

FOREWORD

Public Law 90-542, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, states in part as follows:

"Sec. 3(a) The following rivers and the land adjacent thereto are hereby designated as components of the national wild and scenic rivers system:

(1) Clearwater, Middle Fork, Idaho - The Middle Fork from the town of Kooskia upstream to the town of Lowell; the Lochsa River from its junction with the Selway at Lowell forming the Middle Fork, upstream to the Powell Ranger Station; and the Selway River from Lowell upstream to its origin; to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture. . . .

"Sec. 3(b) The agency charged with the administration of each component of the national wild and scenic rivers system designated by subsection (a) of this section shall, within one year from the date of this Act, establish detailed boundaries therefor (which boundaries shall include an average of not more than three hundred and twenty acres per mile on both sides of the river); determine which of the classes outlined in section 2, subsection (b), of this Act best fit the river or its various segments; and prepare a plan for necessary developments in connection with its administration in accordance with such classification. Said boundaries, classification, and development plans shall be published in the Federal Register and shall not become effective until ninety days after they have been forwarded to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. . . ."

RIVER PLAN

Middle Fork Clearwater Including the Lochsa and Selway
of the
National Wild and Scenic River System

This is a resume of the management policies and planned development for the Middle Fork Clearwater Wild and Scenic River System. It outlines the basis for management direction throughout the river system, indicates future developments and provides a background for coordinating resource and activity plans for all private and public lands within the Middle Fork System. There is a variety of source material recorded in the Office of the Forest Supervisor, Clearwater National Forest, Orofino, Idaho, that contributed substantially to the management direction for the river system, including the Special Planning Area Multiple Use Management Guide, Recreation Composite Plan, public meeting records, photographs and other related material. Review of the source material at the Forest Supervisors' Offices is invited.

BASIC DATA

The Middle Fork Clearwater River System is formed by two main forks, the Lochsa and Selway Rivers, all which rise on the west slopes of the rugged Bitterroot Mountains. This river system, located in northcentral Idaho, is the major river drainage north of the Salmon River. It has a total drainage area of 3,420 square miles. All of the area considered in this system is located in the County of Idaho, State of Idaho, mostly within the Clearwater Nezperce and Bitterroot National Forests.

Classification

The Middle Fork of the Clearwater River System was determined to contain two of the three river classes defined in the Act, "recreational" and "wild."

The recreational river classification includes the Middle Fork of the Clearwater from Kooskia to Lowell, the Lochsa from Lowell to the Powell Ranger Station, and the Selway from Lowell to Race Creek and from Paradise to the Magruder Ranger Station.

The major factors which led to recreational river classification are roads which parallel these river segments. The roads make the rivers readily accessible. They encroach on the rivers in places. Portions of these rivers also have development along their shorelines in the form of homes and commercial facilities on private lands as well as administrative and recreational facilities on public lands.

Although the Selway from Paradise to the Magruder Ranger Station is classified as recreational river because of the road along it, this segment will continue to be managed to retain its relatively natural appearance. Recreation facilities provided will be modest and consistent with the nature of the environment.

The wild river classification includes the Selway River from Race Creek to Paradise Guard Station and from the Magruder Ranger Station to the headwaters of the Selway in the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area.

The river segments in this classification have no road access. Access is provided by trail throughout and by five isolated, low-standard airstrips. Two of these were developed by the Forest Service and three by private parties. There are 14,500 acres within the boundaries of the 54 miles classified as

wild river. The recreational river portion of the system contains 41,500 acres along 131 river miles.

Boundary

The boundaries of the river area have been estimated to include, within the statutory limitations of an average of not more than 320 acres per mile, those lands most directly related to the environment of the rivers and their shorelines and to the protection of scenic and recreational values. On surveyed land the boundary follows legal subdivisions. On unsurveyed land outside of wilderness and primitive areas, it follows topographic features where possible. Within wilderness and primitive areas it is 1/4 mile on each side of the river paralleling the river except for the inclusion of private properties. River boundaries are described in the appendix. They are also shown on maps on file and available in the Offices of the Forest Supervisors, Clearwater National Forest, Orofino, Idaho; Nezperce National Forest, Grangeville, Idaho; and Bitterroot National Forest, Hamilton, Montana, and the Regional Forester, Northern Region, Missoula, Montana.

OBJECTIVES

1. Provide the range of quality recreation opportunities most clearly characteristic of and in harmony with the special attributes of each river segment.
2. Protect and enhance aesthetic, scenic, historic, fish and wildlife and other values that will contribute to public use and enjoyment of this free-flowing river and its immediate environment.

3. Provide optimum recreational enjoyment consistent with protection of environmental quality.
4. Manage all uses on those portions of the river within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area so as also to preserve the wilderness resource.
5. Manage use of river area so as to minimize adverse effects on water quality.
6. Provide coordinated resource use programs which will enhance or be compatible with the foregoing objectives.
7. Strive for continued participation of States, other agencies, local government and private landowners in future planning and administration of the Middle Fork of the Clearwater System.

COORDINATION

Coordination direction is established to insure the proper relation between resource uses, land uses or activities. General coordinating requirements are applicable to the entire area within the river boundaries. Special coordinating requirements which apply only to lands within either the recreational or wild river sections of the river are also listed.

General Coordinating Requirements

Recreation

1. The Forest Service will make the necessary analysis of recreational use to develop criteria for estimating optimum use levels of various segments and establish management accordingly.

2. Locate facilities outside of the immediate foreground of rivers, streams, trails or other natural attractions to allow appropriate use without unacceptable depreciation of the river environment.
3. Visitor use will be distributed or limited as necessary to prevent loss of river values.
4. Identify and protect historic, scenic, geologic, archaeological and similar sites or areas.
5. Plan and administer commercial services, including outfitters and guides, in such fashion as to serve the public needs while maintaining river values.
6. When planning recreation developments, provide for protection of rivers, streams and underground water supplies from pollution.
7. Design all recreation developments to provide safe and enjoyable public use of the river environment. Developments in wilderness will conform to wilderness requirements.
8. With a few exceptions, public and private recreation developments will ordinarily be confined to complexes, such complexes being spaced to leave large segments of the river undeveloped. Simple float or trail camps may be spaced along the river.

Range

1. Manage grazing along rivers to protect riparian vegetation and to prevent damage to streambanks and channels.

2. Coordinate stock grazing use with recreation by special management practices such as fencing recreation sites and avoiding trailing or other practices which concentrate livestock.
3. Priority will be given to wildlife needs if conflict occurs between wildlife and commercial or recreation stock use.

Timber

1. Consider timber for recreation, watershed protection and esthetic values rather than for commercial production.
2. Commercial timber harvest will generally be confined to areas outside the boundaries of the river area. Commercial operations could be needed to meet objectives under the recreational river coordinating requirements.
3. On National Forest land timber management planning will provide for necessary adjustments in the allowable cut to carry out the management direction for the river area.

Water

1. Permit no permanent alterations of natural channels which significantly affect the free flow of water.
2. Protection of rivers will include controlling pollution, debris accumulation and siltation to the degree necessary to maintain the water quality within defined parameter or measurable units.
3. Optimum flows for environmental needs are to be reserved.
Studies will be made to determine optimum flows and whether there

may be opportunities within the wild and recreational river objectives to improve flow.

Wildlife

1. Direct fish management programs toward the maintenance of the anadromous fish run, the native trout fishery and perpetuating endangered species.
2. Wildlife habitat improvement measures will be undertaken to maintain the Clearwater-Selway big game herd to the extent that this can be done without adverse impacts to the river environment and wilderness.

Land Occupancies

1. Present permitted uses on Federal land which are not compatible with river management objectives will be ultimately terminated.
2. All improvements and structures should be designed and located to accomplish their intended use in a way that is compatible with or enhances the river environment.
3. Access to private lands shall be by means which have the least adverse effects on the river environment.
4. Avoid improvements which cause use of resources beyond a reasonable capacity.
5. Limit new commercial service facilities (stores, motels, etc.) to designated complex areas. Lowell and Smith Creek - Syringa area are the two designated areas at present.

Minerals

1. Insure protection of surface resources as provided for under Public Law 90-542 and applicable State laws on private lands or through scenic easements.
2. Recognize rights of mining claimants on claims located before passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Gain cooperation of the miner to reduce impacts on the river environment.

Transportation

1. Access roads to serve private lands are to be controlled by scenic easements to insure compatibility with development of the special planning area and with river environment protection.
2. Locate roads and trails to avoid encroachment on river banks and to harmonize with objectives for which the river area is established.

Landownership Adjustment

1. The Forest Service will develop a landownership adjustment plan for non-Federal lands within the river area. This plan will establish prescriptions necessary to conform to the Act, including a listing of constraints, standards and guidelines necessary to insure that the broad objectives for the river will be met.
2. Acquire lands in fee title where needed to fully protect and develop the river environs through a willing buyer-seller relationship.
3. National Forest lands in this special area will not be used as base lands for exchange.

Fire Control

1. Use fire suppression measures and techniques which will have the minimum impact on river area values.
2. Fire may be used as a management tool to maintain natural environmental conditions.

Recreational River Coordinating Requirements

There are, in addition to general coordinating requirements applicable to the entire river area, specific coordinating requirements which apply to lands within the river segments classified as recreational. These specific requirements are listed below.

Recreation

1. Provide appropriate sanitation facilities necessary to meet public health needs and to prevent site deterioration and water pollution.
2. Any recreation developments considered should be located so as to allow appropriate and safe use without unacceptable depreciation of the rivers' environment.
3. Identify, interpret and protect historic, scenic, archaeological and similar sites.
4. Plan and administer outfitter and guide services to serve public need while at the same time maintaining zone values.

Range

There should be no concentrated domestic stock grazing or holding corrals on the rivers' shorelines on public lands. (This does not pertain to winter feeding of small herds of domestic stock or to pasture grazing on private lands.)

Timber

1. Timber cutting will be done only for the following:
 - a. Public safety and/or recreational purposes in selected areas.
 - b. Control of fire, insects and disease when such cutting is determined to be the only practical method of control.
 - c. Approved road and trail locations.
2. Timber cutting will be compatible with or enhance key recreational and scenic values.
3. The values of standing trees for watershed, aesthetic or other recreational purposes will be considered in the choice of measures for controlling fire, insects and disease.

Water

1. Coordination with all resources, uses and developments will be needed to assure high quality water.
2. Coordination with all agencies, State and Federal, private landowners and water users will be necessary to protect water quality.

3. Modify projects within the river system if necessary to insure high water quality.
4. Gullied, eroding streams, polluted water and vegetation and soil disturbed by humans, domestic animals, wildlife, large burns and landslides are examples of undesirable watershed conditions in classified river areas. Where these conditions have a major impact on river values they should be restored.
5. All watershed improvement projects will be designed as to location, type of treatment and work methods to insure compatibility with the free-flowing intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Wildlife

1. Provide an appropriate habitat to sustain a variety of wildlife for public enjoyment.
2. Permit no predator control stations.
3. Promote visual wildlife enjoyment opportunities for the visitor.

Land Occupancies

1. On private land secure scenic easements to achieve necessary environmental controls. Limit only those uses and developments which interfere with public use and enjoyment of the river or detract from scenic values.
2. All improvements on public lands should be designed, located and constructed to be compatible with or enhance the river environment. They should be the examples of compatibility within the river system.

3. Access to private lands and occupancy roads across public lands shall be by means which have the least adverse effect on the river system and landscape values.

Transportation

1. Design road improvements and construct to the carrying capacity of the zone and optimum enhancement of recreation values.
2. The improvement of existing access, traffic flow patterns and the consideration of alternate routes are factors which will be evaluated in the light of public enjoyment and safe movement.
3. Interior access facilities should be designed, located, constructed and maintained to minimize alteration of the natural landscape and impairment of the scenic values.
4. Coordinate construction and maintenance of roads and trails with need for fish and wildlife harvest. These are key recreation values in the system.

Fire Control

1. Use fire control measures and techniques which achieve fire control objectives with a minimum adverse impact on the river values. Give preference to methods and equipment that will least alter the landscape and related values.
2. Any prescribed burning, hazard reduction and incineration will be on a tightly controlled basis to avoid air pollution problems and protect developments and key resource values.

3. Fire planning and pre-attack planning are to consider wild river values.
4. Fire may be used as a management tool when required to maintain natural ecological or environmental conditions or sustain key values in the river areas.

Wild River Coordinating Requirements

There are, in addition to general coordinating requirements applicable to the entire river area, specific coordinating requirements which apply to lands within the river segments classified as wild. These specific requirements are listed below.

Recreation

1. Within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, only developments which conform with wilderness management standards will be permitted.
2. Continue to allow unrestricted recreation use without number limitations only so long as the wilderness and wild river environment are not harmed.
3. Enforce "pack it in and pack it out" policy for all wild river zone users.
4. Shorelines must remain essentially primitive in wild river zones.

Timber

Timber cutting will not be permitted in the wild river area except when compatible with existing classifications and primitive recreation experience such as clearing trails, control of fire, tent poles, etc.

Land Occupancy

1. No new structure or installation will be permitted within the boundary of the wild river that can be seen from the river or its shorelines unless it can be made inconspicuous or in harmony with the area.
2. Any new improvements on private land will be compatible and in harmony with the surrounding environment. There will be no new habitation or substantial additions to capacity at existing habitations.

Transportation

Trails will be designed to standards consistent with wild river objectives. Within the wilderness they will conform to wilderness requirements.

DEVELOPMENT

The development plan provides for recreation and transportation improvements, landscape rehabilitation, land ownership adjustment including scenic easement acquisition and water quality control. It includes estimated needs for ten years or to the year 1980. There are additional opportunities for development over that projected for the ten-year period. These have been inventoried and will be programed for construction as the need arises.

Recreation developments proposed along the Middle Fork includes two campgrounds (one a private development), a picnic area, three boat launching sites and a visitor center.

To be provided along the Lochsa are one new campground and the improvement or expansion of six existing campgrounds, an outfitter station and restoration of an historic ranger station.

On the Selway, downriver from the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, will be six new small campgrounds and one major campground expansion, two vista points and one boat launching site. In the Magruder area small campgrounds are planned at the Magruder Crossing and at Raven Creek. A few minimum development camping spots will also be provided at selected sites along the river. Any recreational development within the Wilderness will be limited to facilities needed to protect wilderness value.

The estimated recreation development and operation costs for the next ten years are \$1,730,000. Needed bridges, roads and trail construction and reconstruction total \$315,000. Approximately \$150,000 for stabilizing landslides, restoring barrow areas and seeding grass on roadbanks is needed along the Lochsa and lower Selway Rivers. It is estimated that scenic easements necessary to achieve the objectives set forth in the coordinating requirements for private land will cost \$1,481,000. The major portion of this money would be used along the Middle Fork Clearwater and lower Selway.

A water monitoring system should be set up to permit frequent checking on the quality and quantity of the water in the river system. It is estimated this monitoring system and its operation will cost \$100,000 during the ten-year planning period.