CLEAR-NEZ FIRE ZONE

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

This plan serves as the Fire Management Plan (FMP) for both the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. This plan is revised annually.

Federal Fire Policy, Forest Service Manual direction, and Forest Plans provide the highest level of direction. The Fire Management Plan provides guidance for implementation of the abovementioned direction. Many other subordinate plans and documents are referenced or excerpts included within this plan. *Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (February 2009)*, replaces the *Interagency Strategy for the Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (June 20, 2003).* This updated guidance consolidates and clarifies changes that have occurred since the 2003 strategy document was issued, and provides revised direction for consistent implementation of the *Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (January 2001).*

Both Forest Plans are currently in the revision process. The terminology contained in both the Clearwater and the Nez Perce Forest Plans is not consistent with that of the 2001, 2003, or 2009 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy. This plan is a living document and will be amended by letter as policy changes become effective.

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For Rick Brazell
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Interagency Federal fire policy requires that every area with burnable vegetation must have a Fire Management Plan (FMP). This FMP provides a framework for fire management on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests and compiles guidance from existing sources such as but not limited to, the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), national policy, and national and regional directives.

The potential consequences to firefighter and public safety and welfare, natural and cultural resources, and values to be protected help determine the fire management response for unplanned ignitions. Firefighter and public safety are the first consideration and are always the priority during every management response. The following chapters discuss broad forest and specific Fire Management Unit (FMU) characteristics and guidance.

Chapter 1 introduces the area covered by the FMP, addresses the agencies involved, and states why the Forest is developing the FMP.

Chapter 2 establishes the link between higher-level planning documents, legislation, and policies and the actions described in FMP.

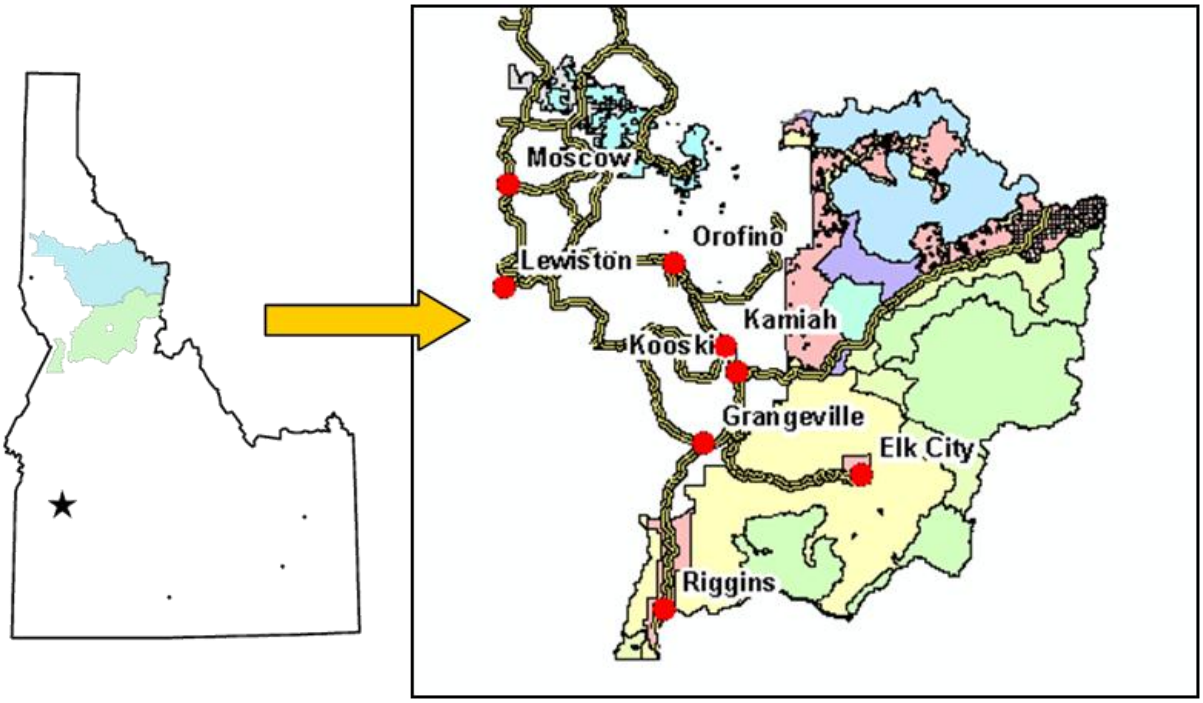
Chapter 3 articulates specific goals and standards as established in the Forest's LRMP, which apply to all the Forest's FMUs and those that are unique to the Forest's individual Fire Management Units (FMUs) and Sub-Units (SU).

Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests developed this Fire Management Plan (FMP) as a support tool that provides a framework for decision making in response to wildland fire(s). FMPs do not make decisions. Instead, they provide fire management information, organized by FMUs, and derived from Forest Plans. These descriptions bring specific detail about the identifiable areas on the ground. FMPs are not static documents. They will evolve and be revised as conditions change on the ground and as modifications are made to the unit's LRMP.

This FMP sets forth the program and guidance to safely and efficiently manage wildland fires within the context of the approved Land and Resource Management Plans. The FMP incorporates existing interagency plans and assessments and considers the best available science to assess and plan on a landscape scale. It is a tool for fire managers to use in planning and directing wildland fire activities consistent with the goals and objectives identified in the LRMP; it provides the context for understanding strategic decisions, selecting fire management responses and implementing the supportive tactical actions appropriate for specific lands and identified areas. The FMP is supplemented by operational plans that describe fire preparedness and prevention, aviation management, preplanned dispatch, prescribed fire, cooperative agreements, and response guides (formerly referred to as Wildland Fire Use Guidebooks). These supplements are available on the Grangeville Interagency Dispatch (GVC) Website.

This document satisfies the requirement that a FMP be developed for all areas subject to wildland fires, specifically addresses management response to unplanned ignitions and complies with the federal policy and direction listed below in Chapter 2.1. The operational processes identified in the FMP stem from decisions in the existing Forest Plans that comply with the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976, the regulations for National Forest Land and Resource Management Planning, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. Planned wildfire (prescribed fire) is specifically addressed in other documents.



Chapter 2. POLICY, LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING, AND PARTNERSHIPS

Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (February 2009), replaces the *Interagency Strategy for the Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (June 20, 2003).* This updated guidance consolidates and clarifies changes that have occurred since the 2003 strategy document was issued, and provides revised direction for consistent implementation of the *Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (January 2001).*

Wildland fire is a general term describing any non-structure fire that occurs in the wildland. Wildland fires are categorized into two distinct types (page 7):

- Wildfires – Unplanned ignitions or prescribed fires that are declared wildfires
- Prescribed Fires - Planned ignitions

For a complete list of recent changes in terminology, please see Terminology Updates List (NWCG#024-2010, 04-30-10) in the appendix.

The regulations and policy in the following documents guide the fire management as outlined in this FMP.

2.1. National and Regional Fire Management Policy

Forest Service policy and direction that are relevant to this plan include:

- Federal Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review (January 2001)
- A Collaborative Approach for reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment – 10 Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan (2001, 2002, 2006)
- Forest Service Manual 5100
- Forest Service Manual 5109
- Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (February 2009)
- Foundational Doctrine and Guiding Principles for the Northern Region Fire, Aviation and Air Program.

2.2. Clearwater and Nez Perce Land and Resource Management Plans

This FMP is a decision support tool to aid line officers and fire managers in planning and directing the management response to unplanned ignitions. It is consistent with the goals, objectives and standards identified in the forest plans and FEIS listed below.

- Clearwater National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (1987)
- Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Revised Clearwater Forest LRMP (1987)
- Nez Perce National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (1987)
- Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Revised Clearwater Forest LRMP (1987)
- Programmatic Biological Assessment of the Fire Management Program, CWF and NPF

The approved Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMP) for both Forests, developed through both an internal and public involvement process, form the basis for this Fire Management Plan (FMP). Both plans are currently being revised. Fire management is working with the revision team to ensure plan objectives will allow for the full range of fire

management responses and fire management tools in order to protect resources from catastrophic wildland fire including human communities, watersheds, and threatened and endangered species habitat; and establish landscape objectives to achieve sustainable ecosystems.

The following tables display the management response options and suppression goals by Management Area (MA) identified in the LRMP. Table 1. **Clearwater National Forest** Appendix D (Amendment #20).

FMU Emphasis	Management Area	Description	MA Direction	Probable Loss from Fire
Resource Benefit	B1	Wilderness	**Unplanned ignitions** may be used as a prescribed fire to achieve wilderness management objectives. The following suppression activities will be adhered to as closely as possible: (a) use control measures which disturb the ground as little as possible, (b) Use motorized equipment where necessary to accomplish fire control (with Forest Supervisor approval),(dozers with Regional Forester approval), (c) Cold trail the fireline whenever feasible instead of constructing fireline, (d) Limb trees near fire perimeter rather than cut down if necessary for effective control, (e) Utilize helicopters to demobilize and rehabilitate a fire only when other methods would degrade the wilderness or if manpower is urgently needed elsewhere (landings require Forest Supervisors approval), (f) Use appropriate suppression response (confine, contain, control) which may sacrifice acres to reduce impacts of control lines. (g) Follow specific Regional/Forest standards for wilderness fire suppression. (III-30, L-2)	Low
	C3	Big Game (Winter)	Use prescribed fire from planned and **unplanned ignitions** as needed to achieve Forest Plan direction. (III-45)	Low
	C4	Big Game (Timber)	Use prescribed fire from planned and **unplanned ignitions** as needed to achieve Forest Plan direction. (III-49)	Low
	C6	Unroaded/Fish	Use prescribed fire from planned and **unplanned ignitions** as needed to achieve Forest Plan direction. (III-52)	High
	C8S	Wildlife/Timber /Fish	Use prescribed fire from planned and **unplanned ignitions** as needed to achieve Forest Plan direction. (III-55)	Moderate-High
Resource Benefit Consistent with Adjacent MA Direction.	A4	Rec (Corridors)	Limit the size of individual wildfires to be **consistent with adjacent management area direction**. Use prescribed fire from planned and **unplanned ignitions** as needed to achieve Forest Plan direction. (III-13)	High

Resource Benefit Consistent with Adjacent MA Direction (continued)	A6	Rec (historic)	Limit the size of individual wildfires to be **consistent with adjacent management area direction**. Use prescribed fire from planned and **unplanned ignitions** as needed to achieve Forest Plan direction. Protect trails during suppression actions. (III-22)	High
	A7	Rec (WS Rivers)	Limit the size of individual wildfires to be **consistent with adjacent management area direction**. Use prescribed fire from planned and **unplanned ignitions** as needed to achieve Forest Plan direction. (III-30)	High
	M1	RNA's	Manage to protect inherent natural features and maintain areas in undisturbed ecosystems. Allow **unplanned ignitions** to burn under prescribed conditions, unless such fires threaten the uniqueness of the area. Most RNAs on the forest support vegetation or unique features that make it desirable to exclude fire to protect conditions for future research. (III-66)	High
	M2	Riparian	Use prescribed fire from planned and **unplanned ignitions** as needed to achieve Forest Plan direction. (Manage under the principals of multiple use as areas of special consideration, distinctive values, and **integrated with adjacent MA's** to the extent that water and other riparian dependant resources are protected. (III-72)	High
	M5 (US)	Unsuitable	**Dependant on adjacent MA direction**. Manage to maintain and protect soil and water values and vegetative cover (other than timber). (III-72)	Low
Resource Benefit with Restrictions	A3	Recreation (Unroaded)	Limit the size of individual wildfires to **100 acres or less**, except in the **Elisabeth lakes area to 30 acres or less**. Use prescribed fire from planned and unplanned ignitions as needed to achieve Forest Plan direction. (III-10)	Moderate
	B2	Recommended Wilderness	Use **unplanned ignitions** for prescribed fire as needed to meet Forest Plan direction (protect wilderness character). Limit the size of individual wildfires to **500 acres or less**. (III-39)	Low
	C1	Big Game (summer)	Limit the size of individual wildfires to **1000 acres or less**. Use prescribed fire from planned and **unplanned ignitions** as needed to achieve Forest Plan direction. (III-42)	Low
	E3	Timber/Wildlife	Limit the size of individual wildfires: to **1 acres or less in immature timber stands** (plantation and thinned areas), to **40 acres or less in mature timber**, and **500 acres or less in brush fields**. Use prescribed fire from planned and unplanned ignitions to treat activity and natural fuel loadings. (III-62)	Moderate-High
Suppression	A2	Elk Crk Rec Area	**Suppression actions will be planned to control fires at the smallest possible size**. (III-5)	High
	A5	Developed Rec	**Suppression actions will be planned to control fires at the smallest possible size**. (III-17)	High
	E1	Timber	**Planned ignitions only**. Limit the size of individual wildfires: to 1 acre or less in immature timber stands (plantations and thinned areas), to 40 aces or less in mature timber, and 500 acres or less in brush fields. (III-59)	Moderate-High
	PVT	Private Property	Fire Fighter and public safety is the number one priority.	

Table 2. **Nez Perce National Forest** (Appendix C).

FMU Emphasis	Management Area	Emphasis
Resource Benefit *The strategy selected, and specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Planned and unplanned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.*	MA 1	Provide the minimum management necessary to provide for resource protection and to ensure public safety. Additional road construction will be allowed to manage adjacent areas. Wildfire management strategies include control, contain, and confine.(III-6)
	MA 3	Manage to ensure that prehistoric, historical and archaeological, and/or paleontoligical sites are studied, preserved, or protected. (III-10)
	MA 6	Manage area for non-manipulative research, observation, and study of undisturbed ecosystems. If fires within the area are desirable, planned and unplanned ignitions will be allowed to burn when within prescription, and covered in action plans Do not clear debris resulting from fires. Do not undertake fire hazard reduction. (III-14).
	MA 9.1	Manage the wilderness values as specified by the Wilderness Preservation Act of 1964. Maintain and enhance the quality of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. (III-25)
	MA 9.2	Manage the wilderness values as specified by the Wilderness Preservation Act of 1964 and the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978. Maintain and enhance the quality of the Gospel-Hump Wilderness. (III-27)
	MA 9.3	Manage the wilderness values as specified by the Wilderness Preservation Act of 1964 and the Central Idaho Wilderness Act of 1980. Maintain and enhance the quality of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. (III-29)
	MA 11	Manage for high fishery/water quality objectives, wildlife security and high quality dispersed recreation with no additional roads. (III-35)
	MA 16	Manage to increase usable forage for elk and deer winter range. (III-47)
	MA 18	Manage for winter range improvement through timber harvesting or prescribed burning while meeting VQO's. (III-52)
Response based on adjacent MA	MA 4	Encourage valid exploration and development of mineral resources while minimizing surface impacts from mineral activities. Follow fire management direction for adjacent areas. (III-11)
River Management *Similar direction as Resource Benefit*	MA 8.1	Manage for outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing river conditions as specified in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, as amended. "Wild" portion of the Salmon Wild and Scenic River corridor from Salmon Falls to Long Tom Bar near Vinegar Creek. (III-18)
	MA 8.2	Manage for outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing river conditions as specified in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, as amended. "Wild" and "recreation" portions of the Middle Fork of the Clearwater Wild and Scenic River corridor. Control wildfires in the "recreation" segment of the river corridor. (III-21)
	MA 8.3	Manage for outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing river conditions as specified in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, as amended. Rapid River "wild" portion administered by the forest. (III-23)
Suppression *Wildfire management strategy is control or control, contain, confine.*	MA 2	Provide and maintain sites for facilities necessary for the administration of Nez Perce Forest lands. Wildfire management strategy is control. (III-7)
	MA 7	Manage for developed recreation opportunities. Wildfire management strategy is control. (III-16)
	MA 10	Manage to protect or enhance riparian-dependant resources. Wildfire management strategy is control, contain, and confine. (III-32)
	MA 12	Manage for timber production and other multiple uses on a sustained yield basis. Wildfire management strategy is control, contain, and confine. (III-38)
	MA 13	Manage for timber production and other multiple uses on a sustained yield basis while meeting visual quality objectives. Wildfire management strategy is control, contain, and confine. (III-40)
	MA 14	Manage for timber production and other multiple uses on a sustained yield basis while meeting visual quality objectives. Wildfire management strategy is control, contain, and confine. (III-42)

Suppression (continued)	MA 15	Manage for timber production and other multiple uses elk winter range. Wildfire management strategy is control, contain, and confine. (III-44)
	MA 17	Manage for timber production and other multiple uses on a sustained yield basis while meeting visual quality objectives. Wildfire management strategy is control, contain, and confine. (III-50)
	MA 19	Manage for livestock forage production and other multiple uses. Wildfire management strategy is control, contain, and confine. (III-55)
	MA 20	Manage for old growth habitat. Wildfire management strategy is control, contain, and confine. (III-57)
	MA 21	Manage grand fir-Pacific yew communities for moose winter range. Wildfire management strategy is control, contain, and confine. (III-60)
	MA 22	Manage to ensure that the Idaho water quality standards for community public supply water uses are met in the Wall Creek Municipal Watershed. Wildfire management strategy is control, contain, and confine. (III-63)
	MA 23	Manage to ensure that the Idaho water quality standards for community public supply water uses are met in the Elk Creek Municipal Watershed. Wildfire management strategy is control, contain, and confine. (III-66)
	PVT	FS Protection of BLM, State, or Private Lands. Fire Fighter and public safety is the number one priority.

2.3. Partnership

Local agreements, operating plans (LOPs), and memorandum of understanding (MOUs) covering the Clear-Nez Fire Zone is located on the (Grangeville Interagency Dispatch) GVC website **http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dc/idgvc/index.htm**.

The following is a general description of offset areas of protection within the Clear-Nez Fire Zone:

- IDL protection of USFS:
  - Palouse District- entire district
- USFS protection of IDL(private or state lands):
  - Powell- checker board on the northeast portion of the district
  - Salmon River- Hwy 95 corridor from Adams County near Pollack to Deer Creek just below the Whitebird Grade
- USFS protection of BLM:
  - Elk City – township

Cooperators play a vital role in fire management on the zone. Their programs and resources complement and augment those of the zone; their input and advice provide an additional forum for considering both public and other agency concerns and accounting for them, and their participation enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of fire management on the Clear/Nez Zone. Several interagency and cooperative agreements are currently in place and include those with the Idaho Department of Lands, Bureau of Land Management, Nez Perce Tribe, Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protection Association, and several Rural Fire Departments. The zone has an agreement in place to mutually share available resources with the Umatilla NF, and is a participant in the Tri-Region Agreement with the Payette NF and Wallowa-Whitman NF.

Grangeville interagency dispatch center, facilitates cooperation and integration with State and Federal partners. Local operating plans and procedures are developed cooperatively and tier from state operating plans. With these plans and Interagency Dispatch, we are able to

achieve safe cost-effective mobilization of resources and greater efficiencies: improvements continue to be identified and implemented through annual after action reviews (AAR).

Phase I of Fire Planning Analysis (FPA), which is replacing the National Fire Management Analysis System (NFMAS), is completed annually in a joint effort with the following agencies: Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF), Idaho State Department of Lands, Coeur d'Alene and Cottonwood Field Offices (BLM), Coeur d'Alene and Nez Perce Tribes (BIA), and to a lesser extent: Nez Perce Historical Site (NPS) and Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge (FWS). The intent of FPA is to improve the planning and budgeting for wildland fire by working jointly with adjacent Federal, State and Local fire resources at a landscape, rather than unit, level. Current revisions to FPA are underway nationally, but interagency partners in the Northern Idaho FPU (Fire Planning Unit) remain the same.

County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan updates have been completed for all counties within the Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests. State, local and federal agencies participate jointly to complete these plans, and are currently working with counties to complete their Multi-hazard mitigation plans. Both forests participate in the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group which supports a framework for an organized and coordinated approach to implement the National Fire Plan. The group provides oversight and prioritization on a statewide scale with emphasis on a collaborative approach at the state and local levels for activities such as hazardous fuels treatment, equipment purchases, training, homeowner education, community wildland fire mitigation planning, and other activities. Cooperatively planning future hazardous fuels projects is essential in meeting both intent of the National Fire Plan and the needs of the local communities. In 2009 a fire prevention cooperative was established for the five counties in north central Idaho: Idaho, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Latah, and Lewis. Federal, state, local, tribal and rural fire departments are actively involved in this cooperative allowing limited resources and personnel to be efficiently used for educating our local communities.

Chapter 3. FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

The primary purpose of developing FMUs is to take complex landscapes and organize them into more manageable units by similar strategic fire management goals. Landscape Units organize the FMUs further into more manageable areas and provide a framework for making decisions at the district level.

The following information, including the summaries of fuels conditions, weather and burning patterns, and other conditions in specific FMUs, helps determine the available fire management response options to an unplanned ignition and provides a quick reference to the strategic goals in the forest's LRMP. For further description of the FMUs and maps, please see the appendix.

Table 3. Fire Management Units

Forest	NAME	EMPHASIS	Management Option Strategies
NPF	Protection	Full Suppression	Forest Service protection of BLM, State, or Private Lands
NPF	General Forest Timber and Resource Management	Suppression	Suppression or Modified Suppression, and Prescribed Fire for resource protection and enhancement
NPF	Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Area	Resource Benefit	Resource benefit
NPF	Gospel-Hump Wilderness	Resource Benefit	Resource benefit
NPF	Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness	Resource Benefit	Resource benefit
NPF	Rapid River	Resource Benefit	Resource benefit
CWF	Protection/Suppression Emphasis	Full Suppression	Focus on suppression, with some modified suppression allowed, and prescribed fire for hazardous fuel reduction
CWF	Mixed Resource Management	Suppression	Suppression or Modified Suppression, and Prescribed Fire
CWF	Clearwater WFU	Resource Benefit	Resource benefit on the Clearwater NF outside the SBW FMU
CWF	SBW WFU	Resource Benefit	Resource benefit for the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness, include some non-wilderness

3.1. Fire Management Considerations Applicable to All Forest Fire Management Units

3.1.1. A. Clearwater Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Guidance

***NOTE*: The terminology in the Clearwater Forest Plan is not consistent with that of the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy.**

A. Forest-wide Goals, Objectives and Standards

The following goals, objectives and standards have been extracted from the 1987 Clearwater Forest Plan, per their relevance to fire management.

GOALS

Wildlife

- "Maintain and, where appropriate, improve the winter and summer habitat over time to support increased populations of big-game wildlife species."

Protection

- "Prevent and suppress wildfires commensurate with resource values to be protected while recognizing the role of fire in ecological processes.

- Manage National Forest resources to prevent or reduce serious long lasting hazards from pest organisms utilizing principles of integrated pest management.

- Coordinate with the State of Idaho Air Quality Bureau to develop a smoke management program for prescribed burning in the State."

OBJECTIVES

Wildlife and Fish

- "Rehabilitate by prescribed burning a minimum of 1,300 acres of key big-game winter range per year through the first decade to meet elk population goals.

Protection

- "Develop a smoke management program that will meet Environmental Protection Agency as facility standards for the State of Idaho by FY 1988.

- Develop and implement an interagency fire management dispatch office within 5 years.

- Re-evaluate fire protection boundaries and fire protection acres within five years to maintain economic and efficient fire suppression activities."

Table 4. Projected outputs and activities by Time Period (1987 Clearwater LRMP)

			Average Annual Units				
			Planned	Projected			
Target Item 1/	Output or Activity	Unit of Measure	1986-1995	1996-2005	2006-2015	2016-2057	2026-2035
Protection T23	Fuels Mgmt- Activity	Acres	11193	12856	18919	19696	23456
Wildlife T03	Wildlife Habitat Imp.	Acres	1300	1300	1300	1300	1300

STANDARDS

The following standards apply to the National Forest System lands administered by the Clearwater National Forest. They are intended to supplement, not replace, the National and Regional policies, standards, and guidelines found in Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks, and the Northern Regional Guide.

Wildlife and Fish

- "Provide the proper mix of hiding and thermal cover, forage, and protection from harassment during critical periods on big-game summer range (primarily elk) in accordance with criteria contained in the "Guidelines for Evaluating and Managing Summer Elk Habitat in Northern Idaho."

- Rehabilitate key big-game winter range to meet elk population goals (Also see Management Areas C3 and C4)."

Protection (Fire)

- "Prepare a fire management action plan annually. This plan will provide specific direction for accomplishing fire management objectives.

- See Appendix D of the Forest Plan and individual management areas for initial attack direction.

- Treat activity fuel loadings to an acceptable level to reduce fire spread, and fire intensity, prepare sites for regeneration, and reduce impediment to wildlife travel.

- Prioritize funding of fuel management projects in the following order: pre-existing activity fuel: natural fuel loadings that pose a threat to human life and property: and under-funded brush disposal projects.

- Develop an Escaped Fire Situation Analysis as a basis for establishing the appropriate suppression response on wildfires that elude initial attack. (no longer EFSA, documentation of decision process is covered in the WFDSS).

- Follow the most restrictive management area direction to limit fire size when a wildfire may overlap into two or more management areas.

- Fires started by unplanned ignitions may be used to achieve Forest Plan objectives if the area is planned for prescribed fire and the fire situation meets a current fire prescription."

Potential Wild and Scenic Rivers (Fire Management)
"Potential Recreation, Scenic and Wild River Segments:

- Prescribed fire may be used to change, establish, or maintain vegetation in potential scenic and recreational segments after considering site conditions, fire effects, and costs. Prescribed fire to change or establish vegetation in wild segments will be discouraged.

- Wildfire suppression tactics and holding lines for prescribed fire will consider the potential damage to recreational amenities, visual quality (foreground and middle ground), threatened and endangered species, and cultural sites unique to the area."

B. Fire Management Direction and Program Guidance

NOTE: This section provides a brief description of the fire management direction contained in the Appendix D of the Clearwater Forest Plan. Only relevant Forest Plan direction as it relates to current Federal Fire Policy is displayed below.

The Clearwater National Forest will provide fire protection and fire use necessary to maintain and enhance resource values while meeting the management goals and objectives. Fire management is a support function integrated and responsive to the management direction established in the Forest Plan.

The National Fire Management Analysis System is one process used to develop the Forest's annual fire budget request. The main objective is to achieve fire management direction in the most cost-effective manner (currently it is Fire Planning Analysis, FPA).

All resource programs affected by fire will consider these base concepts in the formulation of plans, decisions, and actions:

1. "Fire has been an integral part of all ecosystems in Clearwater National Forest and the exclusion of fire from these ecosystems causes effects that may be undesirable.
2. As a result of fire protection, natural fuels in some areas have increased in amount and continuity to a hazardous level.
3. Prescribed fire from planned and unplanned ignitions can be used to achieve many land management objectives.
4. Permit fire in the wilderness to the maximum extent possible.

In addition to Forestwide and management area direction:

A. Reduce the cost of presuppression and suppression activities by integrating the total fire management program.

   1. Manage activity and natural fuel loadings by reducing to acceptable levels through utilization, i.e., firewood and fuelwood.

   2. Maintain aggressive fire suppression capability to support land management objectives and prescribed fire programs.

   3. Be cost-conscious in presuppression and suppression activities when selecting the appropriate suppression response for wildfires.

B. Provide a continuous cadre of specialists with the knowledge and experience to accomplish the prescribed fire programs.

C. Prepare project plans for prescribed fires using planned ignitions to meet land management objectives.

D. Develop an annual Fire Management Action Plan (now FMP) that will document the fire management program for that period.

E. Allow prescribed fire, both unplanned and planned ignitions, to achieve land management objectives. Each management area has written direction on where and when fire might be used.

F. Collect sufficient funds from timber sales to treat activity fuel loadings created during each sale.

A summary of fire management direction by Management Area is shown in Section 2.2, Table 1.

3.1.1 B. Nez Perce Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Guidance

***NOTE*: The terminology in the Nez Perce Forest Plan is not consistent with that of the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy.**

A. Forest-wide Goals and Desired Conditions

The following goals, objectives and standards have been extracted from the 1987 Nez Perce Forest Plan and are relevant to fire management as fire may be the tool used to accomplish a goal, objective or standard.

GOALS

Air Quality

- "Maintain air quality to meet or exceed applicable standards and regulations

Wildlife

- Provide and maintain a diversity and quality of habitat to support viable populations of native and desirable non-native wildlife species.

Protection

- Protect resource values through cost-effective fire and fuels management, emphasizing fuel treatment through the utilization of material and using prescribed fire."

OBJECTIVES

Air Quality

- "Wildernesses and Wild and Scenic River corridors are designated as Class I, and all other areas of the Forest are designated as Class II for air quality (Clean Air Act, 1977 amendment). Management activities will be designed and scheduled to meet the applicable standards for each classification. Regional air quality standards will be maintained through cooperation with the State of Idaho.

Wildlife

- Elk winter range and summer habitat are high management priorities; at present, winter range is the limiting factor. An average of 5,000 acres of winter range will be treated by prescribed fire annually in order to maintain winter range carrying capacity at about 23,000 animals by the end of the Plan period (1997). Road access and timber sale scheduling will be coordinated to achieve the elk summer habitat objectives.

Protection

- The Forest will plan, implement, and maintain a fire management program that minimizes the cost plus net value change. This level of protection is determined through the National Fire Management Analysis System. For the Nez Perce National Forest, the expected annual burned acreage at the most cost-efficient level is 2,300 acres." (currently Fire Planning Analysis, FPA, is used).

Table 5. Projected outputs by time period (1987 Nez Perce LRMP)

			Average Annual Units				
			Planned	Projected			
Target Item 1/	Output or Activity	Unit of Measure	1988-1997	1998-2007	2008-2017	2018-2027	2028-2037
Protection T23	Fuels Mgmt Activity & Natural Fuels	Acres	4,540	6,265	8,730	9,526	10,113

STANDARDS

The following standards apply to National Forest land administered by the Nez Perce National Forest. They are intended to supplement, not replace, the National and Regional policies, standards, and guidelines found in Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks and the Northern Regional Guide.

Air Quality

- "Cooperate with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Meet the requirements of the SIP and State Smoke Management Plan.

Protection

- Fire management direction in this Forest Plan shall guide the Fire Management Analysis and the resulting Fire Management Action Plan".

  "Fire management direction for wildfire and prescribed fire is shown for each management area in Chapter III of the Forest Plan. Control of wildfire is an option for all management areas. This is necessary because at some time, depending on location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk, all fires may have to be controlled.

  The prescribed fire planned ignition option is for those management areas where burning will be done to achieve management objectives such as browse rehabilitation, slash disposal, site preparation, etc.

  Appendix C of the Forest Plan contains more specific fire management direction and explains the Fire Management Analysis System.

- Undertake hazard reduction treatments if activity-created fuels exceed 12 tons per acre of materials less than 3 inches in diameter. Base assessments on the "Slash Hazard Appraisal."

- Minimize the impacts of the mountain pine beetle and other insect and disease infestations to the extent necessary to achieve the overall goals and objectives of this Forest Plan.

- Control insect and disease infestations through the application of Integrated Pest Management principles."

A summary of fire management direction by Management Area is shown in Table 2 in section 2.2.

B. Fire Management Direction and Program Guidance

NOTE: This section provides a brief description of the fire management direction contained in Appendix C of the Nez Perce Forest Plan. Only relevant Forest Plan direction as it relates to current Federal Fire Policy is shown below.

The Nez Perce National Forest will provide for resource protection and fire use necessary to protect, maintain, and enhance resource values and attain land management goals and objectives.

Fire Management is a support function integrated with and responsive to the land and resource management direction established in the Forest Plan.

The National Fire Management Analysis System is one process used to develop the Forest's annual fire budget request. The main objective is to achieve fire management direction in the most cost-effective manner.

Because all Forest resources can be affected by fire, managers should carefully consider these basic concepts when forming plans, decisions, and actions:

1. Fire and the exclusion of fire have played a major role in the development of the ecosystems on the Nez Perce National Forest as we know them.
2. Prescribed fire from both planned and unplanned ignitions can be used to achieve land management objectives.
3. Fire management planning must consider fire application and ecological effects to provide all valid options for effective land management.
4. Aesthetic, visual, soil, air, and water quality concerns will dictate fire management direction in some areas.
5. Fuel buildup resulting from effective fire suppression has complicated fire management options in some areas.

The following direction is to ensure that fire use programs are cost-effective, compatible with the role of fire in forest ecosystems and responsive to resource management objectives:

1. Prescribe fire to maintain healthy, dynamic ecosystems that meet land management objectives.
2. Maintain an adequate cadre of well-qualified prescribed fire experts. Apply both technical knowledge and field experience in accomplishing prescribed fire needs.

3. Emphasize fire ecology implications when applying prescribed fire.
   a. Use fire ecology and fire management reference documents to guide project development, execution, and evaluation.
   b. Integrate an understanding of the role fire plays in regulating stand structure into the development of silvicultural prescriptions.
   c. Emphasize the use of prescribed fire in range and wildlife habitat improvement projects.
   d. Fire will be permitted in wilderness to the extent possible within prescriptions that provide for protection of life, property, and adjacent resources.
   e. Prescribed fire programs will be responsive to National, State, and local air quality regulations and agreements.
   f. An active inform and involve program is necessary to ensure public involvement, understanding, and approval of prescribed fire programs.

The following direction is to ensure that the fire presuppression programs are cost-effective and responsive to the Forest Plan.

1. Fire management direction emphasizes cost-effectiveness when selecting alternatives that will accomplish management objectives of the Forest Plan.
2. Unplanned ignitions will be managed as prescribed fires in predetermined areas under conditions that meet established prescriptions.
3. Suppression options other than control will be considered in some areas under established conditions.
4. The responsible line officers can require control in any Forest Plan Management Area at any time.

A summary of fire management direction by Management Area from the 1987 Revised Nez Perce Land and Resource Management Plan (Appendix C, page C-3) is displayed in section 2.2, Table 2.

3.1.2. Physical Characteristics that Apply to All Fire Management Units

Lands within the Clearwater and Nez Perce are highly variable. Vegetation types vary from river breaks with flashy fuels to high alpine fir. Ponderosa pine with a grass understory is typical habitat on warmer, drier river breaks blending into Douglas-fir, which is common in low elevation sites and along river corridors, where it out-competes pine and larch. Western white pine is sparse while lodgepole pine is abundant at mid to high elevations. Englemann spruce and hemlock extend into subalpine fir and whitebark pine at the highest elevations. Western red cedar and grand fir are found in areas at lower, moist sites and frost pockets. Topography is extremely varied at all elevations and consequently, fire behavior and historic fire regimes are extremely varied, ranging from high frequency, low intensity to low frequency, high intensity stand replacing crown fires.

3.2. Fire Management Considerations for Specific Fire Management Sub-Units

3.2.1. FMU Snap Shot

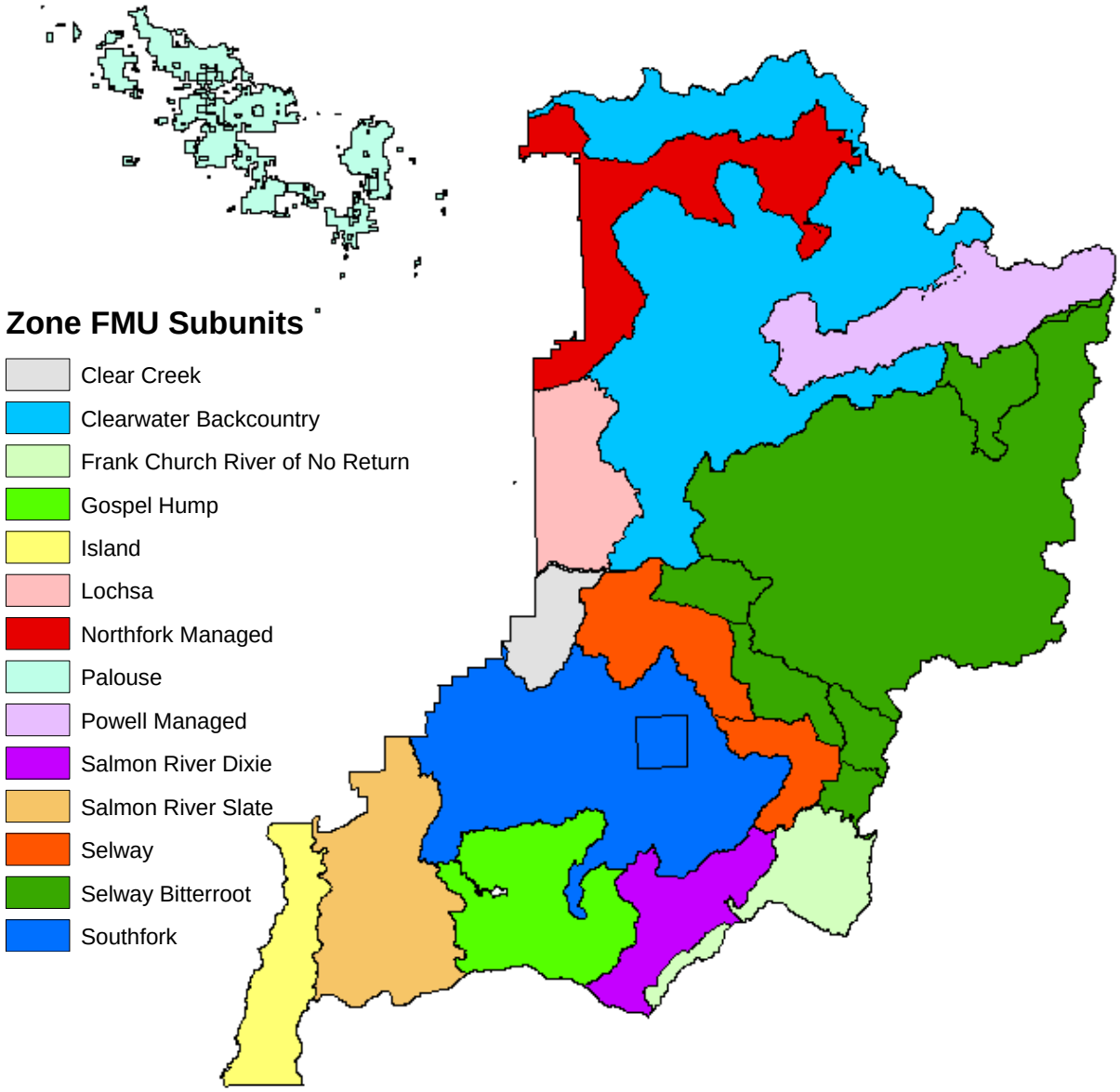
Zone-wide Information:

- Radio Frequency: See Clear/Nez Fire Zone 2010 Radio Frequency Guide
- General Risk, Fire Behavior, NFDRS: *See the NFDRS plan on the GVC website*
- Acres/Agency: *See Ch2.3 Partnerships for a complete list of agencies within the Zone*.
- IA Dispatch Office: Grangeville Interagency Dispatch serves the entire zone (208-983-6800).

A Fire Management Unit Map is located in the Maps section of the Appendix on the GVC website.

3.2.2. Fire Management Sub Units

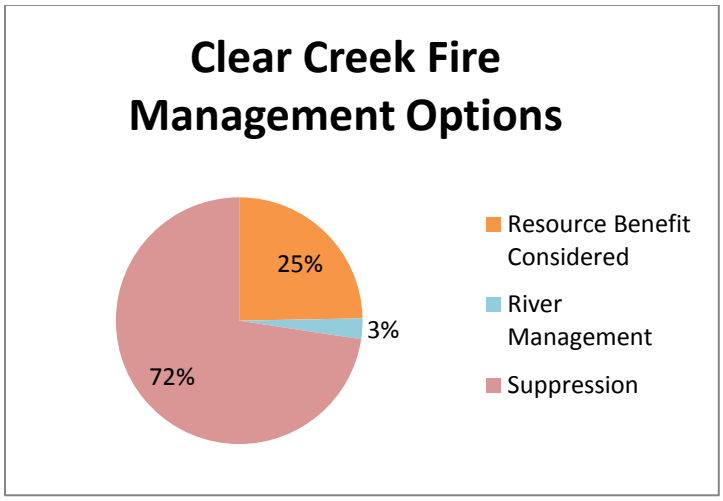
The following contains a brief discussion of the individual Fire Management Sub-Units found on the Clear-Nez Zone. These are a subset of the Fire Management Units, broken out by management area direction found in Forest Plans, watershed, district boundaries, or covered by a specific Wildland Fire guidebook.

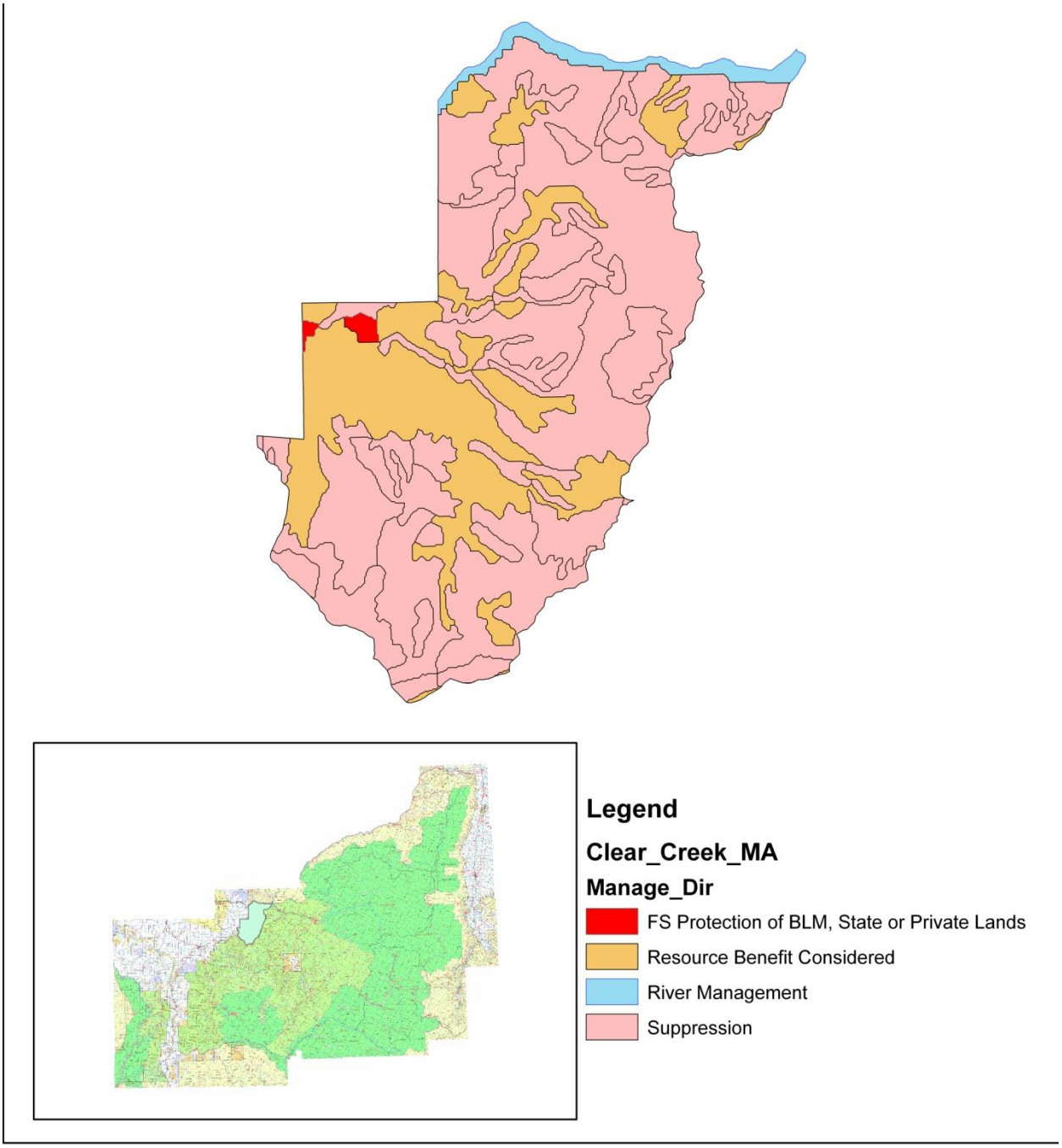

Zone FMU Subunits
Clear Creek
Clearwater Backcountry
Frank Church River of No Return
Gospel Hump
Island
Lochsa
Northfork Managed
Palouse
Powell Managed
Salmon River Dixie
Salmon River Slate
Selway
Selway Bitterroot
Southfork

Clear Creek Sub-Unit

The Clear Creek Subunit is located on the northern edge of the forest. The entire Clear Creek watershed is contained in this subunit. The National Forest System lands within this subunit are administrated by the Moose Creek Ranger District. Fire management operations are directed by the Moose Creek Fire Duty Officer. Lands west of the subunit are privately owned. There are some inholdings within the landscape unit on the western half of the unit. Much of the area is unroaded and remote. The terrain is characterized by steep rugged slopes rising from the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River to tree covered mountain tops. Vegetation types found in this subunit are predominantly mixed conifer. Lower elevations are characterized by ponderosa pine, western red cedar and Douglas fir. At the higher elevations spruce and subalpine fir are the dominant tree species. Throughout the subunit there are large brushfields of alder, huckleberry and meefee. The communities of Kooskia and Stites Idaho are located to the west of the area. Recreational activities that take place in this subunit are primarily hunting, berry picking and scenic driving. During the winter there is some snowmobiling on roads and trails through the subunit. There has been a rich history of timber management in the area. Almost half of the management areas in the subunit are designated for timber management. Some grazing is permitted throughout the area. The primary fire management option for this area is suppression. There are some areas that allow fires to be managed for resource benefits. The primary concerns for firefighting personnel in this subunit are steep slopes that make overland travel difficult.

Management Area	Acres	Percent of Area	FMU Emphasis
MA 1	328	0.6	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 8.2	1566	2.7	River Management
MA 10	733	1.3	Suppression
MA 11	47	0.1	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 12	22277	38.6	Suppression
MA 15	9145	15.8	Suppression
MA 16	12395	21.5	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 17	1047	1.8	Suppression
MA 18	1484	2.6	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 20	3479	6.0	Suppression
MA 21	4916	8.5	Suppression
PVT	296	0.5	Suppression
Total Acres FMU	57714	100.0	

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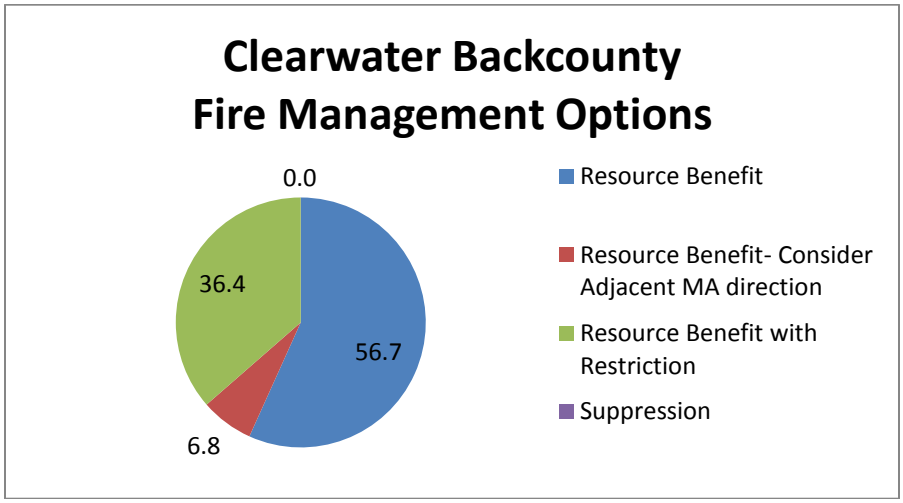
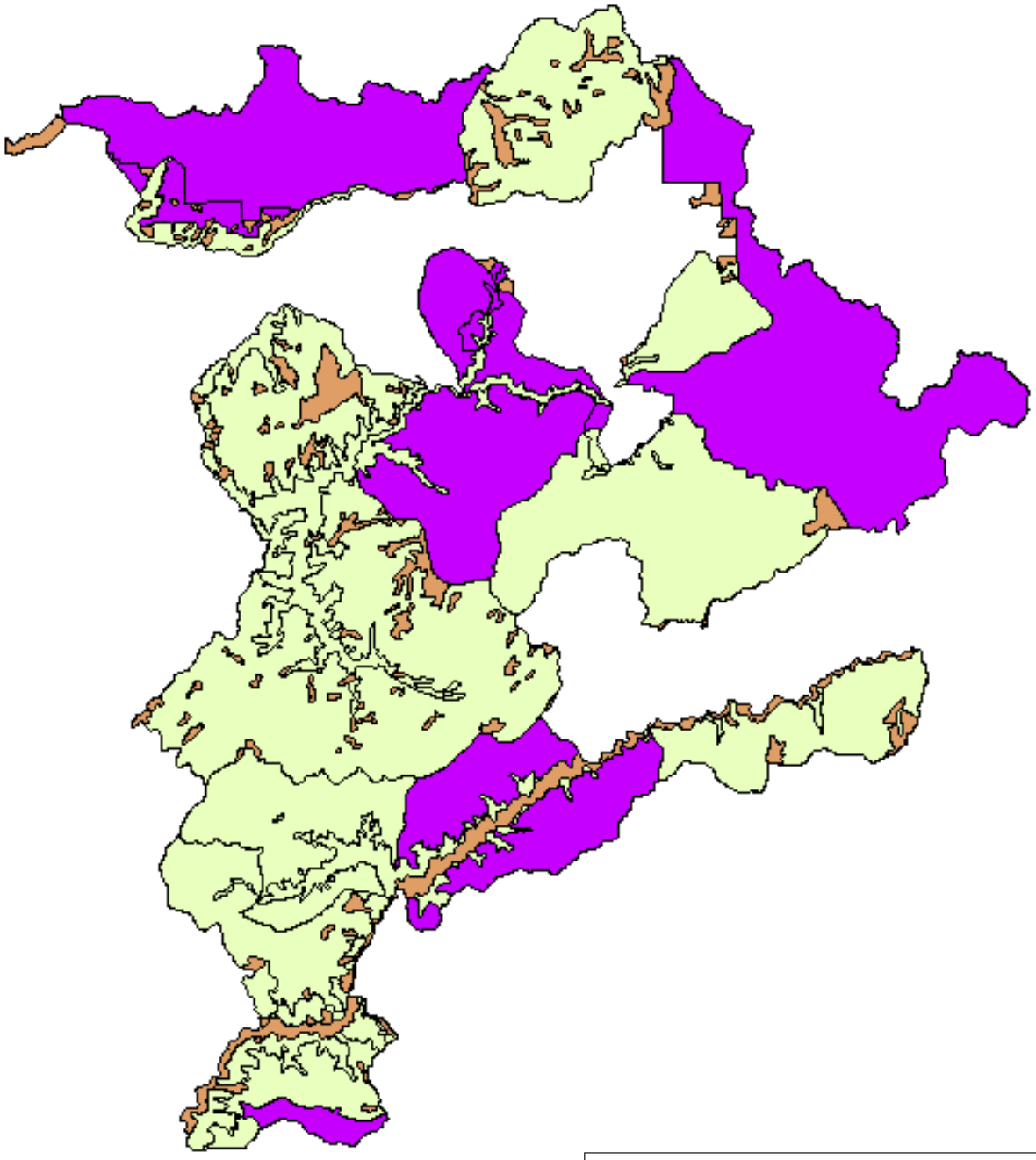
Clear_Creek_MA
Manage_Dir
FS Protection of BLM, State or Private Lands
Resource Benefit Considered
River Management
Suppression

Clearwater Backcountry Sub-Unit: All NFS lands in this FMU Subgroup have been approved for fires to be managed for resource benefits in the Clearwater Fire Use Guidebook. Some of these lands have restrictions on when or how large fires can be allowed to grow.

The Clearwater Backcountry FMU Subunit lies west and south of the Lolo National Forest. It encompasses much of the unroaded portions of the Lochsa, Northfork and Powell Ranger Districts and includes all or portions of the North Fork Clearwater, Cayuse, Weitas and Lochsa River drainages. The National Forest System lands within this FMU Subunit are administered by the Lochsa, Northfork and Powell Ranger Districts. Fire management operations are provided by the Fire Duty Officers of these three districts. There is no private property located within this FMU Subunit. The landscape within this FMU Subunit is remote rugged terrain. Very few roads bisect the area and these are restricted primarily to valley bottoms or ridgetops. The few roads are unpaved gravel forest service roads. Elevations range from less than 2000 feet to over 6000'. Much of this sub unit was burned in 1910. Large brush fields cover many hundreds of acres. Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir habitat types are found at lower elevations. Sub alpine fir, larch, lodgepole pine and spruce are found at higher elevations. The closest communities to this sub group are Pierce Idaho west of the unit and Superior Montana east of the unit. Both communities are many miles distant from the edge of this subunit. The main recreational emphasis in this area is hunting and fishing. There are many dispersed recreation sites adjacent to roads. This subunit is mainly managed for wilderness and wildlife. Unplanned ignitions in this area are primarily managed for resource benefits. The primary concerns for firefighting personnel in this subunit are steep slopes that make overland travel difficult.

Management	Acres	Percent	Subunit Emphasis
8S	280189	34.5	Resource Benefit
A3	67602	8.3	Resource Benefit with Restriction
A7	14981	1.8	Resource Benefit- Consider Adjacent MA direction
B2	172109	21.2	Resource Benefit with Restriction
C1	46828	5.8	Resource Benefit with Restriction
C3	21473	2.6	Resource Benefit
C4	51541	6.3	Resource Benefit
C6	107574	13.2	Resource Benefit
E1	49	0.0	Suppression
E3	9153	1.1	Resource Benefit with Restriction
M1	638	0.1	Resource Benefit- Consider Adjacent MA direction
US	39949	4.9	Resource Benefit- Consider Adjacent MA direction
Total Acres	812085		





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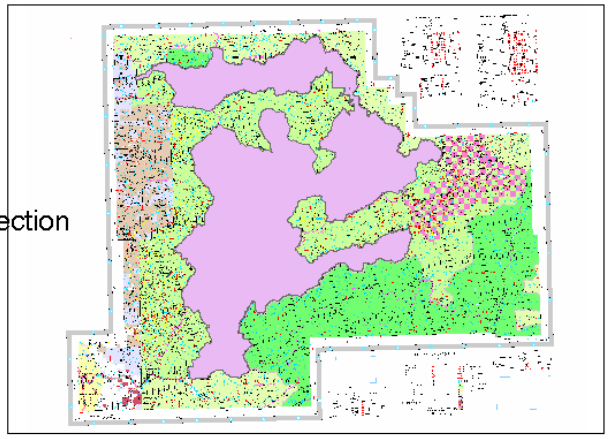
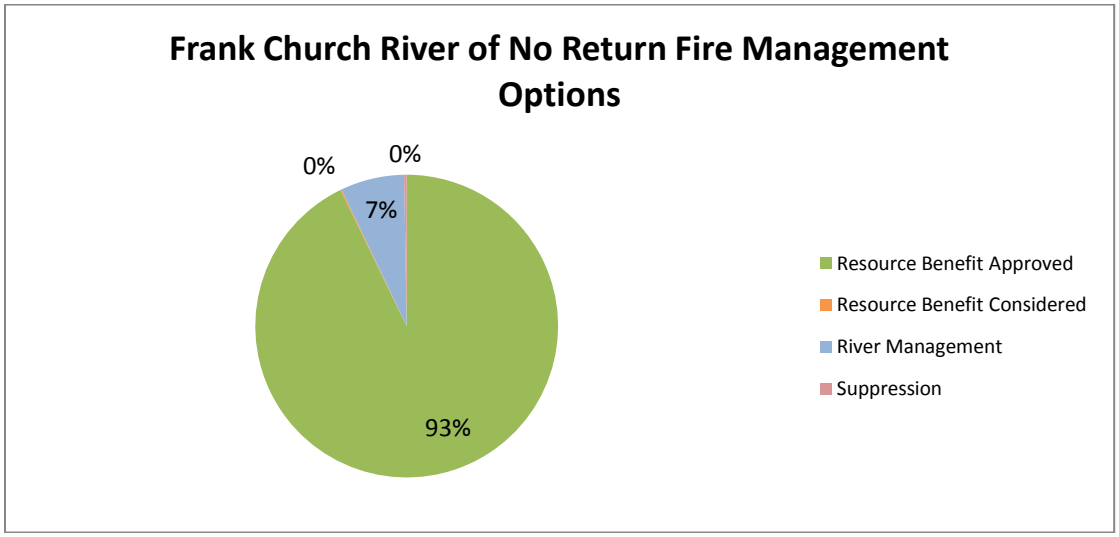
- Resource Benefit with Restriction
- Resrouce Benefit- Considered adjacent MA direction
- Suppression

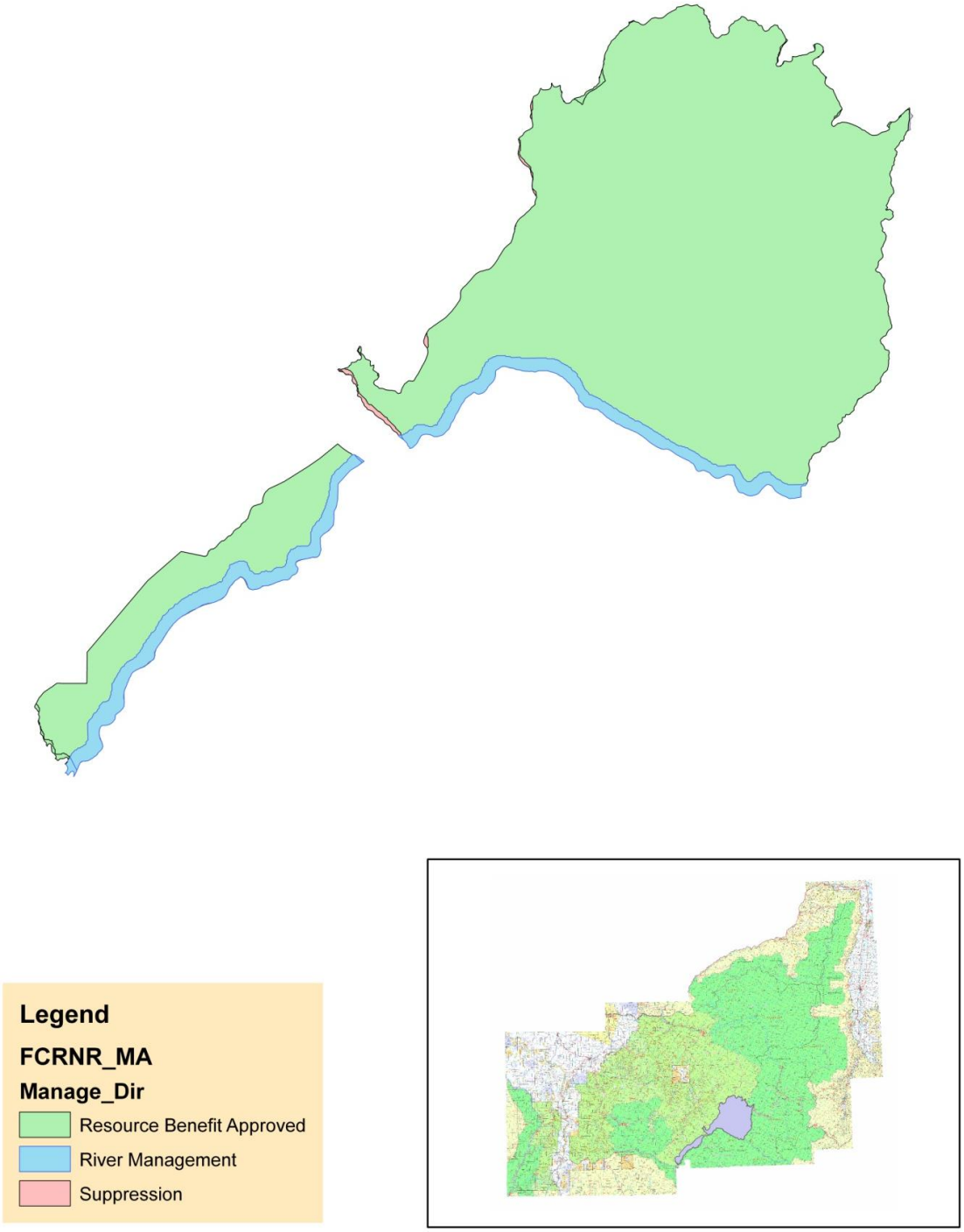


Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Sub-Unit:

This subunit describes the portion of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness administered by the Nez Perce N.F. The area is bordered on the east by the Bitterroot N.F. and on the south by the Payette N.F. The entire Bargamin watershed is contained in this subunit. The NFS lands within the FCRNR subunit are administered by the Red River Ranger District. The landscape is very steep and inaccessible; with elevation ranges from below 2000' on the Salmon River to over 8000' on the summits of the mountain peaks. Vegetation found in the subunit varies with elevation. At the lower elevations south slopes are populated with grass and ponderosa pine, mid-elevations are dominated by mixed conifer habitat types and highest elevations support sub alpine fir, spruce, lodgepole pine and white bark pine. Approximately 40 miles downstream and of the subunit is the community of Riggins Idaho. Salmon Idaho approximately 80 miles upstream is the closest community to the subunit upstream, east of the subunit. The Salmon River is a popular river for rafting and jet boating. Recreational traffic on the Main Salmon River is controlled with a permit system restricting the number of visitors through the summer. During the fall there are several outfitters that operate throughout the subunit. The FCRNR SU is entirely within designated wilderness. Fire management in the FCRNR includes the entire range of options. Fires have been primarily managed for benefits since the mid 1990's when the Frank Church River of No Return Fire Management Guidebook was first approved. There are several private inholdings along the Salmon River that receive protection during fire events. The primary concerns for firefighting personnel in this subunit are steep slopes that make overland travel difficult.

Management Area	Acres	Percent of Area	FMU Emphasis
MA 8.1	7522	6.8	River Management
MA 9.3	102448	92.8	Resource Benefit Approved
MA 11	38	0.0	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 12	32	0.0	Suppression
MA 16	98	0.1	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 17	266	0.2	Suppression
Total Acres FMU	110404	100.0	

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FCRNR_MA
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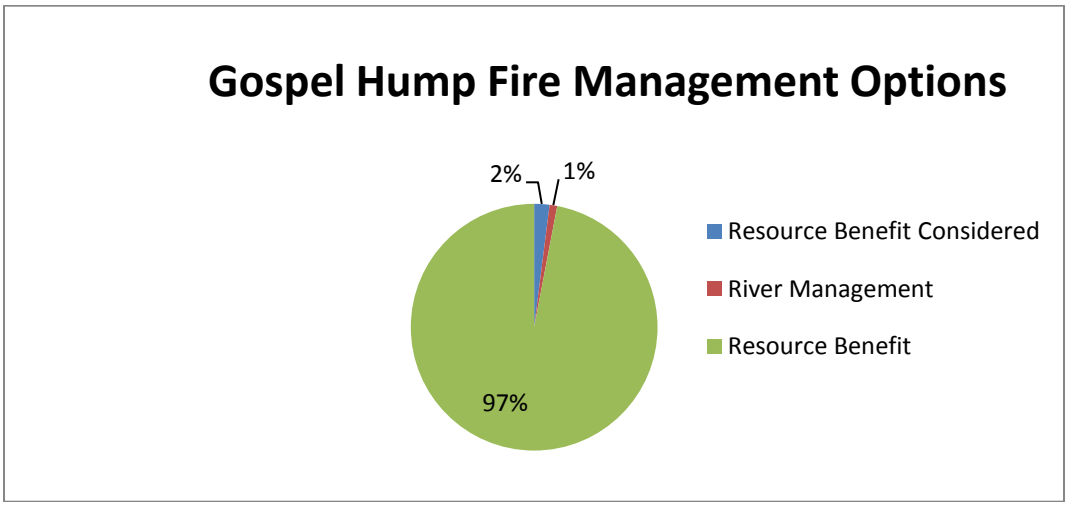
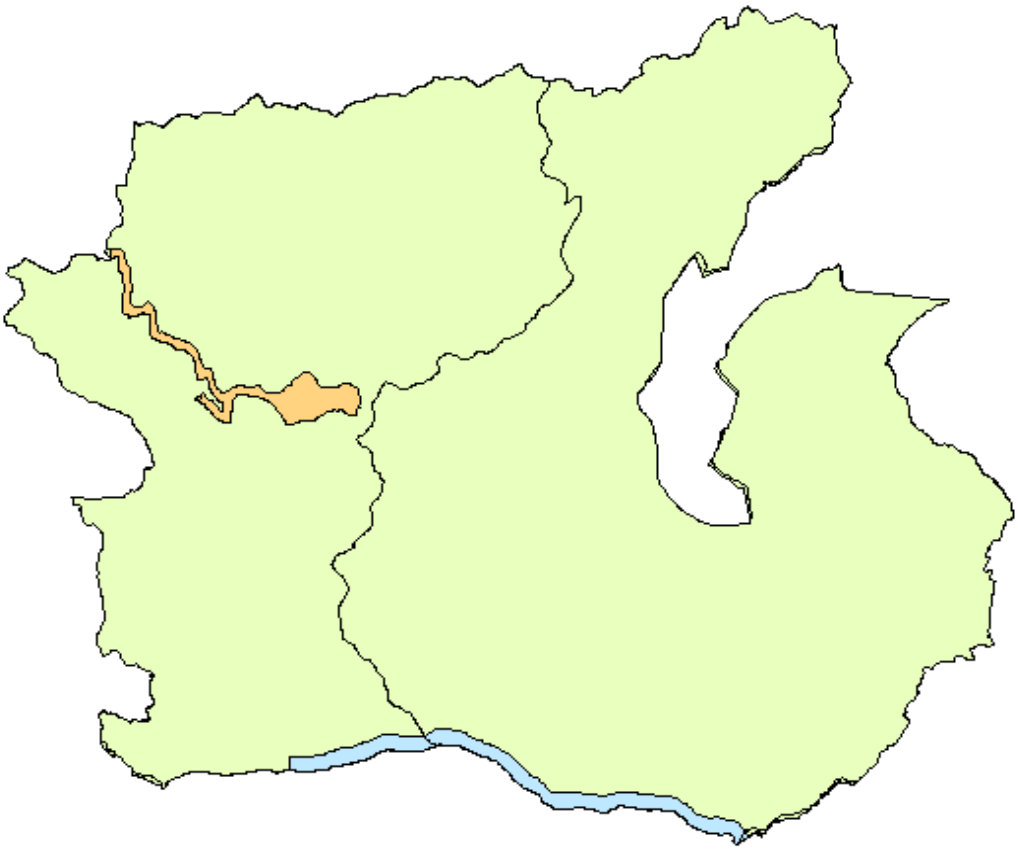
Resource Benefit Approved
River Management
Suppression

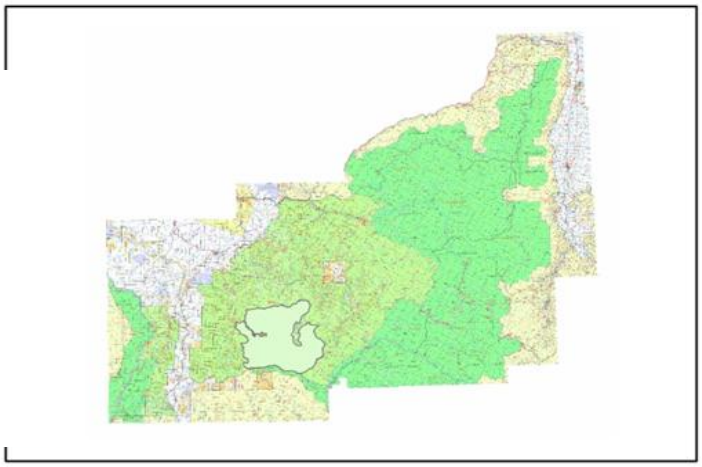
Gospel Hump Wilderness Sub-Unit:

The Gospel Hump Wilderness is entirely within the boundaries of the Nez Perce N.F. The Payette N.F. lies south of the Salmon River which defines the southern boundary of this subunit. There are several watersheds that have their beginnings in the Gospel Hump. These watersheds flow north into the South Fork Clearwater River and south into the Salmon River. The NFS lands within this subunit are administered by the Red River and the Salmon River Ranger Districts. There are no tracts of private property within the wilderness but there is private property that extends from the eastern edge of the wilderness and encompasses the Comstock area. There are several private properties along the Salmon River. The Gospel Hump SU is remote, steep and rugged. Rising steeply from the Salmon River to over 8000' in just a few miles is typical of the terrain found in the Salmon River Break country. The center of the subunit has many mountain peaks separated by deep canyons as well as rolling ridges that bisect the area. The slopes coming out of the Salmon River are covered with grasses and ponderosa pine. Douglas fir and mixed conifer stands are found throughout the subunit at the mid elevations. The upper elevations support stands of sub alpine fir, lodgepole pine, spruce and white bark pine. The highest points in the SU reach above the treeline. Orogrande Idaho is located on the eastern edge of the SU. This historical mining district supports some private residences. There are several scattered private properties along the Salmon River on the southern boundary of the subunit. West of the subunit about 20 miles is the community of Riggins Idaho. Recreation in the Gospel Hump is limited. Rafting and jet boating are popular activities on the Salmon River. The Salmon River Road dead ends at Vinegar Creek. Along this road there are numerous dispersed camping sites that have high demand for use through much of the year. During hunting season the higher elevations see moderate amounts of visitations. The entire subunit is designated wilderness. The Gospel Hump SU allows all fire management options. There is an approved fire management guidebook for the Gospel Hump Wilderness Area. The primary concerns for firefighting personnel in this subunit are steep slopes that make overland travel difficult.

Management Area	Acres	Percent of Area	FMU Emphasis
MA 1	2117	2	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 8.1	2754	1	River Management
MA 9.2	201063	97	Resource Benefit Approved
MA 16	154	0.0	Resource Benefit Considered
Total Acres FMU	207088	100.0	







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Gospel_Hump_MA

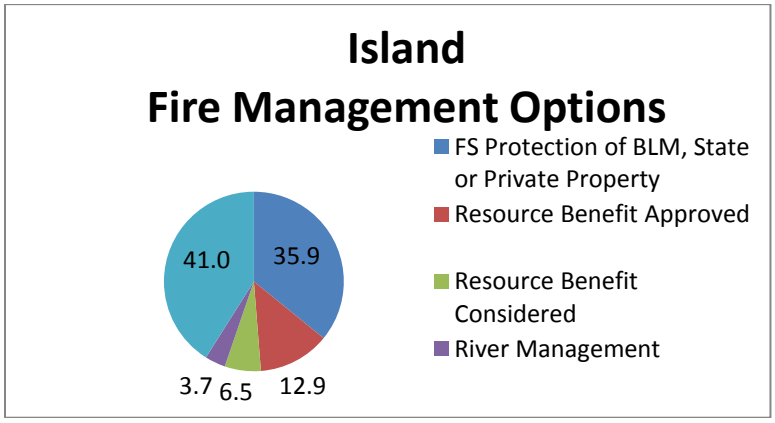
Manage_Dir

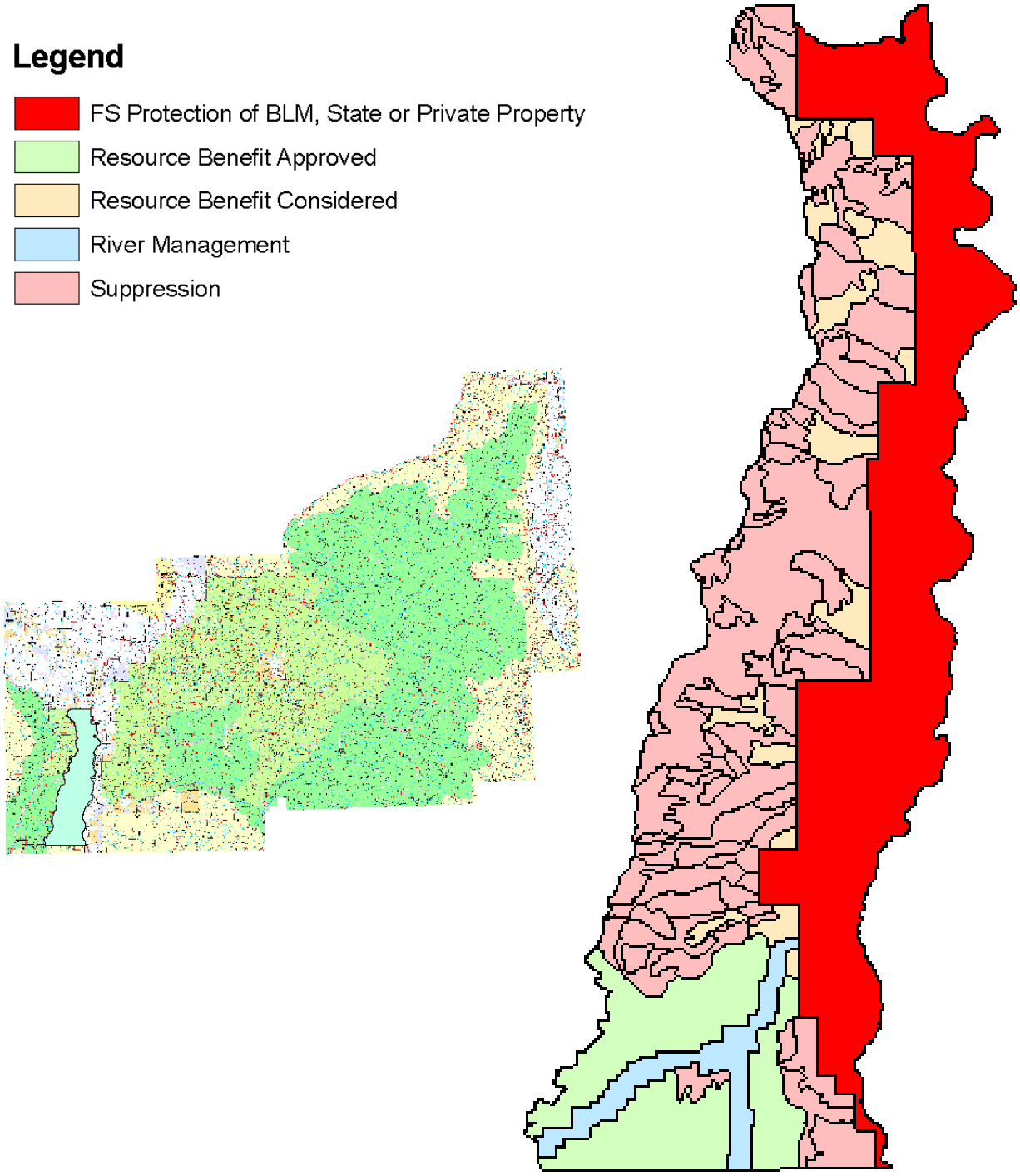
- Resource Benefit Approved
- Resource Benefit Considered
- River Management

Island Landscape Sub-Unit:

The Island SU western border abuts Hells Canyon National Recreation Area which is administered by the Wallowa Whitman N.F. Numerous small drainages flow from the west into the Salmon River. All NFS lands within the Island SU are administered by the Salmon River Ranger District. Roads within the subunit are very limited. These roads follow the major drainages up from the Salmon River to the main ridgeline at the western edge of the subunit. There is approximately 43,000 acres of BLM, State or private property within the Island SU. These lands are located primarily between the Salmon River on the eastern edge of the subunit up to the National Forest boundary. There are some in holdings found scattered across the subunit. The Nez Perce National Forest has fire protection responsibilities for these lands. The Island SU rises steeply out of the Salmon River Canyon. Once out of the canyon the terrain moderates slightly. The western edge of the subunit is dominated by a ridge running north/south dividing the Snake and Salmon Rivers. The highest elevations in the subunit surpass 6000'. Vegetation is defined by elevation and aspect. Adjacent to the Salmon River the slopes are primarily grass covered melding into open stands of ponderosa pine. Once out of the river canyon and onto the upper slopes the vegetation tends towards Douglas fir and ponderosa pine. Several communities are located along the Salmon River and eastern boundary of the subunit. Riggins Idaho is the largest of these communities found on the confluence of the main Salmon and the Little Salmon River. Recreation in this subunit is primarily along the Salmon River. Some developed and dispersed camping is found at the higher elevations of the subunit. Use increases during hunting season. Timber and range management are the primary management practices of the Island SU. Cattle allotments are found across NFS lands. Several areas have permanent corrals used for gathering cattle. Fire management in the Island SU is predominantly suppression based. The primary concerns for firefighting personnel in this subunit are steep slopes that make overland travel difficult.

Management Area	Acres	Percent of Area	FMU Emphasis
MA 1	261	0.3	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 8.3	4490	4.3	River Management
MA 10	223	0.2	Suppression
MA 11	15618	15.0	Resource Benefit Approved
MA 12	21902	21.0	Suppression
MA 13	2402	2.3	Suppression
MA 15	4435	4.3	Suppression
MA 16	6416	6.2	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 17	-8439	-8.1	Suppression
MA 18	1067	1.0	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 19	12348	11.9	Suppression
PVT	43471	41.7	FS Protection of BLM, State and Private Property
Total Acres FMU	104195		

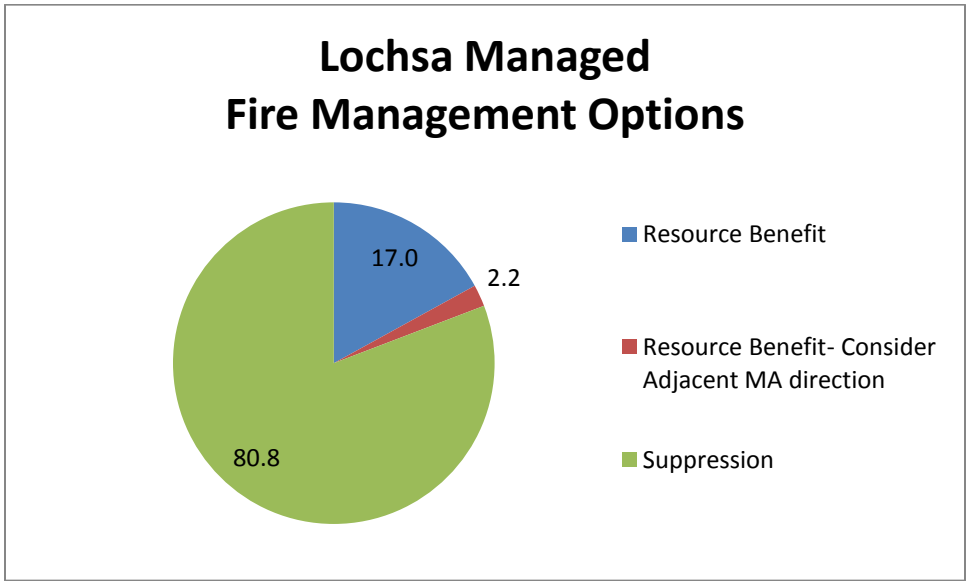


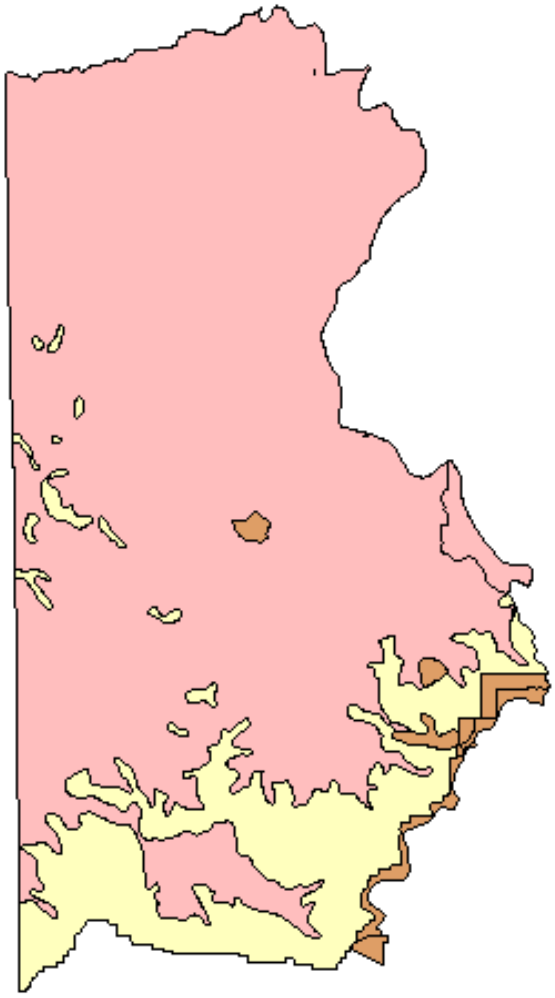

Legend
FS Protection of BLM, State or Private Property
Resource Benefit Approved
Resource Benefit Considered
River Management
Suppression

Lochsa Managed Sub-Unit:

The Lochsa Subunit is located entirely within the boundaries of the Clearwater N.F. The Lolo, Eldorado, Bell and French Creek drainages are located within the boundaries of the Lochsa subunit. The Lochsa and North Fork Ranger Districts administer the NFS lands within this subunit. There is few private property inholdings located within the boundaries of this subunit, one in the northwest corner, and the others border the southern end of the subunit. The geography within this area varies widely with location. Adjacent to river canyons the terrain is steep and rugged. In the interior of the subunit the landscape is dissected with rolling hills. The rich soils in the subunit support productive stands of commercial timber species (Douglas fir, grand fir, larch, western white pine, western red cedar, ponderosa pine). Large brush fields populated with Ceanothus, alder, and other brush species are the remnants of past fire history. Communities outside this subunit include Lowell, Syringa, Kooskia, Weippe and Pierce Idaho. There are numerous developed and dispersed recreation sites spread across the Lochsa subunit. There are designated ATV and Snowmobile trail systems near Musselshell Meadows. Hunting season sees an increase in the number of users to this subunit. The Lochsa Managed subunit has been heavily logged. A complete network of roads has been developed to access the NFS lands for timber management activities. Cattle allotments are scattered across much of the subunit. Much of the area has seen historic mining activity during the late 1800 into the early 1900's. Fire management options for this subunit are primarily suppression oriented to protect these managed timber lands. The primary concerns for firefighting personnel in this subunit are steep slopes that make overland travel difficult.

Management Area	Acres	Percent of Area	Subunit Emphasis
A7	1387	1.0	Resource Benefit- Consider Adjacent MA direction
C4	22710	17.0	Resource Benefit
E1	107901	80.8	Suppression
M1	955	0.7	Resource Benefit- Consider Adjacent MA direction
US	579	0.4	Resource Benefit- Consider Adjacent MA direction
Total Acres	**133531**		





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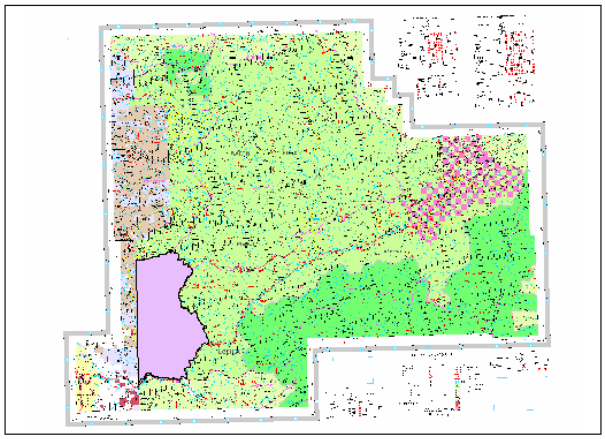
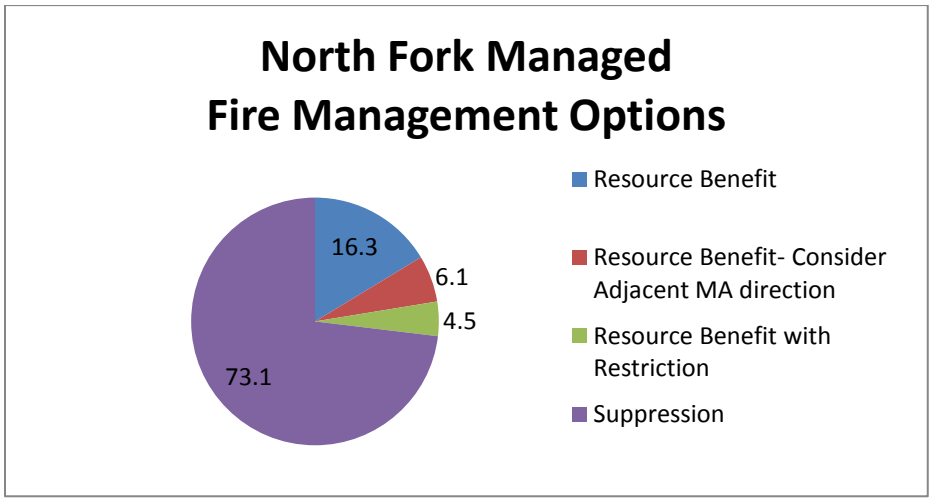
- Resource Benefit
- Resource Benefit- Consider Adjacent MA direction
- Suppression

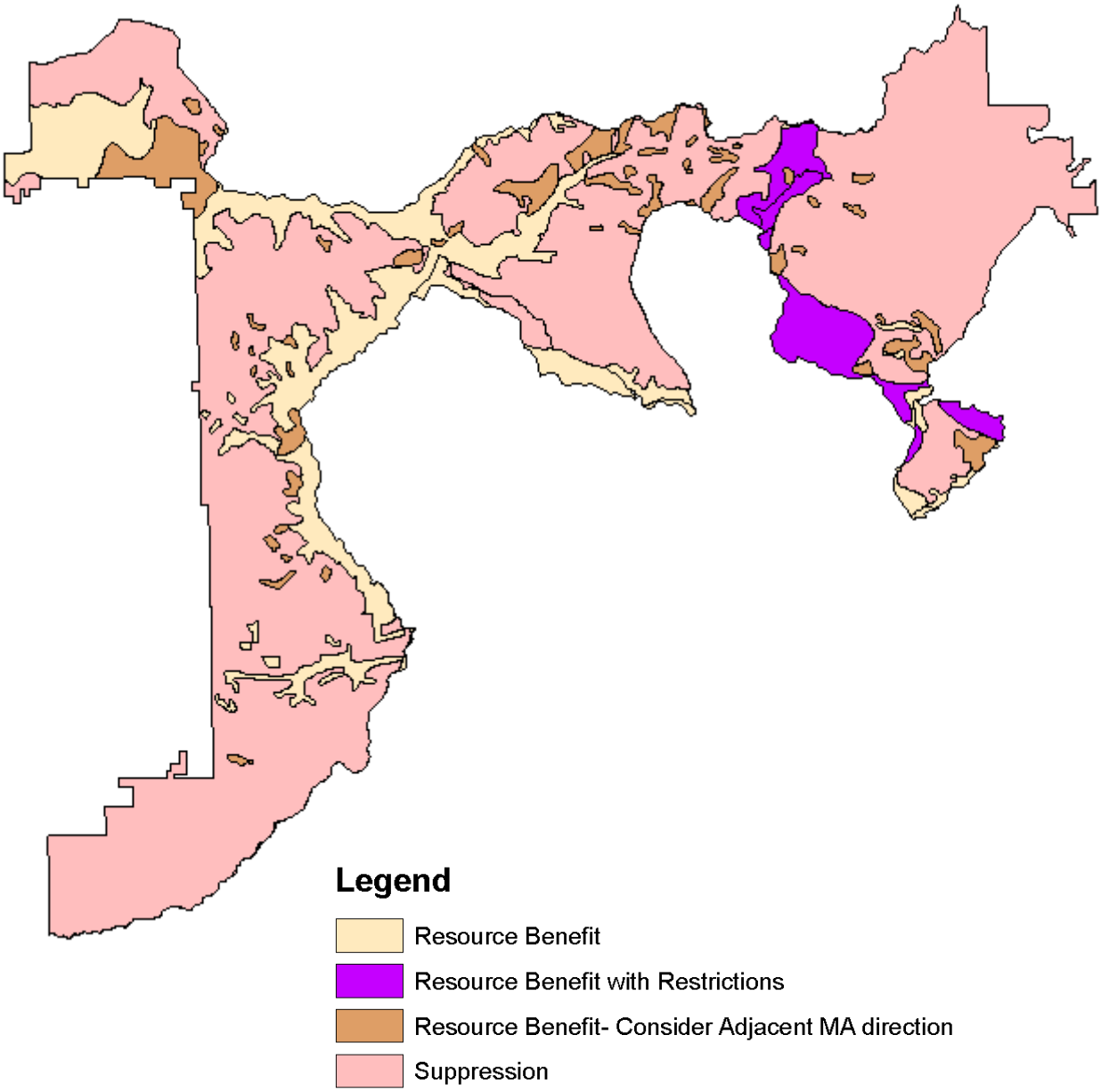


North Fork Managed Sub-Unit:

The North Fork Manage Subunit is located within the boundaries of the Clearwater National Forest, in the North Fork Clearwater River drainage. The NFS lands within this subunit are administered by the North Fork Ranger District. There are some private property inclusions within this area. Deception Saddle has around 10 private dwellings that are occupied for part of the year. The geography within the subunit varies widely with location. Adjacent to river canyons the terrain is steep and rugged. In the interior of the subunit the landscape is dissected with rolling hills. The rich soils in the subunit support productive stands of commercial timber species (Douglas fir, grand fir, larch, western white pine, western red cedar, ponderosa pine). Large brush fields populated with Ceanothus, alder, and other brush species are the remnants of past fire history. The closest communities to the North Fork Managed subunit to the west is Pierce Idaho and to the east Superior Montana. Recreation in the subunit is limited. Developed and dispersed campsites are located along the North Fork River. Some trails traverse the subunit but see little use through most times of the year. Fishing and Hunting are the predominant recreational activities taking place through the summer and fall. There has been significant logging activity in this subunit over the last 100 years. The steep canyons walls have dictated where roads could be built. Over the last fifty years a network of roads has been developed through these canyons that accessed the better timber grounds. Fire management options for this subunit are primarily suppression oriented to protect these managed timber lands. The primary concerns for firefighting personnel in this subunit are steep slopes that make overland travel difficult.

Management Area	Acres	Percent of Area	Subunit Emphasis
8S	2102	0.9	Resource Benefit
A3	5851	2.4	Resource Benefit with Restriction
B2	1067	0.4	Resource Benefit with Restriction
C1	258	0.1	Resource Benefit with Restriction
C3	831	0.3	Resource Benefit
C4	36686	14.9	Resource Benefit
C6	563	0.2	Resource Benefit
E1	179805	73.1	Suppression
E3	3857	1.6	Resource Benefit with Restriction
M1	4202	1.7	Resource Benefit- Consider Adjacent MA
US	10775	4.4	Resource Benefit- Consider Adjacent MA
Total Acres	**245998**		

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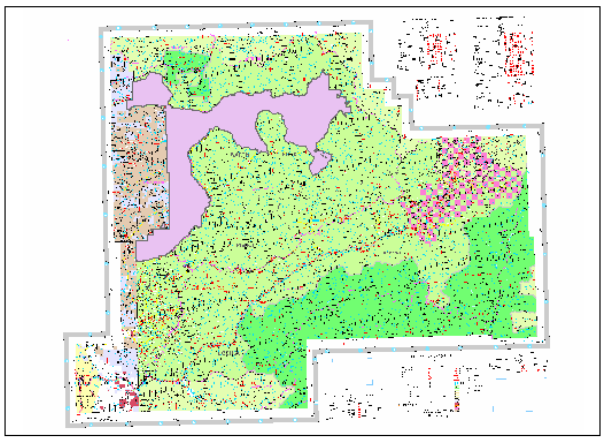
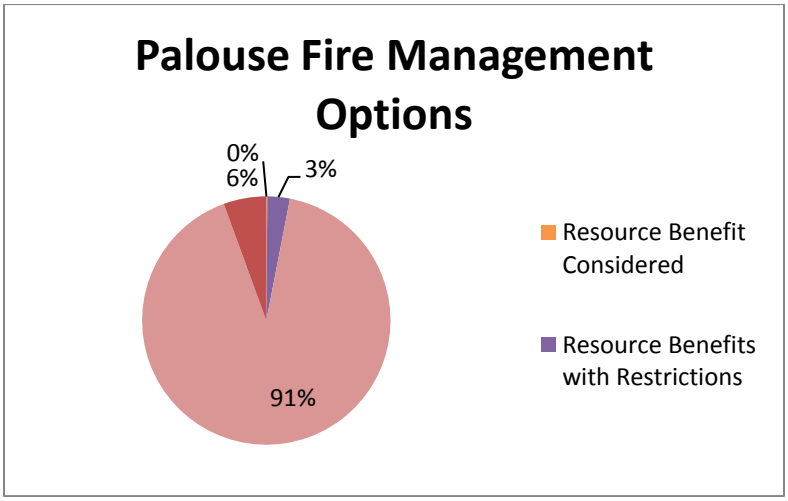
Resource Benefit
Resource Benefit with Restrictions
Resource Benefit- Consider Adjacent MA direction
Suppression



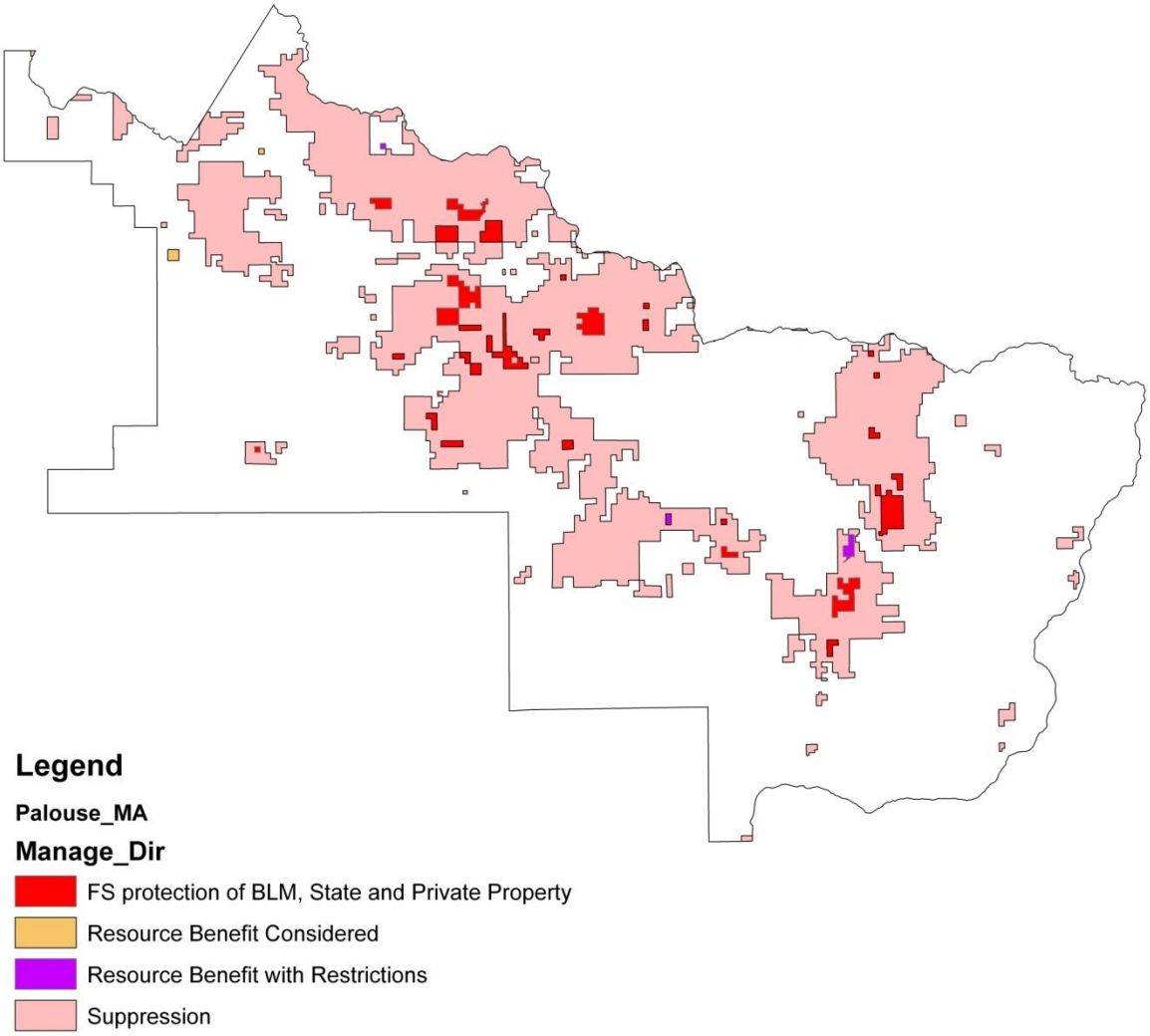
Palouse Sub-Unit:

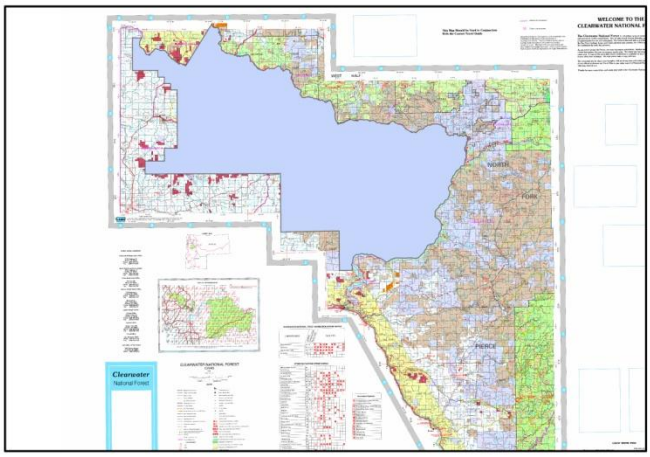
The Palouse SU is on the northwest corner of the Clearwater N.F. The subunit borders the Idaho Panhandle N.F. on its northern boundary. The watersheds in the Palouse SU drain into the Palouse River. The NFS lands in this subunit are administered by the Palouse Ranger District. Throughout the Palouse SU the NFS lands is bisected throughout by private property. This isolated nature often creates management issues. Fire protection of all NFS lands is performed by Idaho Department of Lands. The Palouse SU is intermixed with rural agricultural lands. The terrain is much less rugged than most of the Clearwater N.F., low rolling hills are the predominant landform. Most of the subunit is timbered with commercial timber species. Douglas fir, grand fir, western white pine, western larch, western red cedar, ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine are found across the area. The Palouse SU has small communities scattered around the perimeter. The communities of Potlatch, Princeton, Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Deary, Helmer, Avon Elk River and Bovill are located outside of the subunit. There are numerous recreation opportunities located throughout the Palouse SU. Numerous developed and dispersed campgrounds are located on NFS lands. The subunit has a network of ORV and single track motorized trail, and is predominantly managed for commercial timber harvest. There is a complete network of roads accessing much of the commercial timber grounds in this subunit. The timber industry is still a major supplier of jobs in the communities surrounding this subunit. Most of subunit is also divided into grazing allotments. Fire management options for this SU are mostly suppression with full perimeter control objectives. The interspersed nature of the NFS lands as well as forest plan management area direction, does not allow for alternative management options. The primary concerns for firefighting personnel in this subunit are steep slopes that make overland travel difficult.

Management Area	Acres	Percent of Area	FMU Emphasis
C4	370	0.2	Resource Benefits with Restrictions
C8S	203	0.1	Resource Benefit Considered
E1	143820	91.4	Suppression
E3	39	0.0	Resource Benefits with Restrictions
M1	4202	2.7	Resource Benefits with Restrictions
PVT	8765	5.6	Suppression
	157398	100.0	



All NFS lands in the Palouse LU are protected by Idaho Department of Lands.

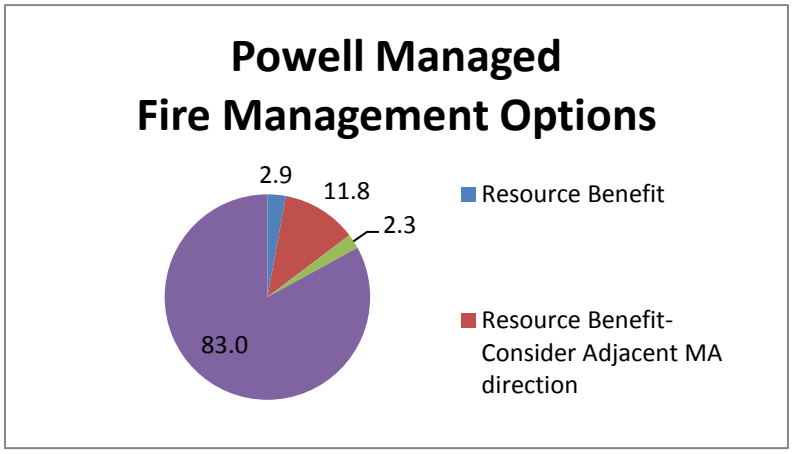

Legend
Palouse_MA
Manage_Dir
FS protection of BLM, State and Private Property
Resource Benefit Considered
Resource Benefit with Restrictions
Suppression

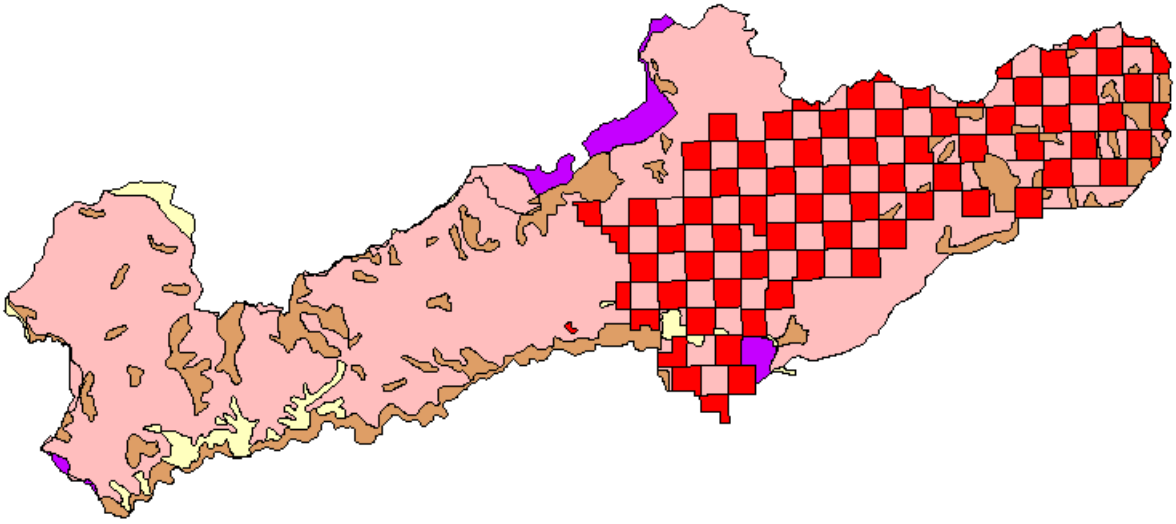


Powell Managed Sub-Unit:

The Powell Managed Subunit is located on the eastern side of the Clearwater N.F. The eastern edge of the subunit abuts the Lolo N.F. and the southern edge abuts the Nez Perce N.F. The entire subunit is located in the Lochsa River drainage. All NFS lands within the subunit are administered by the Powell Ranger District. The eastern portion of this subunit has a checkerboard landownership. Plum Creek Timber Company owned these lands for many years before selling them to a private individual. These lands have seen significant commercial timber harvesting. Around Powell Ranger Station there is one section of private property that was subdivided in the 1990's. The Forest Service provides fire protection for the private property within the subunit. The Powell Managed subunit is characterized by its narrow river drainages and rugged mountainous terrain. The terrain is vegetated with commercial timber species (Douglas fir, grand fir, western red cedar, western larch, lodgepole pine and western white pine). Timber harvesting of the private property during the 1980's and 1990's liquidated most of the commercial timber grounds. There is a legacy of untreated fuels conditions throughout these sections that poses management concerns. Some of the south facing slopes in the Lochsa River Canyon are populated by brush and grasses, remnants of past fire history. The closest town to the Powell subunit is Lolo Montana which is approximately 30 miles east of the subunit. The only population center in the subunit is Powell Ranger Station, Lochsa Lodge, Idaho Fish and Game residence and the Idaho Department of Transportation Facility. US Highway 12 runs through this subunit. This highway is one of three east/west travel corridors in Idaho. Traffic along this route brings travelers from across the country. Campgrounds located along the river are used throughout the summer season. Along the northern boundary of the unit there are several historic travel routes: the Lolo Motorway (FR500), Nee MeePoo Trail and Lewis and Clark travel route. These three routes mostly travel along the ridge north of the Lochsa River. During summer months travel along these corridors can be significant. Much of this subunit has been managed for timber harvesting. The private property has a network of roads that were constructed with the objective of minimizing timber harvesting costs. Most of the commercial timber has been harvested from the private property. The NFS lands within the subunit have been managed for timber harvesting since the 1960's. Most of the ridges and uplands have forest service roads providing access from the Lochsa River to the Lolo Motorway. The primary fire management alternative for this unit is suppression; there are some areas where management of fires for resource benefits can be considered. The primary concerns for firefighting personnel in this subunit are steep slopes that make overland travel difficult.

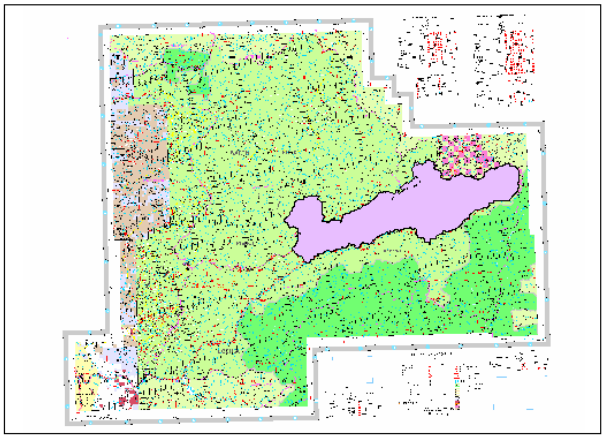
Management	Acres	Percent	Subunit Emphasis
8S	179	0.1	Resource Benefit
A3	230	0.1	Resource Benefit with Restriction
A7	5787	2.8	Resource Benefit- Consider Adjacent MA
B2	3628	1.8	Resource Benefit with Restriction
C4	4497	2.2	Resource Benefit
C6	1330	0.6	Resource Benefit
E1	131433	63.4	Suppression
E3	940	0.5	Resource Benefit with Restriction
PVT	40565	19.6	Suppression
US	18690	9.0	Resource Benefit- Consider Adjacent MA
Total Acres	207280		





Legend

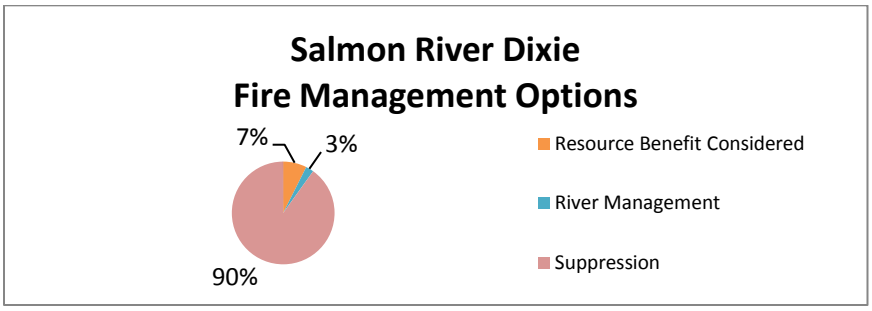
- FS Protection of BLM, State or Private Lands
- Resource Benefit
- Resource Benefit with Restriction
- Resource Benefit- Consider Adjacent MA direction
- Suppression

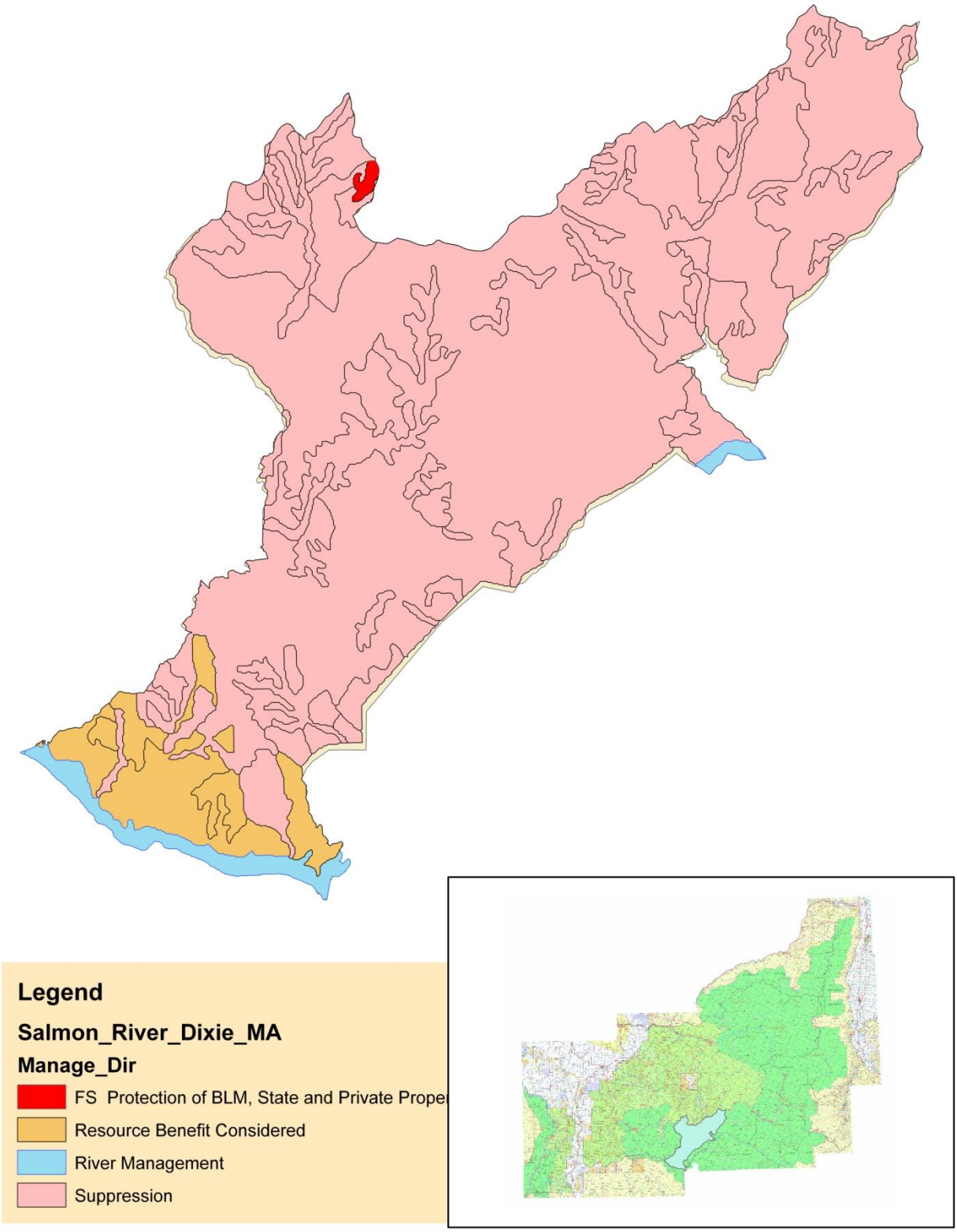


Salmon River Dixie Sub-Unit:

The Salmon River Dixie SU is located in the southeast portion of the Nez Perce N.F. The Payette N.F. is just south of the subunit across the Salmon River. The entire subunit drains into the Salmon River. There are no major rivers or creeks flowing into the Salmon from this subunit. All NFS lands within this subunit are administered by the Red River Ranger District. There are several parcels of private property located on the northwest portion of the area. The Forest Service provides fire protection to private property in the subunit. The Salmon River Dixie SU is remote, steep and rugged. Rising steeply from the Salmon River to over 6000' in just a few miles is typical of the terrain found in the Salmon River Breaks country. The northern portion of the subunit is rolling terrain rising to Dixie Summit. The slopes coming out of the Salmon River are covered with grasses and ponderosa pine. Douglas fir, lodgepole pine and mixed conifer stands are found throughout the subunit at the upper elevations. The community of Dixie Idaho is located within this area. Dixie has seen its share of fire in the last decade. In 2007 the Rattlesnake fire burned around the community throughout the summer. Major structure protection was done to the buildings in this community to protect them. Elk City Idaho is located north of the subunit approximately 15 miles. Several private ranches are located on the Salmon River. Through the years these properties have been protected from approaching fires numerous times. There are limited roads in the subunit. The 222 road from Red River to Dixie is the only surfaced road. Because of the limited access recreational opportunities in the Salmon River Dixie SU are somewhat limited. ORV travel on roads and designated trails is popular with the public. Dispersed campsites are found along the travel corridors near water. During hunting season there is an increase in use. Some of the subunit has been managed for timber harvesting over the years. The area was originally opened up by mining and there are numerous claims throughout the subunit. Some mining continues today though not at a large scale. Grazing allotments are scattered across the upper portion of this area. The fire management option for the area is predominantly suppression. There are some areas where fire can be managed for benefits. Historic mining activity in the subunit has left areas with open pits and shafts that pose risks to firefighters. In the general area around these mining districts is the possibility of unstable explosives. Steep slopes in the subunit make overland travel difficult.

Management Area	Acres	Percent of Area	FMU Emphasis
MA 1	1874	1.6	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 8.1	2997	2.5	River Management
MA 10	5293	4.4	Suppression
MA 12	68702	57.0	Suppression
MA 13	626	0.5	Suppression
MA 15	299	0.2	Suppression
MA 16	7060	5.9	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 17	26795	22.2	Suppression
MA 19	605	0.5	Suppression
MA 20	5716	4.7	Suppression
MA 21	265	0.2	Suppression
PVT	247	0.2	Suppression
Total Acres FMU	120480	100.0	

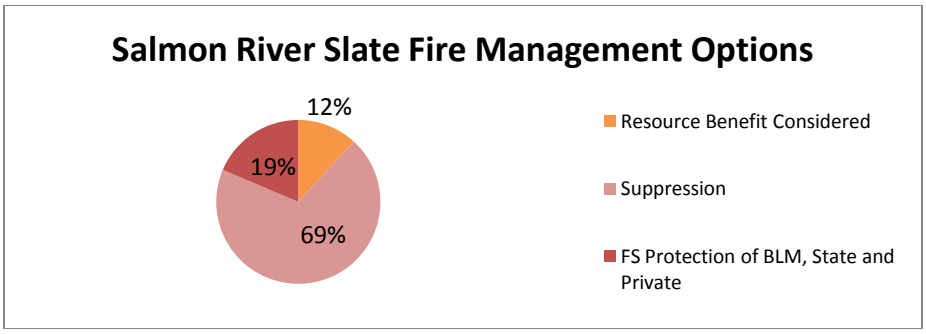


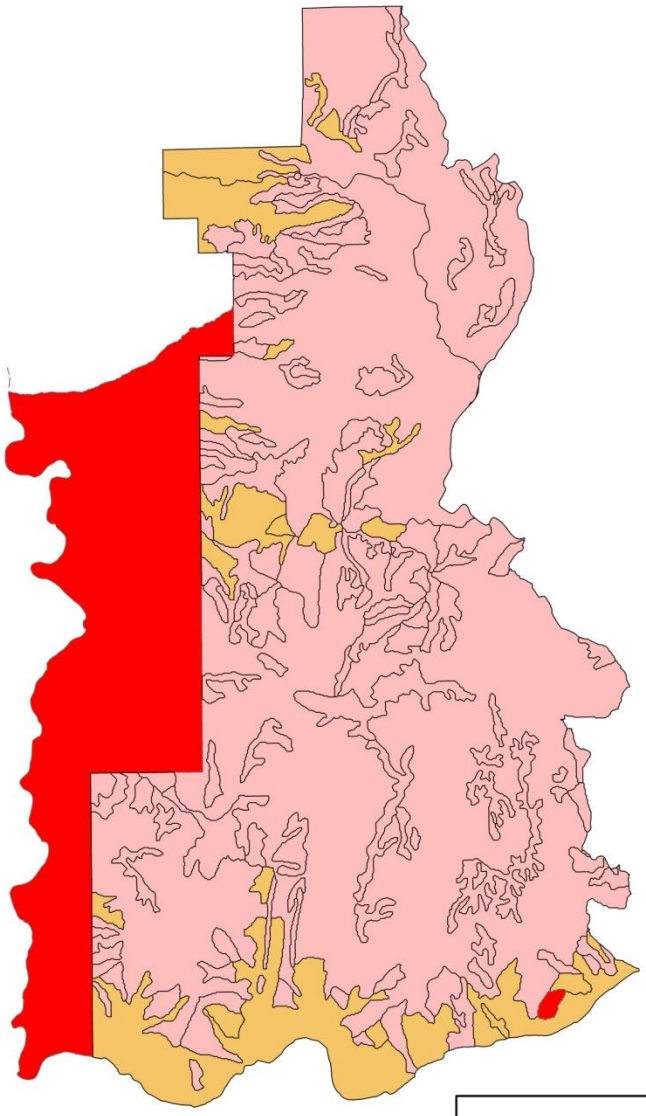

Legend
Salmon_River_Dixie_MA
Manage_Dir
FS Protection of BLM, State and Private Prope
Resource Benefit Considered
River Management
Suppression

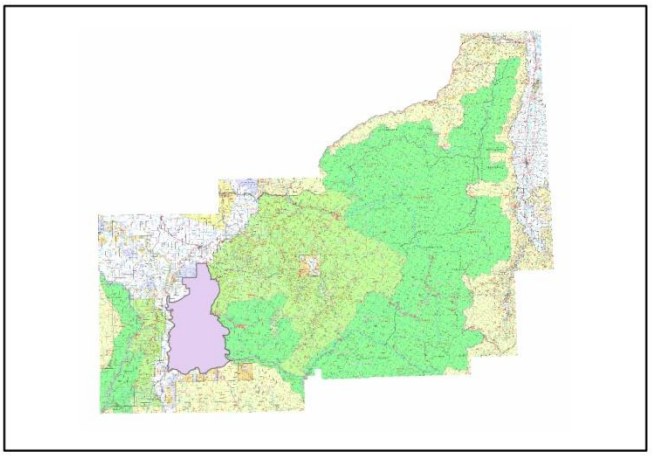
Salmon River Slate Sub-Unit:

The Salmon River Slate SU is located on the southern quarter of the Nez Perce N.F. The Salmon River is the southern boundary of the subunit. The Payette N.F. is located on the south side of the river. The entire subunit flows into the Salmon River. The NFS lands in this subunit are administered by the Salmon River and Clearwater Ranger Districts. The western portion of this area from the boundary east to the NF boundary is a mixture of BLM, State and private property. The Forest Service has protection responsibilities for all wild lands within the subunit. Topography in the Salmon River Slate SU is best described as steep and rugged. Rising from the Salmon River Canyon the elevation relief goes from around 1600' to 7000' in less than 5 miles. In the northeast portion of the subunit the landscape becomes less extreme. The topography has some rolling hills separated by deep river canyons. The vegetation in the subunit is very elevation dependant. In the Salmon River Canyon the slopes are mostly open grass. Ponderosa pine is present scattered throughout these slopes. The upper elevations are timbered with Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, grand fir and mixed conifer species. The communities of Riggins, Lucille, Whitebird are found on the western edge of the subunit. There are many recreational opportunities along the Salmon River. Rafting, boating, fishing camping are all popular activities. The upland portion of the subunit has several destination areas for scenic vistas and historic mining interest. During the hunting season there is a high demand for prime camping areas at both developed and dispersed locations. The management practices in the Salmon River Slate SU have been predominantly commercial timber harvesting. There has been some mining across the subunit though most of the mining areas have not had recent commercial activity. Cattle grazing is an important management practice. Grazing allotments are spread across the subunit. Fire management options for the Salmon River Slate SU are predominantly suppression focused. The Forest Service has protection responsibilities for the entire subunit. BLM, State and private property comprised almost twenty percent of the area in the subunit. The objective for these lands is to minimize fire size. There are some areas in the subunit where consideration may be given to managing wildfires with multiple objectives. These areas are mostly along the Salmon River on the southern boundary of the area. The primary concerns for firefighting personnel in this subunit are steep slopes that make overland travel difficult.

Management Area	Acres	Percent of Area	FMU Emphasis
MA 1	1338	0.6	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 6	1269	0.5	Suppression
MA 10	8057	3.3	Suppression
MA 12	124855	51.5	Suppression
MA 13	448	0.2	Suppression
MA 15	7827	3.2	Suppression
MA 16	26102	10.8	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 17	1183	0.5	Suppression
MA 18	1141	0.5	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 19	11277	4.6	Suppression
MA 20	13891	5.7	Suppression
MA 21	271	0.1	Suppression
PVT	44937	18.5	FS Protection of BLM, State and Private
Total Acres FMU	242595	100.0	







Legend

Salmon_River_Slate_MA

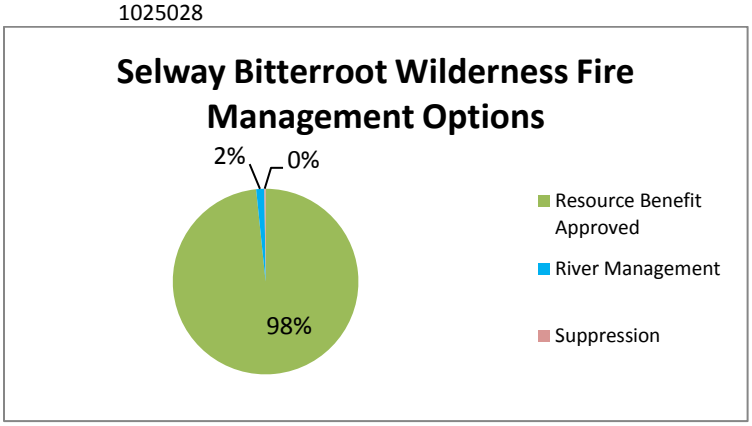
Manage_Dir

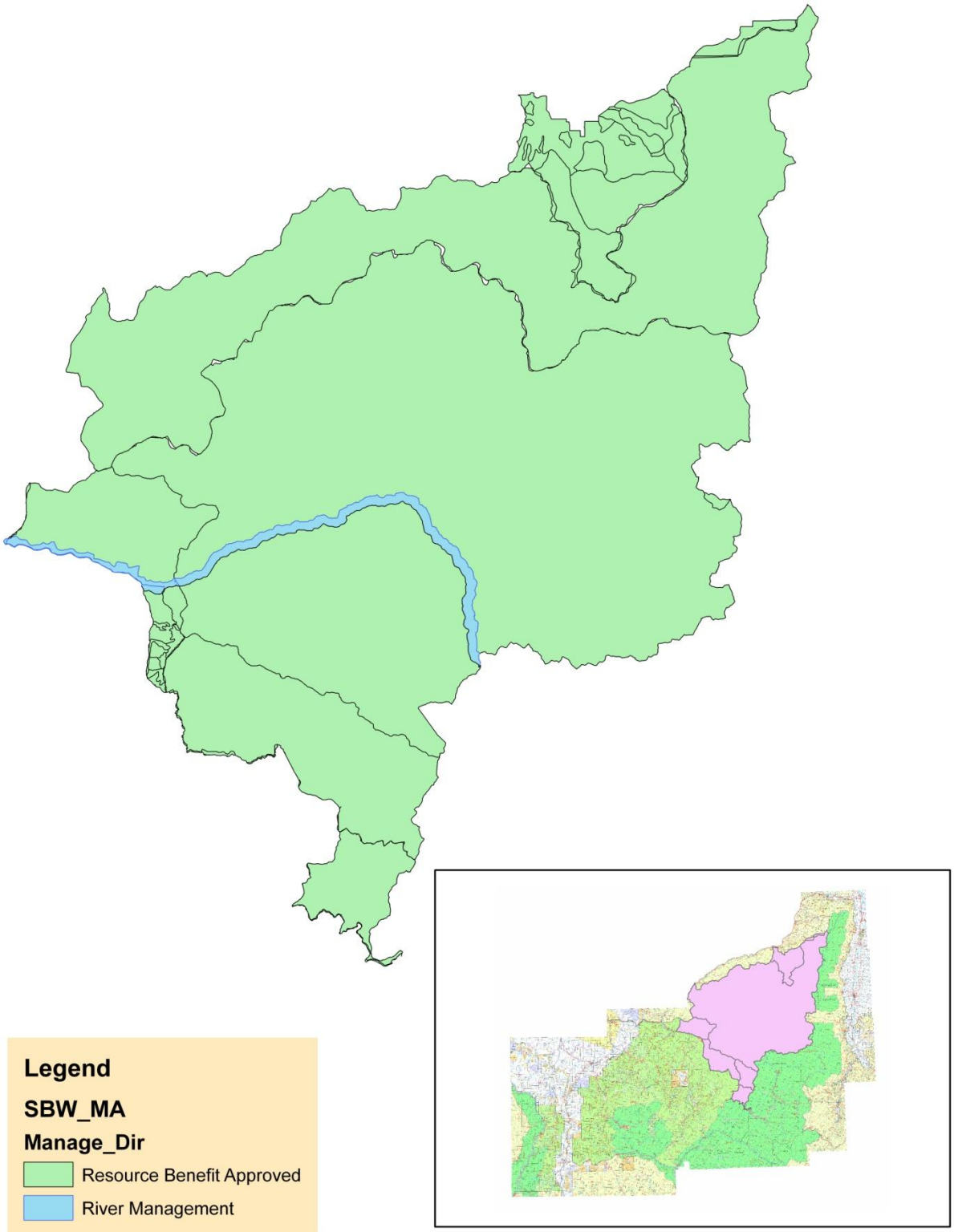
- FS Protection of BLM, State or Private Lands
- Resource Benefit Considered
- Suppression

Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Sub-Unit:

The Selway Bitterroot Wilderness SU makes of much of the eastern portion of the Nez Perce and Clearwater N.F.s. The SU's eastern and a portion of the southern borders abuts the Bitterroot National Forest. The watersheds contained in this subunit include the Selway River (Nez Perce N.F. portion), Colt Killed Creek watershed, and portions of the Lochsa River watershed. The NFS lands in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness SU are administered by the Moose Creek Ranger District on the Nez Perce N.F. and the Powell Ranger District on the Clearwater N.F. Selway Lodge is a small private property inholding on the Selway River on the Moose Creek Ranger District. The landscape in the SBW SU is dominated by the Selway River canyon and the high mountains that divide the Selway and Lochsa river drainages. Vegetation varies with elevation and location in the subunit. Western red cedar is found along both the Lochsa and Selway rivers at the lower elevations. Ponderosa pine grand fir and Douglas fir populate the mid elevations giving way to sub alpine fir, lodgepole pine and white bark pine at the higher elevations. The highest portions of the subunit reach above treeline. There are no communities within or on the boundaries of this subunit. Recreation opportunities in the SBW SU are limited to hiking, rafting, hunting and fishing. There are two backcountry airstrips in the SU (Moose Creek Ranger Station and Shearer Guard Station). These airstrips are popular destinations for pilots. These fly-in trips range from touch and go landings to multi-day visits. Camping is available at both sites. The entire subunit is managed for wilderness objectives. Fires in the SBW have been managed since 1972 as resource benefit fires. A majority of natural fire starts in this subunit will be managed for multiple objectives, and is covered by the Selway Bitterroot Guidebook includes the wilderness and the following roadless areas: Meadow Creek East, portions of the Rackliff Gedney, and Upper Bargamin Creek. The primary concerns for firefighting personnel in this subunit are steep slopes that make overland travel difficult.

Management	Acres	Percent	FMU Emphasis
B1	259000	25.3	Resource Benefit Approved
B2	17790	1.7	Resource Benefit Considered
C4	83	0.0	Resource Benefits with Restrictions
C6	12367	1.2	Resource Benefits with Restrictions
C8S	17830	1.7	Resource Benefit Considered
E1	426	0.0	Suppression
E3	2099	0.2	Resource Benefits with Restrictions
M1	4021	0.4	Resource Benefits with Restrictions
US	4988	0.5	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 8.1	14584	1.4	River Management
MA 9.1	549083	53.6	Resource Benefit Approved
MA 11	96782	9.4	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 16	43172	4.2	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 17	1123	0.1	Suppression
MA 18	1078	0.1	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 20	601	0.1	Suppression
Total Acres	1025028		

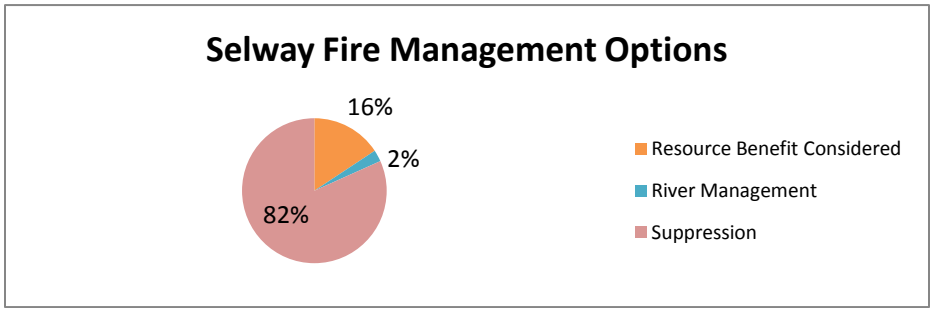


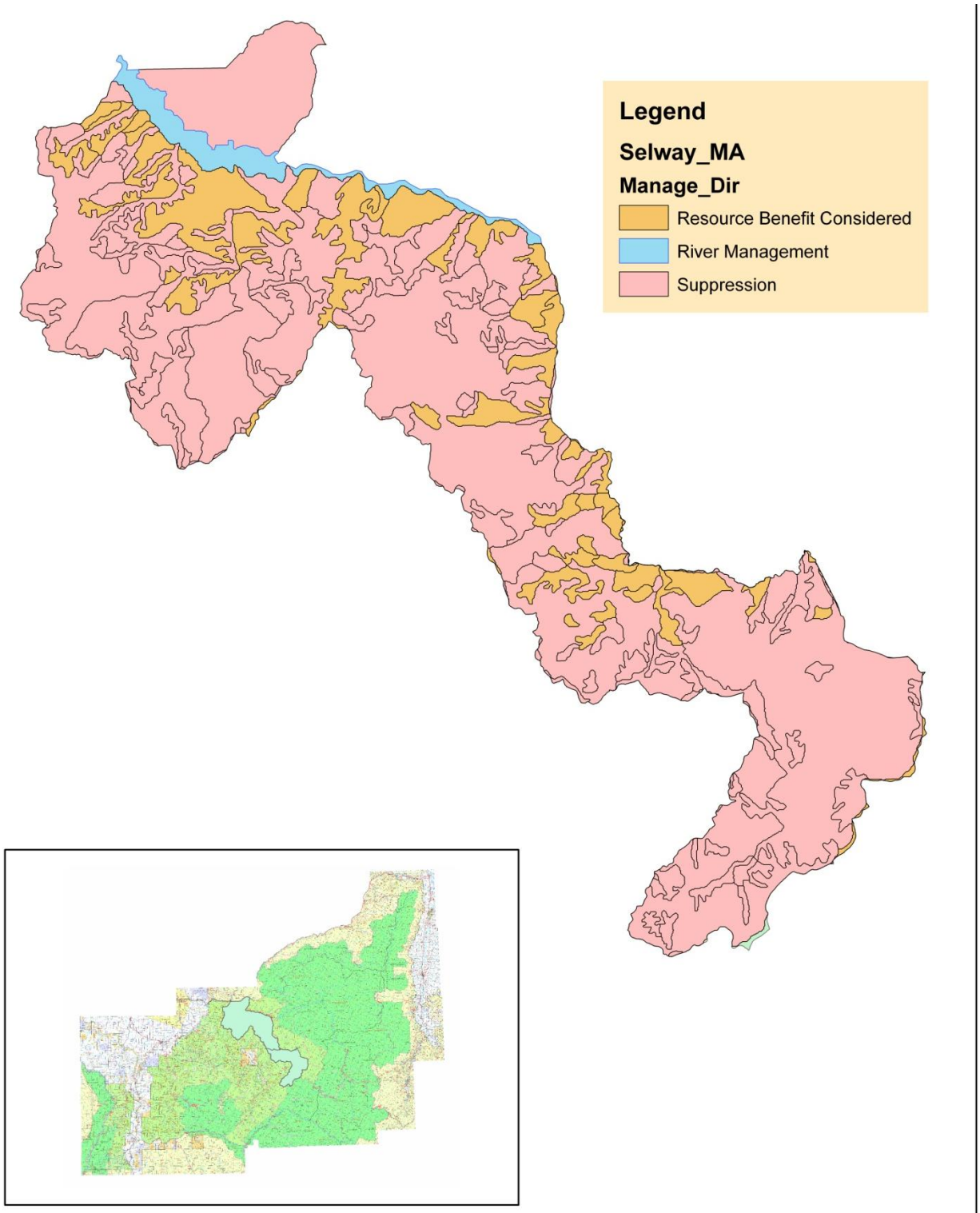

Legend
SBW_MA
Manage_Dir
Resource Benefit Approved
River Management

Selway Managed Sub-Unit:

The Selway SU is located on the northern border of the Nez Perce N.F. The subunit borders the Clearwater N.F. along Coolwater Ridge. The watershed in the subunit all drain into the Selway River. Watersheds include: Ohara, Goddard and Swiftwater. All NFS lands within the subunit are administered by the Moose Creek Ranger District. Private property in the Selway Managed SU is found along the Selway River from Ohara Creek to the confluence with the Lochsa River at Lowell Idaho. Some of the homes are year round residences while the majorities are seasonal homes. The Forest Service is responsible for wildland fire protection along the Selway River. The subunit is comprised of steep rugged terrain. The slopes rise abruptly from the Selway River to the ridgetops. The lands are dissected by deep canyons. The ridgeline that divides the Selway and South Fork watersheds is broad with some gently rolling terrain. Commercial timber species are the predominant vegetation in the subunit. The slopes are populated with a combination of western red cedar, grand fir, white fir, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and white pine. Large brush fields are scattered across the subunit. Lowell and Syringa Idaho are two small communities located across the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River just outside the subunit. Most recreational activities in the area are concentrated along the Selway River. Some dispersed camping takes place along the Divide Road on the southern boundary. During hunting season many camps are set at disperse sites found throughout the subunit. The uplands of the subunit have been managed for many years for commercial timber harvesting. In the last twenty years there has been little timber management activity due to environmental constraints. Fire management options for the subunit are predominantly suppression oriented due to the timber management emphasis of the Forest Plan. There are some large areas where wildfires could be managed for multiple objectives. Steep slopes with heavy concentrations of ground fuels make cross country travel difficult. Few natural safety zones exist in this heavily timbered subunit..

Management Area	Acres	Percent of Area	FMU Emphasis
MA 1	3289	1.8	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 6	6656	3.6	Suppression
MA 8.2	4759	2.6	River Management
MA 10	4399	2.4	Suppression
MA 11	298	0.2	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 12	42520	23.2	Suppression
MA 13	2367	1.3	Suppression
MA 14	390	0.2	Suppression
MA 15	20081	10.9	Suppression
MA 16	20066	10.9	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 17	23336	12.7	Suppression
MA 18	5175	2.8	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 19	1342	0.7	Suppression
MA 20	7535	4.1	Suppression
MA 21	41439	22.6	Suppression
Total Acres FMU	183650	100.0	

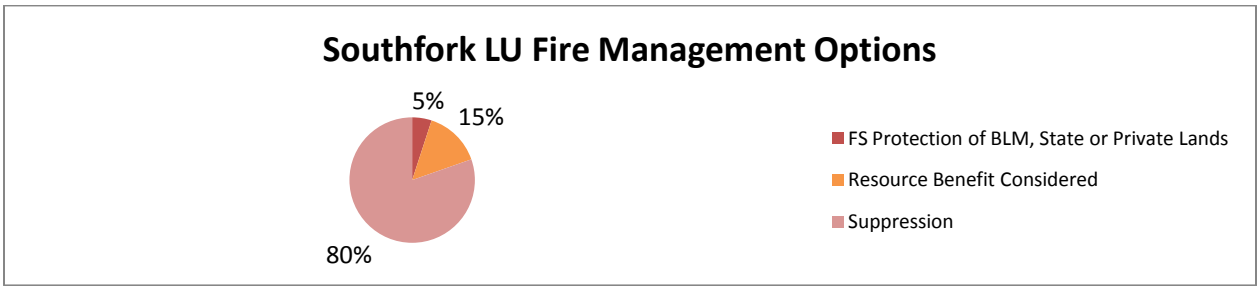


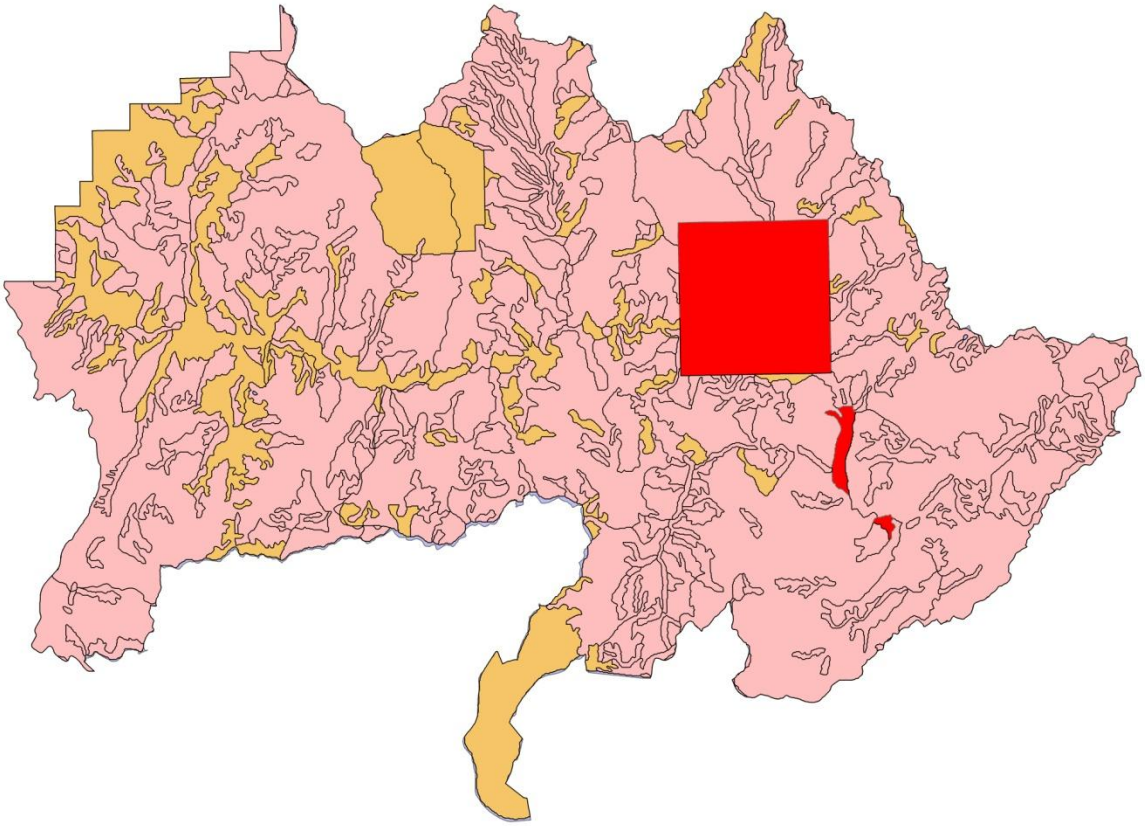

Legend
Selway_MA
Manage_Dir
Resource Benefit Considered
River Management
Suppression

Southfork Sub-Unit:

The Southfork SU is located in the central portion of the Nez Perce N.F. The subunit contains the entire Southfork watershed. The NFS lands within the Southfork SU are administered by the Clearwater and Red River Ranger Districts. The Southfork SU has BLM, State , and private property inholdings scattered throughout the area. Private properties outside of Elk City are primarily patented mining claims. Some of these claims have been developed as homesites that have improvements. The BLM administers lands surrounding the town of Elk City. Idaho Department of Lands also administers lands surrounding Elk City. Orogrande townsite is located in the southwest portion of the subunit. There are private homes scattered through this area. The Forest Service has wildfire protection responsibilities for all BLM, State and private lands within the subunit. The landscape of the Southfork area is rolling hills once you leave the Southfork River Canyon. Most of the subunit is timber covered. Timber species include Douglas fir, grand fir, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine and western larch. Elk City Idaho is entirely contained within the subunit. There are small collections of residences scattered across the subunit along the major travel ways of the Southfork and Red River. The Southfork SU is a popular area for ORV travel. Camping is available at developed and dispersed locations across the subunit. The Southfork River for Steelhead and Salmon runs are heavily fished during their respective seasons. Hunting season brings some of the highest use of the year. The Southfork SU is heavily managed for timber resources. Historic mining activity was the early draw for settlers to the Southfork area. Some small scale mining still occurs across the subunit. Cattle grazing is permitted across the area. Fire management options for the Southfork SU are primarily a suppression emphasis. Most of the management area designations are for timber management. There are limited areas in the subunit where fires could be managed for multiple objectives. In areas around historic mining operations fire fighters should be aware of the potential for unsecured shafts and pits, and the potential for explosives.

Management Area	Acres	Percent of Area	FMU Emphasis
MA 1	21406	4.4	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 6	28	0.0	Suppression
MA 10	10012	2.0	Suppression
MA 11	14382	2.9	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 12	194385	39.7	Suppression
MA 13	2200	0.4	Suppression
MA 14	110	0.0	Suppression
MA 15	31137	6.4	Suppression
MA 16	34135	7.0	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 17	45730	9.3	Suppression
MA 18	1670	0.3	Resource Benefit Considered
MA 19	310	0.1	Suppression
MA 20	34414	7.0	Suppression
MA 21	66264	13.5	Suppression
MA 22	1828	0.4	Suppression
MA 23	7254	1.5	Suppression
PVT	24573	5.0	FS Protection of BLM, State, or Private Lands
Total Acres FMU	489837	100.0	





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Southfork_MA

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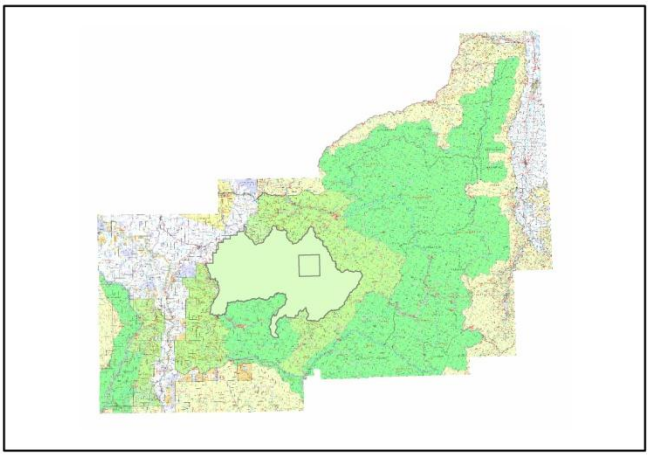
- FS Protection of BLM, State or Private Lands
- Resource Benefit Considered
- Suppression