

APPENDIX E

**FRANK CHURCH-RIVER OF NO RETURN
WILDERNESS COORDINATION AND OPERATING
CHARTER**

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Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness Coordination and Operating Charter

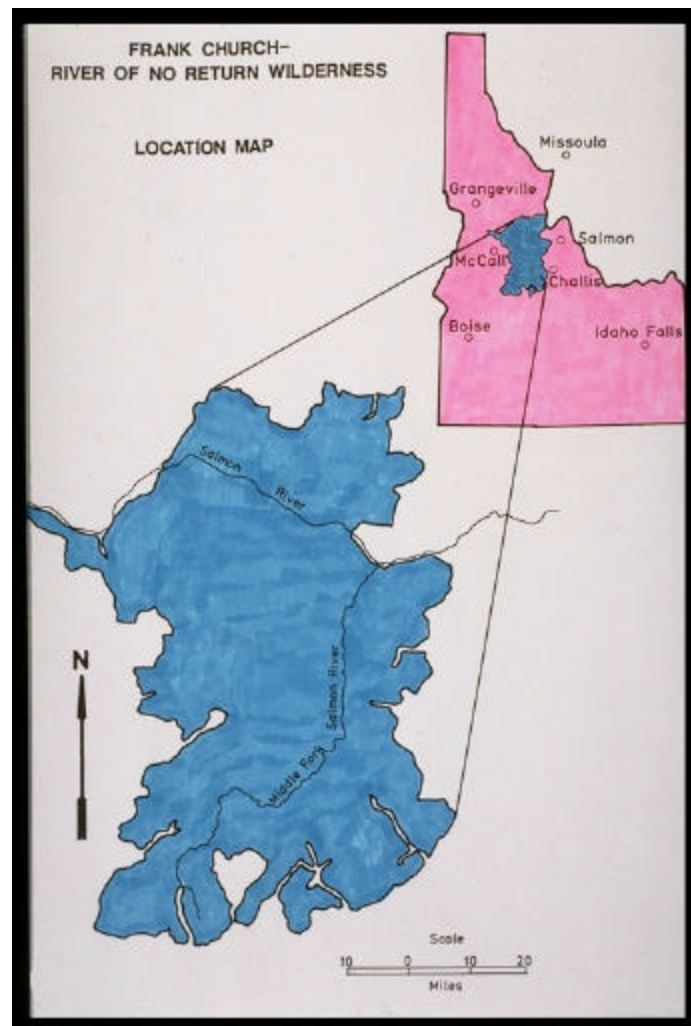
The Frank Church–River of No Return (FC–RONR) Wilderness lies within five proclaimed National Forests. Those National Forests include the Salmon - Challis, Bitterroot, Nez Perce, Payette and the Boise. Two Regions are involved: Region 1, headquartered in Missoula, Montana, and Region 4, headquartered in Ogden, Utah. Through administrative agreements, the Salmon-Challis, Nez Perce, Bitterroot and Payette National Forests are responsible for on-the-ground administration of the Wilderness, and the Boise is no longer directly involved. A lead Region and lead National Forest is assigned as a primary contact for Wilderness-wide information and two managerial groups, the FC–RONRW Board of Directors and the FC–RONRW Lead Working Group provide policy direction and uniformity of management respectively. A Wilderness Coordination office works with both managerial groups and is involved in programs and issues that span two or more administrative units or that are Wilderness-wide in Nature.

FC–RONR Wilderness

2.4 Million Acres
2 Regions
4 National Forests

- Salmon-Challis NF (54%)
- Payette NF (33%)
- Bitterroot NF (8%)
- Nez Perce NF (5%)

6 Ranger Districts



Lead Region

Region 4 is the lead region for Wilderness-wide data and information, public contact, and support to the coordination effort. Each Regional Forester retains line authority for the portion of the Wilderness within their Region.

Lead Forest Supervisor

The Salmon - Challis National Forest Supervisor is designated the Lead Supervisor for the FC-RONRW. The Lead Forest Supervisor is the Chair of the Board of Directors.

This is not a line authority role, but rather is responsible for:

- Providing supervision, logistical, data management and office support to the Coordinator and Staff;
- serving as a contact point with the Region(s) on Wilderness matters; and
- serving as a contact point for Wilderness-wide public information.

Each Forest Supervisor retains line authority for the portion of the Wilderness within their Forest unless modified by Administrative Agreement.

FC – RONRW Board of Directors

To ensure coordination of Wilderness management, a Board of Directors (BOD) for the FC-RONRW has been established. The BOD consists of the Forest Supervisors from each of the four managing National Forests, and the Regional Directors with Wilderness Program oversight in Regions One and Four. The BOD is responsible for keeping the Regional Foresters informed of significant projects and or issues relative to the Wilderness. The Board is responsible for management coordination and policy issues throughout the Wilderness.

Decision Making

The goal is to reach consensus for uniform policy and management across the “Wilderness.” The BOD will discuss issues/decision points in a manner that will lead to agreement and support for decisions amongst the BOD.

The BOD may decide to assign an individual Forest Supervisor as the “Leader” for certain issues. A lead role may be assigned to spread out issues or where the predominant resource resides on an individual Forest, such as the Middle Fork Salmon River management being exclusive to the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

In the event that legitimate reasons prevent reaching consensus individual Supervisors retain their line authority for the part of the Wilderness within their administrative jurisdiction.

Meetings frequency and location

Meetings are routinely held twice per year. When issues or activities warrant more frequent dialogue conference calls or meetings can be called at anytime by any of the BOD members. Meetings and conference calls are normally set up and conducted by the Wilderness Coordinator.

Meeting locations will normally be rotated among the National Forest Headquarters communities in the following sequence:

- Salmon, Idaho
- McCall, Idaho
- Hamilton, Montana
- Grangeville, Idaho

If other activities bring several of the BOD members together, an Alternate location maybe used if agreed upon by the BOD. The hosting National Forest may choose an alternate location.

Finances

Each Forest will program funds to cover travel costs incurred by its Lead Working Group member.

Costs that are shared by the managing National Forests should be allocated (unless otherwise negotiated) based on percentage of FC-RONRW Wilderness area within each National Forest:

- Salmon-Challis NF (54%)
- Payette NF (33%)
- Bitterroot NF (8%)
- Nez Perce NF (5%)

FC-RONRW Coordination

A Wilderness Coordinator, with a staff consisting of a wilderness database manager (vacant), is based on the Salmon National Forest. The Coordinator and staff are responsible for implementing the direction of the Board of Directors, and providing staff support to the Board. The Coordinator is also responsible for Wilderness-wide data management and public information, and serves as the key link between the Board and the Lead Work Group.

FC-RONRW Weed Coordinator

A Wilderness Weed Coordinator is located on the Salmon River District of the Nez Perce National Forest. This position could be located at any administrative unit, negotiable between the employee and the Board of Directors. The Salmon River District Ranger, who receives direction on the weeds issue through the Lead Working Group, supervises the Weed Coordinator.

This position is responsible for coordinating with Forest and District level employees to establish wilderness wide priorities for treatment, inventory, prevention and monitoring associated with the noxious weeds issue. This position also represents the Forest Service on the Steering

Committee of the Cooperative Weed Management Area. The Weed Coordinator shall be responsible for developing a strategy for funding and implementing a Wilderness wide program.

The Wilderness Weed Coordinator is funded by each National Forest through fiscal year (FY) 2003 under a signed agreement. A funding strategy will need to be determined in FY 2003 for future funding of this position.

Fire Coordinator

A Wilderness Fire Coordinator position is being advertised for the FC-RONR Wilderness for FY 2003. This position could be located at any administrative unit, negotiable between the selected employee and the Board of Directors. The Fire Coordinator will be supervised by an experienced Fire/Wilderness professional on the housing unit. Overall direction for the position will be provided to the supervisor from the Lead Working Group.

The Wilderness Fire Coordinator position is funded by Region Four, as a developmental position, through FY 2003. The position is a NTE one-year position, however may be extended as a detail or may become a permanent position. A futuring strategy will need to be developed in FY 2003 for evaluating the needs for this position beyond FY 2003.

FC-RONRW Lead Work Group

The administrative coordination and project implementation group for the FC-RONR Wilderness is the Lead Work Group.

Membership

- The Lead Work Group consists of representation from the FC-RONR Wilderness managing Forests, Districts, Coordination Office, and Regional Offices.
- The Lead Working Group will include one representative from each of the four forests having administrative responsibilities for the FC-RONR Wilderness. This individual is typically the Forests' wilderness program staff person. These Forests include the Bitterroot and Nez Perce National Forests in Region 1 and the Payette, and Salmon-Challis National Forests in Region 4. The Salmon-Challis NF Public Affairs Officer is also a member of the Lead Work Group.
- The Lead Working Group will include the District Ranger on each unit that has FC-RONR Wilderness management responsibility. These Districts include the Krassel, Salmon River, Red River, West Fork, North Fork and Middle Fork Ranger Districts. Each District Ranger retains line authority for the portion of the Wilderness within their District.
- The Lead Working Group will include the FC-RONR Wilderness Coordinator, and Regional Wilderness Coordinators from both Region One and Four.

- Members of the Lead Working Group will function as the Forest / Region delegate to this group and act on behalf of Forest / Region.

Chair of the Lead Work Group

The Lead Work Group elects the chairperson for the Lead Work Group.

The chair position is typically for a two-year period. However, the chair may be extended beyond two years, to provide continuity to a significant ongoing project.

The chairperson will be responsible for assigning or personally engaging in the following duties:

- Acting as the primary contact for the Lead Working Group;
- scheduling, organizing, and documenting Lead Working Group and FC–RONR Wilderness Unit Representative meetings;
- facilitating Lead Working Group meetings; and
- providing a status report addressing FC–RONR Wilderness administration and FC–RONR Wilderness Plan implementation to Forest Supervisors and Regional Foresters in conjunction with the biannual Idaho Forest Supervisor’s meeting.

Objectives

The objectives of the Lead Working Group are:

- To establish and maintain a communication network between all organizational levels involved in the administration of the FC–RONR Wilderness.
- To coordinate consistent implementation of the FC–RONR Wilderness Plan, at a practical level, through standardization of procedures and uniformity of administration.
- Where feasible, and within priority, resolves issues identified by the FC–RONR Wilderness Unit Representatives.
- To act as a clearinghouse of ideas and information for all organizational levels involved in the administration of the FC–RONR Wilderness.

Responsibility

- The Lead Work Group addresses special issues and undertakes assignments from the Board of Directors and field level employees.
- The Lead Work Group addresses Wilderness proposals that span three or more administrative units.
- The Lead Work Group defines and prioritizes issues concerning implementation of the FC-RONR Wilderness Plan.

- The Lead Work Group determines the procedures for reaching consensus in resolving identified issues and will initiate action to implement solutions to the issues.
- Members of the Lead Work Group work directly with their individual unit representatives to accomplish the objectives established for Wilderness management.
- The Lead Work Group institutes appropriate measures to improve communication and distribute ideas and information to FC–RONR Wilderness Unit Representatives or all involved professionals.
- The Lead Work Group serves an information function for the Coordinator and Directors by identifying and bringing matters to the attention of the Board of Directors.
- The Lead Work Group keeps all Wilderness managing units informed of emerging issues, the status of issues being resolved, current plan implementation procedures, and any other information pertinent to the administration of the FC–RONR Wilderness.
- The Lead Work Group appoints AD-HOC committees and defines their goals and objectives. The purpose of these committees will be to assist the Lead Work Group in issue resolution.

Meetings

- The Lead Work Group schedules working meetings quarterly or as deemed necessary.
- The Forest hosting a Lead Working Group meeting will provide an individual to record the minutes of the meeting.

Amendments/Revisions

Amendments or revisions to this Charter may be proposed at any time by a FC–RONR Wilderness Unit Representative and must be submitted in writing to the Lead Working Group. Members will present those amendments or revisions accepted by the Lead Working Group to their Forest Supervisor. Responses should be made to the Lead Working Group chairperson within 21 calendar days. If no objections are received, the amendment will be effective immediately unless otherwise specifically provided. If an objection is raised, the amendment will be revised and resubmitted for approval or waived at the discretion of the Lead Working Group.

Adopted:

/s/ Gary A. Morrison
Gary A. Morrison
R1, Director

Date: 10/3/02

/s/ Liz Close

Liz Close
R4, Director, Wilderness

Date: 10/3/02

/s/ George Matejko

George Matejko
FS, Salmon-Challis National Forest

Date: 10/3/02

/s/ Mark J. Madrid

Mark J. Madrid
FS, Payette National Forest

Date: 10/3/02

/s/ Bruce E. Bernhardt

Bruce E. Bernhardt
FS, Nez Perce National Forest

Date: 10/3/02

/s/ David T. Bull

Dave T. Bull
FS, Bitterroot National Forest

Date: 10/3/02

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