



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

June 2012

# **Coeur d'Alene River Corridor Management Plan**

## **North Fork and Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River**

**Idaho Panhandle National Forests  
Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District**



**For more information about this project, please contact:**

*Claire Pitner, Project Leader*

*or*

*Chris James, Aquatics Staff Officer*

*(208) 664-2318*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## **Executive Summary**

The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River provides important recreational and economic benefits to the people of Shoshone County, Kootenai County, and surrounding areas. The river corridor provides public land users many opportunities such as camping, fishing, floating, boating and day use.

In response to public concerns and increased use, the Idaho Panhandle National Forests have developed a Coeur d'Alene River Corridor Management Plan (River Plan) to address concerns over sanitation, safe and adequate public access, localized resource damage, maintenance and improvement of recreational fishing opportunities, and maintenance and improvement of habitat along the river corridor for native fish species.

Goals of the plan include providing safe and enjoyable recreation experiences, restoring and rehabilitating specific damaged areas, improving developed recreation opportunities, educating the recreating public, developing partnership and volunteer opportunities, and improving economic benefits to local counties and businesses.

Project collaborators included local land owners and business owners, fishing clubs and other interested groups, Shoshone County Commissioners, as well as state and Federal agencies.

## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	Page 1
Background.....	Page 3
Characterization.....	Page 6
Goals.....	Page 10
River Management Direction.....	Page 12
Aquatic/Riparian Conditions.....	Page 14
Recreation Conditions .....	Page 18
River Planning Units.....	Page 22
Site Prioritization.....	Page 36
Implementation Timeline.....	Page 37
Education Action Plan.....	Page 41
List of References.....	Page 43

### Appendix A - Developed and Named Dispersed Sites

#### List of Tables

Table 1. Soil erosion observations associated with dispersed campsites and proximity to river and streams .....	Page 17
---	---------

#### List of Figures

Figure 1. Coeur d'Alene River Corridor Planning Area .....	Page 1
Figure 2. Regional Watershed Map.....	Page 4
Figure 3. Cutthroat Trout in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River .....	Page 7
Figure 4. Bald eagles can be found in treetops along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River .....	Page 8
Figure 5. Orange hawkweed is a noxious weed found in moist sites along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Road 208.....	Page 9
Figure 6. Inventoried dispersed sites within the planning area.....	Page 16
Figure 7. Impacts from recreation at a popular dispersed area.....	Page 17
Figure 8. Tubers floating the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River .....	Page 19
Figure 9. Coeur d'Alene River Corridor Planning Units.....	Page 24
Figure 10. Concentrated Use Area Planning Unit.....	Page 25
Figure 11. High-Use Area Planning Unit.....	Page 28
Figure 12. Transition Area Planning Unit.....	Page 31
Figure 13. Remote Area Planning Unit.....	Page 34

# Introduction

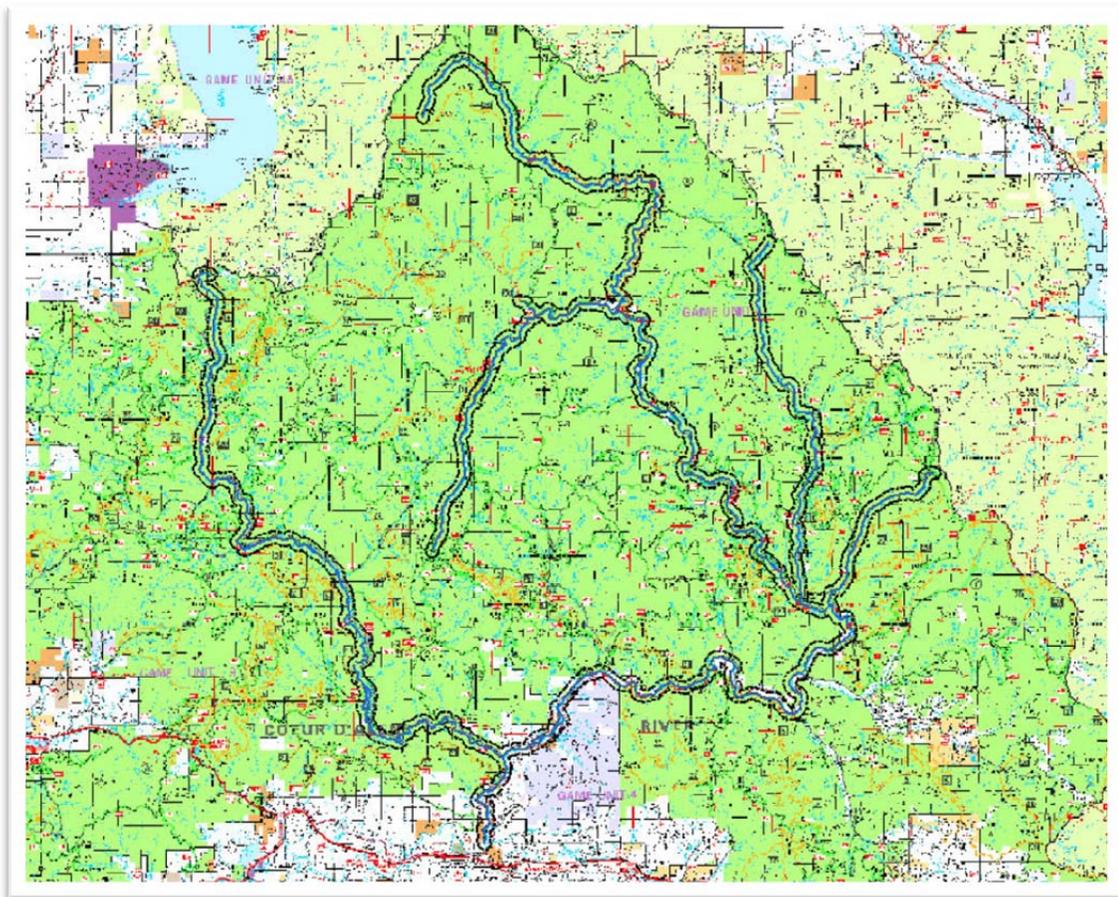
---

The Coeur d'Alene River Corridor Management Plan (River Plan) is a programmatic management tool for the 150-mile stretch of National Forest System land along the North Fork and Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River and its major tributaries in Kootenai and Shoshone Counties, Idaho. National Forest System lands within 1/4 of a mile from the center of the river (approximately 46,179 acres) are included in the analysis area.

These areas were selected because they represent the areas of highest dispersed recreation use, and have been identified as the areas where conflicts between recreation use and aquatic resource management are highest.

Access to the planning area is excellent due to the proximity of Interstate 90. There are approximately 185 miles of paved and passenger-car maintained dirt roads adjacent to the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River and selected tributaries, providing good access to most dispersed recreation opportunities in the planning area. Forest Highway 9 is the primary access point connecting travelers along Interstate 90 to the analysis area. Forest Service Road (Road) 456 also connects several communities in the Wallace area to much of the planning area above Prichard Creek. Roads 208, 412, 442, 6310, 812, and 209 provide the primary access routes through the analysis area to recreation sites along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River and Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, as well as Lost, Shoshone, and Tepee Creeks.

*Figure 1. Coeur d'Alene River Corridor Planning Area*



This River Plan was created to guide management of National Forest lands within the planning area. The intent is to develop management strategies that are consistent with current Forest Plan goals and objectives for recreation, fisheries, and watershed management, and that support both the best interests of the public who use the river corridor and the natural resources found within the planning area. The Coeur d'Alene River Corridor Management Plan works towards fulfilling Goal I, to restore and adapt recreation settings, from the US Forest Service's *A Framework for Sustainable Recreation*:

*Recreation settings that have been impacted by declining ecosystem health, wildfire, and inappropriate use will be restored to improve the quality of outdoor experiences. Unmanaged recreation will be resolved through a planned and properly designed network of roads, trails, and facilities, combined with educated citizen stewardship and partnerships, as well as field presence to provide quality recreation experiences while reducing the impacts of visitor use on the landscape.*

In creating a management plan for the North Fork and Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, the Forest Service recognized the interests and desires of private landowners, special interest groups, state and county entities and other interests in the planning area. The Forest Service worked closely with the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group to develop a management strategy that would be seamless across jurisdictional boundaries. The Committee is a cooperative group of citizens as well as representatives of local government, land management and regulatory agencies interested in the management of water quality within a watershed. The Watershed Advisory Group's *North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Cooperative Recreation Plan* focuses on recreation management along the lower 21 miles of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River, including the adjoining private and public lands, from the confluence with the South Fork Coeur d'Alene near Enaville upstream to the mouth of Prichard Creek in Shoshone County, Idaho. While the Forest Service's River Corridor Management Plan and the Watershed Advisory Group's River Cooperative Recreation Plan focus on different jurisdictions (this River Corridor Plan only focuses on National Forest System land) the two plans share the same goals and strategies and adopt the same strategies for education.

Additional entities consulted in the compilation of this River Corridor Plan include the Shoshone County Commissioners, Shoshone County Sheriff's Department, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Lands, University of Idaho, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, the North Idaho Flycasters, and several business owners. The groups and individuals provided valuable input that helped direct the River Plan and prioritize actions that would be most beneficial for the people who recreate along the North Fork and Little North Fork. Their contributions to the River Plan are greatly appreciated and their support during implementation will be invaluable.

This River Plan will guide future management activities on the North Fork and Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River under jurisdiction of the US Forest Service, Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF). Proposed management changes and ground disturbing activities resulting from this River Plan will be evaluated in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act allowing interested publics the chance to comment on proposed changes to the current management of specific locations. The River Plan itself does not approve changes in management or any construction projects to proceed without site specific analysis and the opportunity for public input.

# Background

---

## Brief History of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River

The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River and its tributaries drain a mountainous area approximately 900 square miles east of Coeur d'Alene Lake. The watershed encompasses nearly 575,000 acres and includes several large tributaries such as the Little North Fork Coeur d'Alene River, Steamboat, Prichard, Beaver, Shoshone, and Tepee Creeks. The North Fork converges with the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River near Enaville, along Interstate 90. Elevations in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River drainage range from approximately 2,200 feet at the confluence with the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River to approximately 6,800 feet on Granite Peak in the Prichard Creek subwatershed. Approximately 95% of the watershed is public land administered by the US Forest Service, Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Land cover composition is predominantly conifer forest, and composes approximately 87% of the watershed. An extensive road network of 395 miles provides motorized and non-motorized access to most areas of National Forest System lands.

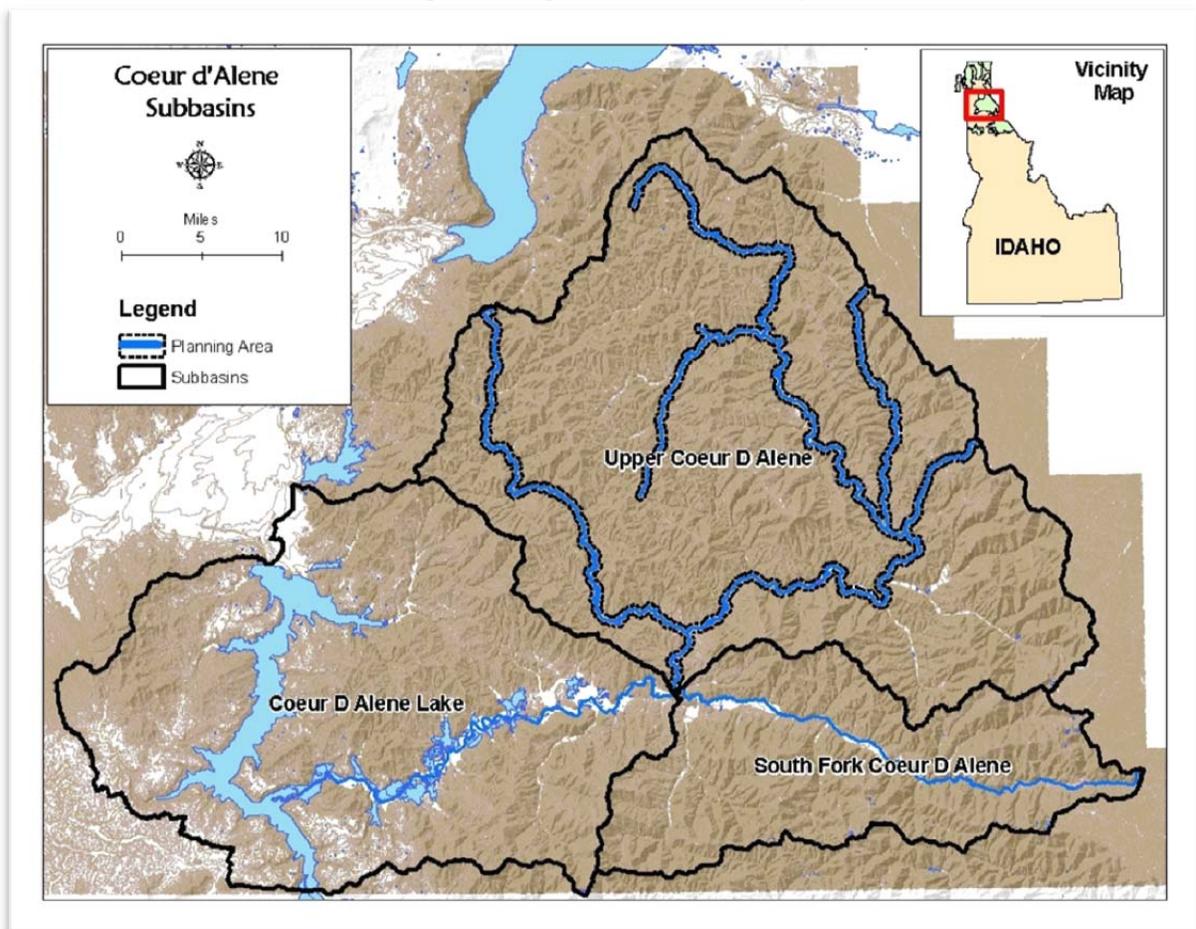
There is a rich history of human occupation in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River basin. This is evidenced by a great number of historic properties, archaeological sites, and culturally sensitive areas. Cultural heritage is considered an important resource to the Forest Service, and these types of sites are managed for their inherent sociological values. Many cultural sites within the planning area have been identified through previous projects and occur where management changes may be proposed as a result of this River Plan. Both known and potential culturally sensitive areas are evaluated as projects are proposed and analyzed for implementation.

The North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River has a long history of timber harvest, mining, and wildfire that strongly influenced the current condition of the watershed. Commercial timber harvest began in the late 1800s, and steadily grew between 1900 and 1925. After 1925 timber production from local mills began decreasing due to a variety of causes, the most notable being the Great Depression. Transporting the trees from the hillside to the mill included flumes, splash dams, and log drives down rivers. Since running water from stream channels or the channels themselves were the basis for these transportation methods, the stream channels and surrounding riparian areas of the mainstem and tributaries were severely impacted and there is evidence of widespread erosion. During this same period several logging railroad spurs were built into parts of this drainage. An example of an early logging railroad is the Burnt Cabin Creek spur line that accessed a portion of the Coeur d'Alene River drainage. Starting in the 1940's, log transport shifted to roads, creating a network of several thousand miles of roads over the next 50 years. Old growth stands of white pine, western red cedar, and Douglas fir were harvested throughout the basin, including areas along the river corridor.

Gold mining first occurred in the Prichard Creek area as early as 1880, and helped establish the communities of Murray and Eagle. Between 1900 and 1960 several large placer and underground mining operations occurred throughout the Prichard, Eagle, and Beaver Creek watersheds. Placer operations in the Prichard Creek watershed have altered nearly the entire floodplain and valley where much of the vegetation and topsoil has been removed. Tailings from large mines have added contaminated sediments to Eagle and Prichard Creeks, and delivered large amounts of sediment to the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, prompting the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to list the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River and most tributaries as impaired under 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.

Natural and human disturbances are important processes that have shaped the development and forest structure and composition of the basin. Flooding along the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River occurs frequently, with larger flood events usually caused by rain-on-snow weather events. Flood events have a long history of damaging roads, railways, communities, private property and other capital investments along the river. Fire events have had significant effects within the watershed. Historically, low and mixed severity fire often occurred at the stand level on an average of every 85 years (standard deviation of 45 years) burning variable sized patches of vegetation. Larger, high severity fires occurred less frequently in stands - on average every 200 years (standard deviation of approximately 80 years). However, in the North Fork and Little North Fork drainages there was a significant fire occurring somewhere on average every 19 years (Zack et al., 1994). Fire activity increased in frequency following the end of the Little Ice Age and the establishment of logging camps, mining claims, and railroads in the basin (circa 1870's). Aggressive fire suppression tactics starting in the 1930s have further altered the historic fire regimes.

Figure 2. Regional Watershed Map



### Recreation Management in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Corridor

Historically the river corridor was open to motorized dispersed camping and recreation. (For the purpose of this plan, dispersed camping is defined as camping at an undeveloped site outside of a developed campground.) Until a few decades ago, the land and resources of the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District seemed capable of handling the variety of uses enjoyed by the public. In recent decades, however, impacts from unmanaged recreation have become

noticeable. Today recreational use of the river corridor continues to increase. The growth in the number of people recreating along the river corridor has brought with it an increase in environmental impacts, ranging from soil compaction and erosion into the River and its tributaries, to conflicts associated with river access, including large amounts of litter and human waste. Crowding at popular dispersed sites has led to adverse environmental impacts and human conflict. This overcrowding at the more popular sites has forced people to new sites that may not be as desirable for recreationists and/or may cause additional resource damage. In the past decade several site-specific plans have been implemented to mitigate impacts resulting from heavy recreational use on the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District.

In 2001, the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District introduced a new Travel Plan permitting motorized travel on designated roads and trails only. The Travel Plan was created to address some of the negative environmental impacts resulting from heavy motorized use across the District. Prior to the 2001 Travel Plan, recreationists could legally drive off-road or cross-country anywhere on the District, except in locations that were specifically signed closed. The 2001 Travel Plan led to a decrease in cross-country travel along the river corridor, but did not address motorized access to dispersed campsites.

On December 9, 2005, the Forest Service finalized a new rule for managing motorized use on National Forest lands. The national rule required each Forest to designate routes, trails and areas suitable for use by wheeled motorized vehicles, making motorized travel off of these routes or areas illegal. The rule also allowed Forests to regulate motorized access for dispersed camping and big game retrieval beyond the designated routes (36 CFR 212.51[b]). Following this Travel Management Rule and court direction associated with litigation on the 2001 Travel Plan, the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District completed an environmental analysis using its 2001 Travel Plan as amended in 2003 as a baseline. The result was the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District Travel Plan Decision signed in April of 2009. The Travel Plan Decision led to the production of the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). The MVUM identifies the National Forest System roads, trails and areas designated for motor vehicle use by vehicle class, and if appropriate, by time of year. In addition to designating roads and trails for motorized use, the MVUM addresses motorized access to dispersed camping sites. According to the MVUM, motorized use off of designated roads is limited to 300 feet for access to existing dispersed camping or incidental parking. Motorized use off designated trails is limited to 100 feet for access to existing dispersed camping or incidental parking. There are no motorized areas on the District.

In several locations along the river corridor, access to dispersed sites was restricted prior to the MVUM to mitigate impacts from motorized vehicles driving on fragile meadows. At Bumblebee, Big Hank and Independence Meadows motorized routes were designated using a Forest Order. Motorized vehicle use off of these routes was prohibited. People are allowed to camp wherever they like, however, all motor vehicles must stay on designated routes. Today these routes are displayed on the MVUM.

The MVUM not only illustrates routes open to motor vehicles, but also serves as the enforcement tool for the Travel Plan Decision. Using the MVUM, District law enforcement personnel can cite recreationists who take their motorized vehicles off designated routes beyond the allowances described on the MVUM. It is illegal to create new dispersed sites or use a wheeled motorized vehicle beyond the 300 foot limit established by the travel plan decision and described on the MVUM. However, in some areas where historical use has established sites beyond the 300 foot limit, it is difficult to enforce the MVUM. Many of these sites are valuable to recreationists and may have minimal environmental impacts. In other cases, numerous resource concerns are associated with these sites. Motorized access may not be desirable in these locations.

Resource concerns along with inadequate access, insufficient sanitation, and the certainty that use will increase in the future, make the River Corridor Management Plan an important planning document for the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District. The District recognizes the importance of recreation opportunities along the river corridor. A River Plan will provide clear guidelines for managing the corridor to preserve its most desirable values for future generations who visit the river while mitigating unacceptable resource impacts, poor sanitation practices and loss of habitat.

## Characterization

---

### Domestic Water Source

The North Fork CDA River is a valuable source of drinking water for local residents and recreation visitors. There is one public supply watershed above Murray, and 11 public water systems in the North Fork CDA River. Water quality conditions of the North Fork and Little North Fork as well as Shoshone Creek, Lost Creek and Tepee Creek have a direct impact on these public water supplies.

### Recreational Fisheries

The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River and tributaries is also an important recreational fishery to North Idaho and the surrounding region, providing anglers with a unique opportunity to catch native Westslope cutthroat trout. Rainbow trout are also an important component of the recreational fishery, occurring primarily below Prichard Creek. A large road system along the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River and tributaries provides easy access for fishermen. Drift boat and other float fishing occur from Big Hank campground to the confluence of the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River. While use is primarily seasonal, drift boat fishing is increasing despite a lack of developed or designated boat launch facilities.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) fishing regulations on the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River and tributaries and Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River and tributaries for 2011 allow for the harvest of up to six trout, but do not allow for harvest of cutthroat trout. Use of barbed hooks and the use of bait are prohibited in the sections of the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River upstream of Yellowdog Creek and in the Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River upstream of Laverne Creek (*see IDFG's Special Rule Waters for the Panhandle Region, 2011*). The goals of these regulations are to improve densities of larger cutthroat trout and to protect key conservation areas for the long-term persistence of Westslope cutthroat trout. Additional fishing opportunities occur at Steamboat and Cleve Creek Ponds where IDFG annually stocks fish and manages these waters as "put and take" fisheries.

### Fisheries Conservation

The river is important to the conservation efforts of Westslope cutthroat trout. A recent range-wide assessment of Westslope cutthroat trout (Shepard et al 2005) estimates the current distribution has declined to approximately 60% of the species historical range. Shepard et al (2005) suggested that reduction in historically occupied range, habitat loss, fragmentation of current habitat, isolation of existing populations, and hybridization with rainbow trout and other subspecies of cutthroat trout are the principal impacts facing westslope cutthroat trout. Despite range-wide declines, the species still occupies the majority of its historical distribution in the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River watershed. However, antidotal information suggests the abundance of fish have declined sharply since 1900, resulting in several investigations into the decline of the fishery (*see Dupont et al. 2004*).

Figure 3. Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*) in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River



Recent studies by Hardy and Fredericks (2009) report that Westslope cutthroat trout densities have increased since 1973, with age 1-year fish and older averaging near 1 fish/100 square meters of stream. Approximately 23% of the fish observed in the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River study area were > 300 mm (~12 inches) in size. The highest densities of Westslope cutthroat trout age 1-year fish and older occurred between Yellow Dog Creek and Jordan Camp, where nearly 2 fish/100 square meters were observed. Improvements in fish densities are attributed to the new "catch and release" fishing regulations and improved resource management practices in the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River watershed. However, threats to populations remain high due to the presence of non-native rainbow trout and brook trout, particularly in the river reaches and tributaries below Prichard Creek. Rainbow trout densities generally increase below Prichard Creek, and hybridization rates with rainbow trout are likely highest in this reach, potentially threatening fitness and localized environmental adaptations needed for long-term persistence of native westslope cutthroat trout.

Dupont and Horner (2005) noted that reaches with lowest westslope cutthroat trout density had highest rainbow trout density. Furthermore, the current distribution of brook trout populations also threatens local populations in several tributaries such as Cougar, Steamboat, Beaver, Prichard, and Eagle Creeks. Dupont et al. (2004) identified illegal harvest as a significant contribution to the low numbers of larger Westslope cutthroat trout in the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River.

Critical habitat for Columbia River bull trout has been designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (50 CFR Part 17, 2010). However, bull trout are not present in the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River and tributaries. Historically, the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River supported a viable resident, fluvial and/or adfluvial bull trout populations in the past (Maclay 1940), however these populations were eradicated

due to over-fishing and decline in habitat conditions associated with stream cleaning, water quality, and sediment/bedload movement from past mining, timber harvest and road building. In addition, the adfluvial bull trout populations from Lake Coeur d'Alene were eliminated with the decline in water quality associated with hard rock mining in the South Fork Coeur d'Alene drainage.

The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River and its tributaries have several other species of native and non-native fish. Native fishes to the watershed include mountain whitefish, northern pikeminnow, largescale sucker, longnose sucker, torrent sculpin, shorthead sculpin, mottled sculpin, redbreast shiner, longnose dace and speckled dace. Introduced fishes include rainbow trout, brook trout, chinook salmon, and kokanee salmon.

## Wildlife

Over 300 wildlife species are present in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River drainage. These include large animals such as elk, white-tailed deer, mule deer, bear, moose, and bald eagles as well as small animals such as calliope hummingbirds and pygmy shrews. Abundant surface water attracts a wide variety of ducks and shorebirds. Wildlife species identified as sensitive species by the Forest Service that may occur in the area include the Coeur d'Alene salamander, western toad, black-backed woodpecker, Townsend's big-eared bat, fringed myotis and fisher. Historically, large diameter trees along the river corridor provided habitat for the northern goshawk, pileated woodpeckers and American marten, which are managed as management indicator species (MIS) by the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Today the moist habitat types along this drainage still provide patches of large diameter forest stands for these species.

*Figure 4. Bald Eagles (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) can be found in treetops along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River.*



## Rare Plants

Thirty species of Sensitive plants are known or suspected to occur within the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District. Plant species identified as "Forest Species of Concern" (FSOC) are species that may not be at risk on a range-wide, regional or state scale, but may be imperiled within a planning area, such as a National Forest. There are 27 FSOC species listed for the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District. Of the two listed Threatened plants for the IPNF, Water Howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*), is suspected to occur in aquatic habitats in the planning area. Listed plant species that are known to exist in the planning area include Mingan moonwort (*Botrychium minganense*), Stalked Moonwort (*B. pedunculosum*), Triangle Moonwort (*B. lanceolatum*), Deerfern (*Blechnum spicant*), Idaho Barren strawberry (*Waldsteinia idahoensis*), Western starflower (*Trientalis latifolia*), Bug-on-a-stick moss (*Buxbaumia piperi*), naked Mnium moss (*Rhizomnium nudum*), Short-spored jelly lichen (*Collema curtisporum*), Round-leaved orchid (*Platanthera orbiculata*), and Hall's lungwort (*Lobaria hallii*).

Historical information on Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive plants and FSOC is not available because botanical inventories were not done on the district prior to the early 1990's. Riparian roads, grazing, logging, associated human caused disturbances and natural disturbances have had substantial impacts on the riparian areas of the Coeur d'Alene subbasin starting in the late 1800's. Introduced, invasive weed species are abundant in the resource area due to the past disturbances, current high road density, and intense recreation along river corridors.

Several listed plant species, such as triangle moonwort (*B. lanceolatum*), deerfern (*Blechnum spicant*), and Idaho barren strawberry

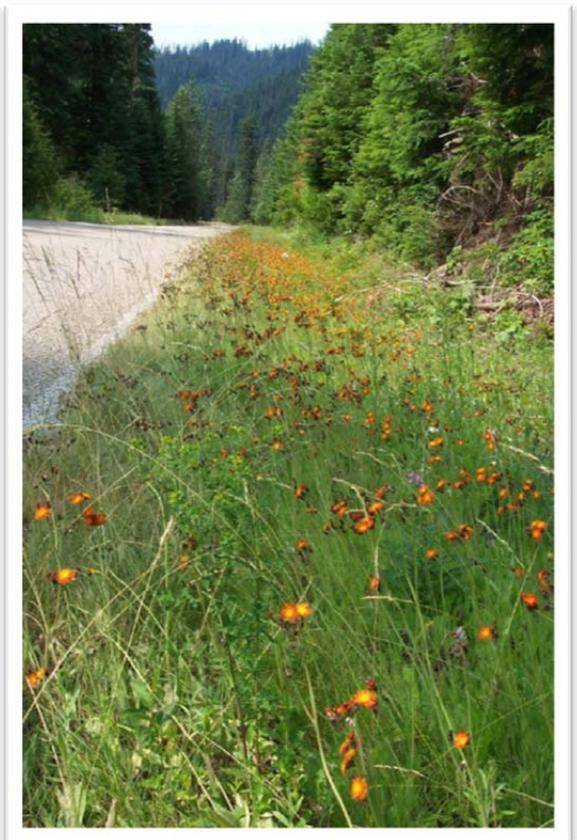
(*Waldsteinia idahoensis*), are somewhat tolerant of light disturbance, but cannot survive repeated compaction from vehicles or heavy noxious weed infestations. Moonwort species and Idaho barren strawberry occur in dispersed sites and campgrounds in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River corridor.

## Noxious Weed Infestations

The most detrimental invasive weeds to riparian areas on the district are common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*), blueweed (*Echium vulgare*), hawkweeds (Hieracium species) and houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*).

These weed species grow close to water and are impossible to eradicate because of the limitations on herbicide use near water. Other widespread weeds such as spotted knapweed (*Centaurea biebersteinii*), rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*), and St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*) are very expensive to control and have negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem functions.

Figure 5. Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) is a noxious weed found in moist sites along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Road 208.



# Goals

---

The mission of the USDA-Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Our commitment to land stewardship and public service is the framework within which natural resources are managed. The River Corridor Management Plan will work towards restoring and adapting recreation settings along the river corridor to provide quality recreation experiences where unmanaged use has led to localized impacts to ecosystem health.

Increasing use and demand along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River has resulted in resource damage, poor sanitation, loss of habitat, and increasing risks to public safety. In response to these issues, the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District has developed this River Corridor Management Plan to provide a quality recreation experience while maintaining and improving aquatic and terrestrial habitat along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River.

This River Plan will direct management solely on National Forest System land. If National Forest lands are to provide recreational benefits without unacceptable resource impacts, the River Plan should direct and prioritize management of the land in a manner that balances human and ecological needs on the North Fork and Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River. National Forest land along the North Fork and Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River will be managed for the present and future to maintain and improve recreation and ecological values.

## Need for Action

Goals for the River Corridor Plan were developed based on current conditions in the corridor that warrant action. These include:

### *Sanitation along the river corridor*

- High priority challenges associated with recreation on the River Corridor are sanitation, public access and resource degradation. Restroom facilities are minimally distributed and generally scattered, with no logical system determining where outhouses are placed. New outhouses are often installed as a reactive measure in locations where use is high and human waste is abundant. Trash cans are nonexistent. Visitors who do not pack out their trash leave it scattered about their campsites or in the river, leave bags of trash at their campsite, or throw it into a nearby outhouse.

### *Safe and adequate public access to the river*

- No access sites have been designated for tubers or float boaters, leading to congestion at user-created sites and developed sites with access to the river. User conflicts occur between recreation groups, often when excess alcohol is involved. Sometimes these conflicts require law enforcement to diffuse them.

### *Resource protection*

- Some examples of resource degradation include loss of ground cover and increased sediment load entering the river due to soil compaction, ruts in fragile soil where motor vehicles have created trails, removal of snags for firewood, vandalism to cultural sites and introduction of noxious weeds along the river corridor.
- Maintenance and improvement of recreational fishing opportunities along the river corridor. For example, the public has identified the need to improve and designate boat launch facilities for increased public use.
- Maintenance and improvement of habitat along the river corridor for the conservation of native fish species including westslope cutthroat and critical habitat for bull trout. There is a need to maintain riparian and fish habitat conditions on the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River to improve and conserve high quality habitat for fish and other aquatic species.

Aquatic needs result from resource degradation and include the need to maintain recreational fishing values along the North Fork and Little North Fork Coeur d'Alene River as well as the continued conservation of native fish and critical habitat for bull trout.

### **Goals**

Specific goals guide the actions needed to restore and adapt recreation settings and provide quality recreation experiences where unmanaged use has led to localized impacts to ecosystem health. There are eight goals of the River Corridor Management Plan:

1. Provide recreation users with a variety of safe, enjoyable, high quality recreation experiences along the corridors of the North Fork and the Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River.
2. Restore and rehabilitate riparian areas where resource damage has occurred and prevent new impacts associated with recreational use.
3. Identify locations where development may be appropriate to improve access and safety for recreationists.
4. Provide a framework for identifying locations that need rehabilitation.
5. Educate river corridor users about the river environment, safety, recreation opportunities, "Leave No Trace" ethics, and how to avoid negative environmental impacts.
6. Maximize efficiency and effectiveness by developing partnerships and volunteer opportunities with federal and state resource management agencies, counties, landowners, user groups and other entities.
7. Encourage development and rehabilitation that supports the local economy by promoting existing local businesses and increasing local employment.
8. Maintain and restore watershed, riparian, and stream channel conditions needed to conserve fish habitat for westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, and other aquatic species, and to provide a high quality recreational fishing experience on the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River.

# River Management Direction

---

## Aquatics

Management direction for aquatic resources and riparian and wetland areas in the Idaho Panhandle National Forests Forest Plan (FP 1987) is guided by the Inland Native Fish Strategy (INFS, USDA 1995). This direction has standardized riparian management across 22 National Forests in the inland northwest. In summary, the goals for riparian management are to establish and maintain healthy functioning watershed, riparian areas, and associated fish habitats. These goals include maintenance and restoration of water quality; stream channel integrity and processes, including sediment regime; management of instream flows; meadow and wetland integrity; productivity and diversity of native and desirable non-native plant species; and protection, maintenance, and/or restoration of riparian and stream channel function needed to support invertebrates, fish, and other terrestrial species.

INFS also provides a set of Standards and Guidelines to help direct project and site-specific land management activities such as timber, roads, minerals, livestock, recreation, fire/fuels, and watershed and fisheries management. These Standards and Guidelines are used to increase awareness of sensitive areas and to balance multiple use management goals with watershed and riparian health and function. Additionally, project specific riparian and watershed guidelines are sometimes driven by state and Federal regulatory agencies with authorities under the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act.

The North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River is presently listed as an impaired water under Section 303 (d) of the Clean Water Act. Under authority of the Clean Water Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the states must develop plans and objectives that will eventually restore identified water bodies that are not meeting State water quality standards. Stream segments of concern are identified under the anti-degradation policy of the State's water quality standards as meeting or exceeding standards. There is a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for sediment in the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene watershed that was approved in November 2001. The completion of the implementation plan is pending. Under this status, there should be no net increase in the pollutant of concern with management actions and an overall trend in pollution reduction over time. The TMDL for the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River would include the main stem river and any tributary that influences water quality to the main river.

The Forest Service is working with DEQ and EPA to develop an implementation plan for its portion of the TMDL in the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River in cooperation with DEQ, other Federal, State and local Governments, and interested local parties. In the interim, any activities undertaken or permitted on National Forest System lands will be designed to reduce pollutants of concern, where feasible. The timeframe for completion of the implementation plan has not yet been determined.

The Forest Service has agreements with the State of Idaho to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) or Soil and Water Conservation Practices for all management activities. Proposed activities will be in compliance with the guidelines in the Soil and Water Conservation Handbook (Forest Service Manual 2509.22), which outlines BMPs. These practices and guidelines are designed to meet the intent of the water quality protection elements of the IPNF LRMP and Idaho Forest Practices Act.

The project area has been designated as critical habitat for bull trout in the Columbia River drainage by FWS under ESA, despite the absence of this species. The FWS designates critical habitat because it is essential for the long-term conservation and recovery of the species. It requires that federal agencies analyze proposed actions on federal lands or waters for their potential impacts on a species' recovery, not just its survival. On-going and future activities on the National Forest should be designed to avoid adverse modifications of designated critical habitat, and to improve watershed function, fish habitat, and water quality for the potential recovery of bull trout in the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River.

Executive Order 12962 (June 7, 1995) states objectives "to improve the quantity, function, sustainable productivity, and distribution of U.S. aquatic resources for increased recreational fishing opportunities by: evaluating the effects of Federally funded, permitted, or authorized actions on aquatic systems and recreational fisheries and document those effects relative to the purpose of this order."

## Recreation

The 1987 Idaho Panhandle National Forests Forest Plan (Forest Plan) guides recreation management under the River Plan. The following Forest Plan Standards apply to management along the river corridor (Forest Plan, pages II-24 and 25):

- 1) Recreation planning and operations will be coordinated with other federal, state, local and private recreational managers.
- 3) Consult with recreational users and other recreational suppliers to coordinate public needs.
- 7) Provide a broad spectrum of dispersed and developed recreation opportunities in accord with identified needs and demands.
- 12) Maintain the free flowing characteristics of rivers identified as eligible for consideration as part of National Wild and Scenic Rivers System pending study for suitability. Identified rivers (North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, Pack River, and the Little North Fork of the Clearwater) will not be modified to the degree that eligibility or classification would be affected (Forest Plan Amendment 3, 1992).

Additional standards from Amendment #3 to the 1987 IPNF Forest Plan include:

- 1) The wild or recreational river corridors are defined as an area extending the length of the river segment and ¼ mile in width from each bank of the river. Boundaries may include adjacent areas needed to protect the resources or facilitate management of the river corridor.
- 3) In eligible "recreational" corridors, roads are allowed. Consideration will be given to the type of use and protection of resource values within the river corridor. Timber harvest can be allowed; however, the existing character and visual sensitivity of the immediate river corridor shall be maintained.
- 5) Manage for recreation experiences in the context with potential designation. "Wild" – primitive or semi-primitive non-motorized. "Recreation" – semi-primitive motorized or roaded natural.

Direction contained in Management Area 12 applies to both the North Fork and Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River.

While the River Plan is designed to be consistent with the current Forest Plan, management direction for the river corridor is also likely to come from the new Idaho Panhandle National Forests Resource Management Plan (in progress). When the future Forest Plan is implemented, the following desired conditions are likely to apply to the river corridor. These desired conditions are consistent with the current issues and goals of the River Plan:

- Desired Condition - FWDC-AR-01: Dispersed camping opportunities are available for a wide variety of users while considering resource concerns, activity conflicts, or over-use.
- Desired Condition - GADC-AR-CDA-03: The primary river corridors in the Forest (North Fork Coeur d'Alene and Little North Fork Coeur d'Alene Rivers) are managed for a variety of developed and dispersed recreational opportunities. Emphasis within these river corridors is to maintain access to various developed and dispersed sites while protecting the rivers and riparian resources from degradation.
- Desired Condition - MA2b-DC-AR-06: Eligible recreational river segments provide a wide variety of motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. Development within river corridors is designed for recreational use by the forest visitor, while protecting the environment and river-related resources.

## Aquatic/Riparian Conditions

---

### Existing Aquatic/Riparian Conditions

Historic land management practices and large flood events have greatly influenced the current stream channel and fish habitat conditions along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River and tributaries. An evaluation of current and historic conditions in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River (Watershed Professional Network, 2007) suggests that the amount of large woody debris in the North Fork subbasin is generally low due to historic riparian timber harvest, the use of streams for log drives, stream-side road building, and large stand-replacing fires in the Upper North Fork Coeur d'Alene River watershed, especially the fire of 1910.

The loss of large woody debris suggests that total pool volume and area, cover, and fish habitat complexity has declined from historic conditions resulting in less suitable habitat for westslope cutthroat. Large woody debris of sufficient size to form jams increases the depth and number of pools, a key habitat feature for summer and winter rearing.

Increases in channel widths as a result of large inputs of bedload transport due to mining, road construction, and large flood events have further reduced pool density and volume from historic conditions. Coarse sediment load will likely remain high along the mainstem Little North Fork and mainstem North Fork Rivers for at least several more decades due to the slow downstream movement of coarse sediment (Watershed Professional Network, 2007).

Loss of pool habitat and reduction of large woody debris abundance may explain some of the reasons historic numbers of catchable trout have declined in North Fork Coeur d'Alene River.

Additionally, the extensive road network along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene and its tributaries created substantial increases in coarse and fine sediment to the North Fork, particularly in the reaches below Prichard Creek. Watershed Professional Network (2007) reported that many low-gradient channels in the North Fork subbasin responded to large inputs of coarse sediment (as well as loss of riparian trees) by depositing large gravel bars, becoming wider, and braiding

or changing course. Inspection of historical air photographs dating from the 1930s through 2004 found that most channel-widening responses occurred in the 1930s through 1980s. The width of most channels was reduced by 1996 and the length of disturbed channels had decreased greatly. Previously-widened channels became even narrower between 1996 and 2004. The historical increase in channel width was extensive in both the logged and roaded part of the watershed and the portions that were burned but not logged or roaded.

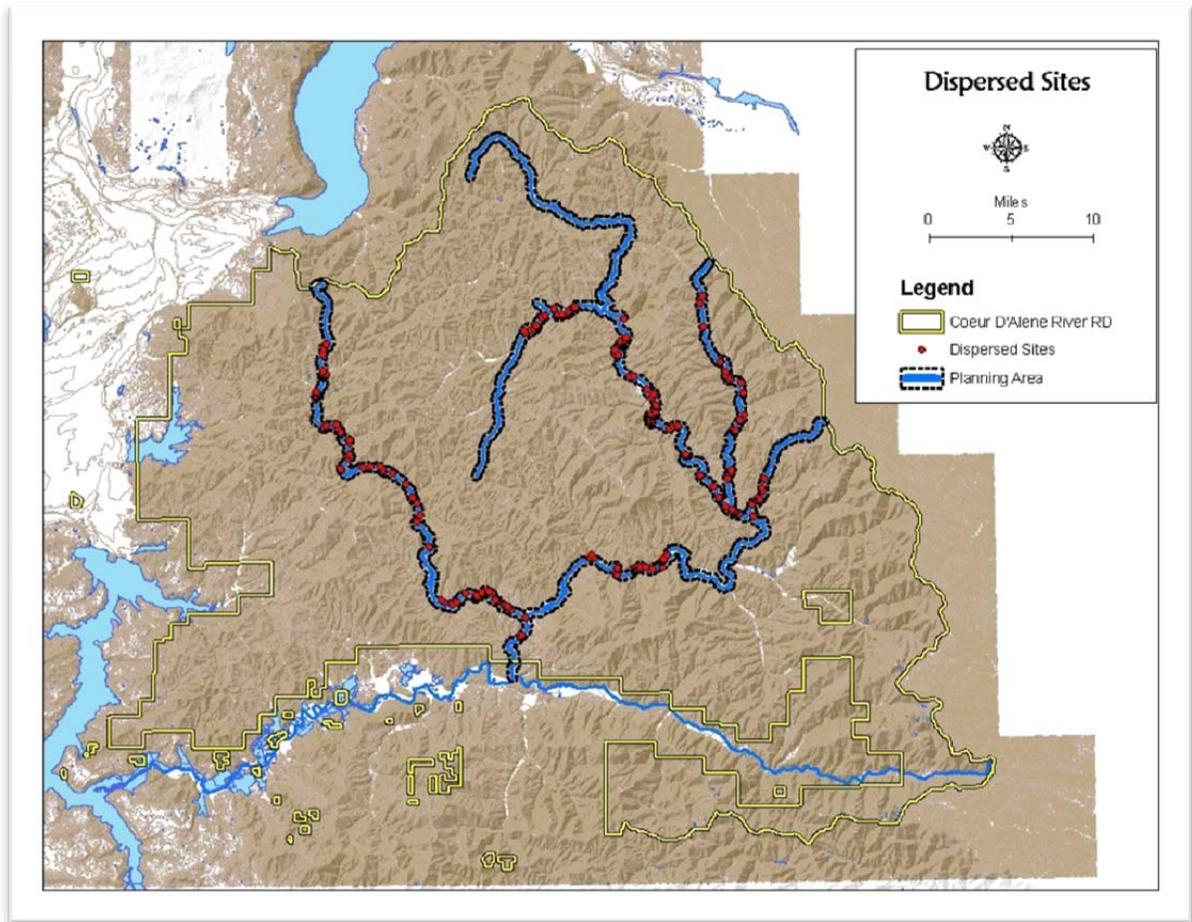
Impacts from dispersed camping and other recreational use along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River corridor are primarily localized (affecting less than 1% of the total project area), but collectively contribute to cumulative impacts occurring in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene watershed (DEQ, 2001). Despite the small affected area, activities such as dispersed camping, motorized use, and day use have impacts to the most sensitive ecological areas in the watershed. These sensitive zones, known as riparian zones, perform a wide variety of ecological functions and play an important role in providing wildlife and fisheries habitat, wildlife movement corridors, erosion and nonpoint-source pollution control.

Because of repeated use, localized impacts continue to deteriorate riparian areas, making natural recovery difficult. Indirect effects from recreation use in these areas also occur, resulting in loss of riparian plant species, removal of future large wood debris recruitment, bank trampling and bank erosion, and delivery of petroleum, human waste, and other pollutants to the river.

Maintaining properly functioning riparian areas is important to the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River, since the river and many of its tributaries have been listed as impaired waters by the EPA for sediment, metals, and water temperature under the Clean Water Act. Management of recreation areas along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River corridor will be an important component of reducing pollutants and meeting Clean Water Act goals identified under the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Assessment (DEQ 2001).

Condition and use inventories of dispersed sites within the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River and its tributaries began in summer 2010. A total of 341 sites (Figure 6) were mapped with Global Positioning System (GPS) units and evaluated for use and disturbance. More detailed data was retrieved for each site using a data dictionary created by Region 1 of the USDA Forest Service for primitive recreation sites. Pictures were also taken of each site.

Figure 6. Inventoried dispersed sites within the planning area



Based on the 2010 inventories, most sites were found to occur within the 300-foot Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA) designated under the Inland Native Fisheries Strategy (INFS). Nearly 35% of sites inventoried were within 100 feet of rivers and streams. Erosion, defined as rills, gullies, or sheet erosion, from dispersed camping and day use occurred at 58% of the dispersed campsite areas, with 91 observations of active erosion within 50 feet of rivers and streams (Table 1). Additional soil erosion was observed along many non-system roads that accessed dispersed camping areas, with extensive surface erosion and rutting observed on many routes leading to dispersed campsites. Many of these erosion sources are actively contributing sediment and other pollutants to the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River. Soil compaction and bare soil was observed at all sites, with 60% of the sites showing detrimental soil disturbance in greater than 50% of the dispersed campsite area. Due to soil compaction and repeated use, most of these areas now lack the ability to naturally regenerate grass and other vegetation, creating localized sources of surface erosion.

Habitat availability for native plants has been reduced in these areas, creating more favorable conditions for noxious weed infestations. Additionally, disturbances have resulted in localized losses of habitat for riparian dependent aquatic and wildlife species. Dispersed camping use often results in the removal of dead trees (snags) when they are used for firewood. These snags are important habitat for many species of wildlife including woodpeckers and carnivores. Human presence may also disturb nesting birds which can result in nest abandonment.

Figure 7. Impacts from recreation at a popular dispersed area.



**Table 1. Soil erosion observations associated with dispersed campsites and proximity to river and streams.**

Soil Erosion Class	Proximity to Stream	Number of Sites in each Individual Soil Erosion Class	Percent of Sites in each Individual Soil Erosion Class
none	< 50 ft	46	13.9%
none	50 - 300 ft	49	14.8%
none	> 300 ft	44	13.3%
rills or gullies	< 50 ft	6	1.8%
rills or gullies	50 - 300 ft	6	1.8%
rills or gullies	> 300 ft	7	2.1%
sheet erosion	< 50 ft	85	25.7%
sheet erosion	50 - 300 ft	60	18.1%
sheet erosion	> 300 ft	28	8.5%
Totals		331	100.0%

### Desired Aquatic/Riparian Conditions

Desired conditions for aquatic and riparian areas along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Corridor is driven by the Idaho Panhandle Forest Plan, INFS, District Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM), and the need to improve watershed conditions to meet the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River sediment TMDL.

Desired conditions include:

1. Dispersed camping and other recreation use disturbance is minimized and/or restored in riparian corridors along the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River to comply with the North Fork Coeur d'Alene sediment TMDL.
2. Riparian conditions adjacent to high value Westslope cutthroat trout river segments between Yellow Dog Creek and Jordan Camp are maintained and improved to help conserve important fish habitat.
3. Unauthorized user created stream crossings and other motorized routes are removed and restored to comply with the CDA River RD MVUM and North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River sediment TMDL.
4. Overstory trees and other canopy are maintained to help comply with North Fork Coeur d'Alene temperature TMDL. Side channel habitat adjacent to the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River is protected from further development and disturbance to protect important a summer rearing areas for Westslope cutthroat trout and other native species.
5. Existing and future watershed and fish habitat improvement project areas are protected from further dispersed camping development and motorized use (i.e. Tepee Creek restoration site).

Additional improvements for recreational fishing opportunities exist throughout the project area. Recent increases in drift boat use and other small floating crafts suggest the need to provide boat launch and parking facilities to meet the demand. Additional fishing ponds may also provide the public with areas where fish may be harvested and would reduce illegal harvest of cutthroat trout in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River.

## Recreation Conditions

---

### Existing Recreation Conditions

The North Fork and Little North Fork Coeur d'Alene Rivers and tributaries covered by the River Plan provide many opportunities for water-related recreation. Throughout the majority of the project area, the river lies in a wide floodplain facilitating foot and boat access. Excluding spring runoff, the river flows at a leisurely pace with most rapids occurring in shallow areas where people can easily walk. There are some large pools and sandy beaches interspersed at random along the banks as well. The clear, cool water provides numerous opportunities for floating, fishing and swimming. Much of the river corridor is accessible by paved roads, making it an easy day trip from Coeur d'Alene, the Silver Valley and Spokane.

Recreation along the river corridor occurs throughout the year; however, the majority of use occurs between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Popular recreation activities along the river corridor include camping, tubing, fishing, canoeing, swimming, sunbathing, picnicking, gold panning, hunting, and appreciating nature. In addition to river-related activities, river corridor visitors hike, and/or ride OHV's on designated trails near the river. Throughout the summer forest visitors camp along the river, spending their afternoons sunbathing or tubing.

On a typical summer weekend, crowds of tubers can be seen floating and drinking alcohol along the lower North Fork. Campers crowd into dispersed campsites along the edge of the river where motorized access is convenient. Many of these sites incur damage from motorized vehicle use on wet, soft soil. In other locations, where access is not as convenient, green tree removal and user-created routes are used to establish access.

*Figure 8. Tubers floating the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River*



Traffic is abundant along Forest Roads 208, 209, 442 and 412 as people drive back and forth to the nearest convenience stores for supplies and family and friends rush out to the river to meet those lucky enough to establish camp at their favorite site. Alcohol use is common as well as the trash that is left behind. There are no trashcans along the river corridor, and human waste is prolific at popular dispersed campsites. Sites located close to outhouses have much less human waste since many visitors do not bring their own portable outhouses.

Numerous developed recreation facilities fall within the project area. These facilities include campgrounds, rental cabins and picnic areas. Outhouses are located at developed recreation facilities as well as some popular dispersed sites within the planning area. These sites and developed facilities provide unique opportunities for recreationists to experience the river corridor.

The existing conditions at developed and dispersed sites are described below. See Appendix A for a more detailed description of specific developed and named dispersed sites.

### *Developed Sites*

Six developed campgrounds, four developed day-use sites, seven outhouses, and two rental cabins are located within the planning area.

Campgrounds: The developed campgrounds are operated by a concessionaire through a Granger-Thye Special Use Permit. The campgrounds were constructed during the mid-twentieth century, and have deferred maintenance needs. Most of the campgrounds have at least one handicapped accessible toilet, and many of the outhouses are in poor condition and need to be replaced. Other maintenance needs include repaving access roads and parking pads, replacing water systems, vegetation management, updated bulletin boards and site signs, and new picnic tables and fire grates. The campgrounds are open approximately one week before Memorial Day through Labor Day. At most campgrounds forty percent of the sites are available for reservation; many of these sites are full throughout the summer; however, the entire campgrounds are rarely full except for holiday weekends including Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day.

Day-Use Sites: There are five developed day use sites within the planning area: Prichard Bridge Picnic Area, Avery Creek Picnic Area, Clee Creek Fishing Pond, Shoshone Rest Stop and Magee Picnic Area. Outhouses and limited parking exist at each site. The sites have few improvements, so maintenance needs are not high, and Forest Service recreation crews maintain these sites annually. Trashcans are not available at these sites, and trash is often found in and around the outhouses.

Outhouses: There are seven outhouses along the river corridor that are not associated with developed sites. These outhouses are located adjacent to popular dispersed camping areas. The outhouses were installed in response to the need for a toilet in these locations. Most of these outhouses are in relatively good condition. Problems with human waste are much less severe at dispersed sites where outhouses have been installed. Problems with these outhouses include vandalism and trash dumping into the vaults. When trash is not dumped into the vaults, it is often left in or around the outhouses.

Rental Cabins: There are two rental cabins along the river corridor: Avery Cabin and Magee Ranger Station. Avery Cabin was recently renovated and will not need any major maintenance for years. Magee Ranger Station is in good condition, but maintenance in the near future is inevitable. There are several other buildings in the Magee Complex, including the old Magee Ranger Station office, warehouse and barn, which may be available to the public for rentals in the future. The rentals provide convenient access to the river. The sites are maintained regularly by District Recreation staff and remain in good condition.

River Access: Currently one developed access site exists along the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River. Avery Creek Picnic Area provides a stairway to the river's edge as well as limited parking. The stairway can be used by swimmers, fisherman, and tubers. Due to the limited parking provided at this site, few people can use it at one time and it is not practical for float boat access. This is the only developed river access within the planning area. As a result, recreationists have created their own access sites.

### *Dispersed Sites*

There are many dispersed sites along the river corridor. The vast majority of these sites are used for camping. Most dispersed sites have a user-created fire ring and compacted soil associated with motorized or tent camping. Some sites have little impact on the river, while others have negative resource impacts due to compacted soil, erosion into the river and unauthorized motorized routes running across and through the river. Other attributes associated with dispersed sites along the river corridor include green tree cutting and tree damage, rutted soil, absence of vegetation, trash and human waste.

### Desired Recreation Conditions

The desired conditions for recreation within the planning area are driven by the Idaho Panhandle National Forests Forest Plan and the MVUM. In order to meet the following desired conditions, the planning area must be managed to enhance river access and sanitation while mitigating resource damage. Desired conditions include:

1. Portal signs with maps illustrating popular locations for river access, camping and day use are placed at prominent entryways to the river corridor.
2. Designate, develop and sign river access for floating, tubing, fishing and swimming.
3. Provide outhouses at popular and resource appropriate dispersed recreation sites.
4. Utilize partners and grant opportunities to provide trashcans and recycling bins at convenient locations along the river corridor.
5. Rehabilitate resource damage at dispersed sites.
6. Designate dispersed campsites and parking areas where motor vehicle use has created resource impacts.
7. Add routes to the MVUM where necessary to provide access to popular dispersed sites over 300 feet from open system roads.

The desired condition for specific developed and dispersed sites are described below.

### *Developed Sites*

Campgrounds: The developed campgrounds along the North Fork and Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River should be well maintained, and near capacity most weekends. All outhouses should be accessible to people with disabilities. Vegetation should be healthy and represent diversity in native species and age. Signs should be displayed in prominent locations and convenient to visitors. River access should be developed and accessible in campgrounds adjacent to the river, and potential opportunities for more developed campgrounds should be evaluated within the Concentrated Use area.

Day-Use Sites: Developed day use sites along the river corridor should be well maintained providing fire rings, picnic tables and river access where desirable. Adequate parking should be available to meet public need at each site. Signs at all developed sites should depict pertinent information regarding the river corridor. Given the increases in day use activities, additional day use sites in the concentrated use, and high use area would be evaluated to meet the needs of tubers, float boaters and swimmers.

Outhouses: Outhouses should be well dispersed in locations along the river corridor where a need has been demonstrated. All outhouses should be well-stocked, maintained and accessible to people with disabilities. Portable toilets should be placed at sites where a need is demonstrated, but the location within the floodplain makes vault installation undesirable. Trashcans are provided in heavily used locations to discourage garbage in and around outhouses.

Rental Cabins: Rental cabins should be well-maintained to provide a unique experience to renters. Renters should receive historical information specific to each cabin as well as the history of the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District.

River Access: River access sites should be designated, mapped and signed along the river corridor. Given the increases in day use activities, additional day use sites in the concentrated use, and high use area would be desirable to meet the needs of tubers, float boaters and swimmers. Adequate parking is also desired to accommodate day use activities. Roadsides should be clearly signed where parking is prohibited due to safety and resource concerns. In addition to sites on Forest Service Land, other access sites should be designated on county and state land through the NFCDA Cooperative Recreation Plan. These access sites disperse users along the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene, minimizing congestion and decreasing potential for user conflict due to overcrowding.

### *Dispersed Sites*

Numerous dispersed campsites should be available in accessible locations close to the river. A variety of dispersed camping options should be available: for both larger sites that accommodate group camping to other smaller, more secluded sites. Sites should be designated and motorized vehicles and parking should be regulated at some large dispersed sites where motorized use has created resource impacts in the past. Routes to designated dispersed sites over 300 feet from open system roads should be added to the MVUM, where appropriate. Where necessary, motorized impacts should be reduced within 25 feet of the river to encourage higher vegetation productivity and decreased erosion.

## River Planning Units

---

The planning area is stratified into four planning units: areas of Concentrated Use, High Use, Transition Areas and Remote Areas (Figure 8). These categories were developed to describe the desired condition along different segments of the river. Recreation management within each of these planning units is unique due to varying levels of recreation use. Management direction may vary between each planning unit. However, the overall goals for the river corridor remain the same. Above all, the desired condition will address problems with sanitation, river access and resource degradation, including erosion and sedimentation.

This River Plan was created to enhance the values within the river corridor that visitors appreciate the most, such as access to the river and developed and dispersed recreation, while protecting the river and associated riparian areas from degradation caused by inadequate sanitation and resource degradation which impacts recreational fisheries and native fish populations. It is anticipated that implementation of this plan and its associated management actions would take place over the next fifteen years, and would be dependent on funding.

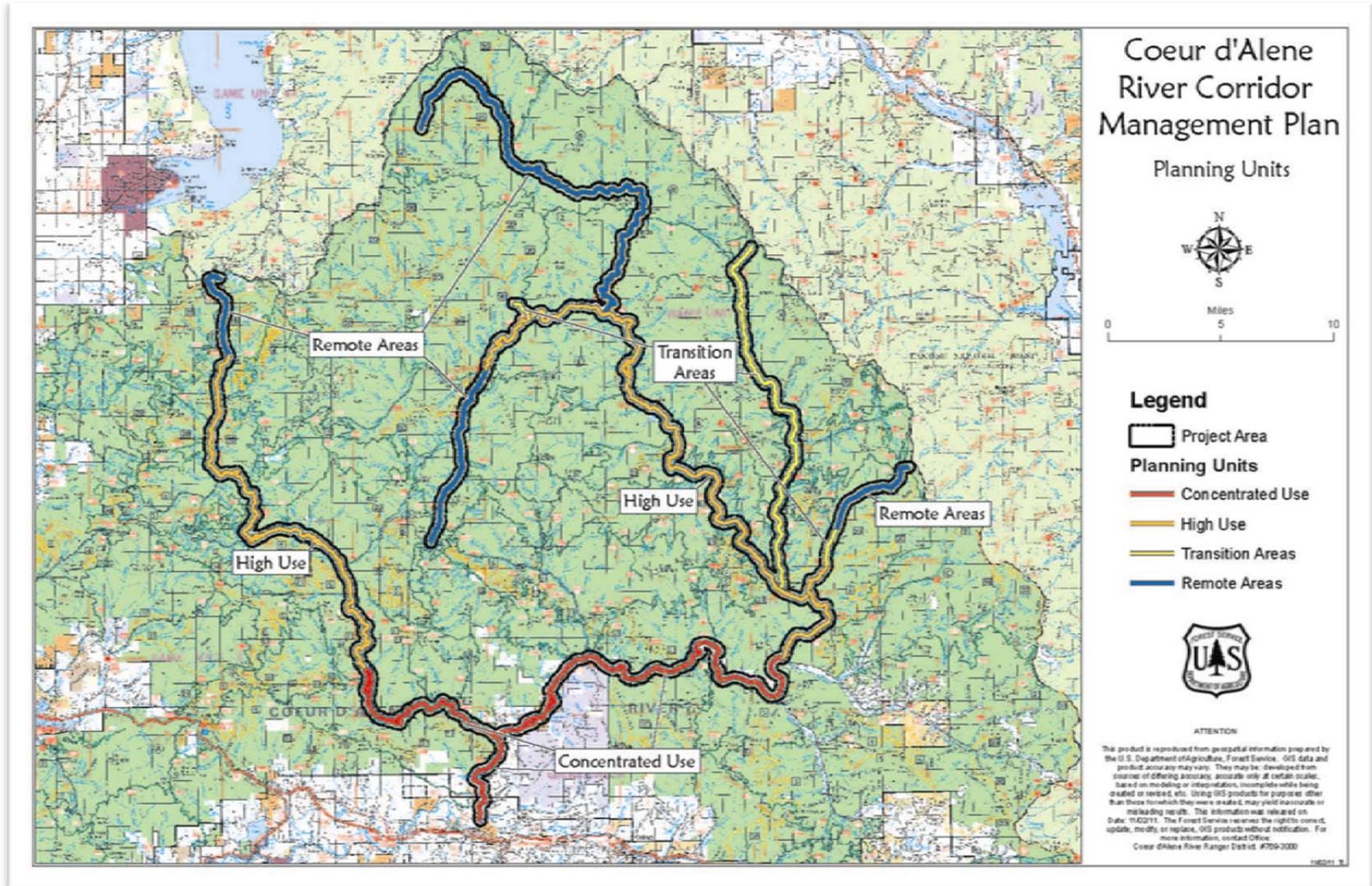
Recommendations to address these issues vary depending on the planning unit a particular river segment falls within. Concentrated Use Areas provide opportunities for high levels of social interaction characterized by high levels of use with people in close proximity.

Areas of Concentrated Use are also characterized by convenience of facilities and access. High Use Areas are similar to Concentrated Use areas in that there are many opportunities for high levels of social interaction and high levels of use with people in close proximity, but often these areas are not as close to urban areas with modern conveniences. Transition Areas provide opportunities for moderate levels of social interaction and are characterized by moderate levels of use with people in close to moderate proximity to each other. Remote Areas provide opportunities for low levels of social interaction characterized by a focus on appreciation and a sense of solitude or remoteness.

The following pages provide a description of each planning unit, including the location, existing recreation experience, and management actions. Action items are unique to each planning unit and direct the level of use and development appropriate for different segments of the river corridor. Seven categories of action items have been identified for each planning unit:

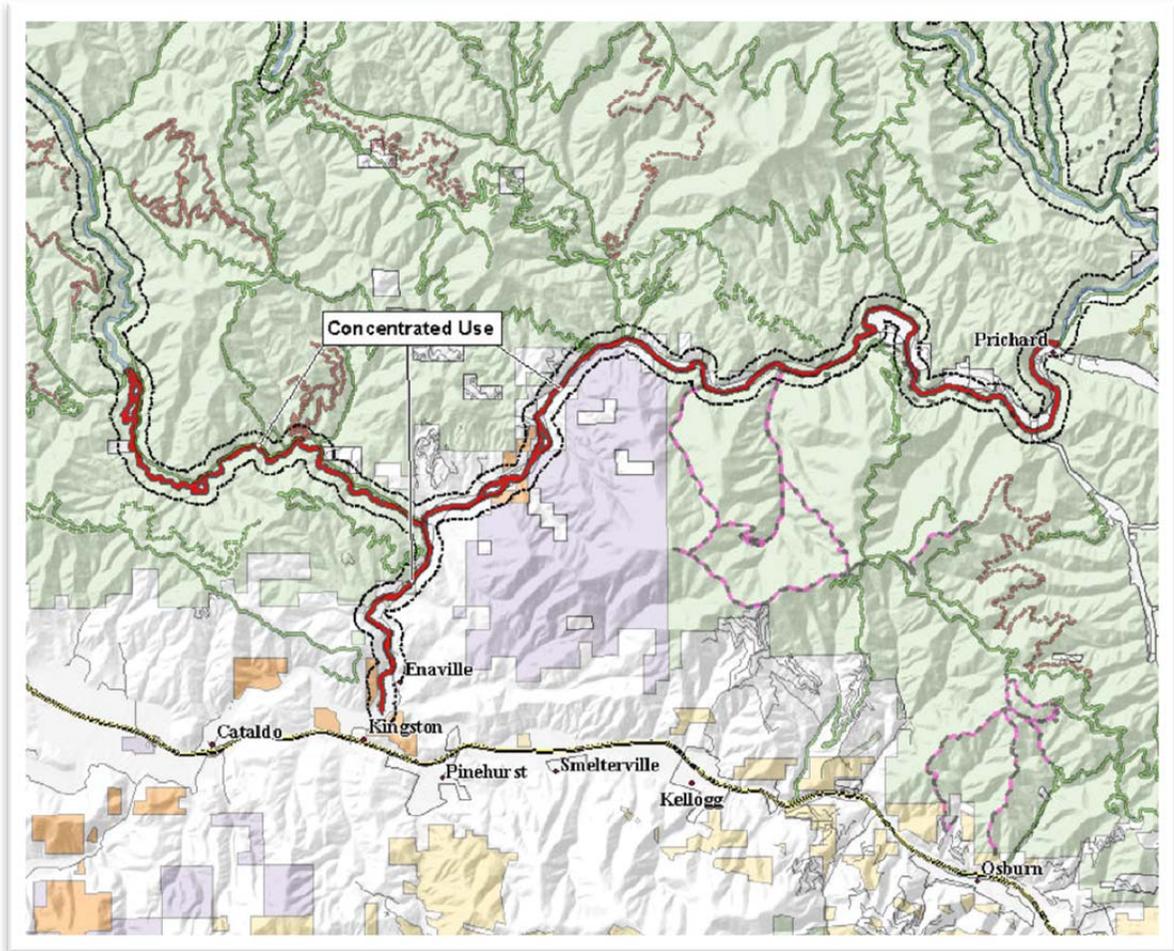
- River Access
- Camping
- Parking
- Toilets
- Trash
- Signs
- Fees

Figure 9. Coeur d'Alene River Corridor Planning Units



## Concentrated Use Areas

Figure 10. Concentrated Use Area Planning Unit



### Location of Concentrated Use Area

The Concentrated Use Area extends north along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River from its confluence with the South Fork of the CDA River along Forest Highway 9 to Prichard. Concentrated use is also found along the Little North Fork Coeur d'Alene River from its confluence with the North Fork to the junction with Forest Road 413 at Breakwater on Forest Road 209.

This section of the North Fork and Little North Fork receives the most concentrated use during the summer months. This area is bordered by multiple jurisdictions and includes the closest segments of the River Plan to urban areas, including the Silver Valley, Coeur d'Alene, and Spokane. Most dispersed sites are full throughout the summer. Crowds are common within the concentrated use area. Designated river access is needed as recreationists are creating their own put-in and take-out sites.

## Existing Recreation Experience in Concentrated Use Areas

1. Close in proximity to urban centers or modern conveniences.
2. Very high level of social encounters. Social interactions are vital to the recreation experience.
3. Crowds and high levels of use are typical. People are willing to tolerate higher densities of people, expect amenities, seek interpretation, and desire social group situations. Family groups and group interaction are important.
4. Access should be provided for people of any age or physical ability. Attention is paid at the agency level to ensure access and safety. Fully accessible facilities are constructed, where appropriate, to meet these needs.
5. Group dynamics and large groups are typical or can be accommodated.
6. Remoteness is not important or the focus of users.
7. Developed facilities such as parking lots, restrooms, trash containers, picnic tables, interpretive signs, information signs, and bulletin boards that fully communicate rules and regulations are desirable in these areas.
8. Law enforcement is active and visible in these areas. Visitors expect to see law enforcement and signage that help provide and maintain a safe experience.

## Management Actions in Concentrated Use Areas

Due to the high level of use along this stretch of the river and its proximity to urban amenities, the Concentrated Use Area will be the focus of most development associated with the River Plan. The goal for the Concentrated Use Area is to accommodate existing use, mitigate existing resource damage and prevent new damage from occurring. Sites within the Concentrated Use area will be the main focus for issues such as river access, improved sanitation and parking.

### *River Access*

- Tubing and floating launch sites are identified and signed.
- Appropriate sites identified as “put ins” and “take outs” will be further developed to make access safer and more convenient.

### *Camping*

- Identify potential sites for developed fee campgrounds where desired/appropriate pending available funding.
- Continue to permit motorized dispersed camping at existing dispersed sites.
- Add routes to the MVUM where access is designated over 300 feet from an open system road to a dispersed campsite.
- Some dispersed campsites may be rehabilitated and closed temporarily until resource concerns at these locations can be mitigated.
- Where resource damage cannot be rehabilitated and/or prevented while allowing motorized access, sites may be permanently restricted to motorized use.

- Prohibit motor vehicles within 25 feet of the high watermark where it is appropriate to alleviate resource damage, and improve soil and water impacts. Clearly sign these areas.
- Designate boat launch areas to prevent conflicts with dispersed camping and boat launch activities.

### *Parking*

- Identify and sign specific sites for parking.
- Evaluate locations where parking areas may need to be constructed.
- Establish a No Parking/Tow-Away Zone near the Bumblebee Cutoff Bridge on Forest Road 209.
- Post “No Parking” signs at specific locations where parking has become a safety issue or blocks river access.

### *Toilets*

- Educate the public on proper disposal of human waste.
- Investigate the feasibility of installing outhouses at designated river access sites.
- Investigate the feasibility of installing outhouses at specific sites with very high use and issues with sanitation.
- Use portable toilets at high use locations where permanent outhouses may not be appropriate due to their location within the floodplain.

### *Trash*

- Educate the public on “Pack It In – Pack It Out” and “Leave No Trace” ethics.
- Consider the installation of trash cans and recycling at convenient locations.
- Use signs to indicate where trash cans are located and where “Pack It In – Pack It Out” is utilized.

### *Signs*

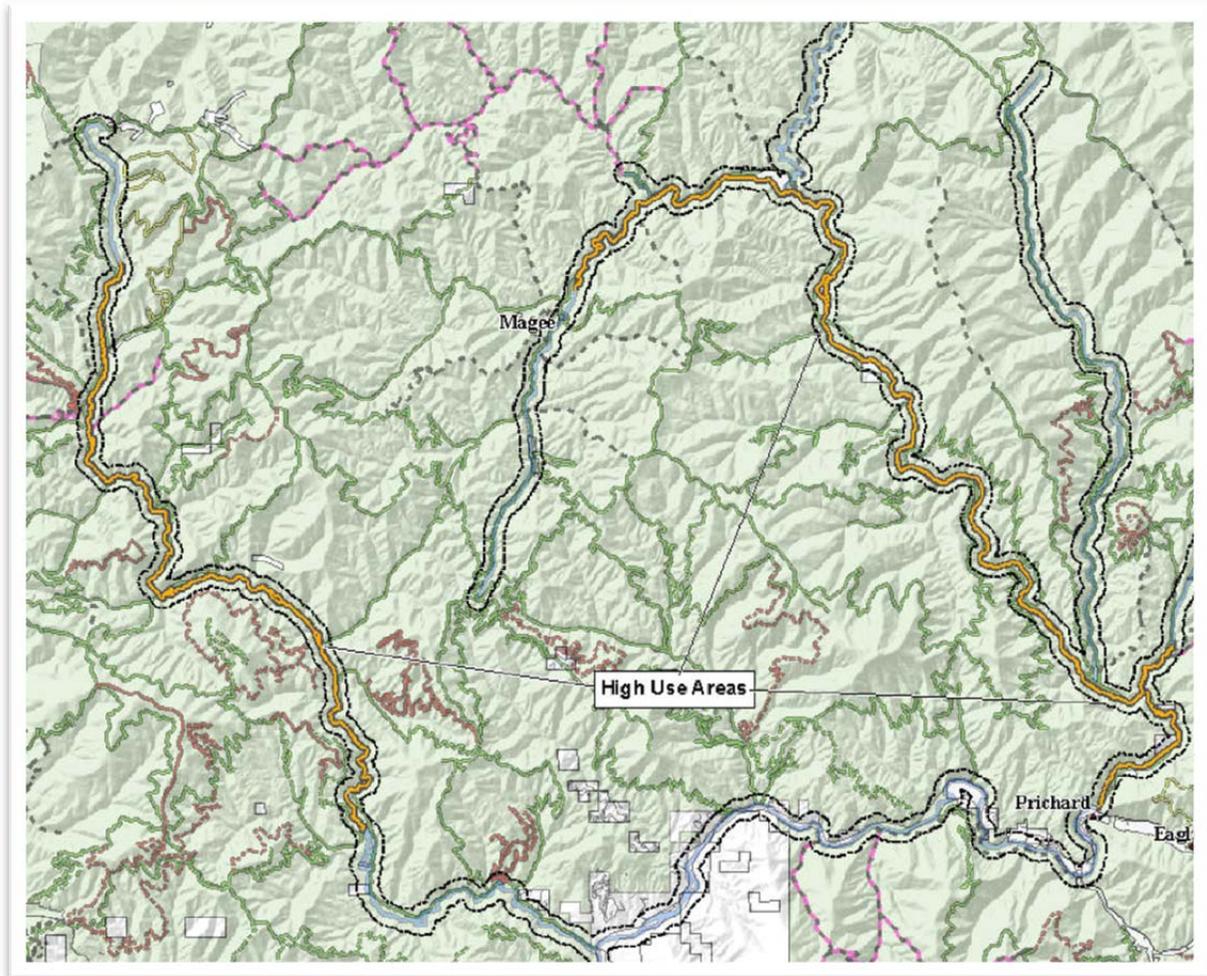
- Install informational bulletin boards at major portals to the river corridor.
- Install “Leave No Trace” educational signs at developed sites.
- Install public drinking water signs along the river corridor.
- Place signs at river access sites, launch sites, and parking areas.
- Install signs where motorized camping is prohibited within 25 feet of the high water mark.

### *Fees*

- No proposed fees at this time. Fees may be considered if funding becomes essential to keep existing sites open to the public. Any proposed fees, if necessary, would be open to public comment through a listing in the Federal Register and evaluated by the Recreation Resource Advisory Board for Northern Idaho.
- Fees charged at sites operated by concessionaires.

## High Use Areas

Figure 11. High-Use Area Planning Unit



### Overview

Three High-Use Areas have been identified in the River Corridor Plan:

- The junction of Forest Road 209 with Forest Road 413 to Solitaire Creek
- Prichard on Forest Highway 9 to Magee Rental Cabin on Forest Road 6310.
- Forest Road 442 to MP 2 along Lost Creek.

These segments within the river corridor receive high use during the summer. Dispersed sites within the high use area are usually occupied although they are less crowded than sites within the Concentrated Use Area. Sites often become crowded during holiday weekends. These sites are further away from modern conveniences than sites within the Concentrated Use Area.

## Existing Recreation Experience in High-Use Areas

1. Further from urban centers or modern conveniences than Concentrated Use Areas.
2. High level of social encounters. Social interactions are a desirable part of the recreation experience.
3. Crowds and high levels of use occur often. While amenities are not always expected, visitors are willing to tolerate higher densities of people and desire social group situations. Family groups and group interactions are important.
4. Improved access is not consistently provided as High Use Areas are often further from urban areas than Concentrated Use Areas. Improved access may be provided when the need is demonstrated.
5. Group dynamics and large groups are typical.
6. Remoteness is not an important focus of users.
7. Developed facilities such as parking lots, trash containers and toilets are somewhat desirable in these areas, but less common than in Concentrated Use Areas.
8. Law enforcement is active and visible in these areas. Visitors expect to see law enforcement and signage that help provide and maintain a safe experience.

## Management Actions in High-Use Areas

Proposed management actions within High Use areas are designed to accommodate an elevated level of use. The management goal for High Use Areas is to provide better access where necessary, mitigate existing resource damage, and prevent new resource damage from occurring. Management strategies and development is less prevalent than within Concentrated Use Areas. Signage is highly visible and educational information is common.

### *River Access*

- Designate river access in locations where a need/desire is demonstrated.
- Sign designated tubing and other launch sites.

### *Camping*

- Maintain and improve existing developed campgrounds.
- Motorized dispersed camping is permitted at existing dispersed sites.
- Add routes to the MVUM where access is designated over 300 feet from an open system road to a dispersed campsite.
- Some dispersed campsites may be rehabilitated and closed temporarily until resource concerns at these locations can be mitigated.
- Where resource damage cannot be rehabilitated and/or prevented while allowing motorized access, sites may be permanently restricted to motorized use.
- Prohibit motor vehicles within 25 feet of the high watermark where it is appropriate to alleviate resource damage, and improve soil and water impacts. Clearly sign these areas.
- Designate boat launch areas to prevent conflicts with dispersed camping and boat launch activities.

### *Parking*

- Sign all pullouts that are designated for parking.

### *Toilets*

- Educate the public on proper disposal of human waste.
- Educate the public on “Pack It In – Pack It Out” and “Leave No Trace” ethics.
- Install toilets in some locations where a need is demonstrated.
- Consider portable toilets at high use locations where permanent outhouses may not be appropriate due to their location within the floodplain.

### *Trash*

- Educate the public on “Pack It In – Pack It Out” and “Leave No Trace” ethics.
- Consider the installation of trash cans and recycling at convenient locations.
- Use signs to indicate where trash cans are located and where “Pack It In – Pack It Out” is utilized.

### *Signs*

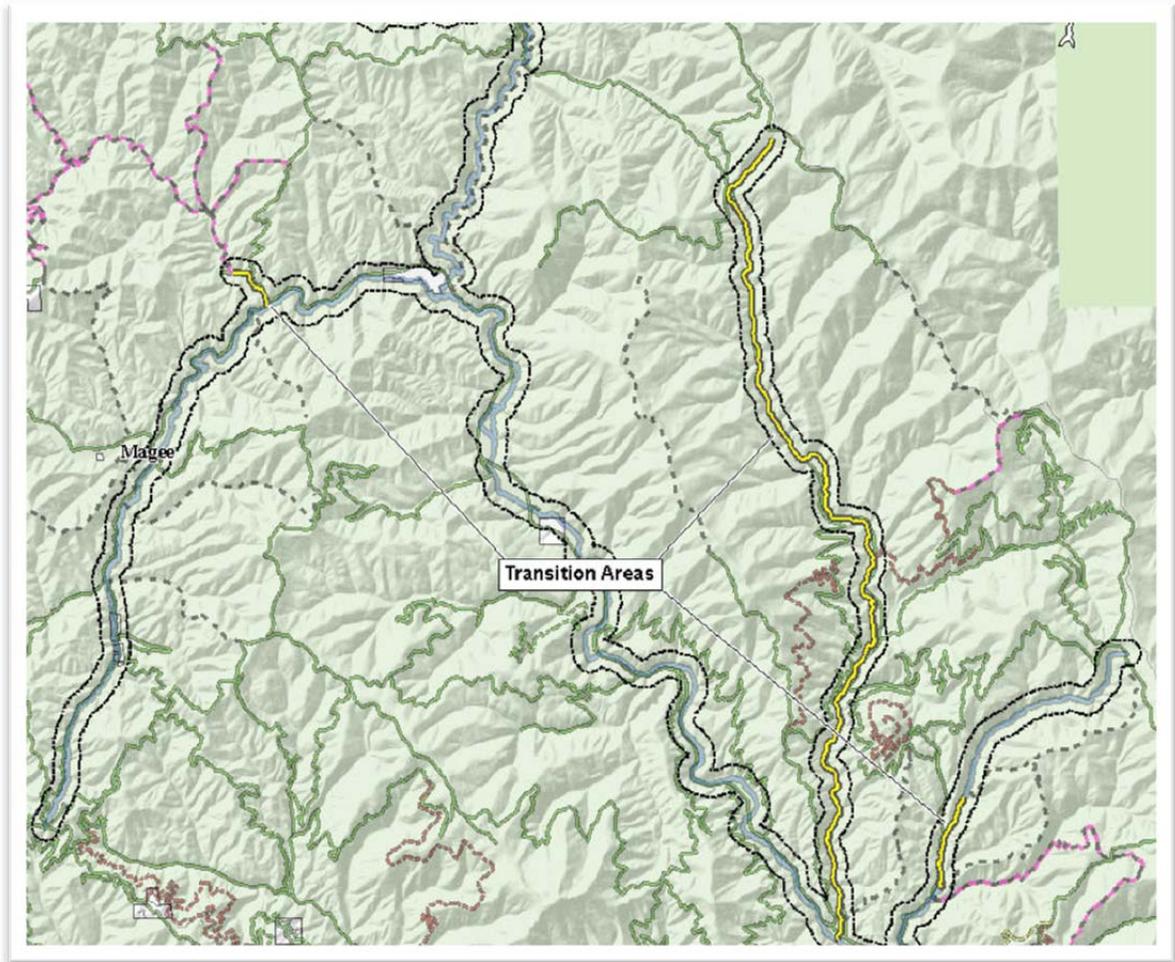
- Install bulletin boards at large developed sites.
- Install educational signs at developed sites.
- Install drinking water signs along the river corridor.
- Place signs at river access sites, launch sites, and parking areas.
- Install signs where motorized camping is prohibited within 25 feet of the high water mark.

### *Fees*

- No proposed fees at this time. Any proposed fees, if necessary, would be open to public comment through a listing in the Federal Register and evaluated by the Recreation Resource Advisory Board for Northern Idaho.
- Fees charged at sites operated by concessionaires.

## Transition Areas

Figure 12. Transition Area Planning Unit



### Overview

The River Plan designates three transition areas:

- Shoshone Creek from the beginning of Forest Road 412 to its headwaters.
- Lost Creek from MP 2 to the location where Trail 153 begins and splits off to the East.
- Independence Creek from its intersection with Forest Road 6310 to the beginning of Trail 22.

These segments of river receive less use than Concentrated and High Use areas. There is no crowding within these areas and often many of these sites are not used except during times of very high use such as holiday weekends. During these times, dispersed sites within the Concentrated and High Use areas fill up and recreationists overflow into the Transition areas.

## Existing Recreation Experience in Transition Areas

1. Moderate level of social encounters. Social interactions are of moderate importance as part of the recreation experience.
2. Crowds are fewer and smaller in size. The level of use is moderate. Family groups and interaction may continue to occur but typically with moderate or small family groups.
3. Provides a buffer between high use and remote areas. Allows for some use to overflow to the transition area during peak use days.
4. Improved access is not provided in these areas. People are willing to travel further or across steeper or more difficult terrain. People tend to be more destination-oriented and have more outdoor skills. Trails and signs may be present but are minimal.
5. Group dynamics and large groups are less typical.
6. Remoteness is a more important value of the visitor and may be a purpose of the visit and rationale for the destination.
7. Developed facilities and associated interpretive signs, information signs, rules and regulations and other indications of agency management are rare or non-existent.
8. Law enforcement is present, but less visible. Focus tends to be more on public education and public safety.

## Management Actions in Transition Areas

The management goal for Transition Areas is to keep disturbance caused by dispersed use from increasing. It is desirable that dispersed sites within these areas remain as long as they are not detrimental to the ecosystem. Creation of new sites should be prevented. Recreationists typically seek out these areas when they want less social interaction. Additional improvements in these areas will be limited.

### *River Access*

- Make river access designations unimproved and less frequent than in concentrated and high-use areas.

### *Camping*

- Motorized dispersed camping is permitted at existing dispersed sites.
- Add routes to the MVUM where access is designated over 300 feet from an open system road to a dispersed campsite.
- Some dispersed campsites may be rehabilitated and closed temporarily until resource concerns at these locations can be mitigated.
- Where resource damage cannot be rehabilitated and/or prevented while allowing motorized access, sites may be permanently restricted to motorized use.
- Prohibit motor vehicles within 25 feet of the high watermark where it is appropriate to alleviate resource damage, and improve soil and water impacts. Clearly sign these areas.

### *Parking*

- Pullouts may be designated for parking where they already exist on the ground.
- Sign all pullouts that are designated for parking.

### *Toilets*

- Educate the public on proper disposal of human waste.
- Emphasize the “Pack It In – Pack It Out” and “Leave No Trace” ethics.

### *Trash*

- Educate the public on “Pack It In – Pack It Out” and “Leave No Trace” ethics.
- “Pack It In – Pack It Out” will be emphasized.

### *Signs*

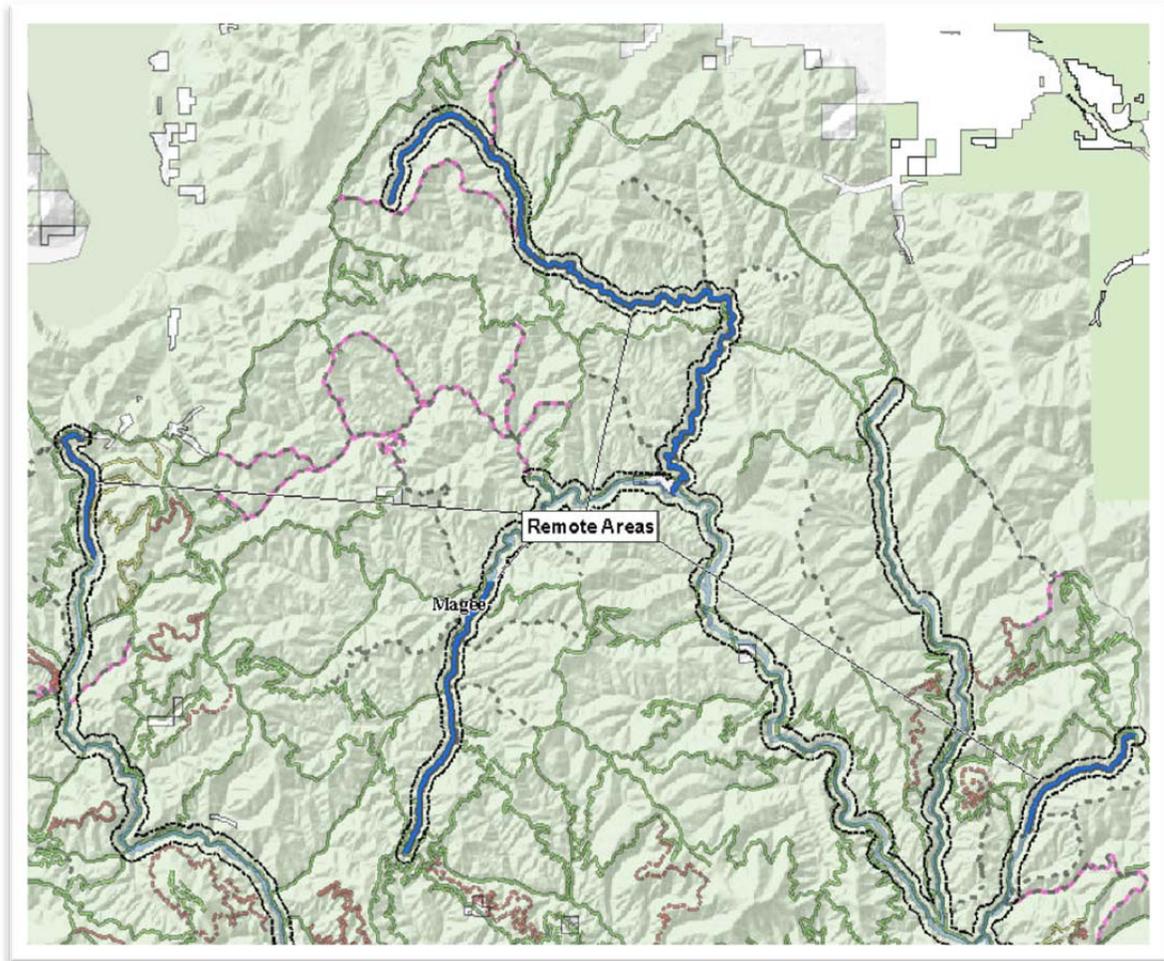
- Utilize signs where necessary for education and parking.
- Install signs where motorized camping is prohibited within 25 feet of the high water mark.

### *Fees*

- No proposed fees considered at this time.

## Remote Areas

Figure 13. Remote Area Planning Unit



### Overview

Four remote areas have been identified:

- The headwaters of the Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River from Solitaire Creek upstream.
- The headwaters of Tepee Creek to Magee Ranger Station
- The headwaters of the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River to its intersection with Forest Road 208.
- The headwaters of Lost Creek to the location where Trail 153 splits off to the East.

The headwaters of these Rivers receive little recreational use due to their distance from urban centers and difficulty to access.

## Existing Recreation Experience in Remote Areas

1. Low levels of social encounters are typical or expected. Visitors seek remoteness and lack of interaction with others.
2. Crowds are not encouraged. Crowding together with others is avoided and areas of use are small and don't encourage gatherings of large groups. Family groups and interaction may continue but trend towards small family groups.
3. Access is not enhanced by the Forest Service. People are destination oriented and are willing to deal with difficult terrain or travel further to enjoy specific river settings in relative isolation. People in remote areas typically have ability and outdoor knowledge that enables them to access these remote areas. The Forest Service may provide some trail and information signs.
4. Group dynamics, particularly with large groups, are not typical.
5. Remoteness, self-reliance, appreciation of solitude, self-learning, and self-discovery are all important recreation experiences.
6. Developed facilities purposely do not exist. People are expected to use their own skills and knowledge to enjoy these areas. An occasional sign may be placed providing key information about trails.
7. Law enforcement is not present on a regular basis.

## Management Actions in Remote Areas

There are few dispersed sites along these sections of river, and the management goal is to maintain this character. Management actions prescribed within these areas are minimal.

### *River Access*

- Do not designate locations for tubing or other launch sites.

### *Camping*

- Prohibit motorized dispersed camping within the Tepee Restoration Area to protect investments made in aquatic resource restoration within this area.
- Prohibit motor vehicles within 25 feet of the high watermark where it is appropriate to alleviate resource damage, and improve soil and water impacts. Clearly sign these areas.

### *Parking*

- Parking would be allowed only at designated trailheads along existing roads.

### *Toilets*

- Educate the public on proper disposal of human waste.

### *Trash*

- Emphasize "Pack It In - Pack It Out" ethics.

### *Signs*

- Signs would be placed where necessary for safety and to prevent resource damage.

### *Fees*

- No proposed fees considered at this time.

# Site Prioritization

---

Site prioritization guides implementation of site-specific projects within the planning area. This focuses funding and implementation on recreation sites with the most value for recreation users while minimizing and reducing existing resource damage. The process for prioritizing sites is dynamic; as new data and input are received, priorities for development and rehabilitation evolve.

Several resources are used to guide site prioritization: condition and use inventories of dispersed sites within the river corridor, involvement with the Watershed Advisory Group, and professional judgment. Combined, these guides help determine which sites are developed and rehabilitated. As new information is received from each of these resources, new priorities may emerge. The sites listed in the implementation timeline were identified based on existing data and knowledge from these sources. Additional sites may be added to the timeline as new data and input are obtained.

These site-specific projects were prioritized in collaboration with the Watershed Advisory Group (see page 2), but are also supported by data collected at each site and professional judgment. Site specific data pertaining to each site combined with input from Forest Service personnel familiar with the use and condition of sites along the river corridor are used to prioritize sites for recommended development and/or rehabilitation. Prior to any development or rehabilitation of sites a thorough environmental analysis will be conducted. This analysis process includes public involvement and comments.

In addition to the above criteria, each site selected for development or rehabilitation must meet the desired condition of the planning unit where it is located. Planning unit prescriptions were created to describe the desired condition along different segments of the river. The desired condition of each planning unit addresses issues with sanitation, river access, and resource degradation including erosion and sedimentation. Particular river segments are assigned to the various planning units which drive recommendations for changes in management, rehabilitation work, or improvements.

The level of disturbance, concentration of use, proximity of sites to streams and other aquatic values were reviewed when prioritizing sites for development and/or rehabilitation. Preliminary results revealed several sites within the concentrated use area in need of development and rehabilitation to improve sanitation, access, public safety, and to minimize further resource damage. Other observations suggest that sites within the concentrated use area are more likely to be developed than sites in other planning areas, although some sites within the high use area may be considered. Sites within transition areas and remote areas are more likely to be rehabilitated than developed.

Based on public involvement with the Watershed Advisory Group, preliminary results from site-specific data collection, and professional judgment, the following sites were chosen as high priority sites for development and rehabilitation.

The following specific sites were selected within the Concentrated Use and High Use Areas:

1. Graham Creek – river access and rehabilitation, motorized access, toilets and camping
2. Hudlow Junction – rehabilitation, motorized access and camping
3. Prichard Bridge Day Use Site – river access
4. Presidents Flats – rehabilitation, motorized access and camping
5. Grizzly Creek – motorized access, toilets and camping
6. Shoshone Gauge Station - river access
7. Big Hank Meadows – river access
8. Milepost 2.8 on Old River Road –river access and camping
9. Other individual sites where resource damage is in conflict with high value westslope cutthroat trout habitat values
10. Kit Price – river access
11. Bumblebee Bridge – river access

The River Plan is a dynamic document. Sites identified for development and rehabilitation may change as the use pattern along the corridor evolves. Some sites may not need rehabilitation at this time but may require improvements or temporary closures in the future to bring these sites back in compliance with Forest Plan standards and other requirements. Budget constraints will continue to limit the number of sites that can be analyzed and modified but as opportunities present themselves, sites will be identified for further development, rehabilitation or mitigation.

## Implementation Timeline

---

The highest priorities for implementation are to:

- Improve sanitation
- Improve river access
- Prevent and remediate resource degradation
- Maintain recreational fishing opportunities
- Maintain or improve habitat for aquatic species.

This section provides a tentative timeline for the implementation of specific actions along the river corridor. The table includes both general and specific recommendations for management within the planning area. General recommendations apply to entire river segments within the planning area. Specific recommendations were selected using a site prioritization process, including dispersed site data collection, input from the Watershed Advisory Group and other interested entities, internal review and planning unit prescriptions. The actions associated with the River Plan have been separated into three categories: Short term, Intermediate Actions and Long Term Actions. Each recommended action is accompanied by the specific goals that it addresses. Rationale for recommendations for improvements to specific sites are discussed in the section on Site Prioritization.

## Short-term Implementation for River Corridor Plan Completion

The following actions are recommended for implementation over the short term (within two years of completion of this plan). For each action, the goals (see page 11) that would be addressed are identified.

### *General Actions*

- Develop and implement river corridor education plan, emphasizing “Leave No Trace” ethics. *Addresses Goal 5 (educate river corridor users).*
- Develop a sign plan in cooperation with the Watershed Advisory Group and other interested government entities in order to ensure consistency in style and message. *Addresses Goal 1 (provide a safe, high-quality recreation experience), Goal 5 (educate river corridor users) and Goal 6 (develop partnerships and volunteers).*
- Install educational signs along the river corridor. *Addresses Goal 5 (educate river corridor users).*
- Seek funding for river corridor portal signs to explain specific rules pertaining to the corridor and to provide a map indicating where recreation opportunities exist. *Addresses Goal 5(educate recreationists) and Goal 6 (develop partnerships for funding).*
- Develop a list of priority sites for improved access and safety, and rehabilitation of resource damage. Place on the District program of work to begin the planning process. *Addresses Goal 2 (restore and rehabilitate riparian areas with resource damage), Goal 3 (develop appropriate sites for improved access and safety), and Goal 4 (create a framework for identifying locations that need rehabilitation).*
- Begin environmental analysis for site rehabilitation at specific sites. Where possible and practical these sites are relocated further away from the river. In cases where relocation is not practical, these sites may be removed entirely. Signing will be used in rehabilitation locations explaining why mitigation is needed. *Addresses Goal 2 (restore and rehabilitate riparian areas that have incurred resource damage).*
- Research and identify funding sources for implementation of priority development and rehabilitation projects. *Addresses Goal 1 (provide a safe, high quality recreation experience).*
- Form partnerships with local agencies, governments, interest groups and individuals to support implementation. *Addresses Goal 6 (develop partnerships and volunteers).*
- Utilize local suppliers and contractors to implement on-the-ground work, where possible. *Addresses Goal 7 (encourage development and rehabilitation that supports the local economy).*

### *Specific Actions*

- Hire a River Ranger to educate recreationists on “Leave No Trace” ethics and patrol the river for issues with resource damage and recreational access. *Addresses Goal 1 (provide a safe, high-quality recreation experience) and Goal 5 (educate river corridor users).*
- Make campgrounds available to the public during hunting season to accommodate the need for accessible campsites and mitigate resource damage. *Addresses Goal 1 (provide a safe, high-quality recreation experience) and Goal 2 (restore and rehabilitate riparian areas with resource damage).*

- Improve boat launch opportunities to address the increase in drift boat and other floating craft use. Top priority sites to investigate development include Graham Creek, Prichard Bridge Day-Use Site and Shoshone Gauge. Environmental analysis and public involvement will be required. *Addresses Goal 1 (provide a safe, high-quality recreation experience) and Goal 3 (develop appropriate sites for improved access and safety).*
- Rehabilitate selected dispersed campsites and non-system roads associated with recreation use between Yellow Dog Creek and Jordan Camp, to improve riparian conditions adjacent to important Westslope cutthroat trout habitat. Environmental analysis and public involvement will be required. *Addresses Goal 1 (provide a safe, high-quality recreation experience), Goal 2 (restore and rehabilitate riparian areas with resource damage), and Goal 3 (develop appropriate sites for improved access and safety).*
- Designate open system routes and parking for campsites at Graham Creek. Add routes to the MVUM. Rehabilitate resource damage and improve sanitation by installing additional outhouses as needed. Potentially integrate with boat launch opportunity. Environmental analysis and public involvement will be required. *Addresses Goal 2 (restore and rehabilitate riparian areas with resource damage) and Goal 3 (develop appropriate sites for improved access and safety).*
- Where feasible, discourage motorized recreation access within 25 feet of the river corridor to protect soil, water and fisheries habitat. Use signs to notify the public. *Addresses Goal 2 (restore and rehabilitate riparian areas with resource damage) and Goal 5 (educate river corridor users).*
- Prohibit camping and motorized use within the Tepee Creek restoration area to protect fisheries habitat improvement investments. *Addresses Goal 2 (restore and rehabilitate riparian areas with resource damage).*
- Coordinate with the Water Advisory Committee to develop and rehabilitate Forest Service and County land near Bumblebee Bridge. Focus should be on identifying parking opportunities and mitigating effects of user-created parking areas. Environmental analysis and public involvement will be required. *Addresses Goal 1 (provide a safe, high-quality recreation experience), Goal 2 (restore and rehabilitate riparian areas with resource damage), and Goal 3 (develop appropriate sites for improved access and safety).*

## Intermediate Implementation for River Corridor Plan Completion

The following actions are recommended for implementation over the intermediate time frame (within five years of completion of this plan). These actions focus on supporting the short-term actions implemented, and on activities that require specific environmental analysis. For each action, the goals that would be addressed are identified.

### *General Actions*

- Continue environmental analysis and implementation of rehabilitation at high priority sites. Environmental analysis and public involvement will be required. *Addresses Goal 1 (provide a safe, high-quality recreation experience) and Goal 2 (restore and rehabilitate riparian areas with resource damage).*

- Begin site design for campground and dispersed site development at other high priority sites. Environmental analysis and public involvement will be required. *Addresses Goal 1 (provide a safe, high-quality recreation experience), Goal 2 (restore and rehabilitate riparian areas with resource damage), and Goal 3 (develop appropriate sites for improved access and safety).*
- Continue to build partnerships and identify volunteer opportunities with interested parties. *Addresses Goal 6 (develop partnerships and volunteers).*
- Involve local suppliers and contractors to implement on-the-ground work where possible. *Addresses Goal 7 (encourage development and rehabilitation that supports the local economy).*

### *Specific Actions*

- Investigate opportunities for developed campgrounds within the Concentrated Use Area. *Addresses Goal 1 (provide a safe, high-quality recreation experience) and Goal 3 (develop appropriate sites for improved access and safety).*
- Investigate feasibility of improving river access at Kit Price, including parking and handicapped access to the river. Environmental analysis and public involvement will be required. *Addresses Goal 1 (provide a safe, high-quality recreation experience) and Goal 3 (develop appropriate sites for improved access and safety).*
- Rehabilitate Hudlow Junction Dispersed Site. Designate open system routes and parking for camp sites. Add routes to the MVUM. Limit motor vehicle use in the area. Environmental analysis and public involvement will be required. *Addresses Goal 1 (provide a safe, high-quality recreation experience) and Goal 3 (develop appropriate sites for improved access and safety).*
- Coordinate with the Watershed Advisory Group to consider a developed access site on Old River Road at milepost 2.8 (National Forest System land near Prado Creek). Environmental analysis and public involvement will be required. *Addresses Goal 1 (provide a safe, high-quality recreation experience), Goal 3 (develop appropriate sites for improved access and safety), and Goal 6 (develop partnerships and volunteers).*
- Locate new fishing pond development sites for additional fishing opportunities where users can harvest trout to minimize illegal harvest of trout in waters designated as “catch and release” by IDFG. Environmental analysis and public involvement will be required. *Addresses Goal 1 (provide a safe, high-quality recreation experience) and Goal 3 (develop appropriate sites for improved access and safety).*

### Long-term Implementation for River Corridor Plan Completion

The following actions are recommended for implementation over the long term (five to fifteen years after completion of this plan), focusing on implementation of on-the-ground actions as well as maintaining actions that have already been implemented. For each action, the goals that would be addressed are identified.

### *General Actions*

- Continue environmental analysis for site rehabilitation and development based on prioritized list of sites and partner input. Environmental analysis and public involvement will be required. *Addresses Goal 2 (restore and rehabilitate riparian areas with resource damage), and Goal 3 (develop appropriate sites for improved access and safety).*

- Install outhouses at appropriate locations as determined by the level of use/development within each planning unit. Environmental analysis and public involvement will be required. *Addresses Goal 1 (provide a safe, high-quality recreation experience) and Goal 3 (develop appropriate sites for improved access and safety).*

### *Specific Actions*

- Rehabilitate and work with the private land owner to designate campsites and motorized access at Horse Haven. Add additional routes to the MVUM. Environmental analysis and public involvement will be required. *Addresses Goal 1 (provide a safe, high-quality recreation experience) and Goal 3 (develop appropriate sites for improved access and safety).*
- Consider rehabilitation and development of Grizzly Creek dispersed sites. Add new routes (over 300 feet from the open road) to the MVUM. Consider boat access and outhouses. Environmental analysis and public involvement will be required. *Addresses Goal 1 (provide a safe, high-quality recreation experience), Goal 2 (restore and rehabilitate riparian areas with resource damage), and Goal 3 (develop appropriate sites for improved access and safety).*
- Rehabilitate Presidents Flats. Designate open system routes and parking for camping. Add routes to the MVUM. Environmental analysis and public involvement will be required. *Addresses Goal 1 (provide a safe, high-quality recreation experience), Goal 2 (restore and rehabilitate riparian areas with resource damage), and Goal 3 (develop appropriate sites for improved access and safety).*
- Improve access at Big Hank Meadows and other potential locations for float boaters. Environmental analysis and public involvement will be required. *Addresses Goal 3 (develop appropriate sites for improved access and safety).*

## Education Action Plan

---

This Education Action Plan was created in cooperation with the North Fork Coeur d’Alene River Watershed Advisory Group. Combined, the Cooperative Recreation River Plan and the Forest Service’s River Corridor Management Plan cover the entire length of the North Fork Coeur d’Alene River as well as the Little North Fork Coeur d’Alene River, Shoshone Creek, Lost Creek and Tepee Creek. In order to successfully implement these plans, it is important that key messages of both plans are discussed with the public.

Education and outreach are critical to the successful implementation of both plans. Key information about both plans must be shared widely with all recreational users who utilize the corridor.

The two plans comprehensively address recreation management on the river. The plans share five common goals (Goals 1-5; see page 11). Since these goals are shared and education is a critical goal in both plans, this education and outreach strategy has been developed jointly. This strategy does not contain any requirements, is intended to be voluntary and adaptable, and contains suggested messages and outreach tools for all parties to use in the future.

In order to reach the recreation plans’ goals, the river’s many stakeholders need to know about the river environment, safety, recreation opportunities, leave no trace ethics, and how to avoid negative environmental impacts. We recommend a common message of “RESPECT OUR RIVER!” to encourage increased attention to the river corridor’s values, risks, and benefits.

We also recommend that the education and outreach strategy address the following topics and help river stakeholders with the following educational key messages:

- Learn about river corridor geographic features including:
  - The names and locations of rivers and streams in the area
  - Land ownership patterns
  - The location of access sites, parking, bathrooms and other points of interest
  - The location of floodplains
- Become familiar with river corridor ecology and associated rules and recommendations for natural resources protection including:
  - Local fish and wildlife habitat needs
  - Surface water quality concerns
  - Drinking water source protection
  - Motor vehicle use guidelines
  - Leave No Trace ethics
- Know about river safety and associated rules and recommendations for a safe and fun experience, including:
  - No glass containers are allowed on the river
  - Fire safety
  - Consequences of overconsumption of alcohol
  - Traffic and parking
  - Natural hazards like high flows, debris and snags, cold temperatures
  - Life jackets
- Respect private property and do not trespass.
  - Ask First! Before you hunt or fish on private property.
  - Use the golden rule and treat the land as you would your own.

We recommend that the education and outreach strategy use a wide range of tools and techniques to get the word out to the variety of river stakeholders, including:

- Portal signs
- Maps
- Smaller signs
- Banners hanging from bridges
- School programs
- Media outreach
- Brochures
- Local business partnerships
- Porta-potty posters
- Websites
- Mesh bags

# List of References

---

- Dupont J., Lider, E., Davis, M., and N. Horner, 2008. Movement, Mortality, and Habitat Use of Coeur d'Alene River Cutthroat Trout, 2004. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Panhandle Region.
- DuPont, J. and N. Horner 2005. 2003 Annual Performance Report; Cutthroat Trout Trend Assessment. Idaho Fish and Game.
- Hardy, R. and J. Fredericks, 2010. Spokane River Drainage Snorkel Surveys. 2009 Panhandle Region Annual Fishery Management Report.
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 2001. Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Loads of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River (17010301).
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 2010. Integrated Report for 2010.
- McClay, D. J. 1940. Tentative Fish Management Plan Coeur d'Alene National Forest. Division of Wildlife Management.
- North Fork Coeur d'Alene Watershed Advisory Group, 2008.
- North Fork Coeur d'Alene Watershed Advisory Group, 2011. North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Cooperative Recreation Plan.
- Shepard, Bradley B. , May, Bruce E. and Urie, Wendi, 2005. Status and Conservation of Westslope Cutthroat Trout within the Western United States', North American Journal of Fisheries Management, 25: 4, 1426 —1440, First published on: 08 January 2011
- US Forest Service, 2010. A Framework for Sustainable Recreation.
- US Forest Service, 1987. Forest Plan for the Idaho Panhandle National Forests.
- US Forest Service, 1995. Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Inland Native Fish Strategy (INFS). Interim Strategies for Managing Fish-producing watersheds in Eastern Oregon, and Washington, Idaho, Western Montana and portions of Nevada.
- US Forest Service, 2009. Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District Travel Plan Decision Notice. US Forest Service, Northern Region, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District.
- Watershed Professional Network, 2007. Watershed Overview & History North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Subbasin. Submitted to Idaho Department of Water Quality, Boise, ID.
- Zack, Arthur C.; Morgan, Penelope. 1994. Fire History on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Coeur d'Alene, ID: US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Idaho Panhandle National Forests. 44p.

# Appendix A. Developed and Named Dispersed Sites

---

## North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River

### *Developed Campgrounds*

Kit Price – The largest developed campground along the North Fork of the Coeur D'Alene River is located 28 miles north of Kingston, Idaho (Exit 43 off of I-90 eastbound) on Road 208. Kit Price is a paved campground with 53 single family sites. Twenty five of those sites can be reserved ([www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)). Kit Price is located along the North Fork and River Access is provided along the third loop. Trash service is provided at Kit Price. The campground is concessionaire operated and is run by a host. Kit Price is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day each year.

Devils Elbow – Devils Elbow is located 31 miles north of Kingston, Idaho (Exit 43 off of I-90 eastbound) along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River on Road 208. Devils Elbow is a paved campground with 20 single-family sites and one group site with a 25 person limit. Seven sites can be reserved online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Once Devils Elbow is paved in 2012, it will accommodate trailers up to 65 feet. Devils Elbow has both potable water and outhouses. There are no trailer hookups. River access is not developed but there is a path to the river from the group site. Trash service is provided at Devils Elbow. The campground is concessionaire operated and is run by a host. Devils Elbow is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day each year.

Big Hank – Big Hank Campground is located 37 miles north of Kingston, Idaho (Exit 43 off of I-90 eastbound) along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River on Road 208. Big Hank is a paved campground with 30 single family sites. Thirteen sites can be reserved ([www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)). Potable water and outhouses are available, but there are no trailer hookups. There is no developed river access from the campground. Trash service is provided at Big Hank. The campground is concessionaire operated and is run by a host. Big Hank is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day each year.

### *Day Use Areas*

Prichard Bridge Picnic Area – This day use area is located 20 miles north of Kingston, Idaho (Exit 43 off of I-90 eastbound) along the Coeur d'Alene River on Forest Highway 9. The site provides 3 picnic tables with fire grates, and an outhouse. Visitors may access the river here, but there is no developed trail to the river, so people must walk about 50 feet over uneven ground to access it. Limited parking is available at this site. There is no trash service at Prichard Bridge. Prichard Bridge Picnic Area is open May through September each year.

Avery Creek Picnic Area – Avery Creek Picnic Area is located 24 miles north of Kingston, Idaho (Exit 43 off of I-90 eastbound) along the Coeur d'Alene River on Road 208. The site provides 5 picnic tables with fire rings, an outhouse, potable water and river access. Limited parking is available at Avery Creek Picnic Area. There is no trash service. Avery Creek is open May through September each year.

Shoshone Rest Stop – Located 25 miles north of Kingston, Idaho (Exit 43 off of I-90 eastbound) along the Coeur d'Alene River on Road 208. The site provides two RV wash stations as well a dump station for holding tanks. The site also provides potable water, a picnic table and several outhouses. There is no trash service at Shoshone Rest Stop. The site is operated by a concessionaire. The concessionaire charges RVs for use of the holding station. Shoshone

Dump Station is not adjacent to the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River; it is located on the opposite side of the River Road next to Lutherhaven Ministries, a private inholding that runs a youth camp. Shoshone Rest Stop is open May through September each year.

### *Outhouses*

Graham Creek – Graham Creek is a vault toilet located approximately 15 miles north of Kingston, Idaho (Exit 43 off of I-90 eastbound) along the Coeur d'Alene River on Road 208. The outhouse is located within a named dispersed area. It is heavily used.

Clee Creek – The Clee Creek outhouse is a vault toilet located 27 miles north of Kingston, Idaho (Exit 43 off of I-90 eastbound) along the Coeur d'Alene River on Road 208. There is a small parking area next to the outhouse with room for approximately 4 small vehicles. Clee Creek Pond is adjacent to the outhouse. Access is provided to the pond which is stocked by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The outhouse is located on the opposite side of Road 208 from the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River.

Long Pool – This pit toilet is located 39 miles north of Kingston, Idaho (Exit 43 off of I-90 eastbound) along the Coeur d'Alene River on Road 208. The outhouse accommodates a popular dispersed site adjacent to the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River.

### *Rental Cabins*

Avery Cabin - Avery Cabin Rental is located 24 miles north of Kingston, Idaho (Exit 43 off of I-90 eastbound) along the Coeur d'Alene River on Road 208. It is across Forest Road 208 from Avery Creek Picnic Area, which provides river access. Up to four renters can stay at the cabin. The rental provides running water and electric heat.

### *Named Dispersed Areas*

Graham Creek – Located 15 miles up Forest Road 208, this popular dispersed site has 20 user-created sites. The entire area is within the riparian ecotype. Half of the sites are within 50 feet of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River; all of the sites are within 300 feet of the river. A vault toilet is present at this site as well as a bulletin board. Some boaters also use part of the site for float boat access. Despite the presence of the toilet, human waste has been found on site. Trash is also common.

Presidents Flat – This large dispersed camping area is located 45 miles up Forest Road 208. There are 16 user-created sites within this area. Presidents Flat falls within three of the ecotypes used to describe sites: riparian, meadow and forest. Sites range from within 50 to 300 feet of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River. No toilets are available at this site. Human waste as well as trash has been found around numerous sites at Presidents Flat. The entire area is a braided network of trails.

Big Hank Meadows – Big Hank Meadows is a popular named dispersed site that has received rehabilitation in the past. It can be found 42 miles up Forest Road 208. Today campers are required to camp in designated areas only, although the signs often get destroyed or removed. There are five designated sites within the area. Four out of five are classified as riparian and within 50 feet of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River. The fifth site is classified as meadow and is within 300 feet of the river. No toilet is provided at this site. Some trash has been found on site. No human waste was found. Drift boaters use this site for river access.

Long Pool – This dispersed site is located 39 miles up Forest Road 208. There are 8 user-created sites associated with Long Pool. This dispersed area falls within the riparian ecotype. All of the sites are within 300 feet of the North Fork Coeur d’Alene River. A vault toilet is located at this site. Trash can be found at this site, but no human waste.

Cinnamon Creek – A small dispersed site located 47 miles up Forest Road 208. There is one site associated with Cinnamon Creek. It is approximately 60 feet wide and 60 feet long and located within the riparian ecotype. There is no toilet or human waste associated with this site although some trash was found.

Coal Creek – Located 14 miles up Forest Road 208, this dispersed site is within the riparian ecotype. There are two user-created sites here, both within 50 feet of the North Fork Coeur d’Alene River. There is no toilet at the site. Human waste and trash was found in the area.

Flat Creek – Flat Creek is located about one-quarter mile from Forest Road 400, which junctions with Forest Road 208 40 miles north of Kingston. There are two user-created sites, both are within the riparian ecotype and within 300 feet of the North Fork Coeur d’Alene River. There is no toilet at the site. Human waste and an extensive amount of trash have been found at Flat Creek.

## Little North Fork of the Coeur d’Alene River

### *Developed Campgrounds*

Bumblebee – From Kingston, Idaho, take the Coeur d’Alene River Road (FH9) 5.4 miles to the Bumblebee Cutoff Bridge. Make a left onto the bridge (Forest Road 209). Continue on Forest Road 209 for 3 miles. Turn right onto Forest Road 796. Bumblebee Campground is located on Forest Road 794 about 0.1 miles off of Forest Road 209. The campground is not adjacent to the Little North Fork Coeur d’Alene River, although it is less than 5 miles from the cutoff bridge which is a major access point for tubers. Bumblebee Campground is a paved campground with 25 sites and one group site. The group site is across Forest Road 794 from the rest of the campground. Four of the 25 sites are available for reservation online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). The campground has potable water and outhouses. Trailer hookups are not available. Trash service is provided at Bumblebee. The campground is concessionaire operated and is run by a host. Bumblebee Campground is open Memorial Day through Labor Day each year.

Honeysuckle – Honeysuckle Campground is located on Forest Road 209. From Kingston, take the Coeur d’Alene River Road (Forest Highway 9) 5.4 miles to the Bumblebee Cutoff Bridge. Make a left onto the bridge (Forest Road 209). Continue on Forest Road 209 for 20 miles to Honeysuckle. The campground is located along the Little North Fork of the Coeur d’Alene River. Campers can walk to the banks of the river, but there is no developed river access. Honeysuckle Campground is paved with 7 sites. The campground has potable water and outhouses, but no trailer hookups. Trash service is provided at Honeysuckle. The campground is concessionaire operated and is run by a host. Honeysuckle Campground is open Memorial Day through Labor Day each year.

### *Outhouses*

Bumblebee Meadow 4 – see the description under “Named Dispersed Areas.”

## *Named Dispersed Areas*

Bumblebee Meadow 1 – This designated dispersed camping area is located 1 mile up Forest Road 209. All 3 designated sites are within the riparian ecotype. Two sites are less than 300 feet from the Little North Fork, while the third site is over 300 feet away from the river. The meadow is closed after Labor Day until about a week before Memorial Day or until weather permits. The closure is enforced with a gate. When the meadow is open, a portable toilet is on site. Human waste is not visible onsite, but there is often some trash.

Bumblebee Meadow 2 – Bumblebee Meadow 2 is located 1.5 miles up Forest Road 209. There are 4 designated sites within Meadow 2 and they are all classified as meadows. Half of the sites are within 300 feet of the Little North Fork Coeur d’Alene River. The meadow is closed after Labor Day until about a week before Memorial Day or until weather permits. The closure is enforced with a gate. When the meadow is open, a portable toilet is on site. No human waste is visible in Meadow 2, but extensive trash was found in some locations.

Bumblebee Meadow 3 - Bumblebee Meadow 3 is located two miles up Forest Road 209. All 8 designated sites fall within the riparian ecotype, and all but one are within 300 feet of the Little North Fork Coeur d’Alene River. The meadow is closed after Labor Day until about a week before Memorial Day or until weather permits. The closure is enforced with a gate. When the meadow is open, two portable toilets are on site. Trash is usually found in Meadow 3.

Bumblebee Meadow 4 – Bumblebee Meadow 4 is located three miles up Forest Road 209. There are nine designated sites in Meadow 4 and they all fall within the meadow ecotype. The sites range from less than 50 feet to over 300 feet away from the Little North Fork Coeur d’Alene River. A vault toilet is located in the center of Bumblebee Meadow 4. This meadow serves as a snowmobile trailhead in the winter and does not close to public use. Volunteer hosts patrol this meadow (as well as meadows 1-3) cleaning up trash and keeping order from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Bumblebee Meadow 4.5- Bumblebee Meadow 4.5 is located four miles up Forest Road 209. Meadow 4.5 does not have any designated sites although there are four user-created sites in this meadow. The sites fall within the meadow ecotype. They range from 50 feet to over 300 feet from the Little North Fork Coeur d’Alene River. Trash can often be found on site.

Horse Haven – Horse Haven is a popular dispersed area 28 miles up Forest Road 209. There are no designated sites at Horse Haven, although there is a large, braided network of user-created trails. Horse Haven lies within the forest and riparian ecotype. Trash and human waste can often be found on site.

Man Camp – Man Camp is located 17 miles up Forest Road 209. There are two user-created sites here. Both sites are categorized under the riparian ecotype and are found within 50 feet of the North Fork Coeur d’Alene River. There is no toilet at Man Camp, and human waste and trash can be found on site.

## Tepee Creek

### *Day-Use Areas*

Magee Picnic Area –From Kingston (Exit 43 off of I-90 eastbound), travel 24 miles north on Forest Highway 9 to Prichard. Continue on Forest Road 208 for 28 miles to the end of the pavement and the start of Forest Road 6310. Travel approximately 7 miles on Forest Road 6310 and the picnic area will be on the right. There is a small parking pullout for two small vehicles, one picnic table, an outhouse and potable water at the site. Magee Picnic Area typically opens at the end of May as weather allows and closes after the first weekend of October.

### *Rental Cabins*

Magee Cabin –From Kingston (Exit 43 off of I-90 eastbound), travel 24 miles north on Forest Highway 9 to Prichard. Continue on Forest Road 208 for 28 miles to the end of the pavement and the start of Forest Road 6310. Travel 7 miles on Forest Road 6310 to the rental cabin. Up to six people can stay at the rental which provides running water and propane heat. The rental is across Forest Road 6310 from Tepee Creek. Renters have easy access to Tepee Creek for fishing, but there is no developed access. Magee Cabin can be rented beginning at the end of May through the first weekend of October.

## Shoshone Creek

### *Developed Campgrounds*

Berlin Flats – Berlin Flats Campground is located on Forest Road 412. From Kingston, travel 20 miles north on Forest Highway 9 to Prichard. Continue 5 miles north on Road 208 to Forest Road 412. Turn right on 412 and continue 7 miles to Berlin Flats Campground. Berlin Flats is located along Shoshone Creek. There is no developed access to Shoshone Creek from Berlin Flats, but there is a user-created path to the banks of the stream. Access and parking in Berlin Flats is graveled, with nine developed sites. The campground has potable water and an outhouse, but no trailer hookups. There is no trash service or host at Berlin Flats. Campers are responsible for packing their own trash out of the campground. Berlin Flats Campground is open Memorial Day through Labor Day each year.

### *Outhouses*

Hawkseye – The vault toilet is located five miles up Forest Road 412. From Kingston, travel 20 miles north on Forest Highway 9 to Prichard. Continue five miles north on Road 208 to Forest Road 412. Turn right on 412 and continue five miles to Hawkseye Outhouse. The outhouse serves a known dispersed area with approximately six user-created sites.

Jordan Camp – This vault toilet is located 22 miles up Forest Road 412. From Kingston, travel 20 miles north on Forest Highway 9 to Prichard. Continue five miles north on Road 208 to Forest Road 412. The outhouse serves a known dispersed area.

### *Named Dispersed Sites*

Hawkseye – Hawkseye is a named dispersed area five miles up Forest Road 412. There are six sites associated with Hawkseye. Most of these sites are within the meadow ecotype, with one site is in the forest ecotype. All of the sites are over 300 feet away from Shoshone Creek. A vault toilet is onsite. No human waste was visible, but there was some trash present.

Falls Creek – This named dispersed site is located six miles up Forest Road 412. Two sites are associated with Falls Creek. One site falls within the forest ecotype while the other falls within the riparian ecotype. No toilets are present on site, and human waste and trash are present.

### *Outhouses*

Lost Creek – This vault toilet is located one mile up Forest Road 442. From Kingston, travel 23 miles North on Forest Highway 9 to Prichard. Continue five miles north on Road 208 to Forest Road 442. Several popular dispersed sites are located near this outhouse.