

Designating the French Creek Primitive Area and establishing certain land use management practices on the Payette National Forest.

Title I – Defining and designating the French Creek Primitive Area

The French Creek Primitive Area is hereby defined to maintain the primeval characteristics for land transportation and subsistence living while maintaining the native environment to the fullest degree possible, which does not include permanent improvements. Furthermore, the French Creek Primitive Area's boundaries maintain the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, ecological, wildlife, archeological, and historic uses but can also be managed to allow certain motorized and non-motorized uses. Each watershed within the French Creek Primitive Area will be managed to maintain the natural flow of water from the top of the drainage to the Salmon River with no consumptive diversions.

Title II --Boundaries

To be added

Title III -- Mineral withdrawal

The French Creek Primitive Area is hereby permanently withdrawn from mineral exploration and development.

Title IV – Wild and Scenic River designation

French and Little French Creeks are hereby designated as Wild Rivers under prescriptions in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Title V -- Fish, Wildlife, and Ecosystem Values Protected

Fish, wildlife, threatened, endangered, and rare species, undiminished water quality, critical ecosystems, and identified essential wildlife corridors will be managed to maintain reasonable maximal values. All meadows within the French Creek Primitive Area will be managed by the land manager to fully protect their integrity and all USFS Research Natural Areas will be maintained in virtually unimpaired condition. These above values will be reconsidered and studied every ten years due to the effects of changing climate. The effect of fire on the environment will be studied at the same time.

Title VI – Travel Planning and Mapping

Within 5 years of passing this law, the US Forest Service will provide a plan defining management of the French Creek Primitive Area that includes a travel plan defining non-motorized and motorized means of travel in this area. Within the same time-frame, the Forest

Service, in conjunction with the US Geologic Survey, will recommend and map any minor boundary changes to the Primitive Area that would enhance the Forest Service's management of it.

Title VII – No new roads shall be built in the French Creek IRA, trails shall be maintained as either motorized, non-motorized, or footpaths, and the Roadless Area study is finalized

No new roads will be built or restored and no developed recreation sites within the French Creek Primitive Area will be created within this Primitive Area. Allowed uses within the French Creek Primitive Area will include motorized, human-powered mountain bicycles, horses, and hiking trails as defined below and they will be maintained by the U.S. Forest Service and volunteers.

Trails:

Roads:

The French Creek Inventoried Roadless Area is hereby declared to have been fully studied for its wilderness values and will not be reconsidered for those qualities in the future. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this legislation will end the review of roadless qualities in the French Creek IRA and the US Forest Service will manage French Creek as a Primitive Area by implementing the prescriptions defined above.