

DECISION NOTICE

TABLE A - COMPARISON OF EXISTING DIRECTION, EA PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE, AND FINAL DECISION

FACTOR	EXISTING MANAGEMENT	EA PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	FINAL DECISION
Management Zones	No management zones are designated.	Designate management zones to maintain or re-establish acceptable resource and social conditions. The conditions by zone represent the maximum limit of change from natural which will be allowed.	Same as preferred.
Maximum Group Size	15 people and 20 head of stock.	Any combination of people and stock, up to 16 ("16 beating hearts")	12 people and 12 head of stock.
Commercial Outfitters	There are no existing guidelines for responding to requests from prospective outfitters.	Consider new outfitted use if 1) the use will not create unacceptable social or bio-physical impacts; 2) the use cannot be filled by current outfitters and; 3) the use is non-traditional.	Same as preferred.
	There are no existing guidelines for responding to requests to increase use from existing outfitters.	Existing outfitted use will be capped for each outfitter at a combination of their 10-year high plus an additional 50 use days.	Existing outfitted use will be capped at the 10-year actual use high. No additional use days will be permitted except for those available from a "pool" of unused days. Use of days from the pool will be allowed only if they are of like kind and in the same season.
Institutional Outfitters	There are no existing guidelines for responding to requests for institutional outfitted days.	Permit up to 100 institutional use days per district (400 total). These use days will be temporary and are not intended for repeated use by the same group nor are these days available to existing outfitters.	Allow up to 200 incidental commercial/institutional use days annually Wilderness-wide. These use days are not intended for repeated use by the same group nor are these days available to existing A-P outfitters. They are allotted on a one-time basis.
Trailhead Registration	Optional registration cards at trailhead	Require a self-issuing permit of all users to be filled out at the trailhead.	Require a self-issuing registration of all users to be filled out at the trailhead. Name and street addresses will be

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			optional on the registration. Completed forms will be placed in a locked receptacle.
Campfire Restrictions	No current restrictions.	No campfires will be permitted within a 1/4 mile of the following lakes: Oreamnos, Sawed Cabin, Upper Phyllis, Upper Carpp, Surprise, Bear, Buck, Emerald, Lost Lakes, Lower Phyllis, Park Lakes, Sauer, Continental, unnamed lake below Queener Mountain and unnamed lake west of Warren Lake.	Same as preferred.
Stock Access	No grazing or tethering of stock is permitted within 200 feet of any lake. Hope Trail #424 is closed to stock travel yearlong. Trails on the Philipsburg (Pintler) District accessing the AP are closed to stock travel from April 1-July 1.	Same as existing with additional restriction of no camping with stock within 1/4 mile of Sawed Cabin, Oreamnos and Ripple Lakes.	Same as preferred.
Mystic Cabin	Use of the cabin to be phased out	Measures will be taken to protect and stabilize the cabin. The cabin may be used for administrative purposes. In the event of fire in the vicinity of the cabin, measures will be taken to protect the cabin. Advance measures to "fire proof" the cabin will not be undertaken.	Same as preferred.
Trails	Portions of the Wilderness without system trails will not be opened by new trail construction.	No new system trails will be permitted. Reconstruction, including relocation of short stretches, for resource protection and safety will be allowed on existing trails only after further NEPA analysis. Abandoned portions of trails will be naturalized. Social trails and other	Same as preferred.

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		user-built trails will be discouraged and eliminated where possible.	
Research Natural Areas	No research natural areas are proposed.	Establish the Goat Flat and the East Fork Bitterroot Research Natural Areas.	Same as preferred.
Fish Stocking	The Forest Service will not approve stocking of barren waters until joint acceptance in the supplemental Memorandum of Understanding between the FS and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Native species of fish will be favored in waters with a history of supporting such species. Fish stocking will be done by primitive transport, except that Regional Foresters may authorize dropping of fish from aircraft where this was an established practice before the area was included in the National Wilderness Preservation System.	In cooperation with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP), move toward more natural conditions. No fishless lakes will be stocked. Provide fishing recreation where appropriate. Management decisions will focus on protection of those streams where known or suspected pure strains of westslope cutthroat or bull trout exist. Stocking will follow goals, objectives and guidelines in Chapter II, pages 31-33 of the EA for comment. Stocking could be considered when either of the following criteria is met: 1) to re-establish or maintain an indigenous species adversely affected by human influence, or 2) to perpetuate or recover a threatened or endangered species. When feasible, stocking should be done using traditional means instead of helicopter or airplanes.	Form a work group which includes fisheries and wilderness managers of MFWP and the Forest Service. This group will discuss items relating to fisheries in the A-P. Acknowledge that authority for fish management rests with MFWP and seek the concurrence of that agency in modifications to any existing management practice. Among the items which may be the subject of discussion and for which MFWP sanction may be sought are cessation of stocking in currently fishless lakes, protection of streams with pure westslope cutthroat or bull trout populations, and manner and location of fish stocking.
Noxious Weeds	Vegetative manipulation may include control on non-native species.	A combination of education, detection, prevention, and eradication methods will be used to prevent weed infestations before they occur and to eliminate infestations while they are still minimal. Existing inventoried noxious weeds will continue to receive follow-up treatments as needed. New	Same as preferred.

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		<p>infestations will be eradicated as soon as possible after being inventoried. Eradication will be done by handpulling if possible. Biological or chemical control will be used only after further NEPA analysis. Herbicide applications will be site-specific and only by hand, to minimize effects on non-target species.</p>	
<p>Resource Protection Facilities</p>	<p>Any improvements related to recreation use must be necessary for the protection of the wilderness resource and not for the convenience of users. Authorized improvements will be constructed of materials which harmonize with the environment. Permanent corrals will not be permitted for either public or commercial uses.</p>	<p>Emphasize further restrictions in lieu of facilities to prevent resource damage. Facilities will be the exception, not the rule. In general, standard "leave no trace" practices for sanitation and stock use will predominate but in a few spots, such as Johnson Lake, facilities may be used to minimize impact.</p>	<p>Same as preferred.</p>