

CHAPTER 2

Alternatives

Changes Between Draft and Final Environment Impact Statement

- Added several Alternatives Considered But Eliminated
- Added Alternative 4 to address DEIS comments over service days and barren core
- Added Forest Plan amendments to Alternatives 2 and 3 to address campsites within 200 feet of meadows, streams, lakes, and key interest areas.
- Added several mitigation measures.
- Expanded the Monitoring Plan.
- Made numerous, minor editorial and spelling corrections.

Alternatives

Introduction

Chapter 2 describes the proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action, including a no action alternative. The Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) developed alternatives to the proposed action that respond to the purpose and need and address Key Issues identified by the public. Four alternatives for managing land and resources in the analysis area are described, analyzed, and compared. Alternative 1 is the “no action” alternative and would not issue permits to pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides; Alternative 2 is the proposed action, Alternative 3 is a modification of the proposed action to address issues identified in scoping, and Alternative 4 is a modification of the proposed action in response to comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The alternatives are compared, describing the differences among the alternatives and providing a clear basis for choice to the Responsible Official. This chapter also describes the measures necessary to mitigate environmental effects, displays monitoring, and shows a summary comparison of the alternatives relative to the issues and the purpose and need for action.

This chapter is divided into five sections:

- **Alternative Development**
- **Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study**
- **Alternatives Considered in Detail**
- **Mitigation Measures for Alternatives 2,3, and 4**
- **Monitoring for Alternatives 2, 3, and 4**
- **Comparison of the Alternatives**

Alternative Development

The interdisciplinary team used the Purpose and Need, described in Chapter 1, as a framework for alternative formulation. The number of service days in wilderness was based on the range of the minimum extent necessary disclosed in the 2012 Needs Assessment. There are no limitations on service days outside wilderness, so the number of service days for non-wilderness sub-units was established to respond to public comments.

The original Proposed Action was eliminated from detailed analysis, and the revised Proposed Action (see Chapter 1) became Alternative 2. It was evaluated in terms of the issues generated during public involvement. Alternative 3, an alternative to the proposed action, was developed to address issues raised during scoping, while still providing a portion of the minimum extent necessary for commercial services, as described in the purpose and need. Alternative 3 would meet the purpose and need by issuing 10-year term permits, with a reduced number of annual

service days compared to the existing condition. It would also resolve inconsistencies between forest plan standards and guidelines for party size and barren core, and address the use of campsites within 200 feet of meadows, lakes, streams, and key interest areas.

Alternative 4 was developed to address concerns about the number of service days and the amount of barren core in campsites, raised during the public review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. It would meet the purpose and need by issuing 10-year permits, with an increase in service days compared to the existing condition. It would also resolve the inconsistencies between the party size and barren core standards and guidelines, and address the use of campsites within 200 feet of meadows, lakes, streams, and key interest areas.

A “no action” alternative, Alternative 1, provides a baseline for the environmental effects analysis. This alternative would not meet the purpose and need of responding to applications for 10-year special use permits for outfitter-guides and of reconciling barren core standards and party size standards. It does not meet the minimum extent necessary for commercial services and therefore includes the effects of not meeting the Purpose and Need.

Several alternatives were suggested during the public involvement and alternative formulation process that did not meet the Purpose and Need, or were outside the scope of the analysis. These alternatives are described in the following section.

Alternatives Considered but Eliminated

The following alternatives were considered by the interdisciplinary team, but eliminated from further consideration for the reasons described below.

1. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would increase party size for outfitter-guides to 20 people and 35 head of stock, and increase annual service days to 8,125. Another alternative would have increased the service days to 13,380. Increasing the party size in wilderness to any of these levels would have resulted in wilderness degradation by increasing the amount of disturbed area in campsites. Since service days are calculated based on actual use, there was no justification for increasing the number to 8,125 or 13,380. The highest number of service days actually used over the past five years, plus 25%, is approximately 4,600. Alternative 4 would authorize 6,700 service days, which is the highest amount of actual use in the past 10 years plus 25%.
2. Alternatives were considered but eliminated that would allow outfitters to use between 10,000 and 10,890 (1/4 acre) square feet of barren core in existing campsites, or not put a limit on barren core. The largest wilderness outfitter-guide camp is Crow Lake, which has approximately 9,610 square feet, followed by Sheep Mountain with 8,879 square feet. Based on this, allowing barren core to increase to 10,000 square feet or more would not be needed, and would lead to wilderness degradation. Alternative 4 would allow use of existing barren core in established campsites, with no increase permitted.
3. An alternative was considered that would not amend the Forest Plan to reduce party size and increase camp size for all users (outfitted and non-outfitted). The portion of the alternative pertaining to non-outfitted users was eliminated from further

consideration since it was outside the scope of analysis and purpose and need. Decreasing party size and adjusting standards and guidelines pertaining to outfitter-guide camps was developed and analyzed as Alternative 3. Decreasing or not increasing the barren core size for the pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides was considered but eliminated, because it is physically impracticable to fit pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide camps with 12 people and 18 head of stock inside areas of from 400 to 1,000 square feet of bare mineral soil (refer to page C-1 for barren core calculations). There is a need to make campsite barren core standards and guidelines and party size allowances compatible for pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides in wilderness in order to provide the necessary pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide commercial services.

4. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would make no change to Forest Plan standards and guidelines for barren core. This alternative also increased the number of service days to 7,275. It was identified as the proposed action in the 2005 scoping letter. This alternative was eliminated because there is no justification for increasing the number of service days to this level, since service day allocation is based on actual use (also refer to eliminated alternative #1). It also would not have been consistent with existing Forest Plan standards and guidelines pertaining to barren core. The existing party size allowing up to 18 head of stock cannot fit into 400 to 1,000 square feet of barren core without creating more barren core, and/or endangering the stock animals and handlers.
5. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would amend the Forest Plan to reduce outfitter-guide party size to 5 people and 2 head of stock. This alternative was not fully developed because the outfitter-guides would not be able to operate businesses with such a small party size and thus minimum required commercial services would not be provided to the public. The outfitters who use horses and mules typically have their clients ride horses, so the party includes at least as many head of stock as people, plus additional stock for packing. Elimination of pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides is analyzed under Alternative 1, the no action alternative.
6. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would not allow campfires or firewood gathering in sub-alpine ecosystems. This alternative was eliminated because firewood gathering and campfires by pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides were not found to be adversely affecting resources (see Chapter 3.10 Terrestrial Wildlife), however, where coarse woody debris is not adequate, firewood gathering would be prohibited.
7. An alternative to require pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides to bring commercially-processed feed into wilderness, and not allow loose grazing of stock was considered but eliminated. This alternative would also require outfitters to bring buckets so water could be carried to stock, in order to eliminate stock going to streams, lakes, or wetlands. This alternative was eliminated because the analysis did not show that current grazing or watering techniques are causing unacceptable impacts to water, soil, riparian areas, or plant communities. Loose grazing disperses stock across large areas, minimizing impacts to wetlands, soil, and water. If stock were required to be confined in camp at all times, the amount of barren core in campsites would likely increase because stock confinement areas would be larger as a result of constant use, increasing

impacts to water quality, soil, vegetation, and wilderness character (refer to the Aquatics, Botany, Hydrology, and Soil sections of Chapter 3).

8. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would prohibit cooking on open fires, instead requiring cooking on stoves. This alternative was eliminated because any limitation on non-outfitted recreationists is outside the scope of the analysis. Applying this limitation to pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides was also eliminated because firewood gathering by outfitters, and outfitter campfires were not found to adversely affect air quality or the ecosystem (refer to the Terrestrial Wildlife and Specifically Required Disclosures, Air Quality).
9. An alternative to prohibit outfitters taking stock trucks on the Harts Pass road was considered but eliminated. The Harts Pass road has one short section that is narrow. The section has a posted speed limit of 10 miles per hour and has pull-outs to allow traffic to pass. Public travel is sufficiently safe; therefore eliminating outfitter-guide stock truck use on the road is not necessary.
10. An alternative was considered that would not have amended standard and guideline MA15B-21L, so pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides would not be allowed to camp within 200 feet of meadows, streams, lakes, or key interest areas, such as Lower Cathedral to the US/Canadian border. This would have prohibited outfitters from using most of the established campsites they frequent (approximately 86 out of 99) in the Pasayten Wilderness and portion of the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness on the Methow Valley Ranger District. In order to continue to operate, the pack and saddle stock outfitters would need to establish new campsites or increase the size of the existing campsites outside this zone. This would degrade wilderness character by decreasing opportunities for solitude and increasing campsite density, which would lead to increased impacts to soil, water, and vegetation. In addition, the environmental analysis of pack and saddle stock outfitter guide activities on meadows, streams, lakes, and key interest areas found isolated impacts, but overall all resources were in good condition. Therefore, this alternative was eliminated from further consideration.
11. An alternative to not allow people to travel farther than 20 miles from a trailhead was considered but eliminated. It was outside the scope of the analysis since it pertained to all people, not just outfitter-guides. Limiting outfitter-guides to an area within 20 miles of trailheads was not considered further because the analysis found no environmental or social advantage to doing so. Implementation of this alternative would concentrate use within the 20 mile zone, leading to resource damage and increased encounters between parties, which would have adverse impacts to wilderness character, and would be inconsistent with encounter standards and guidelines in the Forest Plans.
12. An alternative was considered that would have limited the amount of client gear and food that could be transported to 60 or 70 pounds, and prohibit the use of wall tents. Some of the existing outfitters already limit the amount of gear each client can bring, and the outfitters are required to stay within the party size limitations. The party size limitation dictates the amount of gear and food that can be transported with any group of people. The amount of food and personal gear needed varies with the length, type, and season of the trip, so setting an arbitrary weight limit would eliminate the flexibility

to tailor the amount of gear and food to the type of trip, and could result in additional re-supply trips to longer-term camps. There is no need or justification for prohibiting wall tents. The Leave-No-Trace booklets advise people to use equipment that keeps people safe and comfortable in extreme conditions, which wall tents can do. Refer to Mitigation Measures 5 a and b for information on Leave-No-Trace direction for outfitters.

13. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would require the pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides to have safe and courteous passage of others on trails, and be courteous to people they encounter. The outfitters receive a performance evaluation annually, and are rated on their interactions with non-outfitted public. There have been very few reported problems over the past 10 years. In addition, interactions on the trails require cooperation by all parties, as described in Leave-No-Trace booklets. One of the principles of Leave-No-Trace is that groups leading or riding livestock have the right-of-way on trails. Hikers should move to the downhill side and talk quietly to riders as they pass, since horses and other pack animals frighten easily. No mitigation measure is needed.
14. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would have required the outfitters to provide maps to all clients and drop camp parties. The Forest Service has never received a complaint from an outfitter-guide client about not receiving adequate or appropriate information from the outfitter. Outfitter-guides provide wilderness and Leave-No-Trace information to clients. The outfitter is able to provide more detailed information about the area around camps in full-service or progressive trips, when the guide is with the clients throughout the trip. Drop camp clients are responsible for having maps and knowing the area where they are dropped. No mitigation measure is needed.
15. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would have prohibited the outfitters or their clients from discharging weapons except for hunting or protection. This would have included shooting rodent such as ground squirrels. The outfitters must follow state laws regarding hunting. There are also CFRs about discharging firearms. No additional mitigation is needed.
16. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would have required the outfitters to provide humane care of their animals. The outfitters are already required to do this. Treatment of stock is one of the evaluation criteria in the annual performance review. No mitigation measure is needed.
17. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would have required the outfitters to hitch stock in clean, sanitary conditions. Clean, sanitary conditions do not exist in stock camps, with the exception of the kitchen or cooking area. Mitigation measure 7b states that heavy concentrations of stock manure near campsites or in areas where stock have been tied will be scattered to ensure it does not become an attractant for wildlife or degrade water or campsite quality. Refer to FEIS page 2-15. The mitigation measure identifying loose grazing as the preferred method (8a) helps minimize manure build-up. No additional mitigation measure is needed.

18. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would have required outfitters to extinguish campfires until they are cold before leaving the area. Reports of outfitter-guides leaving campfires burning are very rare, but if an outfitter does leave a campfire burning, it would violate the CFR 261.5 d. Refer to FEIS page 2-12 for discussion of CRFs and **Appendix D**. CFRs are legal requirements and outfitters must comply with them. No mitigation measure is necessary.
19. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would have prohibited loose grazing from any camp within two miles of a lake. The outfitters must comply with the CFR and standard and guideline prohibiting livestock grazing within 200 feet of lakeshores. The Forest Service monitors areas where stock loose graze to ensure utilization standards are being met, and that there is no unacceptable resource damage occurring. Loose grazing stock may move to lakes to water, but would then return to dryer upland slopes where the preferable plant species grow. If outfitter stock were found grazing within 200 feet of a lake, the outfitter would be required to alter the loose grazing pattern to ensure compliance with the CFR.
20. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would allow current use to continue without amending the Forest Plan or completing a NEPA analysis. Alternatives that would not amend the Forest Plan are discussed in Eliminated Alternatives 3, 4 and 10 above. The alternative of issuing the permits without NEPA was eliminated because it would violate NEPA. Ten-year permits cannot be issued until the environmental analysis is completed. All of the Pack and Saddle Stock Outfitter-Guides are operating under one-year Special Use Permits that expire on March 31, 2012, and none of them has ever held a ten-year permit.
21. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would set the party size between 12 heartbeats, and the current 12 people and 18 head of stock. This was eliminated because any party size between these two would be within the range set by Alternatives 2 and 4, and Alternative 3. Another element of the eliminated alternative would be that re-supply trips would not be allowed, and only the stock needed to pack parties in and out would be allowed. This was eliminated from consideration because it would effectively eliminate full-service camps. Most full-service camp parties consist of 4 to 5 clients, a wrangler, and a cook. Six people riding six horses would be at the party size limitation of 12 heartbeats, and leave no room for pack stock. Prohibiting re-supply trips to bring the gear and food to these camps would make these trips impossible. Full-service camps represent a large part of the pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide businesses, so no longer being able to offer them would seriously impact the viability of the businesses. This would limit access to the wilderness for many people, and not meet the minimum extent necessary for commercial services.
22. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would have closed the Bald Mountain camp to outfitter-guide use. The analysis of the camp found that, aside from the impact to the near-by wetlands, the camp is having only minimal environmental effects. While stock trails through the wetland are trampling hummocks, damaging vegetation, and compacting the soil, the impacts are isolated to this small area, and not causing a change in natural plant succession, or negatively impacting water quality or soil (outside the trail tread). Also, the final recommendations of the Recreation Activity Review did

include closing the camp. The Botany/Ecology appendix of the Recreation Activity Review did recommend closing the Bald Mountain camp. After further field analysis and attempts to locate an alternative camp location, the Forest Service decided to work with the outfitter to mitigate impacts from stock traveling through the nearby wetland as an alternative to closing the camp (FEIS page Appendix F-3). If conditions become unacceptable, the camp can be closed, as stated in Mitigation Measure 1g on FEIS page 2-13.

23. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would provide a list of approved camps for parties with 8 or more horses or mules. Outfitters using llamas or burros would not be restricted to these campsites. This alternative was eliminated because it is not necessary. The outfitters would not be allowed to increase the amount of barren core in any campsite, and therefore would only use campsites large enough to accommodate the size of the party on any given trip.
24. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would have established the service days included to the highest level of actual use over the past 10 to 15 years, increased by 25%. The number of service days in Alternative 4 is the highest amount of actual use between 1999 and 2009, increased by 25%. Longer time spans (such as 15 years) were considered but eliminated because the intent of the handbook direction is to assign service days at levels that reflect current use. Extending the actual use consideration period beyond 10 years in the past would inflate use beyond what would likely occur in upcoming 10 years.
25. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would move campsites on a regular basis to avoid exceeding bare ground standards. The alternative would have specified that campsites be relocated to drier lodgepole forests, and to areas where horses and mules have more room to forage, including areas outside the wilderness, such as the upper Twisp River. Moving campsites periodically to allow established campsites to recover leads to wilderness degradation over time. Vegetation grows slowly in the high elevation wilderness areas, and abandoned campsites are commonly used by non-outfitted parties, so new vegetation does not re-establish. The end product would two campsites where there used to be one, and cumulative degradation of wilderness character.

Relocating campsites to drier ecosystems would not be practical. Campsites are located at desired destinations, so if these drier ecosystems are not in the vicinity of the desired destinations, moving campsites to the ecosystem would not work. Also, campsites in drier ecosystems take longer to restore than campsites in moist ecosystems because the vegetation grows much faster in wet areas compared to dry areas. The only effective way to stop use of an established campsite is for it to become completely re-vegetated so people looking for a campsite don't even see the old camp. Established campsites in dry ecosystems tend to remain visible for decades, so use would continue.

The land outside the wilderness boundary in the Twisp River is a narrow band of steep, forested slopes with the Twisp River riparian area and the Twisp River Road running through the middle. Campsites along this road would not provide the backcountry experience the outfitters currently offer, nor would campsites outside of wilderness

address the necessity for a minimum amount of outfitter-guide services inside wilderness as defined in the Needs Assessment.

26. An alternative was considered but eliminated that would have reduced party size to the number of stock and people that could fit in 400 square feet. The party size would be considerably smaller than that analyzed in Alternative 3, and would be similar to Eliminated Alternative #5. As with that alternative, the outfitter-guides would not be able to operate businesses with such a small party size and thus minimum required commercial services would not be provided to the public, but was eliminated from detailed study.
27. The proposed actions from the 2005 scoping letter, and the DEIS (Alternative 2) were both eliminated from further consideration. The Forest Service Handbook was revised after the 2005 scoping and the number of service days in the proposed action was not consistent with the handbook direction for determining service days (FSH 2709.11, Chapter 40). It was modified to meet the direction, and the original version was eliminated. The proposed action in the DEIS was eliminated when public comments pointed out that it did not comply with MA15B-21L, pertaining to camps within 200 feet of meadows, lakes, streams, and key interest areas. A forest plan amendment was added to the proposed action, and the version in the DEIS was eliminated from further consideration.

Alternatives Considered in Detail

Alternative 1 is the No Action alternative. The Proposed Action is Alternative 2. Alternative 3 was developed to respond to the issues and would reduce annual service days to 3,125 and not include additional assigned sites. Alternative 4 was developed to respond to comments regarding barren core and party size that were received in response to the DEIS.

ALTERNATIVE 1--NO ACTION

Objective

Eliminate pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide recreation use within the analysis area.

Description

This alternative would not issue special use permits to pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides. There would be no commercial pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide operations within the analysis area.

Mitigation and Monitoring

No specific mitigation or monitoring would occur that is not already prescribed by the Forest Plans.

ALTERNATIVE 2

Objectives

Alternative 2 would:

- Provide pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide services in the analysis area, which includes the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness Areas, North Cascades, Sawtooth Backcountry, Middle Methow, Bear/Ramsey/Volstead, and Alta Lake analysis area sub-units on the Methow Valley, Tonasket, and Chelan Ranger Districts.
- Resolve inconsistencies between Forest Plan standards and guidelines by amending the Okanogan and Wenatchee Forest Plans to allow larger wilderness campsite barren cores to accommodate the established party size (12 people and 18 head of stock), and by allowing outfitter-guides to use existing camps within 200 feet of meadows, streams, lakes, and key interest areas while managing the Wilderness areas to maintain wilderness character.
- Provide enough service days in the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth wildernesses to fall within the range of service days needed to meet the minimum extent necessary to provide commercial services for wilderness appropriate activities.
- Authorize the highest amount of actual use service days of the existing pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides over the past five years and create a pool of days that will give an opportunity for pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides to develop a modest amount of growth (25%). This follows Forest Service Handbook 2709.11, Chapter 40 direction for determining service days (US Forest Service, 2008a).

Description

This alternative would issue 10-year term special use permits for pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides on the Methow, Chelan, and Tonasket Ranger Districts. Assigned sites (camps and base camps) would allow closer monitoring and modification of operations to reduce the size of the barren core and address other resource concerns. Assigned camp sites would be used for most full-service camps. Appendix A includes a list of authorized campsites. A total of 4,620 annual service days would be divided among the outfitters, or replacements who meet term permit requirements. The outfitters would have a total of 270 animal unit months for authorized grazing.

The service days would be distributed among the different portions of the analysis area, with each business receiving approximately the same proportion of service days it had in the past, compared to all pack and saddle stock outfitters. **Figure 2-1** shows the distribution in the different areas. When the 10-year permits are issued, the number of service days allocated to each outfitter would be determined by adding the highest actual use in the past 5 years, plus 25%. Any unallocated service days would be held in pool for outfitters to access on a year-to-year basis if and when demand exceeds individually allocated service days. The number of allocated service days would be adjusted at the 5-year mark in the 10-year permits using the same technique, without exceeding 4,620.

Figure 2-1. Alternative 2: Number of Service Days by Area and Total

Area	Total Service Days
Pasayten Wilderness	2,000
Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness	720 (240 on Methow Valley) (480 on Chelan)
North Cascades	200
Sawtooth Backcountry	400 (140 on Methow Valley) (260 on Chelan)
Bear/Ramsey	100
North Cascades (Day Rides)	450
Alta Lake (Day Rides)	750
Middle Methow	0
Total	4,620

The day rides in the North Cascades and Alta Lake areas are horse riding or hiking with pack support for a portion of, or an entire day. Rides range from a half-hour to all day, with the majority lasting one hour. Day rides generally leave from private land adjacent to NFS land, and occur on trails seldom used by non-outfitted hikers or horseback riders.

The rest of the service days are for overnight camping. Five camp locations would be assigned to the horse and mule packers to allow closer monitoring. In the Pasayten Wilderness assigned sites (see **Map 1-4** in the Map Section of this document) would include camps at Bald Mountain, Sheep Mountain, and Beaver Creek, Crow Lake, and Whistler. Assigned sites would be used for full-service trips. Outfitters would be allowed to set up camps at these locations, and leave them for the entire season. All camp equipment except hitch rails, corrals, and tent poles would be removed from the camp at the end of the season, and would not be cached over the winter. Camp locations for all other trips would be limited to existing pre-approved locations (refer to Appendix A for the majority of consistently used campsites). Camping equipment and supplies could not be left in these locations for more than 24 hours when the camp is not occupied.

Existing base camps Andrews Creek, Billygoat, Crater Creek, and Slate Creek trailheads and at the Fish Creek Camp would also be assigned as described above. Each location would have corrals, livestock watering troughs, and other improvements necessary to protect resources. These base camps would provide places where outfitter-guides can keep pack and saddle stock during times of high use, and as starting locations where clients meet outfitters.

Forest Plan Amendments

A non-significant amendment would make standards for outfitter-guide campsites more compatible with party size limitations and provide for non-degradation of wilderness conditions as required in Okanogan Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 1989b) (MA15B-21D, page 4-91). For the Wenatchee Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 1990) the amendment would improve the

compatibility of outfitter-guide campsites with some 'limits of acceptable change' indicators (Table IV-15, page IV-77). The amendment would only apply to pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides in the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness Areas. The following standard and guideline would be added as standard and guideline MA15B-21BB to the Okanogan Forest Plan and to Table IV-15 on page IV-77 of the Wenatchee Forest Plan:

Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides shall not be allowed to increase the existing amount of barren core (bare, mineral soil) in established campsites. In campsites where the existing amount of barren core exceeds 5,250 square feet, outfitter-guides shall not use more than 5,250 square feet of the barren core. All pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides shall use the same delineated, 5,250 square-foot area for each camp and shall not use any area outside of the delineated 5,250 square-foot area.

The Okanogan Forest Plan currently does not allow vegetation loss to exceed 400 square feet (MA15B-22B). The Wenatchee Forest Plan allows vegetation loss of up to 1,000 square feet (Table IV-15, page IV-77). Due to historical use, including large party-sizes and livestock grazing, some existing camps exceed 5,250 square feet. Continued use and short growing seasons have perpetuated some of these camps even though livestock grazing is no longer occurring and party size is now limited. It is physically impracticable to fit camps with 12 people and 18 head of stock inside areas of 400 to 1,000 square feet. Using computations (see **Appendix C**), 5,250 square feet was identified as an area in which 12 people and 18 head of stock could reasonably camp. This amendment would require outfitter-guides to identify the portion of the impacted area for consistent use. This would be included in the Camp Management Plan for each campsite. Areas outside of the designated area would not be used, allowing recovery to proceed. This amendment would improve the overall trend of non-degradation of wilderness conditions.

Another non-significant amendment to the Okanogan Forest Plan would allow pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides to use existing campsites within 200 feet of meadows, lakes, streams and key interest areas in the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth wilderness areas to avoid degradation of wilderness character and resources. The Wenatchee Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 1990) does not have a standard and guideline restricting camping near these features. The Okanogan Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 1989b) includes the following standard and guideline:

MA15B-21L - Campsites should be located at least 200 feet slope distance from meadows, lakes, streams, and key interest areas. Camping may be restricted or prohibited in certain areas to protect wilderness values.

There are approximately 75 established campsites regularly used by the pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides in the Pasayten Wilderness, and approximately 24 in the Okanogan portion of the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness. Of these 99 existing campsites, 86 fall within 200 feet of meadows, streams or lakes or key interest areas. This amendment responds to public comments regarding inconsistency with Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines and would allow the pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides to use the established campsites in this 200-foot zone. The second sentence of the existing standard and guideline would not be amended and would still apply to outfitter-guide activities. This amendment would prevent degradation of wilderness conditions. The standard and guideline would be amended as follows:

MA15B-21L Campsites should be located at least 200 feet slope distance from meadows, lakes, streams, and key interest areas, except for established campsites used by pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides. Camping may be restricted or prohibited in certain areas to protect wilderness values.

Based on direction found in the Forest Service Manual 1926.51 (USDA Forest Service 2006a), these are non-significant amendments to both Forest Plans for the following reasons:

- The amendments apply only to outfitter-guide use areas in the Pasayten Wilderness and the Lake-Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness (Okanogan Forest Plan Management Area 15B and Wenatchee Forest Plan Management Prescription W-1, primitive and semi-primitive wilderness classes). There are no established campsites designated for use by the pack and saddle stock outfitter in the Transition wilderness class.
- The amendment applies only to pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides and not to other users of wilderness. Outfitter-guide use is 10% of overall use in the Pasayten Wilderness and 2% of overall use in the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness.
- The amendment is designed to avoid degradation of wilderness conditions and limit acceptable change; some existing impacts would diminish over time.
- No management area boundaries would change.

Therefore amendments are not significant because they are minor changes that do not significantly alter the multiple use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management.

ALTERNATIVE 3

Objectives

Alternative 3 would:

- Provide pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide services in the analysis area, which includes the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness Areas, North Cascades, Sawtooth Backcountry, Middle Methow, Bear/Ramsey/Volstead, and Alta Lake analysis area sub-units on the Methow Valley, Tonasket, and Chelan Ranger Districts.
- Reduce the number of service days to respond to concerns over botany, wetlands, aquatic habitat, wilderness character, and terrestrial wildlife.
- Reduce the number of service days to address concerns about water quality, wilderness, riparian habitat, wildlife, wetlands, and native plant species.
- Resolve inconsistencies between Forest Plan standards and guidelines by amending the Okanogan and Wenatchee Forest Plans to reduce maximum party size to 12 heartbeats, allow large enough campsite barren cores to accommodate the reduced party size, and by allowing outfitter-guides to use existing camps within 200 feet of dry meadows, but prohibiting camping within 200 feet of wetlands, streams, lakes, and key interest areas.
- Authorize the average number of used service days over the past five years, plus 25% for a modest amount of growth.

Description

This alternative would issue 10-year term special use permits for pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides on the Methow, Chelan, and Tonasket Ranger Districts. Assigned sites (camps and base camps) would allow closer monitoring and modification of operations to reduce the size of the barren core and address other resource concerns. Assigned camp sites would be used for most full-service camps. Appendix A includes a list of authorized campsites. A total of 2,660 service days would be divided between the outfitters, or replacements for these outfitters who meet requirements for term permits. The outfitters would have a total of 150 animal unit months for authorized grazing.

The service days would be distributed among the different portions of the analysis area, with each business receiving approximately the same proportion of service days it had in the past, compared to all pack and saddle stock outfitters. **Figure 2-2** shows the distribution in the different areas. When the 10-year permits are issued, the number of service days allocated to each outfitter would be determined averaging the amount of actual use in the past 5 years. Any unallocated service days would be held in pool for outfitters to access on a year-to-year basis if and when demand exceeds individually allocated service days. The number of allocated service days would be adjusted at the 5-year mark in the 10-year permits using the same technique, without exceeding 2,660.

Figure 2-2. Alternative 3: Number of Service Days by Area and Total

Area	Total Service Days
Pasayten Wilderness	1,000
Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness	320 (100 on Methow Valley) (220 on Chelan)
North Cascades	180
Sawtooth Backcountry	160 (70 on Methow Valley) (90 on Chelan)
Bear/Ramsey	50
North Cascades (day rides)	360
Alta Lake (day rides)	590
Middle Methow	0
Total	2,660

The day rides in the North Cascades and Alta Lake areas are horse riding or hiking with pack support for a portion of, or an entire day. Rides range from a half-hour to all day, with the majority lasting one hour. Day rides generally leave from private land adjacent to NFS land, and occur on trails seldom used by non-outfitted hikers or horseback riders.

The rest of the service days would be for overnight camping. Sheep Mountain, Crow Lake, and Whistler camps would be assigned sites in the Pasayten Wilderness. The pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides would not be allowed to use Bald Mountain and Beaver Creek camps because of their proximity to wetlands. Two additional existing campsites would be chosen and designated

as assigned sites to replace Bald Mountain and Beaver Creek camps. Assigned sites would be used for full-service trips. Outfitters would be allowed to set up camps at these locations, and leave them for the entire season. All camp equipment except hitch rails, corrals, and tent poles would be removed from the camp at the end of the season, and would not be cached over the winter. Camp locations for all other trips would be limited to existing pre-approved locations (refer to Appendix A for the majority of consistently used campsites). Camping equipment and supplies could not be left in these locations for more than 24 hours when the camp is not occupied.

Existing sites for base camps at the Andrews Creek, Billygoat, Crater Creek, and Slate Creek trailheads, and at Fish Creek would be assigned as described above. Each location would have corrals, livestock watering troughs, and other improvements necessary to protect resources. These base camps would provide places where outfitter-guides can keep pack and saddle stock during times of high use, and as starting locations where clients meet the outfitters.

Forest Plan Amendments

A non-significant amendment to the Forest Plans would designate a reasonable amount of barren core in pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide camps in order to allow these needed commercial services to continue. For this alternative the following standards and guidelines would be added to the Okanogan and Wenatchee Forest Plans. These standard and guidelines would pertain only to pack and saddle outfitter-guide operations in the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness Areas. The Okanogan Forest Plan would be amended by adding the following to MA15B-21N and the Forest Plan would be amended by adding the following to the party size limitation on page IV-74:

Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides shall have a maximum party size of 12 (combination of people and stock).

The Okanogan Forest Plan would be amended by adding the following to MA15B-22B and the Wenatchee Forest Plan would be amended by adding the following to Table IV-15, page IV-77:

Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides shall not be allowed to increase the existing amount of barren core (bare, mineral soil) in established campsites. In campsites where the existing amount of barren core exceeds 2,800 square feet, outfitter-guides shall not use more than 2,800 square feet of the barren core. All pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides shall use the same delineated, 2,800 square-foot area for each camp and shall not use any area outside of the delineated 2,800 square-foot area.

Another non-significant amendment to the Okanogan Forest Plan would allow pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides to use existing campsites within 200 feet of dry wetlands, but prohibit camping within 200 feet of wetlands, lakes, streams and key interest areas in the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth wilderness areas. The Wenatchee Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 1990) does not have a standard and guideline restricting camping near these features and inconsistencies with this Forest Plan standard and guideline. The Okanogan Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 1989b) includes the following standard and guideline (MA 15B-21L).

Campsites should be located at least 200 feet slope distance from meadows, lakes, streams, and key interest areas. Camping may be restricted or prohibited in certain areas to protect wilderness values.

There are approximately 75 established campsites regularly used by the pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides in the Pasayten Wilderness, and approximately 24 in the Okanogan portion of the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness. Of these, 86 fall within 200 feet of meadows, streams, lakes, or key interest areas. "Meadow" is a vegetation description that applies to a broad range of conditions, from dry, open fields to wetlands (including wet meadows). Prohibiting camping within 200 feet of wetlands, streams, lakes, or key interest areas responds to concerns raised during the public review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement about impacts to these features. There are 46 established campsites that are within 200 feet of wetlands, streams, lakes, and key interest areas, and pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides use would not be authorized in these. There would be 53 campsites available for pack and saddle stock use. The amended standard and guideline would read as follows:

MA15B-21L Campsites should be located at least 200 feet slope distance from dry meadows, wetlands, lakes, streams, and key interest areas, except for established campsites used by pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides within 200 feet of dry meadows. Camping may be restricted or prohibited in certain areas to protect wilderness values.

Based on direction found in the Forest Service Manual 1926.51 (USDA Forest Service 2006a), these are non-significant amendments to both Forest Plans for the following reasons:

- The amendments apply only to outfitter-guide use areas in the Pasayten Wilderness and the Lake-Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness (Okanogan Forest Plan Management Area 15B and Wenatchee Forest Plan, WI-1 primitive and semi-primitive wilderness classes). There are no established campsites designated for use by the pack and saddle stock outfitter in the Transition wilderness class.
- The amendments apply only to pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides and not to other users of wilderness. Outfitter-guide use is 10% of overall use in the Pasayten Wilderness and 2% of overall use in the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness.
- The amendments are designed to avoid degradation of wilderness conditions and limit acceptable change; some existing impacts would diminish over time.
- No management area boundaries would change.

Therefore the amendments are not significant because they are minor changes that do not significantly alter the multiple use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management.

ALTERNATIVE 4

Objectives

Alternative 4 would:

- Provide pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide services in the analysis area, which includes the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth wilderness areas, North Cascades, Sawtooth

Backcountry, Middle Methow, Bear/Ramsey/Volstead, and Alta Lake analysis area sub-units on the Methow Valley, Tonasket, and Chelan Ranger Districts.

- Resolve inconsistencies between Forest Plan standards and guidelines by amending the Okanogan and Wenatchee Forest Plans to allow large enough campsite barren cores to accommodate the established party size (12 people and 18 head of stock), and by allowing outfitter-guides to use existing camps within 200 feet of meadows, streams, lakes, and key interest areas, while managing the Wilderness Areas to maintain wilderness character.
- Increase service days in the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth wildernesses to meet the upper range of the minimum extent necessary determination.
- Establish a number of authorized service days that matches the highest amount used by the outfitters over the past ten years plus 25%. Assign service days to permits following handbook direction (highest actual use levels in the past five years), and create a pool of days with the remaining service days that will give an opportunity for pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides businesses to meet the demand for services seen in the early 2000s.

Description

This alternative would issue 10-year term special use permits for pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides on the Methow, Chelan, and Tonasket Ranger Districts. Assigned sites (camps and base camps) would allow closer monitoring and modification of operations to reduce the size of the barren core and address other resource concerns. Assigned camp sites would be used for most full-service camps. Appendix A includes a list of authorized campsites. A total of 6,700 annual service days would be divided among the outfitters, or replacements who meet term permit requirements, and a pool of priority use service days. The outfitters would have a total of 390 animal unit months for authorized grazing.

The service days would be distributed among the different portions of the analysis area, with each business receiving approximately the same proportion of service days it had in the past, compared to all pack and saddle stock outfitters. **Figure 2-3** shows the distribution in the different areas. When the 10-year permits are issued, the number of service days allocated to each outfitter would be determined by adding the highest actual use in the past 5 years, plus 25%. Any unallocated service days would be held in pool for outfitters to access on a year-to-year basis if and when demand exceeds individually allocated service days. The number of allocated service days would be adjusted at the 5-year mark in the 10-year permits using the same technique, without exceeding 6,700.

Figure 2-3. Alternative 4: Number of Service Days by Area and Total

Area	Total Service Days
Pasayten Wilderness	2,170
Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness	825
North Cascades	200
Sawtooth Backcountry	805
Bear/Ramsey	100
North Cascades (Day Rides)	1,150
Alta Lake (Day Rides)	1,450
Middle Methow	0
Total	6,700

The day rides in the North Cascades and Alta Lake areas are horse riding or hiking with pack support for a portion of or an entire day. Rides range from a half-hour to all day, with the majority lasting one hour. Day rides generally leave from private land adjacent to NFS land, and occur on trails seldom used by non-outfitted hikers or horseback riders.

The rest of the service days are for overnight camping. Five camp locations would be assigned to the horse and mule packers to allow closer monitoring. In the Pasayten Wilderness assigned sites (see **Map 1-4** in the Map Section of this document) include camps at Bald Mountain, Sheep Mountain, and Beaver Creek, Crow Lake, and Whistler. Assigned sites would be used for full-service trips. Outfitters would be allowed to set up camps at these locations, and leave them for the entire season. All camp equipment except hitch rails, corrals, and tent poles would be removed from the camp at the end of the season, and would not be cached over the winter. Camp locations for all other trips would be limited to existing pre-approved locations (refer to Appendix A for the majority of consistently used campsites). Camping equipment and supplies could not be left in these locations for more than 24 hours when the camp is not occupied.

Existing base camps Andrews Creek, Billygoat, Crater Creek, and Slate Creek trailheads and at the Fish Creek Camp would be assigned as described above. Each location would have corrals, livestock watering troughs, and other improvements necessary to protect resources. These base camps would provide places where outfitter-guides could keep pack and saddle stock during times of high use, and as starting locations where clients meet outfitters.

Forest Plan Amendments

A non-significant amendment would make standards for outfitter-guide campsites more compatible with party size limitations and provide for non-degradation of wilderness conditions as required in Okanogan Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 1989b) (MA15B-21D, page 4-91). For the Wenatchee Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 1990) the amendment would improve the compatibility of outfitter-guide campsites with some 'limits of acceptable change' indicators (Table IV-15, page IV-77). The amendment would only apply to pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides in the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness Areas. The Okanogan Forest Plan would be amended by adding the following to MA15B-22B and the Wenatchee Forest Plan would be amended by adding the following to Table IV-15, page IV-77:

Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides are allowed to use existing barren core in established campsites, but shall not be allowed to increase the amount of barren core (bare, mineral soil).

The Okanogan Forest Plan currently does not allow vegetation loss to exceed 400 square feet (MA15B-22B). The Wenatchee Forest Plan allows vegetation loss of up to 1,000 square feet (Table IV-15, page IV-77). Due to historical use, including large party-sizes and livestock grazing, many existing camps exceed these levels. Continued use and short growing seasons have perpetuated barren core in some of these camps even though livestock grazing is no longer occurring and party size is now limited. It is physically impracticable to fit camps with 12 people and 18 head of stock inside areas of 400 to 1,000 square feet. The existing amount of barren core in campsites currently used by the outfitters is large enough to accommodate the party size. All campsites with more than 5,250 square feet of barren core would have a Camp

Management Plan to track the barren core and ensure it is not increasing. This amendment would continue the overall trend of non-degradation of wilderness conditions, specifically related to campsite conditions.

Another non-significant amendment to the Okanogan Forest Plan would allow pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides to use existing campsites within 200 feet of meadows, lakes, streams and key interest areas in the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth wilderness areas to avoid degradation of wilderness character and resources. The Wenatchee Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 1990) does not have a standard and guideline restricting camping near these features. The Okanogan Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 1989b) includes the following standard and guideline (MA 15B-21L).

Campsites should be located at least 200 feet slope distance from meadows, lakes, streams, and key interest areas. Camping may be restricted or prohibited in certain areas to protect wilderness values.

There are approximately 75 established campsites regularly used by the pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides in the Pasayten Wilderness, and approximately 24 in the Okanogan portion of the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness. Of these 99 existing campsites, 86 fall within 200 feet of meadows, streams or lakes or key interest areas. This amendment responds to public comments regarding inconsistency with Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines and would allow the pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides to use the established campsites in this 200-foot zone. The second sentence of the existing standard and guideline would not be amended and would still apply to outfitter-guide activities. This amendment would prevent degradation of wilderness conditions. The standard and guideline would be amended as follows:

MA15B-21K Campsites should be located at least 200 feet slope distance from meadows, lakes, streams, and key interest areas, except for established campsites used by pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides. Camping may be restricted or prohibited in certain areas to protect wilderness values.

Based on direction found in the Forest Service Manual 1926.51 (USDA Forest Service 2006a), these are non-significant amendments to both Forest Plans for the following reasons:

- The amendments apply only to outfitter-guide use areas in the Pasayten Wilderness and the Lake-Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness (Okanogan Forest Plan Management Area 15B and Wenatchee Forest Plan, WI-1 primitive and semi-primitive wilderness classes). There are no established campsites designated for use by the pack and saddle stock outfitter in the Transition wilderness class.
- The amendments applies only to pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides and not to other users of wilderness. Outfitter-guide use is 10% of overall use in the Pasayten Wilderness and 2% of overall use in the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness.
- The amendments are designed to avoid degradation of wilderness conditions and limit acceptable change; some existing impacts would diminish over time.
- No management area boundaries would change.

Therefore the amendments are not significant because they are minor changes that do not significantly alter the multiple use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management.

Mitigation Measures for Alternatives 2, 3, and 4

These measures would be used to reduce negative effects on project area resources. They are considered part of the alternatives and would be incorporated as such. All mitigation measures listed are common to Alternatives 2, 3 and 4, unless otherwise noted, and will be required if one of these alternatives is implemented. Mitigation measures are designed to ensure that human activities in wilderness shall follow a non-degradation policy (Okanogan Forest Plan Standard and Guideline MA15B-21D) within the limits of acceptable change (Wenatchee Forest Plan WI-1 Management Prescription and Table IV-15, page IV-77).

These mitigation measures also serve as the Best Management Practices (BMP) to protect water quality, as required by the Forest Plans.

In addition to the measures listed below, **Appendix D** lists general prohibitions and prohibitions listed in prior Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forest orders for specific wilderness and backcountry areas under 36 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) 261. All applicable prohibitions are legal mitigation established for resource protection and are incorporated by reference.

This list of mitigation measures would become standard practice for the pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides and incorporated into annual operating plans if one of the action alternatives is selected for implementation. Placing them in the operating plan would be an effective way of insuring they are followed, since the outfitters would risk non-compliance and permit action if they do not comply.

1. Campsites

The objective of the following measures would be to protect wilderness character, and minimize the effect of camps on vegetation, wildlife habitat, water quality, aquatic habitat, and soil.

- a)** All camp locations, including full-service and drop camps, will be approved prior to use. If an alternative campsite must be used due to occupation or emergency, the outfitter will select an established campsite large enough to accommodate the party size. The outfitter will notify the permit administrator within one week from the end of the trip in which an alternate location is used.
- b)** Camp Management Plans will be developed for assigned sites. Camp facilities for the necessary level of operation will be identified and excess facilities phased out. Any new facilities constructed for resource protection should be located to the extent practical in areas where visual impact would be minimal, and be constructed of native materials. The facilities cannot be for comfort or convenience. Excess areas of compacted bare mineral soil will be identified for each assigned camp. Activities that prevent the revegetation or recovery of these excess areas will not be allowed. All equipment and materials that have been or will be transported into the wilderness will be taken out at the end of the authorized period of use each season.
- c)** In established campsites within wilderness where the existing amount of barren core exceeds 5,250 square feet (Alternative 2) or 2,800 square feet (Alternative 3), outfitter-

guides will not be allowed to use more than the specified amount of barren core. Camp Management Plans will be developed for these sites, with the specific area of allowed use identified in the plan. The same camp area will be used on successive visits by all outfitters.

- d) In Alternative 4, outfitter-guides would be allowed to use all existing barren core in established campsites. A camp management plan would be developed for all campsites with more than 5,250 square feet of barren core.
- e) Outfitter-guides shall use existing barren core areas in wilderness campsites. The objective of this mitigation is that the outfitters would not create new or additional barren core or bare mineral soil¹. Temporary increases could occur with prior approval if camps are being restructured or if camp sections are being restored, but over time, no net increase in barren core would be allowed.
- f) Outfitter-guides shall not create any new exposed tree roots.
- g) Outfitters will be prohibited from creating new campsites. The Forest Service will close camps when needed to protect resources. If an assigned site must be closed, another existing campsite of sufficient size could be designated as assigned.

2. Campsite Use Limitations

The objective of the following measures is to minimize the chance that pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide uses displaces non-outfitted users.

- a) Outfitted pack and saddle stock use at Hidden Lakes will be limited to two parties at a time and to two or three parties at a time at Spanish Camp/Rommel Lake, Corral Lake, and Crow Lake, except during the September hunting season. This will be accomplished during itinerary review and scheduling and through permit administration. Assigned sites in these locations could be relocated if necessary to sufficiently sized established camps, but there would be no more than 2 assigned sites in each area at any time.
- b) Camping at Silver Lake, Buckskin Lake, Ferguson Lake, Fred Lake, and Doris Lake would be limited to drop camps (no overnight stock).
- c) Camping at Black Lake would be limited to drop camps (no overnight stock), with none on weekends or holidays between Memorial Day and Labor Day.
- d) A limited number of full-service camps would be allowed at Oval Lakes. The trips would not be back-to-back, rather separated in time to allow the graze to recover. A controlled number of drop camps, when stock do not remain overnight, would be allowed.

¹ All barren core measurements are approximate. Repeat measurements of barren core will fluctuate from one year to the next based on use patterns, weather (influencing vegetation growth), and accuracy and pattern of actual measurements. Refer to Wilderness Section in Chapter 3 for more information.

- e) Approval for camping at North Lake and Louis Lake would be made on a case-by-case basis considering time of year, number of clients, camp location, and other factors. Only drop camps would be approved, with none on weekends or holidays between Memorial Day and Labor Day.
- f) No pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide camps would be allowed at Twisp Pass or Libby Lake.
- g) Camping at Star Lake, Tuckaway Lake, Bernice Lake, and Surprise Lake would be limited to drop camps (no overnight stock).
- h) Non-assigned sites will be available on a “first-come, first-served” basis for either commercial or non-commercial camping purposes. No outfitter shall move or remove any other parties equipment at non-assigned sites. All equipment and materials will be taken out of non-assigned sites at the end of each trip.

3. Campfires and Firewood

The objectives of the following measures would be to minimize potential impacts to wildlife and aquatic habitat and wilderness character.

- a) Campfires are prohibited where down wood is insufficient for large woody debris habitat requirements.
- b) Downed trees larger than 12 inches in diameter located within 200 feet of streams will not be used for firewood.
- c) No standing trees, including snags, will be cut or damaged, nor will any material be attached to trees with nails or wire. On rare occasions, standing trees or snags may be cut if an immediate, unavoidable safety hazard is posed.
- d) At assigned sites, firewood will be stored without a covering and out of sight of any Forest Service system trail. Only the amount of firewood to be utilized for the current use season will be stored. Skidding of firewood with stock is prohibited. Firewood storage is prohibited at non-assigned sites.

4. Regulations

The objective of the following measures is to ensure outfitter-guides and clients adhere to all rules and regulations.

- a) All outfitter-guides and clients are subject to the same rules and regulations that pertain to the non-guided public regarding travel on roads and trails, and camping in backcountry and wilderness. Outfitter-guides shall review with clients pertinent regulations and appropriate use practices for backcountry and wilderness travel including those posted at trailheads and/or referenced in the operating plan. This applies to drop-camp clients as well as to guided groups.
- b) All applicable regulations will be reviewed with clients including any special orders establishing use restrictions at specific areas (see **Appendix D**).

5. Leave-No-Trace

The objective of the following measures is to minimize impacts to wilderness character.

- a)** Pack and saddle stock outfitters-guides will follow Leave-No-Trace principles. Leave-No-Trace is not a dogmatic approach to camping, horse use, or backcountry behavior, but rather a guide for minimizing impacts. The key to minimizing impact is to develop the necessary judgment and experience base to effectively make the appropriate decision for a given situation. The pack and saddle stock outfitters-guides have choices when practicing Leave-No-Trace techniques. Because of site-specific environmental conditions, low-impact practices are subject to variations and outfitters may choose among those variations to fit specific circumstances.
- b)** Outfitter-guides will review Leave-No-Trace practices with clients, including those at drop camps. Specific educational tools to be employed will be detailed in operating plans. Instruction on minimum impact will begin prior to the trip so clients arrive both mentally and physically prepared. Instruction will continue during the trip so clients understand the importance of using these techniques and can implement them consistently. Outfitter-guides will also teach clients about wilderness values as described in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

6. Trails

The objectives of the following measures are to prevent an increase in trail density and unauthorized trail construction.

- a)** Outfitted pack and saddle stock use in wilderness will be limited to existing trails with well-established tread. Constructing, placing or maintaining any kind of trail or other improvement on National Forest System land without a special use authorization, contract, or approved operating plan is prohibited (36 CFR 261.10a).
- b)** Trail maintenance work needed for operations will be restricted to the maintained Forest Service system trails and access trails to established camps, unless prior approval is granted. Maintenance will be consistent with Forest Service trail standards and requires prior Forest Service approval.
- c)** Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides will be prohibited on the Easy Pass, Rainy Lake, Lake Ann, Blue Lake and Washington Pass trails.

7. Sanitation and Litter

The objective of the following measures is to ensure that human waste, manure, garbage, hunting refuse, and dead stock animals do not become an attractant for wildlife or degrade water or campsite quality.

- a)** All human excrement and toilet paper will be disposed of properly by burying it in a small shallow hole at least 200 feet from any water source, or by packing it out. A slit trench or latrine may be used where there are more than 12 person days in a camp, or if a guide determines that clients lack judgment to properly use shallow holes. Slit trenches will be completely covered over and camouflaged when camp is vacated.

- b) Heavy concentrations of stock manure near campsites or in other areas where stock have been tied or held will be scattered away from open water.
- c) Parties engaged in hunting will ensure that stripped carcasses, gut-piles, hides, or other such refuse are disposed of away from campsites, trails, and sources of water.
- d) In the event that pack or saddle stock should die on National Forest System land, the District shall be notified promptly, and the outfitter will properly dispose of the dead animal by dragging it at least one-quarter mile from system trails, blowing it up, or cutting it up and scattering the pieces.
- e) All non-combustible garbage will be packed out of campsites at the end of each trip. Combustible items must either be burned or packed out at the end of each trip.

8. Stock Grazing and Containment

The objective of the following measures is to minimize the effects of stock grazing on wetlands, sensitive plants, water quality, vegetation, and aquatic habitat.

- a) Loose grazing is the preferred method for outfitter stock to reduce resource damage from concentrated use.
- b) Location of overnight stock handling facilities (corrals, hitch rails, highlines) would be designated and approved, and constructed out of native materials. Facilities will be designed to adequately handle concentrated stock use to minimize off-site effects.
- c) Based on submitted itineraries and known resource conditions, outfitters may be required to carry supplemental feed.
- d) Overnight picketing of stock in subalpine meadows will not be allowed.
- e) Outfitter-guide pack and saddle stock grazing could be limited to designated suitable grazing areas during times of high use, or in areas of high use.
- f) Stock must be ridden, or led, except when grazing, and not permitted to run loose on trails or travel routes.
- g) Where and whenever it becomes necessary to restrict or limit the use of native forage by pack and saddle stock for resource protection, the outfitter may be required to pack in and supply all necessary feed when range conditions do not allow loose grazing of pack stock.
- h) Outfitter-guide pack and saddle stock will not be allowed to graze in the meadows at Rainy Lake turnoff or in Whistler Basin.
- i) Stock containment areas within campsites must be located at least 200 feet from lakeshores.

- j) In campsites within the Chelan Ranger District portion of the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness, tie stock on well-placed high lines during periods when not feeding, and fed animals in nose bags or feed bags to avoid littering a site.

9. Party Size

The objectives of the following measures are to help reduce impacts from outfitter-guide camps in terms of size and grazing impacts.

- a) Party size over the established limits must be requested by outfitter-guides at least seven days in advance of departure. Oversize parties may be approved based on factors listed in Okanogan Forest Plan standard and guideline MA15B-21N, and in the Wenatchee Forest Plan on page E-4, item 1.f.
- b) Party size outside wilderness will be designated in the outfitter-guide operating plan.
- c) Only stock necessary for each trip will be permitted.

10. Vegetation and Soils

The objective of the following measures is to minimize effects of pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides on vegetation and soil.

- a) Other than approved trail maintenance work along Forest Service system trails, green trees and other live vegetation shall not be cut or removed, and efforts will be taken to minimize trampling or other damage to vegetation beyond those impacts likely to recover within one growing season.
- b) Soils displaced by activities such as latrine construction or pawing by stock will, to the extent practical, be replaced or smoothed out.
- c) Stock travel routes through wetlands and wet meadows would be managed to concentrate stock on a minimum number of pathways by placing obstacles in braided trail areas a way to minimize trails and damage to vegetation and soil.

11. Wildlife

The objective of the following measures is to comply with habitat management requirements for threatened and endangered species, and to reduce the possibility of negative encounters between people and wildlife.

- a) Feeding or harassing of wildlife will be prohibited. Activities that may disrupt wildlife, such as chasing wildlife or making excessive noise, shall be avoided. When observing animals, outfitters shall keep a distance to avoid influencing animal behavior, generally 100 to 300 feet or more, when possible.
- b) Outfitter-guides with clients engaged in hunting shall discuss the importance of distinguishing between grizzly bears and black bears, between lynx and bobcats, and between wolves and coyotes. It shall also be emphasized that grizzly bears, lynx, and wolves are protected by Federal law.

- c) Outfitter-guides and clients shall securely store, using wildlife-resistant containers or hanging methods, all food, garbage, toiletries, and other possible wildlife attractants. These measures will be discussed with clients. Outfitters shall follow any additional guidelines provided by wildlife biologists in regards to acceptable food and trash handling/storage methods.
- d) Negative encounters with bears (either grizzly bear or black bear) will be reported to the Methow Valley or Chelan Ranger Districts. Sightings of grizzly bears will be reported as soon as possible to either District.
- e) Rodent control, other than rat or mouse traps, is prohibited.
- f) Salt use will be approved in advance and applied in such a manner as to minimize wildlife attraction, and avoid trampling disturbance, such as keeping salt on a tarp or in a container to reduce the amount leaching into the soil. Salt will be removed when camps are not occupied.
- g) Outfitter-guides must maintain control of dogs at all times, and must not menace or annoy other visitors, stock, or wildlife.

12. Aquatic Resources

The objective of the following measures is to comply with habitat management requirements for threatened and endangered species, and to ensure compliance with Aquatic Conservation Strategy and Riparian Management Objectives.

- a) Train outfitter-guides who use areas with bull trout spawning how to identify bull trout redds so they can be avoided at trail-stream crossings.
- b) Outfitter-guides who provide angling services or activities shall provide fishing regulations and bull trout identification information to personnel and clients.
- c) The Fish Camp campsite in the Wolf Creek drainage and Drop Camp G in the upper Lost River area will be closed to camping from September 1 through October 15 to reduce the risk of trampling redds.
- d) Along Wolf Creek and the Lost River areas at Hidden and Cougar Lakes and Diamond Creek that contain bull trout, outfitter-guides and clients will not wade in streams from September 1 to October 15 to minimize the possibility of disturbing bull trout redds.
- e) Hazardous material handling or storage (including fuel) will be located at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.
- f) The fish screen on the transmission line leading to the stock watering tank in the Andrews Creek base camp would be improved to meet the NMFS criteria.
- g) Outfitter-guides would be limited to using the Thirtymile Ford up to two times or four river crossings each year. If redds are located within the vicinity of the ford, stock would be prohibited immediately and for the remainder of the season.

13. Invasive Species

The objective of the following measures is to prevent the establishment and spread of invasive species in the analysis area.

- a) Precautions will be taken to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds on National Forest System land. Outfitter-guides and clients shall prevent the transport of any seeds by removing any plant material attached to vehicles, shoes, clothing, or the bodies of pack and saddle stock.
- b) Supplemental feed will be commercially processed feed, or weed-free certified processed hay cubes. Only certified weed-free hay shall be allowed on all National Forest System Land [36 CFR 261.58(t)].
- c) Outfitters should consider feeding commercially-processed feed or hay that is certified weed-free for several days prior to trip departure to minimize the spread of weed seed through manure.
- d) Outfitters will follow a weed identification and mapping program under Forest Service direction. Forest Service will provide the weed information.
- e) Outfitters will be responsible for surveying campsites for weeds, and assisting in control measures as directed by the Forest Service.

Monitoring

All monitoring would be conducted by trained Forest Service employees or volunteers.

OUTFITTER-GUIDE OPERATIONS

A representative sample of outfitter-guide camps and operations would be checked seasonally by wilderness rangers and/or permit administrators for compliance with the terms of the permit, operating plan, and applicable laws and regulations. Inspections would be done when the outfitters are occupying the camp, but be unannounced. Field inspection reports include seven items:

1. Service to the public
2. Compliance with permit conditions
3. Compliance with operating plan
4. Equipment and livestock
5. Safety
6. Resource protection

Field inspection reports would be used by the permit administrators when preparing the annual outfitter-guide performance evaluations. Violations would result in non-compliance letters or notification, and potential for permit action.

WILDERNESS

Wilderness monitoring would follow the process detailed in *Monitoring Selected Conditions Related to Wilderness Character: A National Framework, 2005* (Landers, et al, 2005). Outfitter-guide activities would be modified or controlled if impacts to wilderness character become unacceptable. Specific areas that would be closely monitored include lakes in the vicinity of Harts Pass and the Pacific Crest Trail, Hidden Lakes, Crow and Corral Lakes/Sheep Mountain area, Spanish Camp, and Black Lake in the Pasayten Wilderness, and Oval, North, Louis, Williams, Libby, Star, Tuckaway, Bernice, and Surprise Lakes and Twisp Pass in the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness.

Campsite Monitoring

The number of wilderness campsites used by outfitter-guides inventoried and monitored annually would vary with the budget and workforce, but the assigned sites would be monitored at least once per year of use, and a representative sample of non-assigned sites would be monitored frequently enough to assess the outfitter's compliance with the terms and conditions of the permits. Biophysical conditions at sites would be measured using indicators such as barren core, number of trees with exposed roots, number of mutilated trees and number of access trails. Water sources and water bodies near campsites would be checked for evidence of soap, other chemicals, and biological contaminants that may be introduced by human activity. Additional physical and social related indicators would be recorded. Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide use of campsites would be adjusted if necessary to address new resource concerns.

Encounter Monitoring

Wilderness rangers would record encounter data on a daily basis while in the field; this includes time, location, number of people, number of stock, number of parties, type of use, and wilderness permits (where applicable). If encounters begin to exceed the Forest Plan standard and guidelines, adjustments may be made in pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide activities to reduce encounters. Potential adjustments could include limiting the number or size of outfitted parties in crowded areas.

PACK AND SADDLE STOCK GRAZING

Monitoring pack and saddle stock grazing utilization would occur in loose grazing areas around outfitter campsites, and near trailheads where stock are grazed. Forest Service monitoring guidelines specify that monitoring sites should be located outside livestock concentration areas and should be free of compounding use, such as the use directly around outfitter camps (Burton et al. 2011). Monitoring representative areas outside the camps would allow cause-and-effect relationships to be established.

Wilderness rangers would monitor grazing utilization and impacts to wetlands by walking through areas that stock graze, and making ocular estimates of the amount of forage used by stock, or hoof action or trampling in wetlands. If grazing utilization is approaching standards, wilderness rangers would report the conditions, and formal monitoring would be scheduled for the area. Formal monitoring would be conducted by a modified stubble height utilization method to measure the level of use on key forage species. Utilization would be estimated by a

modified residue and height-weight method (Coulloudon et al. 1999), in which stubble height is measured and a simplified clip and balance technique to develop height-weight curves is used (Reese 1991). From height-weight curves, utilization can be estimated from the average stubble height measured at each location. Forest utilization standards for range allotments allow for 45% use in upland forested areas, 55% use in upland grasslands, and 45% use in riparian meadows.

Grazing areas would also be monitored for unacceptable impacts to wetlands. Unacceptable impacts could include excessive trailing, soil erosion, and grazing exceeding standards. If unacceptable impacts are observed, a more detailed analysis would be conducted to determine extent of trailing, species composition, forage utilization, and evidence of soil erosion. This information would be used to develop a baseline site condition. If future monitoring indicated a downward trend, a restoration plan, including potential modification of outfitter-guide activities, would be developed and implemented.

RIPARIAN AREAS

Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide campsites within riparian areas would be monitored to ensure the outfitter activities are meeting riparian area standards and guidelines. There are 24 established outfitter-guide camps within riparian management areas or riparian habitat conservation areas. Of these, six are in bull trout critical habitat and one is in Chinook and steelhead critical habitat. All basecamps would be monitored each year. All backcountry camps in critical habitat would be monitored once every three years. All other riparian campsites would be monitored once to twice every ten years.

Biophysical conditions at sites would be measured using indicators such as barren core, number of trees with exposed roots, number of mutilated trees and number of access trails. Additional physical and social related indicators would be recorded, such as stream bank disturbance, streamside vegetation disturbance at access points, and evidence of firewood collection of wood over 12 inches in diameter. Each site would have photos taken and a lineal estimate of streambank and vegetation disturbance. This information would be reviewed by fish biologist to see if further field review is warranted. The outfitter-guide activities would also be monitored to validate implementation and effectiveness of the Best Management Practices and assure compliance with the Clean Water Act, State water quality regulations and forest plan standards.

Changes in campsite conditions would not be attributable to any particular user, such as outfitter-guides, unless the party causing the damage is observed. If unacceptable changes are noted, pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides may be restricted from using the impacted camps until the sites recover.

The campsites would also be included in the Outfitter-Guide Operations monitoring described above. The frequency of these monitoring visits will depend on outfitter occupancy of the camps. As stated above, if pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides are found to be out of compliance with the terms and conditions of their permits, leading to degraded riparian habitat, this will be addressed through notices of non-compliance or permit action.

Key Monitoring Elements of riparian campsite monitoring include:

- Streambank disturbance
- Streamside vegetation disturbance
- Downed wood ≥ 12 inches

Fisheries Specific Monitoring

Bull Trout

- Lost River (Diamond Creek) and Cougar Lake campsites, Wolf Creek Sough Forth, North Fork, and Little Fish campsites, and the Billygoat Base Camps would be monitored for recreational impacts to bull trout and their critical habitat. Specific criteria to assess are effects to vegetation and streambank erosion from river access.
- The Thirtymile Ford would be monitored for signs of bull trout spawning habitat or redds. Ford conditions would be assessed annually for signs of riverbank damage and sign of spawning gravel and redds.

Chinook and Steelhead

- Andrews Base Camp would be monitored, with specific criteria to assess are effects to vegetation, erosion from the corral, and stock signs along the river.
- The Thirtymile Ford would also be monitored for signs of Chinook or steelhead spawning habitat or redds. If redds are documented at the ford, it would be closed immediately, and the outfitter-guide would not be able to use the ford for the remainder of the season. The Forest Service would reinitiate consultation with the regulatory agencies

Adaptive Monitoring Strategy - Due to limited resources and the fact that pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide use is generally light on the landscape, the adaptive monitoring strategy that first involves a two-stage review of pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide impacts to aquatic and riparian resources.

1. The proposed field monitoring plan would begin with backcountry rangers who are in the project area all summer. They would review the streams adjacent to the riparian campsites. During this review, a description of the condition of streambank stability, streamside vegetation, and whether downed wood >12 inches in diameter is being used for firewood would be recorded. Additionally, photos would be taken of these habitat elements. This short report would be taken back to the project fish biologist for further review.
2. If the initial report suggests resource conditions or impacts are exceeding resource objectives, the project fish biologist would visit the site in the field. This review would look at channel conditions and whether activities in the area are out of compliance with the ACS or RHMOs. If the monitoring shows conditions are meeting resource objectives, no action would occur. When desired resource conditions are not met, such as excessive streambank alteration or herbaceous and shrub utilization or operating instructions are not followed, recreation and aquatic staff would work together with the pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides to further reduce their impacts

Comparison of Alternatives

Figure 2-4 provides a side-by-side description of each alternative and a summary of how each alternative responds to the Purpose and Need and each Significant Issue. See Chapter 1 for background on the issues, and Chapter 3 for a complete description of the effects and for the scientific basis for results in Figure 2-4.

Figure 2-4: Comparison of Alternatives

	Unit of Measure	Current	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Total Number of Service Days	Service Days	4,460	0	4,620	2,660	6,700
Total Number of Visitor Days (outfitted and private)	Visitor Days	168,300	163,840	168,460	166,500	170,540
Percent of Visitor Days Outfitted by Pack and Saddle Stock Outfitter-Guides	Percent	3%	0%	3%	2%	4%
Percent Change in Total Number of Visitor Days Compared to Current	Percent		-3%	+0.1%	-1%	+1%
Total Number of Pack and Saddle Stock Visitor Days	Visitor Days	28,880	24,420	29,040	27,080	31,136
Percent of Pack and Saddle Stock Visitor Days Outfitted	Percent	15%	0%	16%	10%	22%
Percent Change in Total Pack and Saddle Stock Visitor Days Compared Current	Percent		-15%	+0.6%	-6%	+8%
Percent Change in Service Days Compared to Current	Service Days		-100%	+4%	-40%	+50%
Forest Plan Amendment to Party Size			No Amendment	No Amendment (12 people/18 head of stock)	12 Heartbeats	No Amendment (12 people/18 head of stock)

	Unit of Measure	Current	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Forest Plan Amendment to Camp Location			No Amendment	Outfitters allowed to use established campsites within 200 feet of meadows, lakes, streams, and special interest areas	Outfitters allowed to use established campsites within 200 feet of meadows. Prohibited from using campsites within 200 feet of wetlands, streams, lakes, and special interest areas.	Outfitters allowed to use established campsites within 200 feet of meadows, lakes, streams, and special interest areas
Forest Plan Amendment to Barren Core			No Amendment	Outfitters would be allowed to use up to 5,250 square feet of barren core. In camps with more, outfitters must reuse the same 5,250 square feet each time. Outfitters would be prohibited from creating additional barren core in any camp. Excess barren core would be restored.	Outfitters would be allowed to use up to 2,800 square feet of barren core. In camps with more, outfitters must reuse the same 2,800 square feet each time. Outfitters would be prohibited from creating additional barren core in any camp. Excess barren core would be restored..	Outfitters would be allowed to use existing barren core in established campsites, but would be prohibited from creating additional barren core.

Purpose and Need	Unit of Measure	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
1. Respond to Permit Applications for outfitter-guide permits.	Qualitative discussion	Would deny applications, and no pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide permits would be issued.	10-year permits would be issued with service day calculations consistent with FSH 2709.11 – highest actual use in past 5 years plus 25%.	10-year permits would be issued, but with 40% fewer service days compared to the current allowed use.	10-year permits would be issued with enough service days to match the highest actual use in the past 10 years plus 25%.
2. Protect wilderness character in the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness Areas while providing necessary pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide commercial services.	Qualitative discussion	The wilderness character would be protected, but no pack and saddle stock commercial services would be provided for realizing recreational or other wilderness proposes.	Wilderness character would be protected since impacts to opportunities for solitude would be minor and localized. The number of service days would be within the range of the minimum extent necessary for realizing the recreational purposes of the areas would be provided.	Wilderness character would be protected since impacts to opportunities for solitude would be minor and localized. Pack and saddle stock commercial services would be provided, but for less than the minimum amount necessary for realizing the recreational purposes of the areas.	Wilderness character would be protected since impacts to opportunities for solitude would be minor and localized. The upper range of the minimum amount of pack and saddle stock commercial services necessary for realizing the recreational purposes of the areas would be provided.

Purpose and Need	Unit of Measure	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
<p>3. Make standards and guidelines for campsite barren core in wilderness compatible with party size for pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides.</p>	<p>Qualitative discussion</p>	<p>Forest Plans would not be amended, but there would be no pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide activities.</p>	<p>Forest Plan amendment would allow up outfitter-guides to use up to 5,250 square feet of barren core in existing camps that exceed that size. In established campsites, barren core would not be allowed to increase. This would be compatible with a party size of 12 and 18, although use patterns at campsites with over 5,250 square feet would be modified.</p>	<p>Forest Plan amendment would allow up outfitter-guides to use up to 2,800 square feet of barren core in existing camps that exceed that size. In established campsites, barren core would not be allowed to increase. This would be compatible with a party size of 12 heartbeats, although use patterns at campsites with over 2,800 square feet would be modified.</p>	<p>Forest Plan amendment would allow up outfitter-guides to use existing barren core in established campsites, but not increase the amount of barren core. This would be fully compatible with a party size of 12 people and 18 stock.</p>

Significant Issue	Unit of Measure	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
<p>1. Current and proposed pack and saddle outfitted use does not comply with some Forest Plan wilderness standards and guidelines or with the Wilderness Act because the party size and amount of use perpetuates large camps and degrades the condition of the wilderness.</p>					

Significant Issue	Unit of Measure	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
<p>a) Compliance with the Wilderness Act in terms of the qualities that make up wilderness character: untrammelled, undeveloped, natural, and opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.</p>	<p>Qualitative discussion</p>	<p>Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides would not operate in wilderness. There would be a 32% reduction in the number of pack and saddle stock users in the Pasayten and a 6% reduction in the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth. The untrammelled and undeveloped qualities of wilderness character would be unaffected. There would be minor, localized beneficial impacts to the natural quality since fewer pack and saddle stock would be grazing, and potentially damaging stream banks at watering sites. Opportunities for solitude would also be beneficially impacted on a local, minor level with the reduced number of pack and saddle stock users.</p>	<p>There would be approximately 4% more pack and saddle stock users in the Pasayten, and no increase in the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth compared to current numbers. The untrammelled and undeveloped qualities would be unaffected. The natural quality of the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth wilderness areas would continue to receive minor, localized impacts. Opportunities for solitude would have minor, localized, negative impacts due to encounters and campsite size and location.</p>	<p>There would be a 14% decrease in the number of pack and saddle stock users in the Pasayten, and a 3% decrease in the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth. The untrammelled and undeveloped qualities would be unaffected. The natural quality would continue to have minor, localized impacts from stock grazing, and damage to stream banks at watering spots. Opportunities for solitude would improve slightly because of the decrease in pack and saddle stock users, but the increase would be small enough to likely go unnoticed by most users.</p>	<p>There would be approximately 6% more pack and saddle stock users in the Pasayten, and a 1% increase in the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth compared to current numbers. The untrammelled and undeveloped qualities would be unaffected. The natural quality of the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth wilderness areas would continue to receive minor, localized impacts. Opportunities for solitude would have minor, localized, negative impacts due to encounters and campsite size and location.</p>

Significant Issue	Unit of Measure	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
<p>b)Compliance with Wilderness Management Tool (non-degradation policy)</p>	<p>Qualitative discussion</p>	<p>There would be no pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides. The elimination would reduce use at some existing sites, and lead to some natural restoration of barren core areas not used by the non-outfitted pack and saddle stock parties.</p>	<p>Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth would continue on an improving trend, with no degradation. Forest Plan amendments would limit the amount of barren core outfitters can use, allowing natural restoration to occur in camps with existing barren cores exceeding 5,250 square feet, and allow use of existing campsites within 200 feet of meadows, lakes, streams and key interest areas. No new campsites would be created. Mitigation measures would insure that outfitter-guides do not further degrade the condition of the wilderness.</p>	<p>Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth would continue on an improving trend, with no degradation. Forest Plan amendments would limit the amount of barren core outfitters can use, allowing natural restoration to occur in camps with existing barren cores exceeding 2,800 square feet. The reduced party size would help reduce size of barren core in campsites. Prohibiting camping in camps within 200 feet of wetlands, lakes, streams, and key interest areas would prevent continuing impacts to these campsites from outfitter-guides. Mitigation measures would insure that outfitter-guides do not further degrade the condition of the wilderness.</p>	<p>Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth would continue on an improving trend, with no degradation. Forest Plan amendments would allow outfitters to use existing barren core in established campsites, but prohibit creation of additional barren core. Use of existing camps within 200 feet of meadows, lakes, streams and key interest areas would be allowed. No new campsites would be Mitigation measures would insure that outfitter-guides do not further degrade the condition of the wilderness.</p>

Significant Issue	Unit of Measure	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
<p>c) Compliance with standards and guidelines, and the effect the proposed Forest Plan amendments will have on wilderness character</p>	<p>Qualitative discussion</p>	<p>No permits would be issued for pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides, so compliance with standards and guidelines would not be applicable.</p>	<p>Outfitter-guide activities would comply with amended standards and guidelines. The forest plan amendments would have minor, localized impacts on the opportunities for solitude by authorizing larger areas of barren core in outfitter camps compared to existing standards. The outfitters would be prohibited from creating new camps, or increasing the size of existing barren cores, so the result will be a slight decrease in the amount of barren core at large, established camps. The second forest plan amendment would allow outfitters to use established campsites within 200 feet of meadows, lakes, streams, and key interest areas.</p>	<p>Outfitter-guide activities would comply with amended standards and guidelines. The Forest Plan amendments would have minor, localized impacts on the opportunities for solitude by authorizing larger areas of barren core in outfitter camps compared to existing standards. The outfitters would be prohibited from creating new camps, or increasing the size of existing barren cores, so the result will a larger decrease in the amount of barren core at large, established camps, compared to Alternative 2. They would be prohibited from using campsites within 200 feet of wetlands, lakes, streams, or key interest areas, which would reduce the number of campsites available. This would degrade wilderness character in isolated areas.</p>	<p>Outfitter-guide activities would comply with amended standards and guidelines. The forest plan amendments would have minor, localized impacts on the opportunities for solitude by authorizing larger areas of barren core in outfitter camps compared to existing standards. The outfitters would be prohibited from creating new camps, or increasing the size of existing barren cores. The existing amount of barren core would remain. The second forest plan amendment would allow outfitters to use established campsites within 200 feet of meadows, lakes, streams, and key interest areas. This would avoid the necessity to create new camps, which would degrade wilderness character.</p>

Significant Issue	Unit of Measure	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
d)Total Number of Service Days in Pasayten Wilderness and total number of visitor days (outfitted and private)	Service Days Visitor Days	0 Service Days 16,900 Visitor Days	2,000 Service Days 18,900 Visitor Days	1,000 Service Days 17,900 Visitor Days	2,170 Service Days 19,070 Visitor Days
e) Total Number of Pack and Saddle Stock Visitor Days in Pasayten Wilderness (outfitted and private) and percent outfitted	Visitor Days Percent Outfitted	3,810 Pack & Saddle Visitor Days 0% outfitted	5,810 Pack & Saddle Visitor Days 34% outfitted	4,810 Pack & Saddle Visitor Days 21% outfitted	5,966 Pack & Saddle Visitor Days 36% outfitted
d)Total Number of Service Days in Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness and total number of visitor days (outfitted and private)	Service Days Visitor Days	0 Service Days 35,885 Visitor Days	720 Service Days 36,605 Visitor Days	320 Service Days 36,205 Visitor Days	825 Service Days 36,710 Visitor Days
d)Total Number of Service Days in Pasayten Wilderness and total number of visitor days (outfitted and private)	Visitor Days Percent Outfitted	12,095 Pack and Saddle Visitor Days 0 outfitted	12,815 Pack and Saddle Visitor Days 6% outfitted	12,415 Pack and Saddle Visitor Days 3% outfitted	12,920 Pack and Saddle Visitor Days 6% outfitted
2. Current outfitted use could degrade wetlands and habitat for native plant species.					
a) wetland within 500 feet of pack and saddle stock camps, and percentage of total wetlands in analysis area	Estimated number of acres and percent of total	86 1%	86 1%	25.2 0.3%	86 1%

Significant Issue	Unit of Measure	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
b) effects of activities on wetlands	Qualitative discussion	Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides would have no impacts on wetlands. 10% reduction in pack and saddle stock would reduce localized impacts of grazing and trampling of vegetation in and around campsites. The damage to vegetation would continue to be isolated in context of all the wetlands in the analysis area.	Localized impacts to the 87 acres of wetlands would continue, but mitigation measures would minimize impacts from outfitter-guides. Outfitter-guide activities would meet the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives, and the Riparian Management Objectives, so isolated impacts to wetlands would be within standards.	Localized impacts to the 25.2 acres of wetlands would continue, but mitigation measures would minimize impacts from outfitter-guides. Outfitter-guide activities would meet the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives, and the Riparian Management Objectives, so isolated impacts to wetlands would be within standards.	Localized impacts to the 87 acres of wetlands would continue, but mitigation measures would minimize impacts from outfitter-guides. Outfitter-guide activities would meet the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives, and the Riparian Management Objectives, so isolated impacts to wetlands would be within standards.
c) Determination statements for threatened endangered and sensitive plant species	Determination rating	“No effect” on any listed plant species. “No impact” on any sensitive plant species.	“No effect” on any listed plant species. “May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend toward Federal listing or a loss of population viability” on sensitive species.	“No effect” on any listed plant species. “May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend toward Federal listing or a loss of population viability” on sensitive species.	“No effect” on any listed plant species. “May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend toward Federal listing or a loss of population viability” on sensitive species.

Significant Issue	Unit of Measure	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
d) Effects of stock grazing on plant composition	Qualitative discussion	No grazing from outfitter stock, so no impacts on plant composition. The number of pack and saddle stock visitor days would be reduced by 15%. Pack and saddle stock grazing in and around campsites would not result in further modification of plant succession due to the limited amount of area where the animals graze, and the small number of animals compared to past use.	The number of pack and saddle stock visitor days would be virtually the same as the existing, 29,040 visitor days. Outfitter-guide pack and saddle stock grazing in and around campsites would not result in further modification of plant succession due to the limited amount of area where the animals graze, and the small number of animals compared to past use.	The number of pack and saddle stock visitor days would be reduced by 6%. Outfitter-guide pack and saddle stock grazing in and around campsites would not result in further modification of plant succession due to the limited amount of area where the animals graze, and the small number of animals compared to past use.	The number of pack and saddle stock visitor days would increase 8%. Outfitter-guide pack and saddle stock grazing in and around campsites would not result in further modification of plant succession due to the limited amount of area where the animals graze, and the small number of animals compared to past use.

Significant Issue	Unit of Measure	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
3. Current outfitted use could degrade some habitat for threatened, endangered or sensitive wildlife species through increased encounters with people or through habitat degradation.					
a) Determination statements from Biological Assessment for threatened, endangered or sensitive wildlife species	Determination rating	“No Effect” on any listed species.	“May affect, not likely to adversely affect” gray wolf, grizzly bear, lynx, northern spotted owl. “No effect” on all other listed species. “May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend toward Federal listing or a loss of population viability” great gray owl. “No impact” on all other listed species.	“May affect, not likely to adversely affect” gray wolf, grizzly bear, lynx, northern spotted owl. “No effect” on all other listed species. “May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend toward Federal listing or a loss of population viability” great gray owl. “No impact” on all other listed species.	“May affect, not likely to adversely affect” gray wolf, grizzly bear, lynx, northern spotted owl. “No effect” on all other listed species. “May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend toward Federal listing or a loss of population viability” great gray owl. “No impact” on all other listed species.

Significant Issue	Unit of Measure	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
4. Current pack and saddle stock outfitted use could degrade water quality and aquatic resources.					
a) Determination Statements from Biological Assessment for threatened, endangered, and sensitive fish species.	Determination rating	“No effect” on any listed species. “No impact” on sensitive species.	“May affect, not likely to adversely affect” bull trout, steelhead, and spring Chinook. “No effect” on all other listed species. “No impact” on sensitive species.	“May affect, not likely to adversely affect” bull trout, steelhead, and spring Chinook. “No effect” on all other listed species. “No impact” on sensitive species.	“May affect, not likely to adversely affect” bull trout, steelhead, and spring Chinook. “No effect” on all other listed species. “No impact” on sensitive species.
b) Compliance with Northwest Forest Plan Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) and PACFISH Riparian Management Objectives (RMO)	Qualitative discussion	No permits would be issued for pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides, so compliance with ACS and RMOs would not be applicable.	Alternative would comply with the ACS and RMOs. Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide activities would not retard or prevent attainment of ACSOs or RMOs. Impacts to water quality, streambank stability, vegetation, and aquatic habitat would be minor and localized.	Alternative would comply with the ACS and RMOs. Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide activities would not retard or prevent attainment of ACSOs or RMOs. Impacts to water quality, streambank stability, vegetation, and aquatic habitat would be minor and localized.	Alternative would comply with the ACS and RMOs. Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide activities would not retard or prevent attainment of ACSOs or RMOs. Impacts to water quality, streambank stability, vegetation, and aquatic habitat would be minor and localized..
c) Compliance with state water quality standards and the Clean Water Act	Qualitative discussion	No permits would be issued for pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides, so compliance with Clean Water Act would not be applicable	Alternative would comply with the Clean Water Act. Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide activities would not alter water temperature or quality. No 303d listed waterways near outfitter-guide activities.	Alternative would comply with the Clean Water Act. Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide activities would not alter water temperature or quality. No 303d listed waterways near outfitter-guide activities.	Alternative would comply with the Clean Water Act. Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide activities would not alter water temperature or quality. No 303d listed waterways near outfitter-guide activities.

Significant Issue	Unit of Measure	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
d) Effects of loose grazing on riparian areas, streams and lakes	Qualitative discussion	Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides would have no effect on riparian areas, streams, or lakes.	Loose grazing would disperse impacts, and minimize effects on riparian areas, streams, and lakes.	Loose grazing would disperse impacts, and minimize effects on riparian areas, streams, and lakes.	Loose grazing would disperse impacts, and minimize effects on riparian areas, streams, and lakes.
e) Stream sedimentation from stock grazing.	Qualitative discussion	No outfitter stock grazing, so no effect on stream sedimentation. pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide stock grazing.	Stream sedimentation from stock grazing and use would be low. It would not be detectable compared to ongoing channel and hill slope erosion, except at the point of disturbance in the stream channel. There would be no detectable difference in stream sedimentation between alternatives across the analysis area. Stream turbidity is not expected to change under any of the alternatives, because the suspended sediment would not change.	Stream sedimentation from stock grazing and use would be low. It would not be detectable compared to ongoing channel and hill slope erosion, except at the point of disturbance in the stream channel. There would be no detectable difference in stream sedimentation between alternatives across the analysis area. Stream turbidity is not expected to change under any of the alternatives, because the suspended sediment would not change.	Stream sedimentation from stock grazing and use would be low. It would not be detectable compared to ongoing channel and hill slope erosion, except at the point of disturbance in the stream channel. There would be no detectable difference in stream sedimentation between alternatives across the analysis area. Stream turbidity is not expected to change under any of the alternatives, because the suspended sediment would not change.

Significant Issue	Unit of Measure	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
g) Localized impacts where trails cross streams or where camps are located near water	Qualitative discussion	No impacts from pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides at trail stream crossings or camps near water. Overall 15% reduction in pack and saddle stock use would reduce impacts, however localized impacts to stream banks and other water features, including damage to riparian vegetation and reduction in water quality would occur from non-outfitted use. The isolated, localized impacts would not adversely affect riparian habitat conditions or water quality beyond the immediate areas.	There would be a 4% increase in pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide service days compared to current number, but only a 0.6% increase in all pack and saddle stock use. Small increase would not change conditions from current conditions. There would localized impacts to stream banks and other water features, including damage to riparian vegetation and reduction in water quality. The isolated, localized impacts would not adversely affect riparian habitat conditions or water quality beyond the immediate areas.	The 40% reduction in the number of pack and saddle stock service days would reduce impacts from outfitters. There would be an overall reduction in pack and saddle stock use of 6%. Impacts to stream banks and other water features, including damage to riparian vegetation and reduction in water quality would be reduced. The isolated, localized impacts would not adversely affect riparian habitat conditions or water quality beyond the immediate areas.	The 50% increase in pack and saddle stock visitor days would increase localized impacts to stream banks and other water features, including damage to riparian vegetation and reduction in water quality compared to the existing condition or Alternative 2. There would be an overall 8% increase in pack and saddle stock use. The isolated, localized impacts would not adversely affect riparian habitat conditions or water quality beyond the immediate areas.
h. Fecal coliform levels	Qualitative discussion	Outfitters would not operate, so stock would not contribute to background fecal coliform levels. Non-outfitted recreationists and stock, in addition to wildlife would result in fecal coliform in all waterways.	Short-term increases in fecal coliform levels at trail crossings and watering spots when stock are present. Fecal coliform would be quickly dissipated by rapidly moving water in streams. Clean Water Act standards for surface water would not be violated.	Short-term increases in fecal coliform levels at trail crossings and watering spots when stock are present. Fecal coliform would be quickly dissipated by rapidly moving water in streams. Clean Water Act standards for surface water would not be violated..	Short-term increases in fecal coliform levels at trail crossings and watering spots when stock are present. Fecal coliform would be quickly dissipated by rapidly moving water in streams. Clean Water Act standards for surface water would not be violated..

Significant Issue	Unit of Measure	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
5. Barren core limitations in Alternative 2 would not be large enough for a party of 12 people and 18 head of stock, and the number of service days in that alternative would not allow the businesses to respond to increases in demand for pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide services.					
a) amount of area needed for a party of 12 people and 18 head of stock	Qualitative discussion	No pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides would operate on National Forest System Land.	Approximately 95% of campsites used by outfitter-guides have less than 5,250 square feet of barren core. The 8 campsites exceeding 5,250 are some of the most frequently used sites, including 3 assigned sites. Altering use patterns in the large camps could be difficult and reduce the quality of the camping experience for the clients.	Approximately 85% of the campsites used by the outfitter-guides have less than 2,800 square feet of barren core. All the campsites most regularly used, including all the assigned sites, have more than 2,800 square feet of barren core. The reduced party size in Alternative 3 would help prevent creation of additional barren core.	Outfitters would be able to use existing barren core in established campsites. This would allow enough room for 12 people and 18 head of stock in every camp without changing the use patterns, or impacting the quality of the camping experience for clients.
b) impacts to the businesses from the number of service days	Qualitative discussion	No pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides would operate on National Forest System Land.	Each outfitter would have enough days to match the highest actual use in the past 5 years plus 25%. If demand increases to levels seen 10 years ago, the outfitters would not be able to meet the demand.	Each outfitter would have the number of service days equal to the average amount of annual use in the past 5 years. This would be a 40% reduction compared to current, and would substantially reduce business profits.	Each outfitter would have enough service days to match the highest annual use in the past 10 years plus 25%. If demand increases to levels seen 10 years ago, the outfitters would be able to meet those demands, increasing profits.

Other Issues	Unit of Measure	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
<p>Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides could introduce noxious weeds into currently weed-free areas, such as wilderness, in stock manure.</p>	<p>Qualitative discussion</p>	<p>There would be no outfitter-guide pack and saddle stock that could potentially introduce weeds. The requirement for certified weed-free hay at Wilderness trailheads began in 2007, and everywhere on National Forest System Land in 2009 which substantially reduced the possibility of weeds being spread by non-outfitted pack and saddle stock users.</p>	<p>Outfitters would help identify and locate newly established weed populations, aiding in early treatment. The requirement for certified weed-free hay at Wilderness trailheads began in 2007, and everywhere on National Forest System Land in 2009 which substantially reduced the possibility of weeds being spread by non-outfitted pack and saddle stock users.</p>	<p>Outfitters would help identify and locate newly established weed populations, aiding in early treatment. The requirement for certified weed-free hay at Wilderness trailheads began in 2007, and everywhere on National Forest System Land in 2009 which substantially reduced the possibility of weeds being spread by non-outfitted pack and saddle stock users.</p>	<p>Outfitters would help identify and locate newly established weed populations, aiding in early treatment. The requirement for certified weed-free hay at Wilderness trailheads began in 2007, and everywhere on National Forest System Land in 2009 which substantially reduced the possibility of weeds being spread by non-outfitted pack and saddle stock users.</p>
<p>Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides could degrade air quality with smoke from campfires.</p>	<p>Qualitative discussion</p>	<p>The Pasayten Wilderness is the only Class I Airshed in analysis area. There would be no pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide campfires, therefore no impact on air quality.</p>	<p>The Pasayten Wilderness is the only Class I Airshed in analysis area. It is unlikely that smoke from campfires would degrade air quality. Campfires are built with dry fuel, and burn rapidly, ventilating upwards. In addition, there would not be a large enough concentration of smoke given the dispersed location of campsites.</p>	<p>The Pasayten Wilderness is the only Class I Airshed in analysis area. It is unlikely that smoke from campfires would degrade air quality. Campfires are built with dry fuel, and burn rapidly, ventilating upwards. In addition, there would not be a large enough concentration of smoke given the dispersed location of campsites.</p>	<p>The Pasayten Wilderness is the only Class I Airshed in analysis area. It is unlikely that smoke from campfires would degrade air quality. Campfires are built with dry fuel, and burn rapidly, ventilating upwards. In addition, there would not be a large enough concentration of smoke given the dispersed location of campsites.</p>

Other Issues	Unit of Measure	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
<p>Firewood gathering by pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides could degrade the environment by removing down woody debris and limiting or eliminating this habitat component.</p>	<p>Qualitative discussion</p>	<p>No firewood would be gathered by pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides. Non-outfitted recreationists would continue gathering firewood on less than one tenth of one percent of the analysis area. There would be some loss of habitat, but abundant habitat exists away from these isolated spots.</p>	<p>Less than one tenth of one percent of the analysis area would be affected by firewood gathering. There would be some loss of habitat, but abundant habitat exists away from these isolated spots.</p>	<p>Less than one tenth of one percent of the analysis area would be affected by firewood gathering. There would be some loss of habitat, but abundant habitat exists away from these isolated spots.</p>	<p>Less than one tenth of one percent of the analysis area would be affected by firewood gathering. There would be some loss of habitat, but abundant habitat exists away from these isolated spots.</p>
<p>Reducing the number of service days allowed could lead to some existing pack and saddle stock outfitters going out of business because of reduced revenues.</p>	<p>Qualitative discussion</p>	<p>No pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide permits would be issued, so the existing companies would no longer be able to offer trips into the backcountry or wilderness. Most would likely go out of business.</p>	<p>Enough service days would be authorized to allow the existing businesses, or suitable replacements, to continue roughly the same amount of revenue as they have over the past 5 years, with an additional 25% available for a modest amount of growth.</p>	<p>The reduction in allowable service days and party size could force some businesses to close because of increased operating costs, and decreased opportunities to generate revenue.</p>	<p>The number of authorized service days would allow the existing businesses, or suitable replacements, to increase business to approximately 25% over levels from experienced 10 years ago. This alternative could lead to increased revenues if demand increases over current levels.</p>

<p>Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides could degrade the experience of other recreation users outside wilderness.</p>	<p>Qualitative discussion</p>	<p>There would be no pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides, so no impact on the experience of other recreation users outside wilderness</p>	<p>Approximately 2% of the recreation use in the analysis area outside wilderness would be associated with outfitted pack and saddle stock use. Some conflict exists between outfitted and non-outfitted users, but the relatively small amount of outfitted use compared to non-outfitted use minimizes the frequency of conflict and contact.</p>	<p>Approximately 1% of the recreation use in the analysis area outside wilderness would be associated with outfitted pack and saddle stock use. Some conflict exists between outfitted and non-outfitted users, but the relatively small amount of outfitted use compared to non-outfitted use minimizes the frequency of conflict and contact.</p>	<p>Approximately 3% of the recreation use in the analysis area outside wilderness would be associated with outfitted pack and saddle stock use. Some conflict exists between outfitted and non-outfitted users, but the relatively small amount of outfitted use compared to non-outfitted use minimizes the frequency of conflict and contact.</p>
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Other Issues	Unit of Measure	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
<p>Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide activities could lead to soil damage and displacement in meadows and other areas by stock trampling, grazing, and crossing wet areas.</p>	<p>Qualitative discussion</p>	<p>Most existing detrimental soil damage occurred prior to implementation of the Forest Plans. There would be no impact to soils from pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide activities. There would be approximately 15% fewer pack and saddle stock in the analysis area with this alternative, but the existing areas of damage would continue to be used by non-outfitted pack and saddle stock, so the amount of area with damaged soil would likely not change. The vast majority of the analysis area is completely unaffected by recreation activities, so the isolated areas of soil damage are not resulting in unacceptable amounts of detrimental soil damage.</p>	<p>Most existing detrimental soil damage occurred prior to implementation of the Forest Plans. Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides would continue to use campsites, trails, and grazing areas. There would be a small reduction in total barren core with the 5,250 square foot limitation on barren core, but when viewed at a landscape scale this reduction would be inconsequential. Soil in and around campsites, at stock watering areas, and trail crossings would continue to be compacted and displaced by outfitter-guides, but the vast majority of the analysis area is completely unaffected by recreation activities, so the isolated areas of soil damage are not resulting in unacceptable amounts of detrimental soil damage.</p>	<p>Most existing detrimental soil damage occurred prior to implementation of the Forest Plans. Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides would continue to use campsites, trails, and grazing areas. There would be a small reduction in total barren core with the 2,800 square foot limitation on barren core, but when viewed at a landscape scale this reduction would be inconsequential. Soil in and around campsites, at stock watering areas, and trail crossings would continue to be compacted and displaced by outfitter-guides, but the vast majority of the analysis area is completely unaffected by recreation activities, so the isolated areas of soil damage are not resulting in unacceptable amounts of detrimental soil damage.</p>	<p>Most existing detrimental soil damage occurred prior to implementation of the Forest Plans. Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides would continue to use campsites, trails, and grazing areas. There would no increase in barren core as a result of outfitter-guide activities. Soil in and around campsites, at stock watering areas, and trail crossings would continue to be compacted and displaced by outfitter-guides, but the vast majority of the analysis area is completely unaffected by recreation activities, so the isolated areas of soil damage are not resulting in unacceptable amounts of detrimental soil damage.</p>

Other Issues	Unit of Measure	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
<p>Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guide grazing could exceed Forest Plan standards and guidelines pertaining to forage utilization.</p>	<p>Qualitative discussion</p>	<p>There would be no outfitter-guide stock forage use with this alternative. Non-outfitted stock would continue to graze around campsites. Stock forage utilization would be well within allowable use standards and consistent with all standards and guidelines. There would continue to be localized areas of concentrated use associated with camps. With the closing of the wilderness livestock permits, forage use and resource impacts are still very far below the use and impacts under the old grazing allotment stocking rates.</p>	<p>Outfitter-guide stock forage utilization would be well within allowable use standards and consistent with all standards and guidelines. There would be localized areas of concentrated use associated with camps. With the closing of the wilderness livestock permits, even with outfitter-guide grazing, the forage use and resource impacts are still very far below the use and impacts under the old grazing allotment stocking rates.</p>	<p>Outfitter-guide stock forage utilization would be well within allowable use standards and consistent with all standards and guidelines. There would be localized areas of concentrated use associated with camps. With the closing of the wilderness livestock permits, even with outfitter-guide grazing, the forage use and resource impacts are still very far below the use and impacts under the old grazing allotment stocking rates.</p>	<p>Outfitter-guide stock forage utilization would be well within allowable use standards and consistent with all standards and guidelines. There would be localized areas of concentrated use associated with camps. With the closing of the wilderness livestock permits, even with outfitter-guide grazing, the forage use and resource impacts are still very far below the use and impacts under the old grazing allotment stocking rates.</p>
<p>Pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides are important to the local economy.</p>	<p>Number of Jobs Labor Income Total Sales</p>	<p>0 \$0 \$0</p>	<p>27.6 jobs \$922,451 \$1,340,359</p>	<p>15.9 jobs \$531,108 \$771,722</p>	<p>40 jobs \$1,337,753 \$1,943,811</p>

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The Preferred Alternative is Alternative 4.