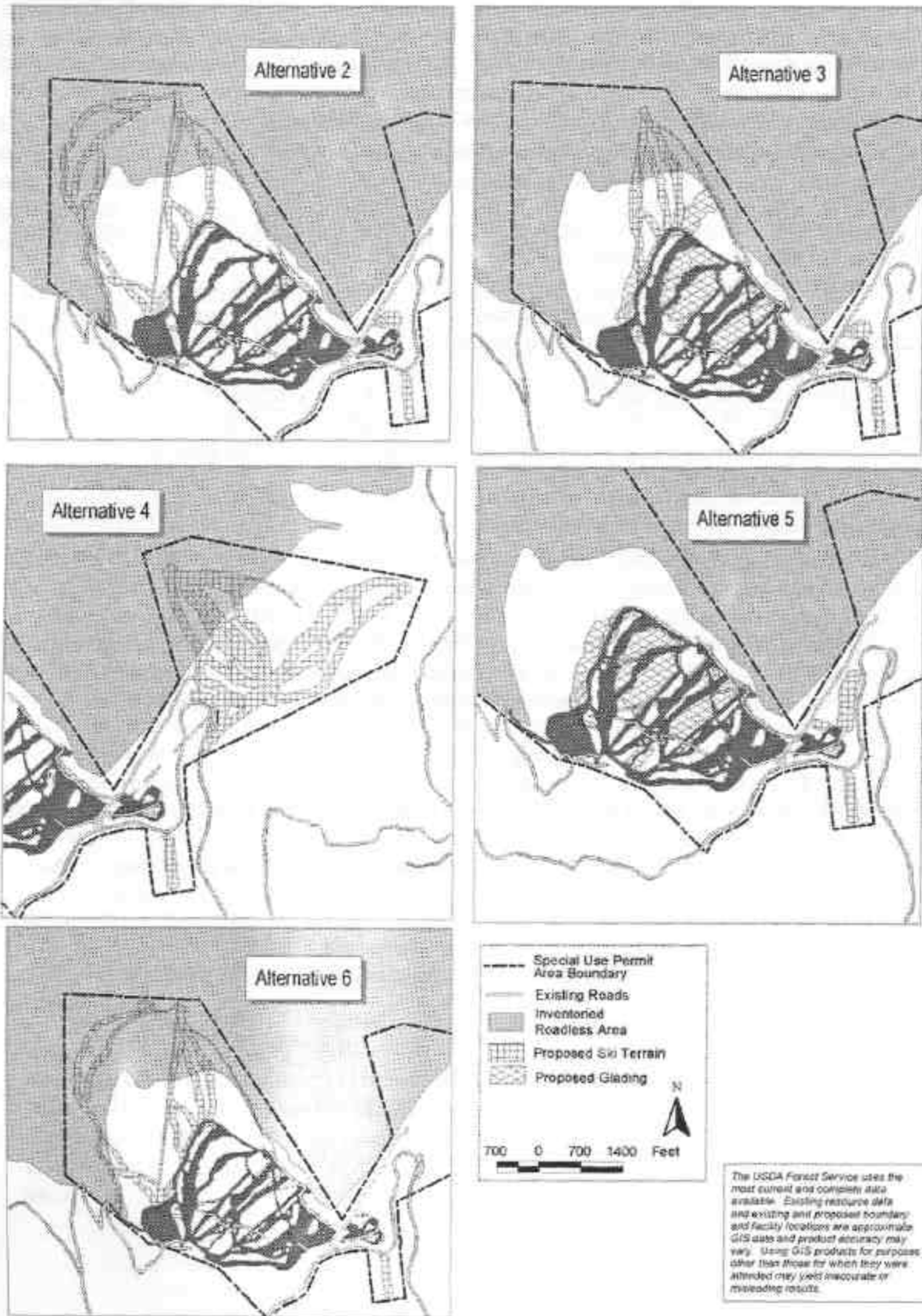


MAP IV-7. Effects to McDonald Peak Inventoried Roadless Area



b. Direct and Indirect Effects to Roadless (Undeveloped) Character

Roadless areas, like Wilderness, are valued by many for their very existence in an undeveloped state. This value is experienced practically by users of the area, and intrinsically by those who place value in simply knowing that undeveloped lands, perceived as "wild," still exist.

The McDonald Peak Inventoried Roadless Area occurs within the SUP area, as discussed above and in Chapter III. This roadless area, in the vicinity of proposed ski area expansion activities, currently possesses these undeveloped character values. The SUP area includes a total of approximately 298 acres of lands inventoried as roadless. As shown on Map III-12, the area within Inventoried Roadless and overlapping the SUP is approximately 77.5 percent within the Middle Fork area, and 22.5 percent within the Knoll area

Also within the SUP area, certain additional areas, typically adjacent to the inventoried area and not within areas currently developed for skiing, also currently possess similar undeveloped character and values. The SUP area includes approximately 280.2 acres of lands currently possessing this character (and *NOT* designated as Inventoried Roadless). The criterion for identification of these areas includes areas that generally lacked development (e.g., ski runs, the wastewater drainfield area and Bull Gap Road, with reasonable "buffers" would not possess this character). This Sub-section discusses the effects to these values, both within, and adjacent to the McDonald Peak IRA.

Alternative 1, No-Action

Alternative 1 would not clear forest nor construct facilities at this time within or adjacent to the McDonald Peak IRA and would therefore maintain the existing undeveloped character of these areas. The "wildland" features would be maintained in their current condition for all who value them either practically or intrinsically.

Alternatives 2 and 6

Alternatives 2 and 6 would compromise the undeveloped character of a portion of the McDonald Peak IRA, and the undeveloped area adjacent to it, by removing forest and constructing ski lifts and runs. The direct effects, as stated above, are a change in character of approximately 41.0 acres (Alternative 2), or 36.8 acres (Alternative 6) within the Inventoried Roadless Area.

Direct effects to areas currently possessing roadless character and *NOT* within the IRA are estimated to be approximately an additional 17.7 acres for Alternative 2, and 19.4 acres for Alternative 6. This equates to a total direct effect and loss or change in current undeveloped character (from inventoried and non-inventoried areas) from approximately 59.0 acres (Alternative 2), or 56.2 acres (Alternative 6), including the less than 1 acre already affected by current use.

Alternative 3

Alternative 3 would compromise the undeveloped character of a portion of the McDonald Peak IRA, and the undeveloped area adjacent to it, by removing forest and constructing ski lifts and runs. The direct effects, as stated above, are a change in character of approximately 14.6 acres within the designated roadless area.