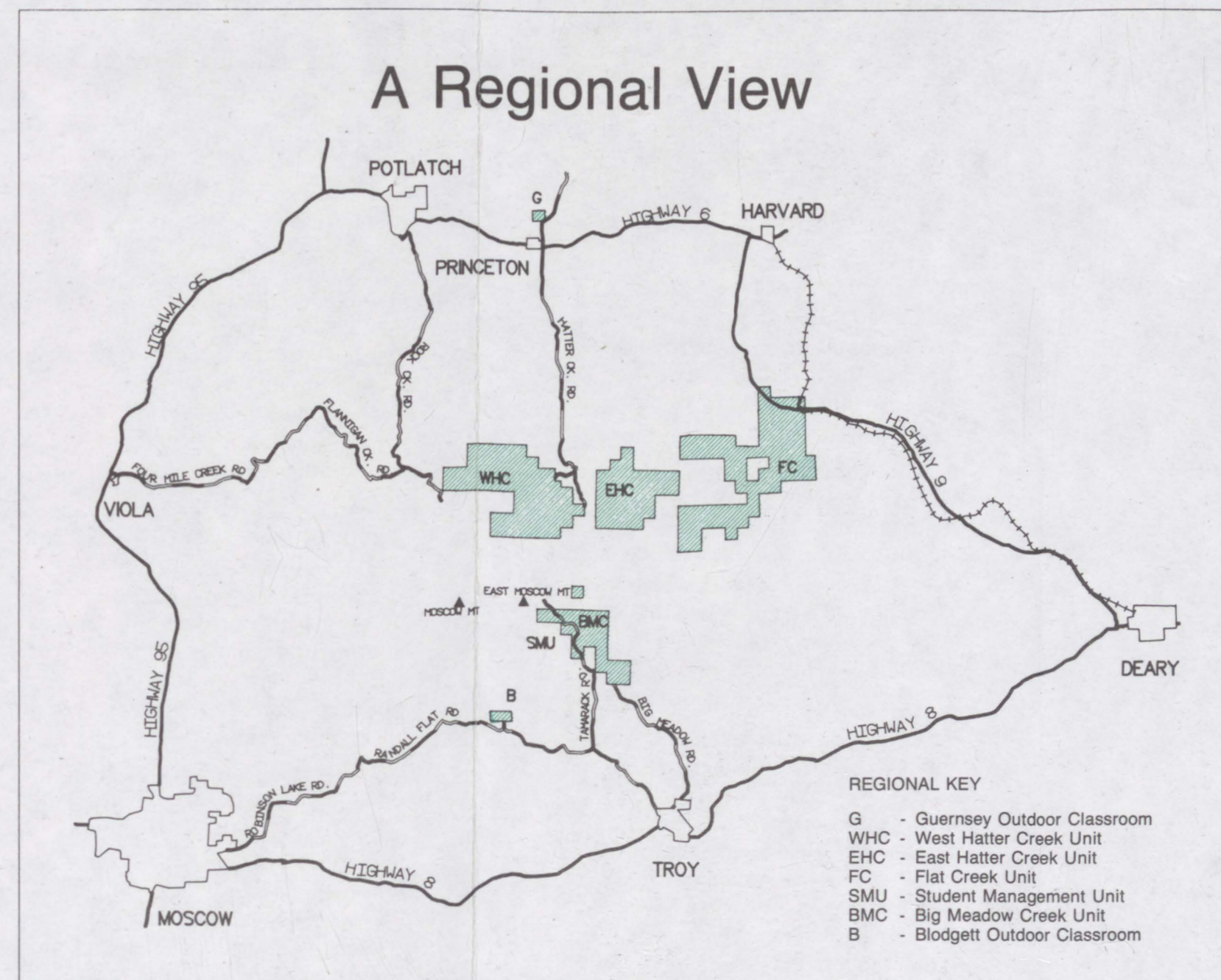
- IDL - State of Idaho
- USFS - U.S. Forest Service
- T - City of Troy
- BTF - Bennett Tree Farms Inc.
- PC - Potlatch Corp.
- P - Private Ownership

MAP SYMBOLS LEGEND

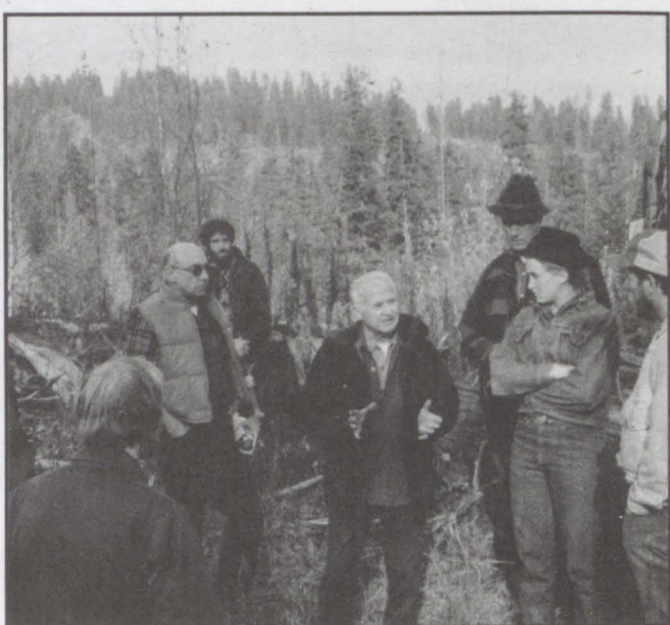
- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Major Highways | Intermittent Streams |
| Improved Roads | Landmarks |
| Unimproved Roads | |
| Jeep Trails | |
| Railroad | |
| Hiking Trails | |
| Gates | |



A Regional View



- REGIONAL KEY
- G - Guernsey Outdoor Classroom
 - WHC - West Hatter Creek Unit
 - EHC - East Hatter Creek Unit
 - FC - Flat Creek Unit
 - SMU - Student Management Unit
 - BMC - Big Meadow Creek Unit
 - B - Blodgett Outdoor Classroom



A primary use of the Experimental Forest is the demonstration of the most advanced forest management techniques for the benefit of all Idaho's citizens.