

designated with signs and permanent fire grills; to provide improved river access facilities at Basin Creek and Four Aces; to improve/define/develop pullouts along Highway 75 to make them safer and provide educational and interpretation information at some of them; and to utilize seasonal closures at Lower Holman and Riverside Campgrounds, Buckhorn Bridge Picnic Site, and other areas along the river to reduce impacts to spawning salmon and/or their habitat.

#### Decision To Be Made

Based on the analysis in the EIS, two levels of decision must be made by the Forest Supervisor. The Forest Supervisor must decide what additional standards and guidelines, if any, must be incorporated into the Sawtooth National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (FLRMP) to ensure recreation uses within the Salmon River Corridor are managed in such a fashion to allow for protection of the primary values of the SNRA, as established by PL92-400. This "programmatic" level of decision may result in an amendment to the FLRMP. The Forest Supervisor also must make "site specific" decisions as to the level of use that will be allowed to occur on the upper main Salmon River and what modifications if any are needed to both developed and dispersed recreation sites to ensure protection of the primary values of the SNRA, as established by PL 92-400.

#### Issues Identified to Date

Past scoping and public participation for some of these projects have helped identify preliminary issues for this project.

1. Recreation use may be causing impacts to sensitive, threatened, and endangered fish, wildlife and plants, and their associated habitat.
2. Recreation use may be causing the loss of vegetation and soil compaction.
3. Modifying current use and facilities may impact visitors recreation experience.
4. Modifying current use and facilities may impact the economy of local communities and businesses.
5. Use within the corridor may impact heritage resources.
6. Concentrations of elk during emergency winter feeding may be impacting resources and causing safety problems on Highway 75.
7. Condition of current facilities may be impacting visitors experiences.

#### Possible Alternatives

Alternative A—No Action. This alternative maintains the current location and management of developed

and dispersed recreation sites. No special use permits would be issued for walk and wade, fishing, and floatboating. No river carrying capacity would be developed. Surfing would continue to occur and winter emergency elk feeding by Idaho Department of Fish and Game would continue to be reviewed on an as needed basis.

Alternative B—In this alternative, undeveloped camping and river access would be managed by a combination of vehicle restrictions, permanent or temporary closures, and allowing undeveloped camping at areas designated with signs and permanent fire grills. Numbers of sites available for undeveloped camping would generally remain the same. Eighteen sites would be removed from developed campgrounds and would be "replaced" by 18 new sites at Sunny Gulch Campground. Camping and day-use facilities in need of upgrading would be replaced. Number of river floatboat access sites would be reduced, but facilities at remaining river access sites would be improved. Seasonal closures would be utilized at Lower O'Brien and Riverside Campgrounds. All of Lower O'Brien and the lower portion of Riverside would be closed from August 1 to June 15. Pullouts occurring along Highway 75 that provide parking space for day use (fishing, sightseeing, picnicking, etc.) would be managed as much as practicable by utilizing barriers and/or designated trails to the river. Signs would be utilized when necessary to educate and/or notify visitors of any restrictions, such as seasonal access closures to protect spawning salmon and redds, or other resource needs. The portion of the upper Salmon River from the Fish Hatchery to the SNRA boundary would be closed to surfing. The six special use outfitter guide floatboating permits, the one special use year-round fishing permit, and four special use walk and wade permits would be issued for five years. Mitigation measures similar to what is currently being used would be included to minimize impacts to spawning salmon and their redds. A river floatboat carrying capacity would be determined. This capacity would allow for use and the enjoyment of the river that is compatible with the resources. Two areas would be approved for use by Idaho Fish and Game for emergency winter elk feeding.

Alternative C—In this alternative, undeveloped camping and river access would be managed by a combination of vehicle restrictions, permanent or temporary closures, and allowing undeveloped camping at areas designated with signs and permanent

fire grills. Numbers of sites available for undeveloped camping would be reduced. Eighteen sites would be removed from developed campgrounds and would not be "replaced". Camping and day-use facilities in need of upgrading would be replaced. Number of river floatboat access sites would be reduced, but facilities at remaining river access sites would be improved. Seasonal closures would be utilized at Lower O'Brien and Riverside Campgrounds. All of Lower O'Brien and the lower portion of Riverside would be closed from August 1 to June 15. Pullouts occurring along Highway 75 that provide parking space for day use (fishing, sightseeing, picnicking, etc.) would be managed as much as practicable by utilizing barriers and/or designated trails to the river. Signs would be utilized when necessary to educate and/or notify visitors of any restrictions, such as seasonal access closures to protect spawning salmon and redds, or other resource needs. The portion of the upper Salmon River from the Fish Hatchery to the SNRA boundary would be closed to surfing. The six special use outfitter guide floatboating permits, the one special use year-round fishing permit, and four special use walk and wade permits would be issued for five years. Mitigation measures more restrictive than what are currently required would be included to minimize impacts to spawning salmon and their redds. A river floatboat carrying capacity would be determined. This capacity would generally be less than in Alternative B, but would allow for use and enjoyment of the river that is compatible with the resources. Two areas would be approved for use by Idaho Fish and Game for emergency winter elk feeding.

#### Scoping Process

This Notice of Intent formally initiates the scoping process for the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). The Forest Service invites comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis to be included in the DEIS. In addition, the Forest Service gives notice that it is beginning a full environmental analysis and decision-making process for this proposal so that interested or affected people may know how they can participate in the environmental analysis and contribute to the final decision. Public comments on the proposal are welcome and should be submitted in writing to Paul Ries, Area Ranger, Sawtooth National Recreation Area, Star Route, Ketchum, ID 83340. Comments will be most useful to the analysis team if they are received by August 31, 1995. The Forest Service