

CASCADE

Proposed Resource Management Plan

and

Final Environmental Impact Statement



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Boise District, Idaho
August 1987

BLM MISSION STATEMENT

"The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the balanced management of the Public Lands and resources and their various values so that they are considered in a combination that will best serve the needs of the American People. Management is based upon the principles of multiple-use and sustained yield; a combination of uses that takes into account the long term needs of future generations for renewable and non-renewable resources. These resources include recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness and natural, scenic, scientific and cultural values."

PROPOSED CASCADE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

AND

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Prepared By

Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Boise District

3948 Development Avenue

Boise, Idaho 83705

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

Enclosed for your review is the proposed Cascade Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement. This plan outlines the proposed management of 487,466 acres of public land in the Cascade Resource Area. The Proposed Plan is a refinement of the Preferred Alternative presented in the draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement published in August 1986. The Proposed Plan is BLM's proposed alternative.

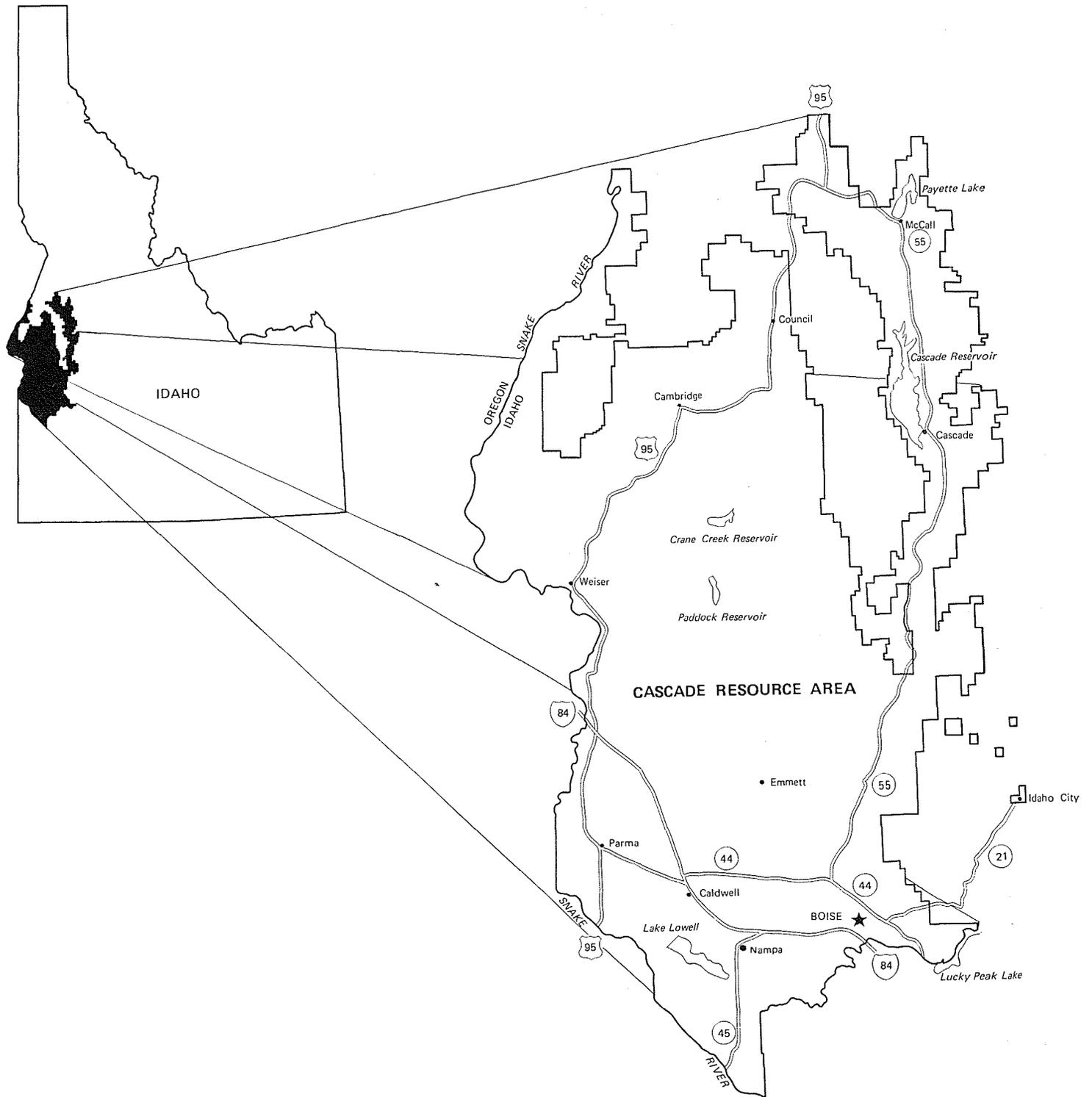
With the exception of the wilderness recommendations, all parts of this Proposed Plan may be protested. Protests should be sent to the Director (760), Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 18th and C Streets N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240, prior to September 21, 1987 -- the end of the 30-day protest period -- and should include the following information:

- The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
- A statement of the issue or issues being protested.
- A statement of the part or parts being protested
- A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the records.
- A short concise statement explaining why the BLM Idaho State Director's proposed decision is wrong.

At the end of the 30-day protest period, the Proposed Plan, excluding any portions under protest, shall become final. Approval shall be withheld on any portion of the plan under protest until final action has been completed on such protest. The final resource management plan is scheduled to be published with the record of decision in late 1987.

Sincerely yours,

MAP 1



GENERAL LOCATION MAP

READERS GUIDE TO DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

This document is structured into two basic sections. Part I is the Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Cascade Resource Area and was selected from the five alternative plans identified in the final environmental impact statement (FEIS), or Part II of the document.

This Proposed Plan is the preferred alternative (E) in the FEIS and is presented separately.

After consideration of public comments on the preferred alternative plan in the Draft RMP/EIS, the proposed Resource Management Plan was prepared with this Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

PART I

The Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP), or Part I, begins with a discussion of the purpose of the plan, the planning process, issues and management concerns addressed in the plan, and the criteria for plan development and selection (pages 1 to 8). The Bureau's rationale for selecting this alternative plan is given on pages 9 through 18. An explanation of Multiple Use and Transfer Areas begins on page 18.

The specific management objectives and actions required to implement the plan begin on page 24. The three Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) proposed in the plan are discussed on pages 31-38. The standard management guidelines for each resource or activity are discussed on pages 38 through 61.

Part I concludes with a discussion on support requirements, the consistency of the RMP with other plans, and finally, a short summary on implementation (pages 62-65).

A summary of the Proposed RMP (Part I) is located on pages iv and v.

The General Location Map for the plan is found facing page i. All other maps referenced as part of the plan are found at the end of Part I.

PART II

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), or Part II, describes and assesses the environmental impacts of five alternative plans for managing the 487,466 acres of public land resources in the Cascade Resource Area.

Chapter 1 discusses the purpose and need of the proposal. Chapter 2 outlines the management goals, objectives, and required actions for each alternative land use plan. The management proposals for each alternative are grouped by resource activity (range, wildlife, etc.). References are made in Chapter 2 to various appendices which give the management actions and resource conditions of each alternative plan. An impact summary of each of the alternatives is presented at the end of Chapter 2.

Chapter 3 is the description of the affected environment; Chapter 4 documents the environmental consequences of each alternative plan; and Chapter 5 outlines the public consultation and coordination which has occurred throughout the planning process to date, and the list of preparers.

The document concludes with a list of references, a glossary and several appendices that provide support data for each of the alternative plans and/or resource activities.

The General Location Map for the Final EIS is found at the beginning of Part II. All other maps referenced as part of the EIS are found at the end of Part II.

CHANGES BETWEEN DRAFT PLAN/EIS AND PROPOSED PLAN/FINAL EIS

Revisions are incorporated into the Proposed Plan and Final EIS in response to public comments received on the draft EIS. These revisions include minor changes in the preferred alternative (E - Proposed Plan) and in other alternatives. Changes in Chapter 2 regard management actions while changes in other chapters are for accuracy, clarity and consistency. Brief discussions of the substantive revisions are presented below. Additional discussions may be found in the Response to Written Comments section in Chapter 5. Additional maps and appendices have also been included. Maps have been revised for accuracy.

Off-Road Vehicle Use

Alternative E (Proposed Plan) now includes an additional 13,240 acres west of Crane Creek Reservoir which would be designated as limited to designated roads and trails for ORV use. This area in the draft EIS (Alternative E) was identified as open to ORV use. The area was reevaluated in response to public comment to provide opportunity for semi-primitive recreation in this area. The revision is incorporated to accommodate this need in light of manageability concerns and potential conflicts between user groups.

Timber Harvest

Alternative E (Proposed Plan) now includes an annual average allowable timber harvest level of 1.7 million board feet. The draft EIS (Alternative E) identified this harvest level as 1.0 million board feet which is the current harvest level. This revision is incorporated in response to public

comment to provide a greater harvest level and in light of potential impacts on other resource values, and the capability of the forest resource to produce this harvest volume on a sustained yield basis. Timber harvest of 1.7 million board feet would occur on the same 26,663 acres as previously identified for Alternative E.

Special Designations

In the draft EIS, alternatives B, C, D and E included 6 areas for Research Natural Area (RNA) designation. One of these areas, Peraphyllum Rock - 40 acres, was reevaluated in response to public comment regarding application of the criteria which qualify it as an RNA. The reevaluation resulted in dropping the RNA designation in these alternatives (B, C, D and E) since it was determined that the area did not meet the RNA qualifying criteria. The same special management actions have been retained for this area in the alternatives (B, C, D and E) to protect a sensitive plant species.

Two other areas identified for RNA designation in alternatives B, C, D and E are now expanded in all alternatives to provide better protection for sensitive plant species and enhance their function as research natural areas. These two areas are Summer Creek which has been expanded from 200 to 240 acres and Buckwheat Flats which has been expanded from 60 to 200 acres. The same special management actions for the original areas are also identified for the expanded areas.

One additional area, Prostrate Ceanothus, is now identified for special management in all alternatives. This is a 80 acre site containing a sensitive plant species. No special designation is identified for this area but special management actions are included for leasable minerals, rights-of-way and ORV use.

Recreation

One campground site of 5 acres at Paddock Reservoir has been added to alternatives D and E in response to public comment to provide additional recreational facilities in this area. Special management actions are identified for leasable minerals, rights-of-way and ORV use.

The Snake River Birds of Prey Conservation Area includes 640 acres in the southern tip of the Cascade Resource Area adjacent to the Snake River. This area is now identified in all alternatives as a Special Management Area. Special management actions for this area remain the same in all alternatives as identified in the draft EIS except that ORV use is now also identified as limited in Alternative B.

PART I

SUMMARY

PROPOSED PLAN (ALTERNATIVE E)

This Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) is developed to guide the management of public land resources in the Cascade Resource Area and to ensure that the public lands and resources are planned for and managed in accordance with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield and other principles as outlined in BLM planning regulations. The plan focuses on resolving the following three key issues identified by the public: range resource management, land tenure adjustment; and management of the Payette River Corridor. Special management concerns also addressed in the plan include access, off-road vehicles, fire management, timber base allocation and special designations.

Goal

The goal of the plan (preferred alternative) is to provide an optimum mixture of protection and enhancement of the natural environment and commodity resource utilization (renewable and nonrenewable).

Plan Summary

After a 5 year monitoring and adjustment period, livestock use would be stocked at 68,000 Animal Unit Months (AUMs), a 3% increase over current levels with the 20 year objective of stocking at 70,536 AUMs. Range improvements would include 15 miles of pipeline and 60 miles of fence. Vegetative treatments would be applied on 18,279 acres. Vegetative treatments would be conducted with methods and seed mixtures of grasses, forbs, and shrubs that benefit both wildlife and livestock. Full fire suppression management would be applied to the entire resource area. The 4-mile wild horse herd would be managed to support 20 head at the end of 20 years.

Wildlife populations would increase for mule deer, elk and antelope. Habitat improvement projects would be done on 23,912 acres. Sage grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse would benefit from improved ecological condition, reduced competition for forbs needed by grouse chicks and inclusion of wildlife needs in range improvement projects.

Riparian habitat improvement projects would be initiated along 7 miles and aquatic habitat improvement projects would be initiated along 11 miles of streams.

For land tenure adjustment, 17,604 acres would be made available for transfer from federal ownership. Of this, 560 acres would be available for potential agricultural development under the Desert Land Entry (DLE) program; 563 acres would be made available for sale, 10,107 acres for sale or exchange, and 6,374 acres for exchange only. Utility rights-of-ways (ROWS) would be restricted on 6,696 acres in the Cascade Resource Area.

Eight miles of the South Fork of the Payette River is recommended for study for possible inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (as a recreation river). Approximately 19,000 acres of the Payette River system would be designated as a Special Recreation Management Area.

Approximately 94% of the resource area would be open to leasable (oil and gas and geothermal) mineral exploration and development and 94% open to locatable mineral (gold, silver, etc.) entry. Withdrawals from mineral entry totaling 31,185 acres would be in effect.

Special designation (National Register of Historic Places) and management of cultural resource areas would be applied to nine cultural resource sites. Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation would be applied to the Boise Front, Long-billed Curlew Area and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat. Special management would be applied to five research natural areas.

An allowable cut level would be applied to 26,663 acres of forest land. Cutting would permit a harvest of approximately 1.7 million board feet annually. Limited firewood cutting would continue.

The Box Creek WSA will be managed so as not to impair its suitability for preservation as wilderness under the provisions of the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review pending a final wilderness decision.

PART I

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PART I

PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Cascade Resource Management Plan (RMP) is being prepared to provide the Bureau of Land Management, Boise District Office with a comprehensive framework for managing 487,466 acres of BLM-administered public land over the next 20 years.

The Cascade Resource Area (CRA) encompasses approximately 2.77 million acres of land bounded by the Snake River on the south and west, the boundary of the Payette National Forest (as far north as Oxbow Dam and Payette Lake), the boundary of the Boise National Forest to the east, the Mora Canal/Boise River to the south and the Ada-Canyon County line from the Mora canal to the Snake River. Of this area, 18% (487,466 acres) is public lands administered by the BLM, 7% (approximately 183,000 acres) is state lands and 75% (approximately 2,100,000 acres) is private or other land holdings. The public land holdings containing both scattered tracts and large blocks of land (Map 2) are located in Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Gem, Payette, Valley and Washington Counties in Idaho.

The basic purposes of this plan are: 1) to ensure that public lands will be managed in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield and other principles as outlined in BLM planning regulations; and 2) to ensure that the objectives and actions are responsive to the major issues and achieve an equitable and proper balance of resource use and protection as determined through public participation, consultation, coordination, and cooperation.

PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process described in BLM Planning Regulations 43 CFR 1600 used for preparing the RMP contains nine steps. These steps and the dates they were completed are shown in Figure 1. The planning process started in October 1983 and will be completed by October 1987. The process was driven by planning issues identified by the BLM and the general public. These issues are discussed in detail in the following section and addressed in all alternatives.

ISSUES

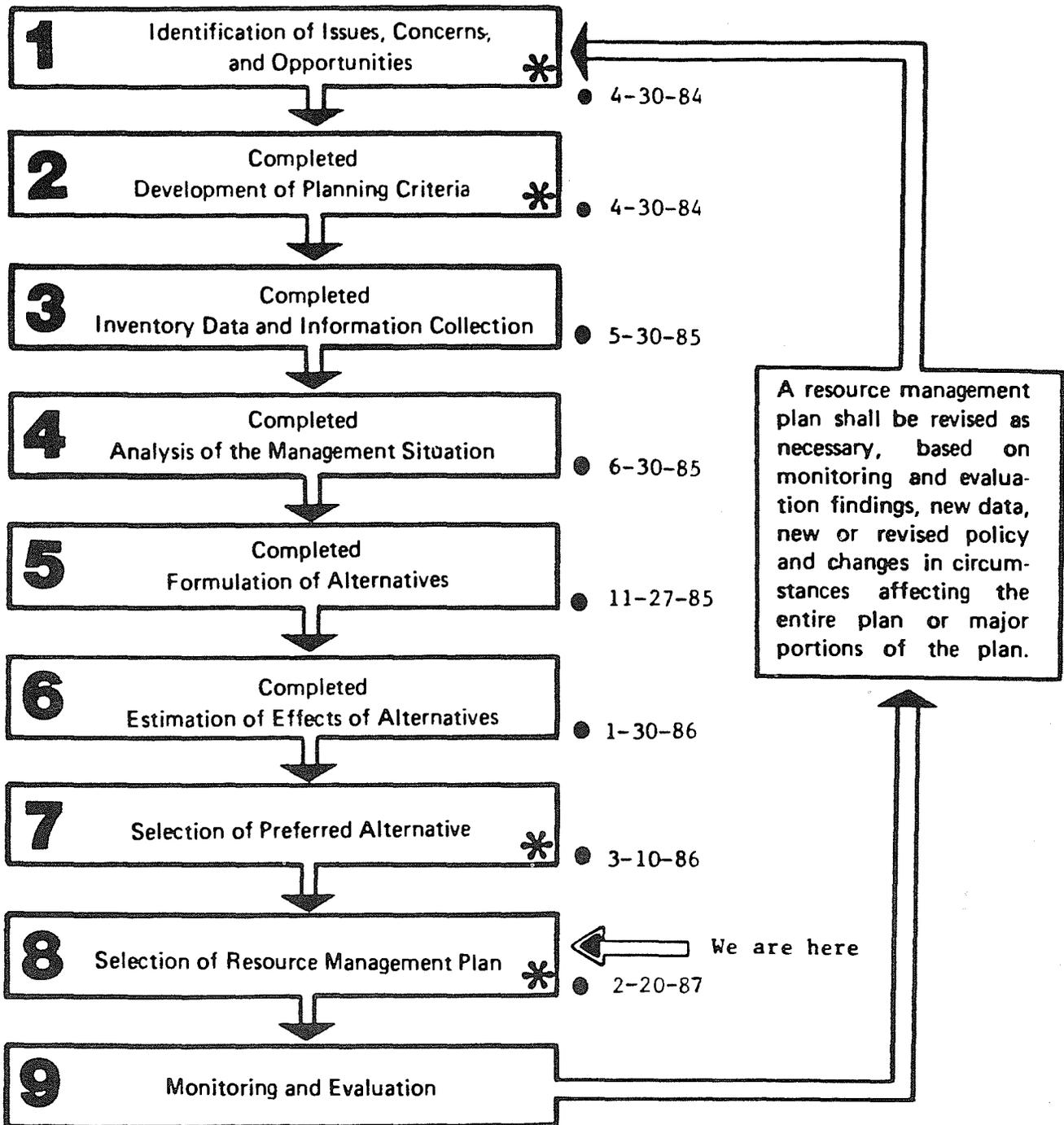
RANGELAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Issue Analysis

The management of the rangeland resource involves the distribution of vegetation among consumptive and nonconsumptive uses. Nonconsumptive uses include protection of the watershed, maintenance of visual or esthetic values, providing for the physiological needs of the vegetation and satisfying habitat requirements of wildlife. The vegetation available for

Figure 1

STEPS IN THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS



* Steps Requiring Public Participation

● Date Completed

consumptive uses includes production of forage for wildlife, livestock and wild horses. Other considerations in the management of the range resource include the protection of crucial wildlife habitat (including big game, upland, and sensitive species), the management of riparian and wetland/meadow areas, the development of projects to improve the forage resource base, the management of the wild horse herds and protection of threatened and endangered plants.

Competition exists between and among the interests. As an example, the livestock industry endorses management to increase forage production and in return increase the number of AUMs available. Other interests contend that not enough attention and protection is given to other important uses such as critical wildlife areas or watershed.

Issue Questions

In order to resolve this issue, this plan will address the following questions:

1. In what proportion will vegetation be provided for consumptive and nonconsumptive uses including livestock, wild horses, wildlife, watershed and esthetics?
2. In what proportion will increased vegetation be provided for consumptive and nonconsumptive uses?
3. What areas have the potential and what range improvement practices will be used to increase forage production?
4. What areas will be covered by management plans or intensive management?
5. How will ranges dominated by cheatgrass/medusa be managed?
6. What management and protection actions should be established for riparian, wet meadow, and natural areas?
7. What management actions are needed in critical wildlife and watershed areas?
8. What management objectives, including herd size and use areas, will be established for the wild horse herds?
9. What criteria should be established for fire rehabilitation?

RMP Action Contemplated

1. Identify areas that are currently understocked/overstocked or contain a forage utilization conflict. Propose adjustments as deemed necessary, monitor to further define the extent of the conflict and make appropriate adjustments based on the monitoring.
2. A list of conditions to be satisfied will be developed. Availability (use of) of vegetation will be based on these conditions.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

3. Specific sites will have various potentials and be suitable for various treatments. Evaluate the various alternatives and designs of range improvements and identify any conflicts these alternatives may create. The general types, locations and extent of range and watershed improvements will be outlined.
4. Identify areas on which AMP's, HMP's, WHMP's or watershed management plans will be implemented.
5. Evaluate management techniques and monitor areas to determine whether effective management can be applied to this range.
6. Evaluate condition of these zones. Projects will be designed and established for the protection, improvement and maintenance of these areas. Which areas should be managed as natural areas (outstanding, research, etc.).
7. Evaluate AUM utilization, wildlife needs, vegetation condition and soil management and develop management objectives.
8. Determine viability of present horse herds. Determine if present management plans are adequate.
9. A list of constraints or guidelines will be developed for fire rehabilitation areas. Procedures will be detailed on a case by case basis.

LAND TENURE ADJUSTMENT

Issue Analysis

A significant portion of the public lands within the Cascade Resource Area consists of scattered isolated tracts with no legal access. Because of these characteristics, they are difficult and uneconomic to manage. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 provides for the transfer (sale or exchange) of such tracts if they are not suitable for management by another Federal department or agency.

In spite of the authority and tract characteristics, segments of the public believe that these lands should be retained in Federal ownership to maintain the public land base or known resource values and preserve future management opportunities and options. Similarly, a second segment of the public believes the lands should be retained, or, if necessary exchanged to block-up existing public land holdings or acquire land with significant public values.

In contrast to the two above, a third segment of the public believes the tracts should be sold.

Issue Questions

The Cascade Resource Management Plan will address the question, "What lands should be sold, exchanged or retained to best serve the public interest and/or improve public land management?"

RMP Action Contemplated

Identify lands for disposal (sale or exchange) or retention.

FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS IN THE PAYETTE RIVER CORRIDORIssue Analysis

The Payette River System is an important resource area with numerous multiple-use concerns. The concerns involve existing and potential uses including recreation activities on and adjacent to the river, wildlife habitat (including fisheries), timber, minerals, hydroelectric power generation and water quality. There are conflicts between and among these various uses.

Administration of the public lands along the river is a complex issue because of the various interests; State of Idaho, BLM, Bureau of Reclamation, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Forest Service.

The Payette River system is very popular and use levels for recreation are increasing because of the proximity to the Treasure Valley and the national recognition the river has received for its whitewater boating qualities.

Segments of the river have been identified as having potential for addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and appeared in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, National Park Service, January, 1982.

Issue Questions

In order to resolve this issue, the plan will address the following questions:

1. Should the BLM recommend (via the Department of the Interior) that Congress amend the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to add the South Fork and Main Stem from the Sawtooth Wilderness Area boundary downstream to Banks, and/or the North Fork Payette from McCall downstream to slack water at Cascade Reservoir and from Cascade Dam downstream to confluence with mainstem at Banks, Idaho as a study river?
2. How should the public lands (BLM) along the river and within the Payette River corridor be managed?
3. What types and levels of recreation use should BLM plan and provide for on those public lands within the corridor?

RMP Action Contemplated

1. The RMP will recommend which segments of the Payette River system should be studied for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and how the public lands in the corridor will be managed during the interim.
2. Recreation facility developments and use levels will be identified.

3. Make recommendations concerning existing withdrawals and any need for future withdrawals, such as for mineral segregation.

IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE ISSUES

The Analysis of Management Situation has assessed future management opportunities. New issues/concerns/policy requirements may emerge at any time during the planning process, and if significant, will be added as an issue/concern for consideration in the RMP.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Access

The public expressed an interest in having access to all public lands. The RMP will identify where access to public lands is needed.

Off-Road Vehicles

All public land will be placed in one of three categories - open, limited or closed. The Boise Front MFP designated all land in the planning unit as limited to designated roads and trails, and this classification will stand in the RMP. The Black Canyon MFP identified three areas as open ORV parks while the rest of the area is limited to designated roads and trails.

Fire Management

The RMP will identify specific areas where fire will be used as a vegetative management tool. The entire area has been identified for full suppression.

Timber Base Allocation

The RMP will evaluate changes in the commercial forest base and levels of timber harvest due to acreage lost through exchange or restrictions such as critical, threatened and endangered habitats. A range of harvest levels will be developed in the plan. One will be identified as the preferred level.

Wilderness

The Cascade Resource Area was reviewed for wilderness study area status. One area, Box Creek, adjacent to the Payette National Forest was previously identified because of its proximity to a Forest Service roadless area. There were no additional lands identified in the scoping process for consideration as wilderness under Section 202 of FLPMA. The Box Creek WSA (110-91A) will be analyzed in a separate wilderness document and not in this plan/EIS. To avoid impairment of wilderness values, it will be managed under the provisions of the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review pending a final wilderness decision.

Special Designations

The RMP will identify areas for special designation and management (ACEC, National Register of Historic Places and Research Natural Areas).

APPROVED MFP PLANNING DECISIONS CARRIED THROUGH RMP

Boise Front MFP

Recreation

Vehicular use on public lands will be restricted to designated roads and trails as identified on the Step II overlay. Highland Valley Road and Shaw Mountain Road - will be closed to vehicular travel from January 1 - April 1 for deer winter range protection.

Black Canyon MFP

Recreation

Off-road vehicles - open areas identified on Step II overlay are: 1) Little Gem Cycle Park, and 2) Parma and Dewey ORV Parks. Limited Use Area - restrict motorized vehicles to existing roads and trails throughout the remainder of Black Canyon planning unit.

Wildlife

A long-billed curlew habitat area has been identified in the Black Canyon Planning Unit with management guidelines that include retention of the area in federal ownership, ORV restrictions during nesting season, litter control, and maintenance of the short grass types.

NON ISSUE/MANAGEMENT CONCERN PROGRAMS

Resource programs which have not surfaced as issues or management concerns will be addressed as follows in all alternatives.

Minerals

Areas now restricted/closed to mineral leasing, exploration, and development will continue to be so designated in all alternatives. Any additional segregations/restrictions (or revocations) on mineral activities will be evaluated during impact assessment and identified in Chapter 4.

Visual

Current visual resource management will apply to all alternatives.

Social and Economic

Social and economic concerns will be considered during all phases of the planning process, although no major concerns have been identified at this time.

Cultural and Paleontologic Resources

The RMP will provide for management and protection of these resources at generally the same level in all alternatives unless future information, policy, or public concerns dictate otherwise.

PLANNING CRITERIA

The following general criteria were used to prepare this plan:

1. Social and economic values;
2. Plans, programs, and policies of other Federal agencies, State and local government, and Indian tribes;
3. Existing laws, regulations, and BLM policy;
4. Future needs and demands for existing or potential resource commodities and values;
5. Public input;
6. Public welfare and safety;
7. Past and present use of public and adjacent lands;
8. Public benefits of providing goods and services in relation to costs;
9. Quantity and quality of noncommodity resource values; and
10. Environmental impacts.

Specific Idaho State-wide Planning Criteria (Idaho RMP Guidebook) and Instruction Memorandum ID-83-396 (governing land tenure adjustments) were followed. In addition, the following land disposal criteria were used to guide our land tenure related issues/questions.

1. Lands identified for transfer by sale may also be considered for disposal by means of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, Desert Land Act, Carey Act, state-in-lieu selection, exchange or other means authorized by law.
2. Lands identified for transfer by "exchange only" will not be considered for disposal by other means.

SELECTION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Livestock Grazing Management

The Preferred Alternative would make 449,059 acres available for livestock grazing. These lands would be retained in federal ownership and managed under moderate, intensive and limited management levels. Grazing levels would increase 6% over existing use at the end of 20 years. The amount of lands under stock driveway withdrawal would be reduced to 41,390 acres. Range improvement projects, AMP/CRMP updating and new AMPs would be scheduled for implementation within three time segments 0-5 years, 6-10 years, and 10-20 years.

Rationale

The proposed plan for livestock grazing was selected because it helps meet the rangeland resource management objectives of maintaining or improving the soil, esthetic, wildlife, vegetation and watershed resources. It identifies the potential for increases in livestock use if monitoring studies indicate that the basic resources (soil, vegetation, wildlife, water quality) are adequately being maintained or are improving.

Livestock production is a major component of the local economy. The Cascade Resource Area currently provides about 66,424 AUMs of forage for livestock. Generally, the resource area has limited potential for vegetative improvement through vegetation manipulation or more intensive livestock management due to soil and slope limitations and the invasion of native ranges by annual grasses; Medusahead wildrye and cheatgrass.

Land treatment proposals are included in the plan to improve rangeland condition for livestock, wild horses, wildlife and watershed. The outlook for increased forage production through land treatment is conservative because of limitations on site condition and the low potential for improving rangeland condition. Improvement on native ranges would generally result in ecological site condition class changes within the condition class rather than from one class to another, i.e., changes in the fair condition class would improve from poor fair to high fair but not from fair to good. Rangeland that is predominantly annual grass is classified as poor condition. Vegetation manipulation projects to eliminate the annual grasses would improve forage condition but would not represent a change in ecologic site condition. Revegetation of the annual grass ranges would classify these areas as seedings.

Forage increases would also be realized through more intensive management practices especially in the areas with the greatest potential such as those with native vegetation, good soils and in the higher precipitation zones.

The proposed plan would initially stock the area with 66,424 AUMs of forage for livestock with a gradual increase over the 20 year period to 70,536 AUMs. The increase in available forage would occur through more intensive livestock management and range improvements. Monitoring studies would be carried out in those allotments receiving increased livestock management and range improvements to determine forage increases and stocking

Proposed Resource Management Plan

levels. The increases are projected to occur even though the land base would be reduced over the present acreage as a result of transfers out of public ownership (sale and exchange) and limitations would be placed on livestock grazing by other resource activities, ie., sharp-tailed grouse habitat, crucial big game habitat, etc.

Prior to authorizing forage increases for livestock, rangeland condition would be monitored and evaluated to ensure basic soil and vegetative resources would be maintained or improved.

As land treatment projects are implemented and additional forage becomes available, grazing use would be shifted from areas of poor condition range within respective allotments, so the net result would be reduced grazing use in the poor condition areas. Grazing use shifts would be accomplished by salting, new water developments, fencing, herding, and other management techniques.

Range improvement projects would include mitigating measures to reflect site capabilities and protect other resource values.

Portions of existing livestock driveways are proposed to be eliminated because the need for them no longer exists.

Wild Horses

One wild horse area will be managed to maintain a viable wild horse herd size of 20 horses. Approximately 15,500 acres in the Four-Mile Creek Area will be managed to support this herd.

Rationale

Wild horses in the Four-Mile herd management area would be managed in accordance with the Wild Horse and Burro Act.

The present level of 10-12 horses would be allowed to increase to 20 horses in order to develop a more viable herd. Excess horses would be removed periodically to maintain the maximum number of twenty. If for any reason the capability did not exist to remove horses in excess of twenty, it is felt the herd area could support additional horses for a short duration without causing irreversible damage.

Under the plan, the West Crane horse herd would be removed and the horses disposed of in accordance with conditions of the Wild Horse and Burro Act. The yearlong grazing by wild horses has a negative impact on vegetation. Degradation of the vegetative resource is incompatible with livestock and wildlife management objectives for the area.

The decision to remove the West Crane wild horses from the herd area is based on the determination that uncontrollable horse use is not compatible with intensive grazing management in the West Crane allotment. It has not been possible to implement the grazing system for this allotment.

Wildlife Management

The preferred alternative will provide sufficient habitat to meet or exceed the population goals identified in the most current big game wildlife plans developed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Special management areas or provisions are provided to protect sensitive wildlife species. Approximately 23,900 acres of lands (mostly in crucial habitat) will receive land treatments.

Rationale

Increases in big game numbers from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game management plans were evaluated to determine how projected increases would impact habitat on the public lands. In many of the crucial big game habitat areas, public lands only represent a portion of the total habitat needs. The projected increases on public lands were determined considering the land ownership pattern, habitat potential and compatibility with other resource programs.

Big game numbers in this alternative over the 20 year period would increase by the following percentages for the resource area: +22% elk, +33% deer. Antelope would increase from the current population of 50 animals to 175 animals.

The Black Canyon Curlew management area would receive priority attention for maintaining bird populations at about 1,000 nesting pairs. There may be activities proposed outside the curlew management area that disrupt curlews but efforts to maintain curlew habitat would be maximized in the designated curlew management area. Maintaining curlew habitat outside the curlew management area would be considered in proposing activities in these areas but would not be the dominant consideration as it will be within the curlew management area.

Riparian/Aquatic Resources

Approximately 11 miles of streams have been selected for instream improvements and 7 miles of streams for riparian stream bank planting improvements, while 11 miles of streams would be fenced. Other proposals for livestock management and watershed protection have included provisions that will help to improve the condition on 18 miles of perennial stream habitat and 124 miles of intermittent stream habitat.

Rationale

More intensive livestock management would aid in the maintenance and improvement of riparian/aquatic habitat on 142 miles of streams.

In addition, specific projects would be proposed to correct problems and improve condition on 14 miles of streams.

Standard operating procedures would be incorporated into all management proposals to ensure protection and/or improvement for riparian and fisheries habitat.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

Threatened, Endangered, Candidate, Sensitive and Uncommon Plant Species

The preferred alternative recognizes the need to protect plant species through special management. Thirteen (13) areas have been identified to receive special management considerations that would limit land disturbing activities on these sites. Five of these areas are identified for special designation as Research Natural Areas (RNA) because of their values to the scientific and educational communities. Four of these RNAs support candidate, sensitive, or uncommon plant species and one RNA supports valuable plant communities. The remaining eight areas (with special management but without special designation) also support candidate, sensitive, or uncommon plant species.

Rationale

Special management on twelve areas (4 RNAs and 8 non-designated areas) would protect known candidate, sensitive or uncommon plant species. Special management on the remaining area (RNA) would protect it primarily for scientific and educational purposes.

Standard operating procedures would be followed in evaluating proposals to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act.

New populations of plant species would be protected as they are identified through site evaluations and other inventory programs in the resource area.

Soil and Water Quality

The preferred alternative has given special attention to areas classified as "Potential High Erosion Hazard Areas." Specific management actions have been included in the plan to recognize this situation, such as; limiting rangeland improvements, adjusting stocking levels, fire management activities and limiting ORV use in areas with granitic and sedimentary soil origins.

Rationale

Standard operating procedures would be followed to ensure management proposals are in compliance with soil and water quality standards.

Soils would be managed to maintain productivity and minimize erosion.

A variety of methods would be employed to maintain, improve, protect, and restore watershed conditions. Priority would be given to meeting emergency watershed needs due to flooding, severe drought, or fire.

The 12,000 acre Boise Front ACEC would be designated and managed to help protect the critical watershed as well as other important resource values in the area.

Lands and Realty

Approximately 3 1/2% (17,604 acres) of the resource area is identified as being available for transfer from federal ownership.

Rationale

A significant portion of the Cascade Resource Area consists of small isolated parcels with no legal or physical access. Because of these characteristics many parcels are difficult and uneconomical to manage, and could meet the needs of other agencies or private individuals. However, because of their location, some of these isolated parcels are valuable for access to other lands, possess important wildlife habitat or provide open space qualities to surrounding lands and should be retained in public ownership.

All lands identified for disposal (sale or exchange) appear to meet the disposal criteria outlined in Sections 203 and 206 of FLPMA. The tracts will be evaluated through the NEPA process and will again be compared with the requirements of Sections 203 and 206 of FLPMA prior to disposal.

Tracts proposed for disposal through the agricultural development act would be fully evaluated for resource values and economic feasibility before an allowance determination is made.

Rights-of-Ways

Over 480,000 acres of the resource area is available for various types of rights-of-ways. Rights-of-way avoidance areas have been identified and include one cultural site, 15 developed recreation areas/facilities and 13 candidate, sensitive or uncommon plant species areas.

Rationale

The concept of avoidance areas is the most realistic approach for the Cascade Resource Area because of the fragmented land pattern. In essence the public lands are open for right-of-way proposals with a few minor exceptions to protect specific site values.

The size of the areas to be avoided are relatively small and in designing routes for linear right-of-ways such as powerlines it would be realistic to work around those areas.

Recreation

The preferred alternative recommends that 8 miles of the South Fork of the Payette River be studied for possible inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River system as a recreation river.

Rationale

The South Fork of the Payette River (Banks, Idaho upstream to the boundary of the Sawtooth Wilderness Area) was identified on the Nationwide

Proposed Resource Management Plan

River Inventory developed by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service/National Park Service. It was determined that this segment meets the basic criteria as described in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The planning evaluation determined that because of past development the South Fork could not qualify for any ranking above the recreational component standard.

The plan recommendation therefore is that the South Fork of the Payette River be nominated for study as a recreational component in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

This recommendation recognizes the existing limitation of the resource and sets the standard for management of the public lands in the corridor. If Congress designates the South Fork of the Payette River as a study river, and the study eventually leads to designation as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System the same management philosophy would prevail as during the interim period.

Since the BLM is not a principal land management agency on the North Fork of the Payette River, no recommendation regarding this river segment is made.

ORVs

Off-Road Vehicle recreation activities will continue to be provided for on public lands. Six specific areas will be ORV play areas or cycle parks. Off-road vehicle use in the resource area will be open (unrestricted) on 244,118 acres (50%), limited to designated or existing roads and trails on 241,215 acres (50%), and closed on 2,133 acres (less than 1%).

Rationale

The primary soil types in the Cascade Resource Area include granitics, basalts and sediments. Within each of these major soil types certain conditions exist that qualify areas in the high erosion category, with slope the major factor affecting the erosion capability.

It is felt that basalts, even those in the high erosion capability category, appear to be resilient to use by off-road vehicles. These areas have been designated as open to off-road vehicles recognizing that topographic and vegetation would drastically limit use in some areas. Where steep terrain and heavy vegetation occurs de-facto closures and limitations actually exist.

The sediments and granitic soil types are both susceptible to damage by off-road vehicles. These classes have been designated as limited to off-road vehicles again recognizing that terrain and vegetative factors would close certain areas to off-road use.

There are a few exceptions to the limited use class in the Dewey, Parma, Little Gem and Clay Peak Cycle Park areas because of the need to provide for concentrated vehicle use close to population centers.

Selection of Preferred Alternative

Designation of these open play areas helps to divert this use from other more fragile areas and provide the opportunity to concentrate facilities to accommodate use.

The areas identified as closed to off-road vehicle use are those with candidate or sensitive plant species, proposed/existing developed recreation sites, and a motorcycle park buffer zone.

Developed Site

Twenty-one areas have been identified for various levels of recreation management. Facilities will be managed/developed at 16 specific sites within these areas (campgrounds, boat launch, trails, high ORV use areas).

Rationale

The plan identifies the need for designated sites primarily to accommodate increased demand on the important river systems (Weiser, Snake and Payette Rivers).

Because of the public land pattern in the Cascade Resource Area, most of the important recreation areas are located fairly close to population areas on lands administered by other state and federal agencies.

The recreationalist can utilize developed facilities provided by private enterprise, state parks or National Forest recreation sites while recreating on the adjacent public lands.

VRM

Visual resource classes in the resource area will be managed as follows: 81,000 acres as Class II; 383,466 acres as Class III; 23,000 acres as Class IV.

Rationale

The visual resource management system will be used to identify management proposals that may impact aesthetic values. The degree of alterations to the natural landscape would be guided by the criteria for the visual resource management classes in BLM Manual 8400.

Wilderness

The Box Creek WSA (111-91A) was not analyzed for wilderness in this document.

Rationale

The original wilderness inventory identified Box Creek as a wilderness study area because of its proximity to a National Forest roadless area. A separate EIS for areas less than 5,000 acres will evaluate this area for further wilderness consideration.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

No additional wilderness study areas were identified through the planning analysis under Section 202 of FLPMA.

Forest Management

Under the preferred alternative, 26,663 acres of suitable commercial forest lands would be managed for multiple use and sustained yield. The annual allowable cut would be approximately 1.7 million board feet.

Rationale

The commercial forest land base has been reduced by 5,232 acres including 5,139 acres for TPCC withdrawals, 70 acres for a seed orchard and 23 acres for campground withdrawal.

The proposed annual harvest of approximately 1.7 MMBF has been determined on the basis of demand for saw timber and the ability of the forest resource to produce this harvest level on a sustained yield basis. This commercial forest land base has more potential on a sustained yield basis to provide for a greater timber harvest but only with intensive timber management and a greater investment in forest development.

Sales of firewood in the resource area would be continued on a limited basis because of the associated administrative costs and the fragmented, scattered parcel locations which makes location of tracts on the ground difficult.

Minerals Management

Leasables

Oil, gas and geothermal mineral exploration and development is open on 456,289 acres (94%) of the resource area.

Rationale

Since mineral leasing is a discretionary program it is felt that any special resource protection needed can be accommodated by either not offering leases or mitigation in lease agreements. Therefore, it has not been necessary to close or restrict areas to lease consideration. Site specific evaluation would be made with all lease proposals.

Locatables

Exploration and/or development for gold, silver, lead, zinc, gypsum, diatomite, etc. in the resource area is open on 456,281 acres (94%).

Rationale

With the exception of existing withdrawals administered by other agencies there are no additional withdrawal proposals in the Cascade Resource Management Plan.

Selection of Preferred Alternative

The surface management regulations at 43 CFR 3809 provide management the opportunity to protect resource values from undue degradation during mining exploration and development.

Salables

Sands, gravels and other salable minerals would be made available from three material sites and 16 free use sites.

Rationale

The plan recognizes a continuing demand for mineral materials and the policy to make these materials available where consistent with protection of other resource values.

The procedure for salables allows for protection of resource values through the sale agreement and for adequate site rehabilitation after the materials have been removed.

Paleontologic Resource Management

Paleontologic resources will be managed under current district guidelines.

Rationale

Prior to any action that might effect paleontologic resources the area would be evaluated for the existence of these values. Mitigation to protect these resources would be part of any proposals that might impair important values.

Cultural Resource Management

Nine sites will be protected through special designation and management.

Rationale

The preferred alternative identifies and provides protection for cultural resource values in accordance with existing laws, regulations and agreements with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Eight of the sites will be nominated for consideration on the National Register of Historic Places. One site is already listed.

Standard operating conditions and cultural site clearance procedures would be applied prior to project authorization and during the development process.

Fire Control Management

With the exception of identified prescribed burn areas, full fire suppression policy will apply to the resource area.

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Rationale

Because of the resource values, soil erosion capability and proximity of public lands to cities, towns and private residences, full suppression efforts would be applied to all wildfires in the Cascade Resource Area. The only exception to full suppression would be for specific site locations identified as having potential for prescribed burning practices.

Provisions would be made to recognize resource values in planning prescribed burns to meet the objectives of all resource programs. Wildfire rehabilitation efforts would be planned with other resource value objectives in mind.

Special Designation

Areas/Sites

Special designations include the following; 5 Research Natural Areas, 9 National Register of Historic Places, 3 Special Recreation Management Areas, 2 Extensive Recreation Management Areas, 1 Wild and Scenic River, 3 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, 6 ORV play areas/parks, 4 Campgrounds, 3 Boat Launch Sites, 1 Picnic Site and 1 Interpretive Trail.

Rationale

In addition to the special designation mentioned under the threatened/endangered plant species section (research natural areas) and cultural resource management section (potential National Register sites), three areas qualify for special designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). These areas possess important resource values that are threatened or could be damaged by incompatible uses. The ACEC designation would serve to identify these areas as requiring special management attention. Special management is needed to maintain or improve existing resource condition.

No action to withdraw the areas from activities such as minerals, land transfer or agricultural development is deemed necessary. The regulations for leasable minerals and the surface management regulations for locatables would be adequate. The identification of the areas for retention in public ownership would prevent transfer of the lands under the various land laws. Disposal of all or portions of these areas would be allowed under the General Mining Law but would be unlikely due to low mineral potential.

MULTIPLE USE AND TRANSFER CLASSES

Management intensities for lands in the Resource Area are assigned to one of the following multiple use or transfer classes: moderate use class, limited use class, intensive use class, or transfer class.

Multiple use and transfer classes serve two purposes in this plan. The first is to describe overall resource opportunities and constraints by indicating what level of resource production and use is appropriate, what intensity of management is needed, whether there are sensitive and significant resources which must be protected, and whether BLM would transfer

public lands from its jurisdiction. The second is to provide a basis for developing specific resource management objectives and actions for each multiple use area with general purpose and policy statements.

Prior to undertaking or approving any proposed resource management action on public lands in the Resource Area, BLM will ensure that such action is consistent with the purposes and policies of the multiple use or transfer class or classes involved and that adequate public involvement is obtained.

Public lands are placed in the multiple use or transfer class that best reflects the specific resources and management priorities for the area. A description of these classes and their purposes, policies and the management areas' goals and guidelines are as follows:

Moderate Use Class

The purpose of a moderate use class is to delineate public lands which are suitable for a wide variety of existing and potential use.

The general policies for managing a moderate use class are to provide for the production and use of forage, timber, minerals and energy, other consumptive resources, and recreation while maintaining or enhancing natural systems. These areas will be managed for a moderate intensity of use. These areas will generally be available for production and use of consumptive resources, subject to BLM standard operating procedures and other controls as needed. Sensitive and significant resource values, however, will be protected consistent with federal and state law.

Public lands in a moderate use class are to be retained in federal ownership. Management areas covered by the moderate use class and their goals and guidelines are as follows:

M-1 General Rangeland Management Area

Description: Consists primarily of grassland and shrubland with minor inclusions of forest. It includes wet meadows, lands adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams, ponds, bogs, marshes, seeps, and springs, wildlife and fisheries habitat (including crucial habitat). It also includes lands for visual and recreational enjoyment, watershed and water quality protection, dry parks, and open grassland and shrubland varying in size from a few to thousands of acres. These lands provide wildlife, wild horse and livestock forage.

Goals and Guidelines: Emphasis will be on maintaining or enhancing forage production for livestock, wild horses, and wildlife while maintaining site productivity, water quality, and stream stability and providing for other uses. Utility ROW development will be allowed. Public lands within this area will be retained. ORV recreation use will be designated as limited, open or closed depending on specific situations in this area. Range management practices will include special measures to protect riparian values. Mineral activities will be fully allowed.

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M-2 General Forest Management Area

Description: Consists of commercial forest lands of varying physical environments classified as suitable for sustained yield timber management through Timber Production Capability Classification (TPCC). It also includes nonsuitable commercial forest land as well as woodland withdrawn from timber management as a result of TPCC Classification. These areas may include cliffs, caves, rock outcrops, talus, and mature stands of timber growing on sites with severe limitations.

Goals and Guidelines: Emphasis will be on managing timber to maintain healthy stands, optimize timber growing potential, and regulate sustained timber production while maintaining site productivity, water quality, stream stability, and unique features for wildlife habitat, and providing for other uses. Livestock grazing generally will continue where use currently exists. Utility ROWs development will be allowed. A broad range of timber production activities will be permitted. Timber and range management practices will include special measures to protect riparian and other resource values found in this area. Public lands within this area will be retained in public ownership. ORV recreation use will be designated as limited, open or closed depending on specific situations in the area. Mineral activity will be fully allowed.

Intensive Use/Development Class

The purpose of an intensive use/development class is to delineate areas suitable for large scale or intensive use and development.

The general policies for managing an intensive use/development class are to provide for existing and projected demands for large scale or intensive use and development. These areas will be managed for a high intensity of use. These areas will be reserved for major or high density recreation sites or facilities, ORV intensive use areas, large scale or high intensive mineral or energy extraction operations, military use areas, or major utility installations. Because of the potential for conflict with other uses in these areas, some uses may not be permitted. Protection of sensitive and significant resources, however, will be ensured consistent with federal and state law. Public lands in an intensive use/development class will be retained in federal ownership but would be subject to federal mining laws governing patent unless withdrawn from mineral entry by the Secretary of Interior or by Congressional action.

I-1 Mineral Production Area

Description: Consists of lands for active or recently active mineral extraction and processing operations and the immediate surrounding vicinity.

Goals and Guidelines: Emphasis will be on providing for mineral production while protecting important wildlife values, restoring water quality and rehabilitating site productivity and stream stabilization through reclamation. Livestock grazing will not be permitted in areas where conflicts would exist. Utility ROW development will be allowed. Timber management activities will be unlikely. These lands generally will remain in

public ownership unless mineral values warrant patenting. ORV recreation use will be limited or closed.

I-2 Developed Recreation Area

Description: Consists of existing and potential recreation use areas that provide developed, minimal, or no facilities to support high density recreation activities.

Goals and Guidelines: Emphasis will be on maintaining and enhancing recreation sites while maintaining water quality, stream stability and important wildlife values. Livestock grazing may be permitted. Utility ROW development generally will not be permitted. Timber management activities will be limited to sanitation or salvage and will occur only when timber sales are scheduled for adjoining lands or when needed to meet other management goals for the area or if a safety hazard exists. Timber, range, and recreation management practices will include special measures to protect riparian values. Public lands within this area will remain in public ownership. ORV recreation use generally will be open for designated ORV areas but may be limited or closed at other developed sites.

Limited Use Class

The purpose of a limited use class is to delineate public lands where strict environmental controls are required to protect sensitive and significant resources.

The general policies for managing a limited use class are to fully protect and enhance sensitive and significant resources, while providing for other compatible uses. These areas will be managed for relatively low intensities of use and with strict environmental controls to protect sensitive and significant values. A limited use class may be closed to or contain restrictions on ORV use, mineral and energy exploration and development, forest management practices, location of utility ROWs and installations, livestock grazing, or any other potentially conflicting use. Public lands in a limited use class will be retained in public ownership.

L-1 Historical, Cultural or Paleontologic Sites/Areas

Description: Consists of scattered sites on BLM lands that are of historic, cultural or paleontologic significance.

Goals and Guidelines: Emphasis will be on protection of these values. Livestock grazing generally may be permitted where established. Utility ROW development generally will not be permitted. Timber management activities will be prohibited on those sites added to the National Register of Historic Places. Withdrawal from mineral entry may be sought and limitations on other mineral operations may be imposed. Public lands within these areas will remain in public ownership. ORV recreation use may be either limited or closed depending on the values needing protection.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

L-2 Special Management Areas

Description: Areas distinguished by special, unique, or natural characteristics which require some form of special management. Designations include Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Research Natural Areas, Special Recreation Management Areas, Wild and Scenic River, and Wild Horse Herd Areas.

Goals and Guidelines: Emphasis will be on maintaining the special, unique, or natural characteristics of each area while providing opportunities for dispersed recreation, research, observation, study, environmental education, and interpretation. Livestock grazing may be permitted but in some cases adjusted where already established. Utility ROW development generally will not be permitted. Timber management activities will be allowed if consistent with site-specific management goals. Withdrawal from mineral entry and other limitations may be sought. Public lands in these areas will remain in public ownership. ORV recreation use will be open, limited or closed depending on the management objectives for the specific sites.

Transfer Class

The purpose of a transfer class is to delineate public lands available for transfer out of federal ownership.

A transfer class is the only class in which public lands may be transferred out of federal ownership under this plan. Public lands declared eligible for transfer by their inclusion in this category are subject to detailed consideration prior to the final decision regarding transfer. Transfer classes are delineated in response to specific demands and needs identified during the planning process, such as agricultural development, community expansion, and other transfers, including transfers to the State of Idaho. Transfer classes will be managed on a custodial basis until transferred from federal jurisdiction. New public investments in these lands will generally be kept to a minimum.

Categories for Transfer

Lands available for transfer will be assigned to one of four categories. These categories are:

T-1: Sale Only - These lands may be designated for:

- Direct Sale - one party pay fair market value,
- Competitive Sale - open bid with highest bidder awarded offered lands,
or
- Modified Competitive - adjacent landowner can meet highest bid and get offered lands.

T-2: Sale or Exchange - Same as T-1 or a land trade with another public agency or a private landowner.

T-3: Exchange Only - These lands generally are offered only if equal or better lands can be received by the BLM to meet various program objectives, i.e., wildlife habitat, recreational access.

T-4: Desert Land Entry (DLE) - These lands may be transferred through Desert Land Application for agricultural development.

T-5: Commercial Forest Lands - These lands may only be considered for the exchange of land (State or private) containing resource values of national significance such as, within boundaries of wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, historic, cultural or paleontologic areas, endangered species habitat or crucial wildlife habitat that can be managed by the BLM or for other commercial forest lands of equal value that would improve BLM management.

Retention Areas

All public lands not identified in a transfer category will be retained in public ownership and managed under one of the three multiple use categories. Those lands determined to be unsuitable for disposal, after detailed consideration, will be retained. Requests to consider lands for possible transfer, after plan approval, will be evaluated through the amendment procedure in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-5) and BLM Manual 1616.22 and 1617.4A or B.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING AREA

The Cascade Resource Area is located within the administrative boundary of the Boise District. It is situated in west-central Idaho. The Resource Area is defined by the Snake River on the west and southwest; the Boise and Payette National Forest boundaries on the east; the northern line of Adams County on the north; and the Boise River-New York and Mora Canals - Ada/Canyon County line on the southeast.

The Resource Area encompasses a land base of approximately 2.77 million acres. This area includes all or portions of Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Gem, Payette, Valley and Washington Counties. Land ownership consists of public lands (487,000 acres), State of Idaho (183,000 acres) and private (2.10 million acres).

In general, the public lands consist of scattered, unconsolidated tracts intermingled with the state and private lands. The Bureau of Land Management administers approximately 456,466 acres of the public lands. The remaining 31,000 acres are managed cooperatively with other federal agencies such as the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey and Department of Defense.

The Cascade Resource Area is the most heavily populated in the Boise District, if not the state. According to the "1980 Census of Population," issued in June 1983, approximately 305,000 people or 32% of Idaho's population reside in the Resource Area. The majority of these people are located within the Treasure Valley in the Cities of Boise (the state's capital and largest city), Nampa and Caldwell. Other cities located in the Resource Area include Emmett, Payette, Weiser, McCall, Cascade, and Horseshoe Bend, Council and Cambridge.

The detailed environmental characteristics of the Resource Area are described in the Analysis of Management Situation documents available for review at the Boise District Office.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE E

The objective of this alternative is to provide an optimum mixture of protection and enhancement of the natural environment with commodity resource utilization (renewable and nonrenewable). Preservation of significant natural resource features is provided for along with moderate increases in commodity resource use.

A portion of the Payette River would be recommended for study for possible addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System.

The planning decisions for recreation and wildlife in the Boise Front and Black Canyon MFPs would be unchanged and protection of the habitat area for long-billed curlews in the Black Canyon area would be maintained.

Areas of special interest or fragile environments would be given special designation such as research natural areas and ACECs.

The 487,466 acres of public lands would be placed into one of four multiple use or transfer categories as follows:

<u>328,453</u>	acres Moderate,	<u>3,004</u>	acres Intensive
<u>138,403</u>	acres Limited,	<u>17,604</u>	acres Transfer

Livestock Resources

Objectives

Manage 449,059 acres of rangeland to provide forage for livestock and wild horses.

Livestock AUMs: 72,571 Active Pref., 66,424 Licensed
66,257 Initial, 68,000 5 yr., 70,536 20 yr.

Wild Horses-Numbers: 4 Mile 10 Initial, 20 20 yr.
West Crane Creek 12 Initial, 0 20 yr.

Wild Horses-AUMs: 20 yrs.: 4 Mile 240; West Crane 0

Actions

Stock Driveways: 40,763 existing maintained, 22,237 existing eliminated
(acres) 627 new added, 41,390 total available

Vegetative Manipulation:

5 yrs - 5,000 acres burn, spray and/or seed; 2,000 acres disc'd & seed
20 yrs - 18,279 acres burn, spray and/or seed; 6,000 acres disc'd & seed

Projects: 60 mi. fence, 66 reservoirs/wells/springs, 15 mi. pipelines

Activity Plans: 7 existing AMPs/CRMPs to be reviewed and updated.
12 AMPs will be prepared.

Livestock grazing will continue and may be adjusted on currently grazed public lands classified for transfer but under temporary nonrenewable basis until lands are transferred.

Special Considerations

Seed mixtures on vegetative manipulations will include grass, forb and shrub species that will benefit both livestock and wildlife.

Note: For analysis purposes for livestock use levels (AUMs), it was assumed that only the current land transfer applications being processed would be completed within the next 5 years and that no other land transfers would occur within the next 5 years. Consequently the 5-year forage level for livestock in the preferred alternative is not comparable with the 5-year forage level for livestock in Alternatives A, B, C, or D since it was assumed that all land transfers in these alternatives would be completed at the end of 5 years. See Appendix G for further information.

Watershed Resources

Objectives

Provide special designation and management for the Boise Front area (12,000 acres).

Actions

Designate 12,000 acres of the Boise Front as an ACEC and prepare/update the following activity plans - HMP, RAMP.

Vegetative Resources

Objectives

Protect Federal candidate and sensitive plants.

Protect and manage 13 specific sites containing candidate, sensitive or uncommon plants or valuable plant communities.

Improve general condition on 32% of all fair and 11% of all good condition rangeland.

Change or improve condition on 31% of the poor condition rangeland and maintain condition on remaining.

Actions

Develop and implement management actions for areas found containing candidate or sensitive plants. Fence selected areas where harmful disturbance is likely. Monitor suspected areas.

Exclude surface and subsurface ROWs in these areas known to contain candidate or sensitive plants.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

Include no surface occupancy stipulations in all mineral leases.

Adjust livestock grazing practices and reduce livestock preferences in allotments in poor and fair condition.

Mechanically treat (through range and wildlife projects) areas of poor and fair condition rangeland that possess a high return potential.

Designate and manage 13 areas as follows:

Special Management Areas	De-signations	Acres	Minerals (acres)			ROW Avoidance (acres) 1/			ORV Use (acres) 2/		
			Locat-ables With-drawal	Leaseables		0	Surf	Sub	0	L	C
				Clo-sed	No Surf.						
1. Lost Basin Grassland ^{3/}	RNA	65	0	0	65	0	65	65	0	0	65
2. Rebecca Sandhill	RNA	410	0	0	410	0	410	410	0	0	410
3. Sand Hollow ^{4/} ^{3/}	None	500	0	0	500	0	500	500	0	500	0
4. Summer Creek ^{4/}	RNA	240	0	0	240	0	240	240	0	0	240
5. Paraphyllum Rock	None	40	0	0	40	0	40	40	0	0	40
6. Beacon Hill	None	20	0	0	20	0	20	20	0	20	0
7. Sagebrush Hill	None	10	0	0	10	0	10	10	0	0	10
8. Buckwheat Flats	RNA	200	0	0	200	0	200	200	0	0	200
9. 4th July Meadow	None	100	0	0	100	0	100	100	0	0	100
10. Sand Capped Knob	None	40	0	0	40	0	40	40	0	0	40
11. Goodrich Creek ^{3/}	RNA	440	0	0	440	0	440	440	0	0	440
12. Pearl	None	400	0	0	400	0	400	400	0	400	0
13. Prostrate Ceanothus	None	80	0	0	80	0	80	80	0	80	0

1/ 0 = Overhead; Surf = Surface; Sub = Subsurface.

2/ 0 = Open, L = Limited, C = Closed.

3/ Exclude or limit livestock grazing.

4/ No water or salt blocks in area or on ridgeline.

Projects: 6 mi. fencing

5 acres for interpretive signing

Activity Plans: Incorporate management needs for candidate and sensitive plant species in all activity plans where plants are known. Prepare five Research Natural Area Management Plans.

Wildlife Resources

Objectives

Manage 181,640 acres of elk habitat, 275,250 acres of deer habitat and 4,400 acres of antelope crucial winter habitat and provide forage to support proposed populations of these animals.

Manage 185,860 acres of sage grouse habitat to improve brooding and nesting habitat.

Improve 23,912 acres of wildlife habitat through new seeding and interseeding existing areas and shrub plantings.

Provide special management on 61,000 acres of curlew and 32,960 acres of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse habitats to improve populations of these sensitive species.

Maintain existing habitats for other wildlife species.

Wildlife Unit Months:	<u>7,124</u> Elk,	<u>44,612</u> Deer,	<u>1,800</u> Antelope
Expected Population:	<u>191</u> yrlong Elk,	<u>961</u> yrlong Deer,	<u>175</u> yrlong
	<u>1,208</u> winter Elk,	<u>8,270</u> winter Deer,	Antelope

Actions

Vegetative Manipulation: 10,387 acres Shrub, Grass & Forb Seeding,
8,295 acres Burn, Disc & Seed,
2,230 acres Interseed,
3,000 acres Special Project Seeding

Projects: 30 mi. fence, 2 Guzzlers

Activity Plans: HMP for Curlew, Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse; and deer (Boise Front).

Designate 61,000 acres of curlew habitat and 4,200 acres of sharp-tailed grouse habitat as ACECs.

Special Considerations (rehabilitation, seed mixture, seasonal restrictions, ORV restrictions)

Riparian and Aquatic Resources

Objectives

Improve the condition of 16 stream miles of riparian habitat. Continue present management on 102 stream miles of riparian habitat.

Improve the condition of 14 miles of aquatic habitat and continue present management on 66 miles of aquatic habitat.

Actions

Adjust livestock grazing practices on riparian areas in allotments where riparian/aquatic projects are proposed.

Incorporate riparian pastures, grazing systems, and/or special measures in AMPs to improve all riparian and aquatic habitat.

Projects: 11 mi. fencing, 11 mi. instream work
7 mi. of stream bank planting

Proposed Resource Management Plan

Lands and Realty

Objectives

Identify for transfer from federal ownership 17,604 acres of public lands (563 acres through sale (T1) and 10,107 acres through sale or exchange (T2) and 6,374 acres through exchange (T3), and 560 acres through DLE (T4)). Retain 469,862 acres of public lands in federal ownership.

Actions

Initiate clearance actions (cultural, wildlife, paleontologic, etc.) on lands to be transferred. Provide 2-year notification to livestock permittees once the final decision to transfer has been made.

Recreation Resources

Objectives

Provide or enhance recreation use at 21 areas.

Provide for ORV recreation activity on public lands.

Manage 2,600 acres of public lands along the Payette River as a Wild and Scenic River (recreational category).

Actions

Designate ORV recreation activity as open on 244,118 acres, limited (to existing or designated roads and trails) on 241,215 acres and closed on 2,113 acres.

Manage 11,084 acres of public lands recommended for transfer as limited to designated or existing roads and trails and 6,160 acres as open for ORV recreation, until lands are transferred.

Recommend the study of 8 miles of Payette River (South Fork) for possible inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as a recreation river.

Obtain recreational access through easements and acquisition of lands.

Designate and manage 21 areas as follows:

Sites	Special Management Areas		Minerals (acres)			ROW 1/ Avoidance (acres)			ORV (acres) 2/		
			Locat-ables	Lease-ables	No	0	Surf	Sub.	0	L	C
	Type	Acres	With-drawal	Clo-sed	Surf	0	Surf	Sub.	0	L	C
1. Cascade Uplands <u>3/</u>	ERMA	334,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	241,498	88,039	5
2. Weiser River	Boat Launch	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
3. Clay Peak	Cycle Park	948	0	0	948	0	948	0	436	0	512
4. Oxbow Brownlee <u>4/</u>	SRMA	40,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39,779	0
5. Steck	Campground	11	0	0	11	11	11	0	0	0	11
6. Weiser Dunes	Play Area <u>5/</u>	200	0	0	0	0	200	0	200	0	0
7. Snake River	Boat Launch	10	0	0	10	10	10	0	0	10	0
8. Payette River <u>6/</u>	SRMA/WSR	19,000/ (2,600/ 8 mi)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18,984	0
9. North Fork <u>5/</u>	Campground	10	0	0	10	10	10	0	0	0	10
10. Garden Valley	Boat Launch	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
11. South Fork <u>5/</u>	Campground	3	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	3
12. Chief Parrish	Picnic Site	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	2
13. Boise Front <u>7/</u>	SRMA/ACEC	12,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,995	0
14. Hulls Gulch	Interpret. Trail	5	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	5
15. Treasure Valley <u>8/</u>	ERMA	72,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	68,780	0
16. Little Gem	Cycle Park	3,000	0	0	0	0	3,000	0	2,100	900	0
17. Dewey	Play Area	30	0	0	0	0	<u>9/</u> 30	0	30	0	0
18. Parma	Play Area	10	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	0	0
19. Pickles Butte	Play Area	180	0	0	0	0	180	0	180	0	0
20. Paddock Reservoir <u>5/</u>	Campground	5	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	0	5
21. Birds of Prey	Natural Area	640	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	640	0

1/ 0 = Overhead; Surf = Surface; Sub = Subsurface.2/ 0 = Open; L = Limited; C = Closed.3/ Specific constraints covered under Weiser River, Clay Peak and Paddock Reservoir.4/ Specific constraints covered under Steck, Weiser Dunes and Snake River.5/ Exclude or limit livestock grazing.6/ Specific constraints covered under North Fork, Garden Valley, South Fork and Chief Parrish.7/ Specific constraints covered under Hulls Gulch.8/ Specific constraints covered under Little Gem, Dewey, Parma and Pickles Butte.9/ Except for electrical transmission towers in existing right-of-way.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

Projects: Water and/or sanitary facilities - 8, launch ramp - 1, access - 8

Activity Plans: RAMPs for Oxbow-Brownlee, Boise Front and Payette River Corridor.

Cultural Resources

Objectives

Protect, through special designation and management, areas with significant cultural values.

Actions

Nominate eight sites to the National Register of Historic Places and manage as shown below.

Surface and subsurface ROWs will be routed to avoid cultural sites.

Sites	NR 1/ Acres	Minerals (acres)			ROW			ORV Use		
		Locatables		Leaseables	Avoidance			(acres) 3/		
		Withdrawal	Closed	No Surf	0	S	Sub	0	L	C
1. Placerville Townsite	8 4/	8	0	8	0	8	8	0	8	0
2. Grays Creek	40	2/	0	2/	0	2/	2/	0	40	0
3. Indian Creek	20	2/	0	2/	0	2/	2/	0	20	0
4. Milk Creek	20	2/	0	2/	0	2/	2/	0	20	0
5. Cabin Creek	20	2/	0	2/	0	2/	2/	0	20	0
6. Quartzburg	386	2/	0	2/	0	2/	2/	0	386	0
7. Centerville	516	2/	0	2/	0	2/	2/	0	516	0
8. Pioneerville	581	2/	0	2/	0	2/	2/	0	581	0
9. Mineral	429	2/	0	2/	0	2/	2/	0	429	0

1/ National Register of Historic Places.

2/ Acreage to be determined by National Register nomination process.

3/ 0 = Open, L = Limited, C = Closed.

4/ National Register of Historic Places (existing).

5/ 0 = Overhead; S = Surface; Sub = Subsurface.

Projects: 5 mi. fencing

Activity Plans: CRMP (9)

Forest Resources

Objectives

Manage 26,663 acres of suitable commercial forest land for timber management and harvest.

Allow firewood harvesting (commercial and noncommercial) on forest lands.

Manage 5,232 acres of forest lands under CFL set asides. This includes 5,139 acres for TPCC withdrawal, 70 acres for seed withdrawal, and 23 acres for campground withdrawal.

Provide an annual harvest of approximately 1.7 MMBF.

Obtain access to suitable commercial forest lands through acquisition when necessary for program management.

Actions

Projects: Build 68 mi. of forest access road (3.4 miles annually)
 Acquire access on one to two areas

Activity Plans: Timber Management Plans

Special Considerations

Harvesting of suitable commercial forest land will generally be through selective cutting practices. Any clearcutting will be limited to a size of 40 acres or less. Timber harvest would occur on approximately 150-700 acres annually.

Mineral Resources

Objectives

Make 456,281 acres (94% of area) available for locatable exploration and development and 456,289 acres (94% of area) for leaseable mineral exploration and development.

Continue making available saleable minerals from three material sale sites and 16 free-use sites as needed.

Actions

Leaseables (acres)			Locatables (acres)		Saleables (acres)	
Open	Closed	No Surface Occ.	Open	Withdrawn	Available	Unavailable
456,289	31,177	3,549	456,281	31,185	95	0

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

This plan recommends ACEC designation for three areas which met the criteria (of relevance and importance) to be considered for ACEC designations (Boise Front Area; Columbian Sharp-tail Grouse Habitat Area; and the Black Canyon Long-billed Curlew Management Area). The ACECs are shown on Map 2-3. The following summarizes the description and special requirements for the three ACECs recommended in the RMP. Additional information are available at the Boise District Office, BLM.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

Name: Boise Front Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Purpose

The purpose for designating 12,000 acres of the Boise Front as an ACEC is to focus attention and identify management direction on this important natural resource. Management objectives are to protect and enhance the watershed resource, quality of wildlife habitat, variety of recreation opportunities, and scenic values.

Site Description

The Boise Front ACEC would encompass 12,000 acres in the hills and mountains lying immediately north and east of Boise, Idaho. The 12,000 acres are situated in a land ownership pattern with adjacent Forest Service, Idaho Fish and Game, State Department of Public Lands, and private lands. Elevations range from 3,200 feet at Lucky Peak reservoir to 5,680 feet near Lucky Peak. Topography is generally steep. A major portion of the land area contains slopes of 20 to 60 percent.

Soils in the area are formed in deeply weathered granite of the Idaho Batholith and are highly erosive and easily disturbed when dry or saturated.

Present vegetation includes cheatgrass and other annuals at the lower elevations, sagebrush and bitterbrush at mid elevations, and scattered stands of Douglas fir and ponderosa pine at higher elevations. Five major drainages usually provide streamflows throughout the year. Other stream courses are generally dry during the summer months with spring snowmelt and rainstorms contributing to seasonal streamflows. The major drainages and many smaller ones support riparian vegetation. Livestock use includes approximately 325 cattle in a rest/rotation grazing system managed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Several bands of sheep trail across the area in spring and fall.

In 1959 after a fire eliminated much of the vegetative cover, two separate storms caused serious flooding and sediment damage to the northeast portion of the City of Boise. Following a costly cleanup, extensive watershed rehabilitation work was done by several agencies in a joint effort to stabilize the vulnerable resource. The terraces constructed as part of that effort are still visible from the City of Boise and vicinity as a reminder of the areas sensitivity to disturbance and forces of nature.

Resource Values

The Boise Front functions as an important ground water recharge area. Snow melt and rain waters enter the soil and percolate down through the granitic soils, faults and fractures and eventually create groundwater reservoirs. These subsurface reservoirs release water at numerous springs and support the perennial streams and riparian vegetation. Much of the subsurface flows accumulate in groundwater reservoirs which are available for Boise Valley users. The City of Boise is a major user of this groundwater and operates several groundwater wells for municipal use including geothermal heating.

The Boise Front is a crucial winter range for approximately 4,000 mule deer. The Highland Valley and Shaw Mountain roads are currently closed to vehicles from December 15 to April 1 to protect this herd. Upland game birds (quail, dove, chukar and Gray partridge), numerous small mammals, reptiles and non game birds are also found in the area. Two candidate (Federal Category II) plants, Aaseae's onion (Allium aaseae) and Mulford milkvetch (Astragalus mulfordea) have been identified in the area.

Recreation use on the Boise Front includes ORV activities, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and interpretive uses along the Hulls Gulch National Recreation Trail.

The Boise Front is a scenic backdrop for the City of Boise and surrounding area. Although there are several powerlines traversing the area, they are generally not noticeable from a distance. More noticeable are the roads and trails, many of which have been established through unrestricted ORV use. It is currently managed as a Class II visual resource.

Cause for Concern

The combination of steep slopes and highly erodible granitic soils make the area extremely sensitive to changes in the vegetative community through surface disturbing activities. Disturbance of the vegetative community can lead to rill and gully erosion which are now evident on the Boise Front. Much of the serious rill and gully erosion has been attributed to disturbance caused by off road vehicle use. This erosion can reduce the function and value of the area as a watershed and groundwater recharge area. Springs and riparian vegetation may also be reduced. The current erosion problems are increasing and the ability of the area to fully function in its capacity as a watershed is threatened.

Surface disturbing activities which can lead to undesirable vegetative changes and erosion include unrestricted motorized and nonmotorized vehicle use, road construction and maintenance, mineral extraction, certain rights-of-way, fire occurrence, and suppression activities.

The scars from severe erosion can also reduce the attractiveness of the area as a scenic backdrop for viewers from the Boise vicinity and can reduce the quality of recreation activities.

Vehicle use and human disturbance during the winter months can reduce the effectiveness of winter habitat for deer populations by adding stress during a critical time.

Management Guidelines

Resource Use Limitations

The following resource use limitations will apply to the Boise Front ACEC to protect resource values:

1. Motorized and nonmotorized vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

2. The Highland Valley and Shaw Mountain roads will be closed to motorized and nonmotorized vehicle use from December 15 to April 1.
3. The upper portion of the 8th Street Road will be closed to 4-wheeled vehicles during the wet winter months.
4. The area will be managed to conform to Class II Visual Resource Management Guidelines.
5. All lands within the ACEC will be retained in Federal ownership.

Management Emphasis

The following activities will receive management emphasis to further protect resource values:

1. Closure and rehabilitation of certain roads and trails.
2. Maintenance and reconstruction of existing roads and trails.
3. Restriction of future rights-of-way to insure minimal erosion and visual intrusion.
4. Full fire suppression.
5. Rehabilitation of burned areas.
6. Installation of water control structures to reduce erosion where needed.

Name: Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Purpose

The purpose for designating 4,200 acres as an ACEC is to intensify habitat management for one of the last remaining populations of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse in western Idaho. The basic management objectives will be to improve, protect and enhance the quality of the habitat for this sensitive species.

Site Description

This ACEC would be located approximately 16 miles north of Weiser, Idaho on the south side of Hitt Mountain with USFS land, State land and private lands on the north, east and south.

It is bordered on the west by Mann Creek while Sage Creek and Deer Creek transect the area.

Topography is mostly rolling hills with some steep slopes adjacent to Mann and Sage Creeks. Elevation varies from 3,200 feet to 4,000 feet. Soils

are mixed and it is not uncommon to find pockets of loamy soil interspersed in shallow rocky soils.

The area presents a mosaic of vegetation types corresponding to the various soils. Vegetation associations include big sagebrush/grasses and mountain shrub patches with aspen, serviceberry, chokecherry, bittercherry and snowbrush shrubs, riparian zones with willow, rose and hawthorne shrubs with the northern areas of ponderosa pine with some Douglas-fir.

Resource Values

In addition to Columbian sharp-tailed grouse (Tympanuchus phasianellus columbianus), the area contains important spring, fall and summer habitat for mule deer which are common in the area. Concentrations of migrating mule deer use the area during the spring and fall. It is also important spring and fall elk range. The area has a rich diversity of wildlife. It supports a variety of mammals from coyotes to deer mice. Approximately 180 different species of birds have been observed on the area.

Causes for Concern

Columbian sharp-tailed grouse were once abundant and widespread throughout the northwest. This species has disappeared from most of its former range and it is now extinct in California, Oregon and Nevada and reduced to remnant populations over the remainder of its range.

Currently, remaining populations in Idaho are small and disjunct. In western Idaho, populations are extremely rare and are limited to Washington and Adams Counties. The largest known population in western Idaho is found in the vicinity of this ACEC. There are four known dancing grounds in the area and the fluctuating population numbers approximately 200 birds.

The Columbian sharp-tailed grouse has been designated as a "Species of Special Concern" by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and as a "Sensitive Species" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). BLM policy is to maintain or increase current population levels of sensitive species through habitat protection and enhancement.

Management Guidelines

Resource Use Limitations

1. Motorized vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails.
2. Livestock grazing will be adjusted to allow the range to reach and maintain optimal habitat condition.
3. Surface occupancy for all oil and gas, and geothermal leases will be determined on a site specific basis.
4. Seasonal occupancy stipulations will be applied on all oil and gas and geothermal leases.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

5. Rights-of-ways construction activities for transmission lines, pipelines and other major projects will not be allowed during the nesting and brood-rearing periods.
6. No permanent new roads will be allowed in the area.
7. All lands within the ACEC will be retained in Federal ownership.

Management Emphasis

1. Develop a fully comprehensive habitat management plan for the area.
2. Fire rehabilitation and vegetative manipulation will be conducted with native species emphasized.
3. Maintenance of the bordering fences to manage livestock movement will be conducted annually.
4. Pursue acquisition of key habitat areas on State and private lands.
5. Place high fire suppression priority on the area.

Name: Long-Billed Curlew Habitat Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Purpose

The purpose for designating approximately 61,000 acres as an ACEC is to identify the area as crucial nesting habitat for Long-billed Curlew (Numenius americanus), a federally protected migratory species. The main management objective will be to maintain nesting habitat for the 1,000 curlew pairs that nest and raise their young in the area.

Site Description

The area is a low, rolling upland lying between the Boise, Payette and Snake River valleys. The area is characterized by choppy rolling topography which supports a semi-desert type vegetative community. Average rainfall is approximately 11 inches per year with most of the moisture falling from November to June.

The native habitat has been highly modified over the years. Historically, the area was a sagebrush/bunchgrass vegetation community. Livestock grazing, frequent wildfire and the invasion of exotic annual grasses have largely eliminated the shrubs and reduced perennial grasses.

In general, there are four cover types: 1) annual rangeland, 2) sagebrush, 3) crested wheatgrass, and 4) irrigated agriculture. The annual rangeland type is the key habitat for nesting curlews.

Resource Values

There are eight livestock operators that utilize the rangelands in the area. They graze both cattle and sheep on approximately 80,000 acres of state, private, and public lands. Grazing periods occur throughout the year with some operators grazing at various seasons of the year.

Recreation use on the area is divided into four areas. The area east of Little Freezeout is used by horse enthusiasts. In the past, some endurance rides have been held in this area. The area is also used by upland bird hunters in the fall. Limited ORV use also takes place. The area from Little Freezeout west to Sand Hollow is used by ORV enthusiasts. The Dewey ORV Park is located in this area. There is also some use by equestrians and upland bird hunters in the fall. The area west of Sand Hollow is heavily used by upland game hunters. There has also been some dog trials held in this area. Equestrians use the area while ORV use is heavy in the southwest corner of the area and a motorcross track is located in the northwest corner of the area. The areas north of the Black Canyon and west of the Sand Hollow freeway exits have dense populations of ground squirrels and are used by squirrel hunters in the spring.

Cause for Concern

Each year, Long-billed Curlew migrate into the area arriving about the third week in March. This large shore bird nests and raises its young in the annual grass habitat. The area supports about 1,000-nesting pairs, the largest nesting population in the western United States. Research on the population and habitat relationships was conducted in this area from 1977 to 1979. This research provided the base line information to manage this significant population.

A substantial decline in population and distribution of this species in the United States prompted its classification as a "Sensitive Species," by the BLM and a "Candidate Species" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has designated this bird as a "Species of Special Concern." These classifications are an "early warning" that a species may be in trouble and if declines continue that official listing with maximum protection under the Endangered Species Act may be necessary. A habitat management plan was developed to assist in the conservation of crucial curlew habitat.

Management Guidelines

Resource Use Limitations

1. Motor vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails.
2. Seasonal occupancy stipulations will apply on all oil and gas and geothermal leases.
3. Rights-of-way construction activities for transmission lines, pipelines and other major projects will not be allowed during the nesting and brood-rearing periods.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

4. Road construction will be limited and evaluated on a site specific basis.
5. All lands within the ACEC will be retained in Federal ownership.

Management Emphasis

1. Maintain sufficient good curlew habitat to support 1,000 nesting pairs during the breeding season.
2. Pursue the acquisition of key habitat of state and private lands through land exchange.
3. Enforce the ORV use limitations during the curlew nesting and brood-rearing periods.
4. Encourage intensive grazing systems that would improve curlew habitat in areas where vegetation is too high and too dense.
5. Use controlled burns as a management tool to maintain and improve curlew habitat.
6. Give curlew habitat priority consideration in all range improvement projects.
7. Encourage domestic sheep use on the area.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The development of this plan and the implementation of the final decisions has been and will be guided by federal and state laws, federal rules and regulations, and cooperative and legal agreements. The following section describes the standard operating procedures (SOP), policies, and management guidelines which will be applicable regardless of which alternative plan (A, B, C, D, or E) is selected for implementation.

Public Land Management

The public lands will be planned and managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield as required by FLPMA and other principles as outlined in BLM planning regulations. Any valid use, occupancy, and development of the public lands, including, but not limited to those requiring rights-of-way, leases, and licenses will be considered, subject to applicable environmental review procedures, unless specifically excluded in the plan. In some areas, however, environmental values, hazards, or manageability considerations may require limitations on either the type or intensity of use, or both. Those limitations are identified in the plan's land use allocations and management objectives for specific areas within the public lands. BLM will include stipulations and special conditions as necessary in leases, licenses, and permits to ensure the protection and preservation of resources.

Although the following guidelines and procedures are the major tools to be used to minimize adverse impacts on public land and water resources, their

applications do not automatically equate to standards compliance (i.e., water quality standards, etc.). These guidelines are designed to ensure that beneficial uses are protected. The beneficial uses and the guidelines and procedures will be monitored so that if environmental degradation (impacts beyond what is expected as a result of decisions) occurs, revisions to SOPs will be made, adjustments to decisions will be made, or additional mitigating measures will be incorporated to reduce or eliminate these impacts to an acceptable level.

Lands

General

The public lands to be retained in Federal ownership will be managed by BLM according to the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. Those lands specifically identified in the plan as transfer areas will be managed on a custodial basis until transferred.

Public lands that are to be retained in federal ownership may be considered for Recreation and Public Purposes needs, private exchanges and state exchanges. Such action will follow amendment procedures as outlined in BLM Manual 1617.4.

Withdrawals

It is BLM policy to review all withdrawals on and classifications of public lands by October 20, 1991, and to eliminate all unnecessary withdrawals and classifications. Reviews will be made following the land use planning process and will consider the following:

1. For what purpose were the lands withdrawn?
2. Is that purpose still being served?
3. Are the lands suitable for return to the public domain (e.g., not contaminated land or "property" such as buildings)?

The environmental assessment or planning process will be followed to consider alternative methods such as rights-of-way or cooperative agreements for meeting the withdrawal/classification objectives.

Withdrawal modifications and extensions must provide for maximum possible multiple uses, with particular emphasis upon mineral exploration and development. When withdrawals are revoked, the lands continue to be in a retention category.

New withdrawals proposed will be handled on a case by case basis in accordance with Section 204 of the FLPMA, with full public participation.

Acquisitions

Lands to be acquired through exchange or purchase will be done in the furtherance of one or more of the resource programs including, but not limited to cultural, paleontologic, recreation, wildlife and soils.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

Transfers

Transfer areas are those public lands identified through the planning process which are available for transfer from federal ownership. Transfer of public land within a transfer area may be accomplished by any means authorized by law. Specific transfer methods may also be specified. Final transfer from BLM jurisdiction, however, is subject to a decision by the authorized officer, based on detailed analysis and such documentation as prescribed by law or regulation.

Lands may be acquired by BLM as authorized by law, but only within retention areas. Objectives for acquiring lands in connection with BLM programs are established in the RMP.

BLM will manage transfer areas until transfer of title occurs. Management actions will be taken as necessary to meet resource or user needs. Public investments in transfer areas will be kept to a minimum.

Land disposal actions are, primarily, accomplished under sale, agricultural entry, exchange, and Recreation and Public Purpose (R&PP) land laws. Miscellaneous transfers can also occur through Color of Title actions, airport conveyances, and State in lieu selections.

All disposals of public lands must be consistent with the planning requirements of FLPMA and must also be evaluated through the environmental assessment process as required by NEPA. Public notice will be given on each disposal action and each action may be protested or appealed.

A preliminary consideration in all disposal actions is to provide protection for existing rights, access, and future anticipated needs. This protection is provided for through the issuance of rights-of-way to existing users or reservations to the Federal government in areas of anticipated needs.

General considerations for the major types of disposal actions are discussed below:

Agricultural - Consideration for allowing the use of public lands for agricultural development under the Desert Land and Carey Acts generally fall into four steps. They are:

1. The lands must be identified for disposal through the land use planning process.
2. Pre-Classification

An economic analysis must show a high likelihood that the lands can be farmed at a profit over a long term.

3. Classification

The lands must be desert in character and physically suited for agricultural development by irrigation.

The following criteria are used to determine the suitability classification of potential agricultural lands:

- a. If there is 60% or more SCS Classes I, II, or III ^{1/} soils in a 40-acre ^{2/} parcel, the parcel may be classified suitable for agricultural development. If there is more than 40% SCS Class IV or poorer soils in each 40-acre parcel, the entire parcel is unsuitable for classification.
- b. Cropland in Capability Classes II through V (particularly subclass "e") that has an average annual erosion rate of more than three times that at which soil forms (4-5 tons per acre per year on the average for deep soils, lower for shallower soils) will be found unsuitable.
- c. Any public lands containing known archaeological, paleontologic, or historical values determined to be unique or possibly significant will be found unsuitable for disposal pending further analysis.
- d. Any public lands where rare, endangered, threatened, or sensitive species of plants or animals are known to live (or nest) will be found unsuitable for disposal, unless mitigation is possible.
- e. Certain tracts of land identified for community needs such as landfills, gravel pits, sewage plants, schools, etc., will be found unsuitable for disposal for agriculture.
- f. Certain tracts of land identified as valuable for wildlife habitat will be found unsuitable for disposal. The guidelines and analysis contained in the Environmental Statement (Agricultural Development for Southwest Idaho, February, 1980, Appendix 1-1), will be used to select the wildlife leave areas.
- g. Public land that does not qualify for agricultural use or disposal under Desert Land Act or Carey Act because of other public purpose will be found unsuitable for disposal under these laws.
- h. Certain tracts of land identified as having agricultural limitations based on slope and/or flood plain management will be found unsuitable.

^{1/} A minimum of 50 frost-free days (growing season) will be acceptable as the criteria for SCS Capability Class III soils when small grains and alfalfa is the typical cash crop grown in the area. All other criteria for Class III soils as defined by the SCS in Idaho will apply.

^{2/} Although land can be legally described in very small increments, the Department of Interior has long followed the practice of requiring disposals of the public lands to conform to the smallest regular legal subdivision (40 acres) or lot and of treating minor subdivisions as indivisible for administrative purposes. The authority of the Department to impose such a restriction by regulation has been upheld by the courts.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

4. Post Classification (Allowance or Rejection)

Applicant must show a legal right to appropriate water including a permit to drill a well if part of the operation. Application that would contribute to the mining of groundwater will not be allowed.

5. Compliance

The entryman must show compliance with cultivation, fund expenditure, irrigation system development, and publication requirements, and payment of required fees to obtain patent to the land.

The BLM will continue to work closely with the Idaho Department of Water Resources under terms of a cooperative agreement to process existing Desert Land Entry applications.

Public lands currently under DLE applications in this RMP disposal category that are relinquished or rejected will not be made available for further application for agricultural purposes but may be considered for sale or exchange.

Exchanges - Before an exchange can be consummated, the BLM must determine that the public interest will be well served by making the exchange as contemplated by Section 206 of FLPMA. Full consideration will be given to improved Federal land management and the needs of State and local publics through an evaluation of the needs for lands for economic development, community expansion, recreation areas or opportunities, food, fiber, minerals, and wildlife. Another consideration is that lands must be equal in value, or, if not equal, a cash payment not exceeding 25% of the total value of Federal lands may be made by the appropriate party to equalize the values. Any lands delineated for transfer in the exchange only category but not needed to consummate the exchange may be considered for other forms of transfer. The general criteria for exchange disposal is as follows:

1. Exchanges will not be considered that would isolate any public lands.
2. Exchanges will not be considered that would dispose of significant cultural, paleontologic or recreation resources.
3. Exchanges will be considered only if they maintain the natural function of the floodplain.

Sales - Sales of public lands can be made upon consideration of the following criteria found in Section 203 of FLPMA:

1. Such parcel, because of its location or other characteristics, is difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands, and is not suitable for management by another Federal department or agency; or
2. Such parcel was acquired for a specific purpose and is no longer required for that or any other Federal purpose; or

3. Disposal of such parcel will serve important public objectives, including but not limited to, expansion of communities and economic development which cannot be achieved prudently or feasibly on land other than public land and which outweigh other public objectives and values. These include, but are not limited to, wildlife, grazing, recreation, cultural, paleontologic, and scenic values which would be served by maintaining such parcel in Federal ownership.

Sales may be made through (1) competitive bidding, (2) modified competitive bidding wherein some individual(s) may be given the opportunity to match the high bid, and (3) direct sale wherein the tract is sold at fair market value to a predetermined buyer. All sales must be made at no less than fair market value as determined by the approved procedure (a BLM appraisal).

Land Use Authorizations

Land use permits under Section 302 of FLPMA may be used after trespass settlement as an interim management measure for resolving unauthorized use problems prior to a final land use/status determination, and for one time uses of short duration. Leases may be used as a longer term (5 to 10 years) interim management tool, particularly where future disposal or dedication to another particular land use is contemplated. The latter may allow for agricultural use on a site that may be needed in the future for communication purposes, materials source, or community expansion.

Land use permits (LUPs) for irrigated agricultural use of public land will be used sparingly and be restricted to resolve situations where other alternatives prove to be impractical, such as: 1) small areas of public land isolated between a farmed field and a canal, ditch, or road; and 2) renewal for an existing circular pivot already authorized by a LUP until the land is removed from agricultural production and rehabilitated or until the land is transferred from public ownership. In cases where a pivot must cross public land, the lands are to remain unfarmed and a LUP will be issued only for the crossing pivot.

Rights-of-way, under Title V of FLPMA, will be considered in the Cascade Resource Area except where specifically identified in the RMP for avoidance. Future locations for ROWs will be encouraged within or adjacent to existing ROWs as much as possible. New sites will be considered if there is a demonstrated need and the resource conflicts are low or can be mitigated.

Cooperative agreements are to be used with other Federal entities for uses which are not appropriately covered by a right-of-way or a withdrawal. Flood control and aquifer recharge areas may be most appropriately covered by cooperative agreements.

Airport leases are considered only when a definite need has been shown, supported by a specific development and management plan, and a showing of financial capability to carry out the project.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

Each action would require a site-specific examination. An environmental assessment would be prepared on the proposal with special emphasis placed upon identification and mitigation of adverse effects upon resource values such as rare, endangered, threatened, or sensitive species, cultural or paleontologic resources, wetland/riparian zones, and flood plains.

Access

The Boise District will continue its ongoing program of identifying and obtaining BLM access across non-bureau lands where needed to accomplish bureau objectives.

Unauthorized Use

It is BLM policy to identify, abate, and prevent unauthorized use of public lands. Trespass settlement is geared to recover at least fair market value for the unauthorized use and to require rehabilitation of the land and resource damaged by the unauthorized action. Settlements may be made through administrative action or through civil or criminal court proceedings.

Soil erosion which occurs on public lands as a result of excess irrigation flows from private agricultural lands will be treated as a trespass in order to stop the erosion and to rehabilitate the damage to public land.

Soil, Water, and Air

Soils

Soils will be managed to maintain productivity and to minimize erosion.

Project level planning will consider the sensitivity of soil, water, and air resources in the affected area on a site specific basis. Stipulations will ensure project compatibility with soil, water, and air resource management. All construction of management facilities and land treatments will be designed to minimize adverse impacts to the soil, water, and air resources. Areas disturbed during project construction will be reseeded with a mixture of grasses, forbs, and shrubs when necessary.

Air

Under the Clean Air Act (as amended, 1977), BLM-administered lands were given Class II air quality classification, which allows moderate deterioration associated with moderate, well-controlled industrial and population growth. BLM will manage all public lands as Class II unless they are reclassified by the State as a result of the procedures prescribed in the Clean Air Act (as amended, 1977). Administrative actions on the public lands will comply with the air quality classifications for that specific area.

Water

A variety of methods may be employed to maintain, improve, protect, and restore watershed conditions. Priority will be given to meeting emergency watershed needs due to flooding, severe drought, or fire.

Water quality will be maintained or improved in accordance with State and Federal standards. State agencies will be consulted on proposed projects that may significantly affect water quality.

Facilities and structures designed to maintain or improve existing water sources, provide new water sources, control water level or flow characteristics, or maintain or improve water quality may be developed. BLM will work closely with the Idaho Department of Water Resources, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other local, state, and federal agencies to determine appropriate location and designs for such projects.

Management actions within floodplains and wetlands will include measures to preserve, protect, or restore their natural functions of water storage, groundwater recharge, fish and wildlife values, and water quality.

Water rights are administered by the Idaho Department of Water Resources. The Bureau complies with all State of Idaho water laws.

Mitigation measures implemented because of Resource Management Guidelines or site specific analysis will be monitored for their effectiveness.

Range Resources

Allotment Categorization

All grazing allotments in the resource area have been assigned to one of three management categories based on present resource conditions and the potential for improvement (Appendix E). The "M" allotments generally will be managed to maintain resource conditions (improvements may be done); "I" allotments generally will be managed to improve resource conditions; and "C" allotments will receive custodial management to prevent resource deterioration (improvements generally will not be made).

Allotment-Specific Objectives for the Improvement Category

Multiple-use management objectives will be developed by multiple use area. Future management actions, including approval of allotment management plans, will be tailored to meet these objectives.

Rangeland Management

Grazing Preference - Within each grazing allotment a grazing preference will be established at a level that will ensure that adequate forage is also available for wildlife and where present, wild horses. Sufficient vegetation is reserved for purposes of maintaining plant vigor, stabilizing soil, providing cover for wildlife, and other nonconsumptive uses.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

Grazing decisions or agreements will be made for those allotments where adequate information exists. In the other allotments where there is inadequate information, additional data will be collected to provide an adequate basis to begin implementation of any additional decisions needed. An initial stocking rate will also be established, which may be adjusted upwards or downwards in the final decision as a result of monitoring. All grazing decisions will be issued in accordance with applicable BLM regulations.

Implementing Changes in Allotment Management

Activity plans, Allotment Management Plans or Coordinated Resource Management Plans (AMPs or CRMPs) are commonly used to present, in detail, the types of changes required in an allotment, and to establish a schedule for implementation. Actions set forth under the plan that affect the environment will be analyzed and compared to alternative actions. During the analysis, the proposal may be altered to mitigate adverse impacts. The following sections contain discussions of the types of changes likely to be recommended in an activity plan and the guidance that applies to these administrative actions.

Existing AMPs will be reviewed in one year to determine if they need updating or revision. Those AMPs determined to be satisfactory as written will continue to be implemented and managed as written and reviewed again in 5 years. Those AMPs needing updating (minor changes) will be updated within 1 year of review. Those AMPs requiring revision will have new AMPs prepared within 3 years of review.

Livestock Use Adjustments

Livestock use adjustments are most often made by changing one or more of the following: the kind or class of livestock grazing an allotment, the season of use, the stocking rate, or the pattern of grazing.

Forage use levels made from best estimates of forage available now and in 20 years (Appendix E and F) are guidelines to be used for the development of AMPs and CRMPs, and for monitoring prioritization. Adjustments, up or down, from these estimates may be made as a result of monitoring.

Initial stocking rates will be based on the five year average for each allotment. Those allotments with significant areas of poor condition range directly attributable to grazing will receive priority for monitoring programs. If sufficient data is available to determine that grazing levels are too high, adjustments will be made during the third and fifth years of a five year monitoring program. Allotments currently under an allotment management plan or a coordinated resource management plan will be stocked at the five year average and monitored to insure that stocking levels are consistent with other resource capabilities and needs. In those allotments where substantial nonuse has occurred in the past, and the five year average is lower than the preference, the indicated stocking level will be based on the 5-year average plus any forage increases through improvements in range condition and/or seedings.

Range Improvements and Treatments

A variety of range improvements, grazing systems, and other range management practices may be considered in conjunction with livestock management on individual allotments. Such practices will be based on the range management category (maintain, improve, custodial) in which the allotment has been placed and will be formulated in consultation, coordination, and cooperation with livestock operators, and other interested parties.

The extent, location, and timing of improvements will be based on the allotment specific management objectives adopted through the resource management planning process, interdisciplinary development and review of proposed actions, operator contributions, and BLM funding capability.

Range improvement proposals are shown by allotment rather than specific location. Further site specific impact assessment will be necessary in many of the range developments when actual project layout and design has occurred. Cattleguards will be considered a part of the fence and will be installed as deemed necessary. Existing range improvements will be maintained in a current working condition as long as they are deemed necessary to management in all allotments. Existing fences in big game habitat and not meeting current design standards, will be modified to allow big game passage.

Interseeding and reseeding projects with objectives to improve range condition to benefit wildlife or wildlife and livestock will use shrub, forb and grass seed mixtures that are normally found in that ecological zone.

All allotments in which range improvement funds are to be spent will be subjected to an economic analysis. The analysis will be used to develop a final priority ranking of allotments for the commitment of the range improvement funds that are needed to implement activity plans. The highest priority for implementation generally will be assigned to those improvements for which the total anticipated benefits exceed costs.

Grazing Systems

There are existing grazing systems on seven AMPs. Additional grazing systems will be implemented. The type of system to be implemented will be based on consideration of the following factors:

- allotment-specific management objectives;
- resource characteristics including vegetation potential and water availability;
- operator needs; and
- implementation costs.
- resource values including wildlife, riparian and aquatic habitat, soils, etc.

Grazing systems available for consideration include rest rotation, deferred grazing, deferred rotation, and alternate grazing.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

Wild Horses

A viable, healthy population of wild horses will be maintained in accordance with federal law. Where levels are to be adjusted, sufficient forage will be provided by adjusting livestock AUMs. Animals being collected for adoption or removed by other appropriate means will receive care and attention. Adopted animals will be monitored in accordance with BLM policy until title for the animal is issued.

Threatened, Endangered, Candidate and Sensitive Plants

There are three sensitive and three candidate (for threatened or endangered listing status) plants in the CRA currently listed. Projects proposed in areas with known sensitive plants will include mitigating measures to protect the plants. If necessary, adjustments to grazing (numbers, rotations, season-of-use or other management techniques) will be used to protect plants.

Wildlife Resources

Priority for habitat improvement or maintenance will be given to Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive species. In accordance with the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be consulted with on any action that may affect a federally listed, proposed or candidate species. Proposed actions which may adversely affect sensitive species will be modified to avoid adverse impacts or will provide mitigation for unavoidable adverse impacts.

Habitat to support viable populations of all native and desirable exotic wildlife species present in the resource area will be maintained.

The BLM is responsible for managing wildlife habitat on public lands. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) is responsible for managing wildlife populations. Consequently, the BLM will continue to coordinate its activities and actions with the IDFG. The IDFG will be given the opportunity to review and comment on any proposed land disposal or vegetation manipulation (logging, prescribed burn, spray, plow, chain, etc.) at least one full year in advance of the planned action. Habitat Management Plans (HMP's) and cooperative agreements with the IDFG as authorized by the Sikes Act will be the primary vehicles to implement major fish and wildlife management programs on public lands.

ORV recreation activity may be limited in crucial wildlife habitat. Closures to ORV activity will be implemented if the BLM or the Idaho Department of Fish and Game determines harassment to wildlife is occurring.

In crucial wildlife habitats (winter ranges, raptor nest sites, strutting grounds, fawning habitat, etc.), major construction and maintenance work will be scheduled to avoid or minimize disturbance to wildlife. The area and time stipulations are shown in Table 1. Occupancy for oil and gas activities will also be restricted in crucial wildlife habitats as shown in Table 1.

Table 1
Wildlife Habitat Occupancy Restrictions
(for Oil, Gas and Geophysical Exploration and Development
and all major construction -see also Map 9)

Species	No Occupancy Time Periods	Area
<u>Game Species</u>		
Mule Deer		
Crucial <u>1</u> / Winter Range	12/1 - 4/30	Entire Habitat Area
Antelope		
Crucial Winter Range	12/1 - 4/30	Entire Habitat Area
Crucial Fawning Range	5/1 - 6/30	Entire Habitat Area
Elk		
Crucial Winter Range	12/1 - 4/30	Entire Habitat Area
Sage/Sharp-tailed Grouse		
Winter Range	12/1 - 2/15	Entire Habitat Area
Breeding Grounds	2/15 - 6/30	Entire Habitat Area
Nesting/Brood Rearing	4/15 - 6/30	2 miles radius from lek
<u>Sensitive Species</u>		
Riparian Associated (River Otter, Mountain Quail)	Year Long	Within 500 ft. of riparian
Red-Band Trout/White Sturgeon	Year Long	Within 500 ft. of stream
Long-billed Curlew Nesting Areas	3/15 - 6/30	
Ferruginous Hawk and Swainson Hawk Nests	3/15 - 6/30	3/4 mile radius from nest
Osprey Nests	4/15 - 8/31	3/4 mile radius from nest
Western Burrowing Owl Nests	3/15 - 6/30	1/4 mile radius from nest
<u>Endangered Species</u>		
Bald Eagle/Peregrine Winter Nesting	12/1 - 3/31 Year Long	Within 1 mile of of nest
<u>Species of Concern</u>		
Golden Eagle Nest	2/1 - 6/30	Within 3/4 mile of nest
Prairie Falcon Nest	3/15 - 6/30	Within 3/4 mile of nest
Heron Rookeries	Year Long	Within 1/2 mile of rookery
<u>Special Habitats</u>		
Reservoirs, ponds, lakes, streams, wetlands, riparian	Year Long	Within 500 ft.

1/ Those areas where big game animals have demonstrated a definite pattern of use each year or an area where animals tend to concentrate in significant numbers (from Interagency Guidelines for Big Game Range Investigation-Idaho Department of Fish & Game, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service).

Proposed Resource Management Plan

Suppression of wildfire in crucial wildlife habitats will have a high priority. Fire rehabilitation seedings in crucial wildlife habitats will be multispecies, incorporating species to restore wildlife habitat values.

Prescribed burning will be designed to improve or at least not damage wildlife habitat.

Range management practices and developments will be designed or modified to maintain or improve crucial wildlife habitats. Livestock grazing management will incorporate the needs of key plant species important to wildlife.

All new rangeland fences will be built to allow for wildlife passage in accordance with district fence standards for deer and pronghorn antelope. Any existing fences obstructing wildlife movements will be brought into conformance with the adopted standards.

Wildlife escape devices will be installed on any water tanks or troughs that present a hazard to wildlife.

The construction of new roads into crucial wildlife habitats will be avoided. Permanent or seasonal road closures may be instituted where problems exist or are expected.

Areas disturbed during construction activities will be rehabilitated. Seedings will incorporate a mixture of plants adaptable to the site and beneficial to wildlife.

Elk

The "Elk-Timber Relationship of West Central Idaho" will be used to guide evaluation for proposed logging activities in elk habitat.

On crucial elk winter ranges that do not have an adequate composition of early maturing grass, develop small seedings of Siberian wheatgrass and Russian wildrye and other appropriate early maturing grasses to improve deer and elk nutrition in the early spring period.

Mule Deer Habitat

Where applicable, "Mule Deer Habitat Guidelines" contained in Technical Note T/N 336 (USDI, BLM 1979) will be followed. These include:

- In range rehabilitation or manipulation projects, maintain a 60/40 ratio of forage area to cover area.
- Try to achieve a mosaic or mottled pattern of cover in prescribed burning and manipulation projects.
- Improve forage condition by establishing seedings or plantings of bitterbrush, four-wing saltbrush or other palatable shrub species on crucial mule deer winter range that presently has less than 30% palatable shrub composition by weight of the shrub component.

On crucial mule deer ranges that do not have an adequate composition of early maturing grass, develop small seedings of Siberian wheatgrass and Russian wildrye and other appropriate early maturing grasses to improve deer and elk nutrition in the early spring period.

Pronghorn Antelope

Where applicable, "Habitat Management Guides for the American Pronghorn Antelope" contained in Technical Note 347 (USDI, BLM 1980) will be followed. These include:

- Grazing systems designed with the concept of key plant species, preferred pronghorn forage species for forbs and shrubs will be included as key species.
- Vegetative manipulation projects will include mixtures of grasses, forbs and shrubs.

Sage Grouse

Where applicable, "Guidelines for Habitat Protection in Sage Grouse Range" and "Sage Grouse Management Practices" (Technical Bulletin No. 1) - Western States Sage Grouse Committee, June 1974, and 1982 respectively, will be followed. Also, "Habitat Requirements and Management Recommendations for Sage Grouse" Technical Note (USDI, BLM 1974) will be followed where applicable. These include:

- No sagebrush control work would be allowed on sage grouse nesting and wintering habitat where live sagebrush cover is less than 20%.
- Treatment measures should be applied in irregular patterns using topography and other ecological considerations to minimize adverse effects to the sage grouse resource.
- Where fire is used as a habitat management tool, it should be used in such manner as to result in a mosaic pattern of shrubs and open areas, with openings, optimally from 1 to 10 acres in size.
- Maintain the density of sagebrush canopy coverage at 20-30% within nesting habitats and at least 20% in wintering habitats.
- No control of sagebrush would be considered in any area known to have supported important wintering populations of sage grouse in the past 10 years.
- Seed mixtures for range improvement projects and fire rehabilitation projects will include a mixture of grasses, forbs and shrubs that benefit sage grouse.

Improve sage grouse brood rearing habitat where sagebrush canopy cover is greater than 20% by removing sagebrush in small irregular areas and then reseeding.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

Birds of Prey

Improve raptor habitat by requiring all new power lines in raptors areas to be constructed to "electrocution proof" specification and that any problem lines now existing be modified to be "electrocution proof."

Riparian and Aquatic Habitat

Riparian and wetland habitat have a high priority for protection and improvement in accordance with state and national policy.

Provide a minimum 100 foot riparian buffer zone from the edge of any riparian habitat to protect riparian vegetation, fisheries, and water quality. Utilize this zone for the general exclusion of the following activities:

- New road construction that parallels streams - use best management practices when construction cannot be avoided,
- Timber harvest activities,
- Spraying of herbicides and pesticides, and
- Gravel extraction.

Utilize a 500 foot buffer zone from the edge of any riparian habitat, for the total exclusion of the following activities:

- Oil and gas occupancy of an exploration or development, and
- Introduction of chemical toxicants or sediments as a result of construction, agriculture, or mining (tailing deposits, holding ponds, etc.).

Suppression of wildfire in riparian habitats will have a high priority. Riparian areas burned will be rehabilitated through protection and, if necessary, seeded or planted.

Maintain State recommended instream flows for the maintenance and preservation of aquatic and riparian ecosystems. In all cases, allow no proposals that include dewatering of the streambed.

Grazing management practices will be designed and established to meet fisheries, riparian, and water quality needs in the development of new allotment management plans and in the revision of existing allotment management plans. In those instances where management systems alone cannot meet objectives, provisions for fencing or other means of exclusion will be utilized. Allow no livestock related activities such as salting, feeding, construction of holding facilities, and stock driveways to occur within the riparian zone of a stream drainage system.

Avoid construction activities which remove or destroy riparian vegetation and instream fish cover.

Design all new spring developments and modify selected existing spring developments to protect wetted areas. Where possible, and if the need exists for wildlife, fence reservoirs and provide water for livestock away from the reservoirs. Wildlife habitat needs will be considered when reservoir site determinations are made.

In all activities including maintenance of roads, and other facilities follow the guidelines outlined in the best management practices manual for management and protection of western stream ecosystems (American Fisheries Society 1982).

In those areas where fishery/riparian values are identified as high priority habitats such as perennial/intermittent streams with high potential, habitats with game species or "species of special concern," areas of high public visibility, unique or previous undisturbed habitats, and those habitats with high manageability potential, all other management practices will be designed to maintain the integrity of or improve those habitats.

Fire Management

Bureau Policy

The present Bureau policy is to aggressively suppress all new fires on or threatening public lands. Whenever multiple fires ignite simultaneously, priorities will be determined by value-at-risk. These values are predetermined by evaluating each resource separately to determine either beneficial or detrimental effects fire has on that resource. Crews are dispatched to fires with the highest values until all crews are utilized. Fires with lower values may have delayed suppression times.

The Bureau cooperates with adjacent landowners to reduce fire hazards. Cooperative efforts may range from consulting with private landowners on hazard reduction plans, to development of cooperative agreements and performance of hazard reduction.

Supplemental District Policy

The suppression policy of the Boise District is to extinguish fires with the least amount of surface disturbance possible. When burning conditions and terrain are such that direct attack is not feasible, the suppression strategy is to burn out from existing natural barriers to establish control points.

Surface disturbing equipment, such as bulldozers, are utilized only when necessary and with management approval. First priority is clearing of existing roads and second priority is construction of new control lines. Surface disturbance will be limited to the absolute minimum in riparian areas.

On areas containing cultural values (designated or suspected sites), identified threatened or sensitive areas, or identified paleontologic sites, no mechanical surface disturbing equipment will be used.

Surface disturbing equipment will be allowed in Wilderness Study Areas only when necessary to prevent loss of human life or property within WSAs or to prevent the spread of fire to areas outside of WSAs where life or property may be threatened. All fire suppression activities will use caution to avoid unnecessary impairment of wilderness suitability values. Fire lines constructed in WSAs will be recontoured, reseeded with appropriate species, and waterbarred if necessary as soon as practicable. Natural firebreaks will be used whenever possible.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

Full suppression will be used with sufficient force necessary to contain the fire during the first burning period. In the event multiple fires occur, the suppression priority identified below will be used and revised as needed. Suppression priority in the Cascade Resource Area currently is as follows:

1. Boise Front Watershed
2. Commercial timber
3. Crucial wildlife habitat
4. Developed recreation facilities and/or cultural areas
5. Payette River Corridor (South Fork)
6. Four-Mile Wild Horse habitat
7. Riparian habitat

Required actions for suppression are as follows:

- Continue present coordination and exchange of protection with adjacent National Forests and the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association.
- Pursue an aggressive prevention program to reduce the number of human-caused fires.
- Evaluate burned area for emergency rehabilitation and implement if feasible.
- Continue to work with fire management techniques for fire suppression, and in fire hazards, greenstripping, and fuels manipulations, including prescribed fire.

Wildfires which occur in areas identified for prescribed fire and meet predetermined prescriptions will be allowed to burn as a prescribed fire.

Rehabilitation, Greenstripping and Reduction Actions/Procedures

Public lands and resources affected by wildfires will be rehabilitated. The multiple use objectives identified in this land use plan will be evaluated for potential accomplishment through fire rehabilitation and greenstripping efforts. Fire rehabilitation and greenstripping efforts will incorporate, to the extent practicable, provisions to help accomplish those objectives as conditions allow. The following actions and procedures will be applied:

1. Those areas having a high frequency of fires and/or having a high potential for fires, or having re-burns with annual grasses (mostly cheatgrass and medusahead wildrye) will utilize irregular buffer strips along roads and other important areas. These buffer strips will contain seed mixtures that are fire resistant and help meet watershed protection, wildlife and riparian objectives. These buffer strips or greenstripping will receive first priority for seeding prior to seeding the rest of the burned area.

2. Prescribed burns (proposed) may be reduced, postponed or cancelled in areas where they, in combination with recent burns, would cause significant cumulative impacts to wildlife or watershed conditions.
3. All grazing licenses issued that include areas recently burned and/or seeded will include a statement concerning the amount of rest needed in the seedings or burn area. Normally two years of rest will be necessary to enable recovery of these areas.
4. A Fire Fuels Break Plan will be developed as part of a fire activity plan after approval of the RMP.
5. The 8100 fund may be used to implement the Fire Fuels Break Plan where range, wildlife or watershed objectives are also met.
6. Seedings will include appropriate seed mixtures to replace wildlife habitat that is burned.

Cultural Resources

The Bureau of Land Management is required to identify, evaluate, protect and wisely manage cultural resources on public lands under its jurisdiction and to ensure that Bureau-initiated or Bureau-authorized actions do not inadvertently harm or destroy nonfederal cultural resources. These requirements are mandated by the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960 as amended by P.L. 933-191, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and amendments, together with 36 CFR 800.

Prior to commencement of any Bureau-initiated or authorized action, which involves surface disturbing activities, sale or transfer from Federal management, the BLM will conduct or cause to be conducted, a Class III (intensive) inventory as specified in BLM Manual Section 8111.4. If properties that may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places are discovered, the BLM will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and forward the documentation to the Keeper of the National Register to obtain a determination of eligibility in accordance with 36 CFR Part 63.

Cultural resource values discovered in a proposed work area will be protected by adhering to the following methods.

- Redesigning or relocating the project.
- Salvaging, through scientific methods, the cultural resource values pursuant to the SHPO agreement.
- Should the site be determined to be of significant value (eligible for National Register), and/or the above mentioned methods are not considered adequate, the project may be abandoned.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

ORV use will be limited to designated or existing roads and trails at all cultural sites.

All cultural sites known to be eligible for National Register nomination, or listed on the National Register will be protected from deterioration and from adverse impacts which may result from transfer from federal ownership.

Mineral, Energy, and Geologic Resources

BLM will manage geological, energy, and minerals resources on the public lands. Geological resources will be managed so that significant scientific, recreational, ecological and educational values will be maintained or enhanced. Generally, the public lands are available for mineral exploration and development, subject to applicable regulations and Federal and State laws.

Locatable Minerals (Gold, Silver, Lead, etc.)

Areas within the resource area will be available for exploration and development of locatable minerals except where specifically restricted or excluded. Mineral activities will be conducted in accordance with 43 CFR 3802, 3809 or 3814 as appropriate.

Location of mining claims in accordance with the State and Federal mining laws and regulations is nondiscretionary. The public lands are available for location of mining claims unless withdrawn. Recommendations by BLM for withdrawal are subject to final consideration by the Secretary of Interior.

Saleable Minerals (Sand and Gravel)

Mineral material sales are discretionary actions. All mineral disposals will be made in accordance with 43 CFR 3600. The general policy shall be to promote the use of existing sites. New sites may be set up if it is determined that an existing site will not meet the applicants needs and site impacts can be sufficiently mitigated.

Exploration for new sites will be the responsibility of the applicant. Exploration will be allowed where appropriate under a letter of authorization from the Area Manager. Sale approval will be subject to environmental analysis and may include stipulations to protect other resources.

Leaseable Minerals (Oil and Gas)

Energy and mineral leasing are discretionary actions. Approval of an application for lease is subject to an environmental analysis and may include stipulations to protect other resources. Generally, the public lands may be considered for energy and minerals leasing.

Lease Applications - Upon receipt of a lease application from the State Office, the District will review and make recommendations for stipulations in accordance with 43 CFR 3109 and the District Oil and Gas EA.

Application for Permit to Drill (APD) and Notice of Staking (NOS) - Follow operating order #1 and 43 CFR 3160.

Geophysical Operations - Notices of Intent to conduct Oil and Gas Exploration Operations will be processed within 15 days of receipt. Stipulations and mitigation measures will be applied in accordance with 43 CFR 3109 and the District Oil and Gas EA.

Field examinations will be made to insure compliance with stipulations on Applications for Permits to drill, Notices of Staking, and Notices for Geophysical Operations.

Leaseable Mineral (Geothermal)

Lease Applications - Upon receipt of a lease application from the State Office, the District will review and make recommendations for stipulations to protect resource values in accordance with 43 CFR 3204 and the District-wide Geothermal EA.

Exploration Operations - A notice of intent and permit to conduct exploration operations (geothermal resources) will be processed within 30 days of receipt. Stipulations and mitigation measures will be applied in accordance with 43 CFR 3209 and the District-wide Geothermal EA.

Field examinations will be made to insure compliance with approved notices.

Geologic

Unique geologic features of the district will be protected and interpreted for the public.

Wilderness (Box Creek WSA)

Preliminary Recommendations to Congress (Section 202 of FLPMA)

Only Congress can designate an area as wilderness. BLM recommends areas suitable for preservation as wilderness. Those recommendations are preliminary and are subject to the findings of mineral surveys and final consideration by the Secretary of the Interior and the President before being submitted to Congress. Until Congress acts on the President's suitability recommendations, BLM will manage wilderness study areas in accordance with the Interim Wilderness Management Policy (IMP).

Areas Designated Wilderness

Areas designated as wilderness by Congress will be managed in accordance with BLM Wilderness Management Policy. Specific management provisions will be formulated in a wilderness management plan developed for each area following designation.

Proposed Resource Management Plan

Areas Not Designated Wilderness

Areas determined to be nonsuitable for wilderness designation will be managed for other purposes. The tentative management scheme developed during the planning process will be given final consideration following release of the Box Creek WSA from further wilderness consideration.

Recreation

Recreation Management

BLM will manage recreation on the public lands. A variety of means to maintain or improve recreation opportunities will be considered including obtaining access through easements and acquisitions to quality resources on BLM lands. Some areas may be subject to special restrictions to protect resources or eliminate or reduce conflicts among uses.

The Boise District will provide and maintain recreation opportunities and facilities on public lands. Recreation facilities are provided to meet existing or anticipated demand, for public safety and to protect recreation resources.

Potential National Wild and Scenic Rivers

Federal land management agencies are responsible for evaluating certain rivers to determine suitability for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. For those rivers determined to be suitable, the agencies will provide protection by preparing recommendations to have rivers studied and by taking immediate action to protect them. Prior to the time suitability recommendations have been acted upon by Congress, the rivers will be treated as though they were components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Public lands along the Payette River (North and South Forks) will be managed accordingly by the District until Congress acts.

Motorized Recreation Vehicle Access and Use

Through the planning process, public lands will be placed in one of three categories for purposes of controlling motorized vehicle access: open, limited, and closed. Guidelines for these categories are as follows:

Open - Motorized vehicles may travel anywhere.

Limited - Motorized vehicles are permitted, subject to specified conditions such as seasonal limitations, speed limits, and designated routes of travel as developed during subsequent activity planning.

Closed - Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Paleontologic Resources

Paleontologic resources will be managed to protect and maintain or enhance sites or areas for their scientific and educational values.

This will include allowing vertebrate paleontologic specimen collecting through a permit procedure and reviewing all EA's and CER's to determine if actions impact paleontologic resources. A bibliographic research will be made to help in determining the importance of the various paleontologic sites within the resource area.

Visual Resource Management

The visual or scenic values of the public lands will be considered whenever any physical actions are proposed on BLM lands. The degree of alterations to the natural landscape will be guided by the criteria established for the four Visual Resource Management Classes as outlined in BLM 8400. VRM Classes will be managed as shown on Map 3-8.

Forest Management

The public lands in the district containing commercial timber or other forest products such as firewood, posts and poles, and Christmas trees will be considered for harvest except where expressly closed by law or regulation. Some areas may also be subject to special restrictions to protect resources. Harvesting methods utilizing clearcutting will be limited to a size of 40 acres or less and will be blended into the surrounding landscape.

Management guidelines for wildlife will be as follows:

No timber harvest access will be allowed prior to July 1 in elk calving areas.

All roads will be rehabilitated by outsloping, waterbarring, or seeding.

Roads will be closed in crucial wildlife areas.

Undergrowth will be left as intact as possible.

Stringers of trees of sufficient size and thickness to be used as sight barriers between cutting areas will be determined on a site specific basis.

The need to eliminate livestock grazing on cut areas for up to 3 years to allow shrub enhancement will be determined on a site specific basis.

Adequate hiding and thermal cover along major roads will be provided.

Maintain snag trees in timbered areas to the greatest extent practical to provide habitat for cavity nesting birds and other snag dependent species.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) are established through the planning process as provided in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act for "... areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to

Proposed Resource Management Plan

important historic, cultural or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards." Management will be tailored to the specific needs of each ACEC.

Coordination With Other Agencies, State and Local Governments, and Indian Tribes

BLM will coordinate its review of detailed management plans (activity) and individual projects prepared in conjunction with the RMP to ensure consistency with officially adopted and approved plans, policies, and programs of other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes. Cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding will be developed, as necessary, to promote close cooperation between BLM and other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes.

Weeds (Control of Noxious)

BLM districts will work with respective County governments to monitor the location and spread of noxious weeds and to maintain up-to-date inventory records. BLM will control the spread of noxious weeds on public lands where possible, where economically feasible, and to the extent that funds are prioritized for that purpose.

Noxious weed control will be conducted in accordance with integrated weed management guidelines and design features identified in the Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program Final Environmental Impact Statement of December, 1985. The Idaho State Director issued a Record of Decision on April 7, 1986 for this program.

Public Utilities

Generally, public lands may be considered for the installation of public utilities, except where expressly closed by law or regulation. Project approval will be subject to preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. BLM will work closely with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, other state and federal agencies, local governments, utility companies, and other interested parties to determine appropriate locations and environmental safeguards for public utilities involving public lands.

Economic and Social Considerations

BLM will ensure that any management action undertaken in connection with this plan is cost-effective and takes into account local social and economic factors. Cost-effectiveness may be determined by any method deemed appropriate by the Bureau for the specific management action involved.

Detailed Management (Activity) Plans

The RMP provides general guidance for the resource area. More detailed management plans, called activity plans, will be prepared to deal with areas where a greater level of detail is required. Activity plans will indicate

specific management practices, improvements, allocations, and other information for a particular site or area. They will be prepared for most major BLM programs such as range (allotment management plans), recreation (special recreation area management plans), wildlife (habitat management plans), and cultural resources (cultural resource management plans). Where two or more activities have activity plan needs in the same general area, a single consolidated activity plan may be prepared. Coordination, consultation, and public involvement are integral parts in the formulation of activity plans.

Environmental Reviews

The NEPA process will be followed on all projects prior to approval. Site-specific analysis will allow some projects to be considered under provisions of the categorical exclusion review process and others to be considered under the environmental assessment process. Environmental impact statements will be prepared on those actions which may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Plan Maintenance

Resource management plans and supporting components shall be maintained as necessary to reflect minor changes in data. Such maintenance is limited to further refining or documenting a previously approved decision incorporated in the plan. Maintenance shall not result in expansion in the scope of resource uses or restrictions, or change the terms, conditions, or decisions of the approved plan. Maintenance is not considered a plan amendment and does not require formal public involvement and interagency coordination or the preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Plan Amendments

A resource management plan may be changed through amendment. An amendment shall be initiated by the need to consider monitoring and evaluation findings, new data, new or revised policy, a change in circumstances or a proposed action that may result in a change in the scope of resource uses or a change in the terms, conditions and decisions of the approved plan. An amendment shall be made through an environmental assessment of the proposed change, or an environmental impact statement if necessary, public involvement, interagency coordination and consistency determination and any other data or analysis that may be appropriate. In all cases, the effect of the amendment on the plan shall be evaluated.

Examples of actions which would require an amendment include disposal of land not identified for transfer, granting of a right-of-way for a highway/transportation route, change in management objectives for an area or resource, or changes in special designations. Additional range improvement projects (fences, pipelines, reservoirs, spring developments) not originally identified in a plan, may be approved through the NEPA process without a plan amendment if the project is in conformance with the management objectives of the multiple use area and is not in conflict with the management guidelines and objectives of other resource activities.

SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

Land Transfer and Utility ROWs

Cadastral survey services may be needed to locate public land boundaries and appraisal reports would be needed to estimate value of lands offered for sale and exchange. Legal services to review legal real estate documents would also be needed. Engineering support would be needed to review design specifications (analysis) on utility ROW proposals (power lines, gas lines, phone lines, roads, etc.) Appraisal support for valuation of ROWs would be needed.

Soil, Water, and Air

Fire management support would be needed to reduce damage by wild fire and engineering services (operations) would be needed for fire rehabilitation (reseeding to reduce soil erosion).

Livestock and Wild Horse Management

Engineering and fire management support would be needed for project layout, design, and implementation. Coordination with BLM wild horse distribution centers would be necessary prior to roundup.

Wildlife (Terrestrial and Aquatic)

Fire management support would be required to protect crucial habitats and to control prescribed burning projects. Idaho Department of Fish and Game coordination would be needed for all prescribed burn projects. Engineering and operations support for gap fencing, aquatic habitat structures and riparian area improvement projects would also be needed.

Fire Management

Support from Boise Interagency Fire Center and other fire fighting units for presuppression and suppression planning and equipment may be required.

Minerals (Energy and Nonenergy)

Cadastral services to locate public land boundaries and cultural and historical clearances would be needed.

Recreation

Fire management support would be needed for managing natural fire to protect significant resources. Engineering services support would be needed for the design and development of proposed facilities that would be identified from RAMPs. Cartographic services for information brochures and ORV plan maps would be needed.

Special Designations

Areas identified for special designations (ACECs, National Register, Wild and Scenic River, SRMAs, etc.) would need support of fire management to protect the significant resources and associated values. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office, Idaho Fish and Game Department, Idaho Parks and Recreation Department, and Idaho Department of Water Resources would be required.

CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER PLANSLand Transfer and Utility ROWs

Coordination and consultation with affected state and local governments will continue prior to final disposal decisions.

The concept of identifying sensitive areas to be avoided has received support from state and local governments and some utility companies. However, the location of some of these avoidance areas may be in conflict with the long term (40-year) implementation proposal to meet power needs identified by the Western Power Group. Existing ROW locations and approved utility ROW routes identified in previous environmental impact statements still remain available for ROW developments.

Soil, Water, and Air

Action by BLM for protection of high erosion hazard are consistent with federal (SCS), local (Soil Conservation District) and county plans.

Livestock and Wild Horse Management

Continuation of livestock grazing on the public lands is consistent with state and county goals for maintaining a healthy economy, a varied economic base and a quality of social well being.

Wildlife (Terrestrial and Aquatic)

The actions outlined in the plan are consistent with Idaho Fish and Game Department's big game population goals and the fisheries management plan.

Fire Management

The fire management concepts and actions are consistent with state and local government objectives.

Minerals (Energy and Nonenergy)

The local land use plan supports the development of mineral resources in a manner compatible with environmental goals (protect streams and minimize unfavorable visual impacts).

Proposed Resource Management Plan

Recreation

The specific management of recreation on public lands was not addressed in the Idaho Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) or in local plans. However, the recreation objectives of the RMP are consistent with the overall objectives of the SCORP and the Idaho State Water Plan (Payette River protection). ORV actions appear to be consistent with existing state and local government plans and ordinances.

Special Designations

The protection of resources with significant recreation, wildlife, cultural, historical, and paleontologic values is consistent with the respective state agency plans, policies, and programs. Local agency plans do not address the protection of the specific sites identified in this plan.

IMPLEMENTATION

Land Transfer and Utility ROWs

Land reports, environmental assessments and required clearances for cultural and paleontologic resources will be prepared for all proposals. Those proposals identified to be in the public interest and that have minimal or no significant adverse impacts on other public resource values may be approved.

Areas identified as sensitive (selected wildlife habitats or riparian habitat zones, threatened or sensitive plant sites, sites having unique or special recreation, scenic beauty, cultural or paleontologic values) have been identified as avoidance areas. The remaining public lands in the resource area are available for possible location of ROWs. Environmental assessments and required clearances will be prepared for all projects.

Soil, Water, and Air

Site specific projects will be reviewed for compliance with existing laws, rules, and regulations. Particular attention will be given to project design in areas of high erosion hazard potential. A water quality monitoring plan will be developed (See Appendix P).

Livestock and Wild Horse Management

Rangeland Program Summaries (RPS) will be issued and show summarized grazing levels and allotment categories. Site specific grazing use adjustments will be described in the RPSs developed. Allotment management plans will be developed on specific allotments, and will include benefit/cost analysis and environmental assessments of specific facilities and management actions. A monitoring plan will be developed (See Appendix P) and implemented. The wild horse herd and its habitat will be monitored and "round ups" will be scheduled at intervals that ensure maintenance of objective numbers and habitat quality.

Wildlife (Terrestrial and Aquatic)

Crucial habitats (big game winter ranges) will be monitored to ensure maximum opportunity for survival of local wildlife populations. ACEC designation and provisions will be applied to long-billed curlew and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse habitat. Project development will be programmed.

Fire Management

District fire crews will be used for initial suppression efforts. Additional fire fighters and support services of BIFC or other individuals could be called in to help suppress large uncontrolled fires. A fire management plan will be developed for the resource area.

Minerals (Energy and Nonenergy)

Procedures outlined in current laws and regulations (federal and state) will be applied to all applications. Mineral reports and environmental assessments will be prepared and appropriate clearances obtained. Standard and special stipulations will be followed.

Recreation

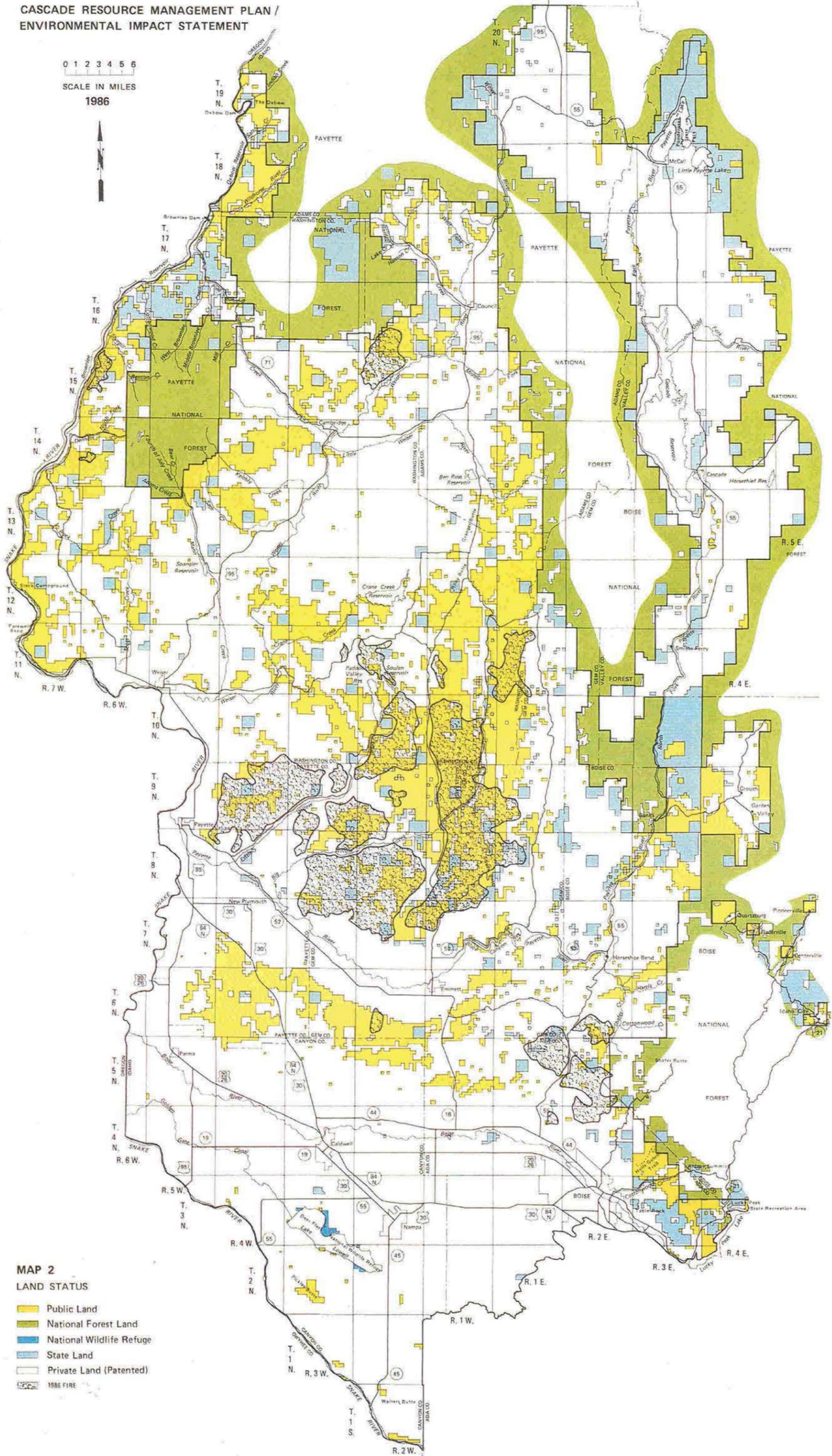
Projects identified through the RAMPs will be consistent with ROS (Appendix L) management objectives. Individual site plans will be prepared for new facility developments. An ORV plan and maps covering the resource area will be prepared showing areas closed or with limitations.

Special Designations

Department of the Interior approval for administrative actions will be sought for National Register of Historic Places designation. Congressional action for Wild and Scenic Rivers study will be sought by the Secretary of the Interior.

CASCADE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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SCALE IN MILES
1986

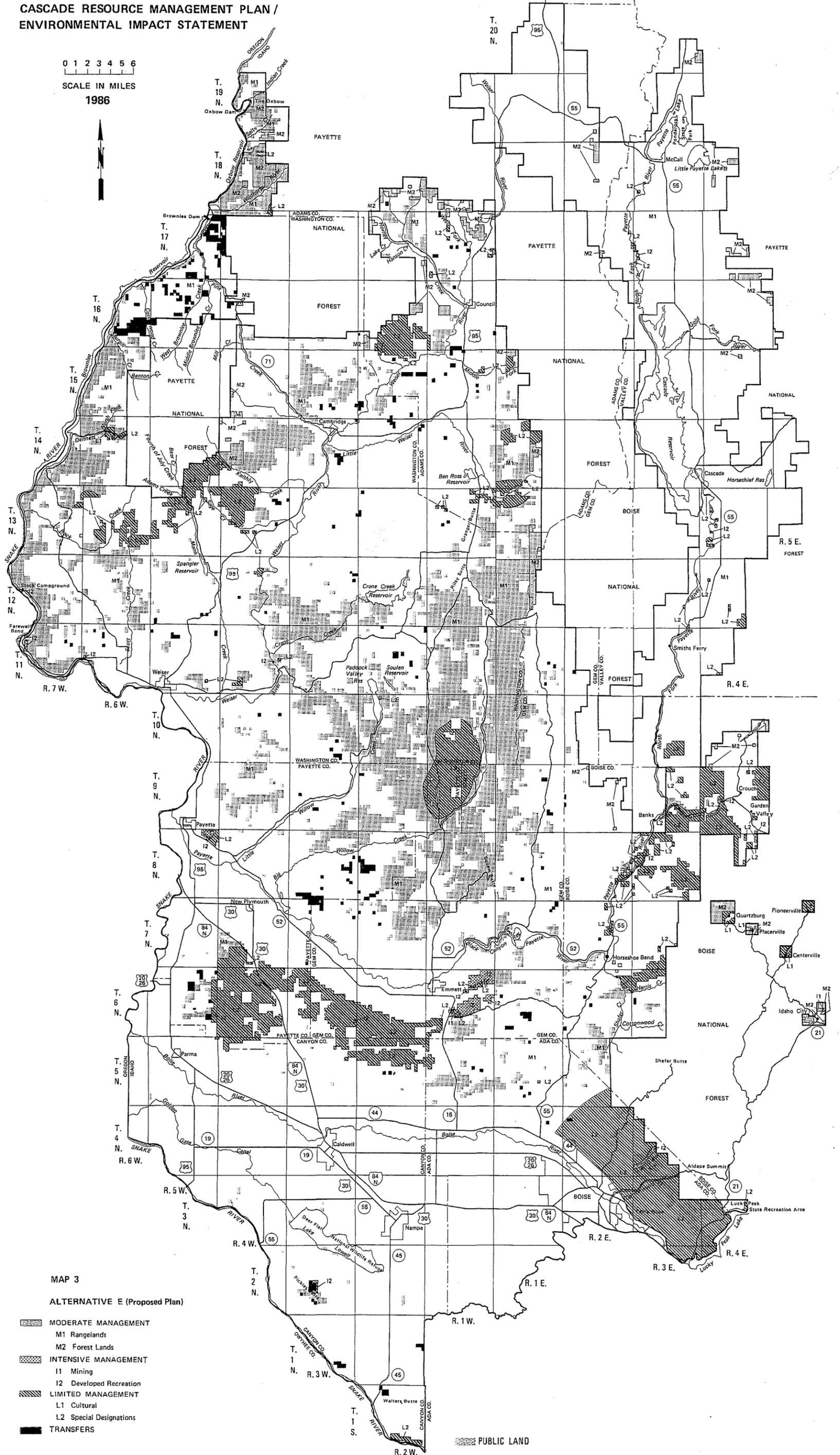


MAP 2
LAND STATUS

- Public Land
- National Forest Land
- National Wildlife Refuge
- State Land
- Private Land (Patented)
- 1986 FIRE

CASCADE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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SCALE IN MILES
1986



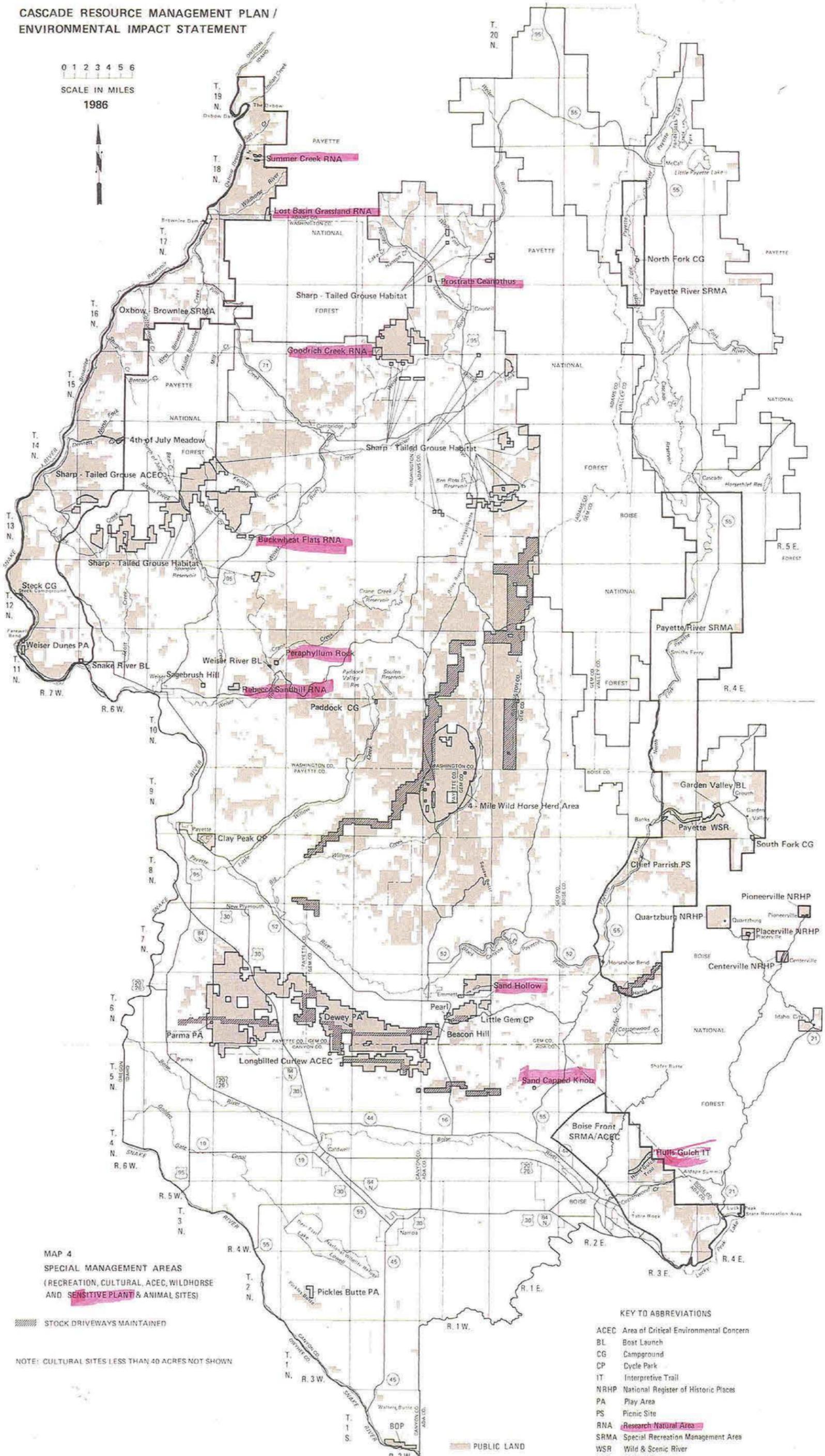
MAP 3
ALTERNATIVE E (Proposed Plan)

- MODERATE MANAGEMENT
 - M1 Rangelands
 - M2 Forest Lands
- INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT
 - I1 Mining
 - I2 Developed Recreation
- LIMITED MANAGEMENT
 - L1 Cultural
 - L2 Special Designations
- TRANSFERS

PUBLIC LAND

CASCADE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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SCALE IN MILES
1986



MAP 4
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS
(RECREATION, CULTURAL, ACEC, WILDHORSE
AND SENSITIVE PLANT & ANIMAL SITES)

STOCK DRIVeways MAINTAINED

NOTE: CULTURAL SITES LESS THAN 40 ACRES NOT SHOWN

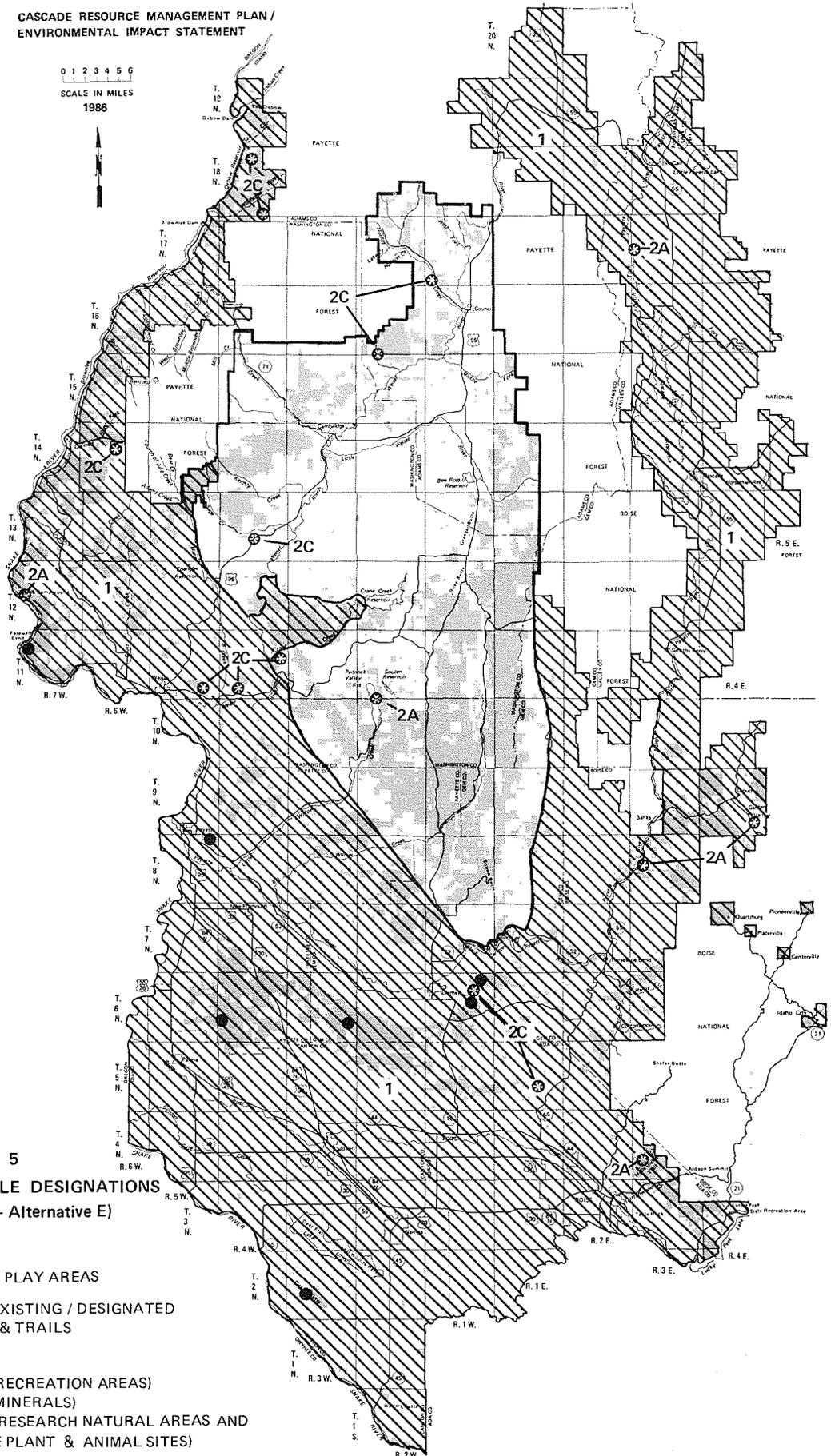
KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

- ACEC Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- BL Boat Launch
- CG Campground
- CP Cycle Park
- IT Interpretive Trail
- NRHP National Register of Historic Places
- PA Play Area
- PS Picnic Site
- RNA **Research Natural Area**
- SRMA Special Recreation Management Area
- WSR Wild & Scenic River
- BOP Birds of Prey Area

PUBLIC LAND

CASCADE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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SCALE IN MILES
1986

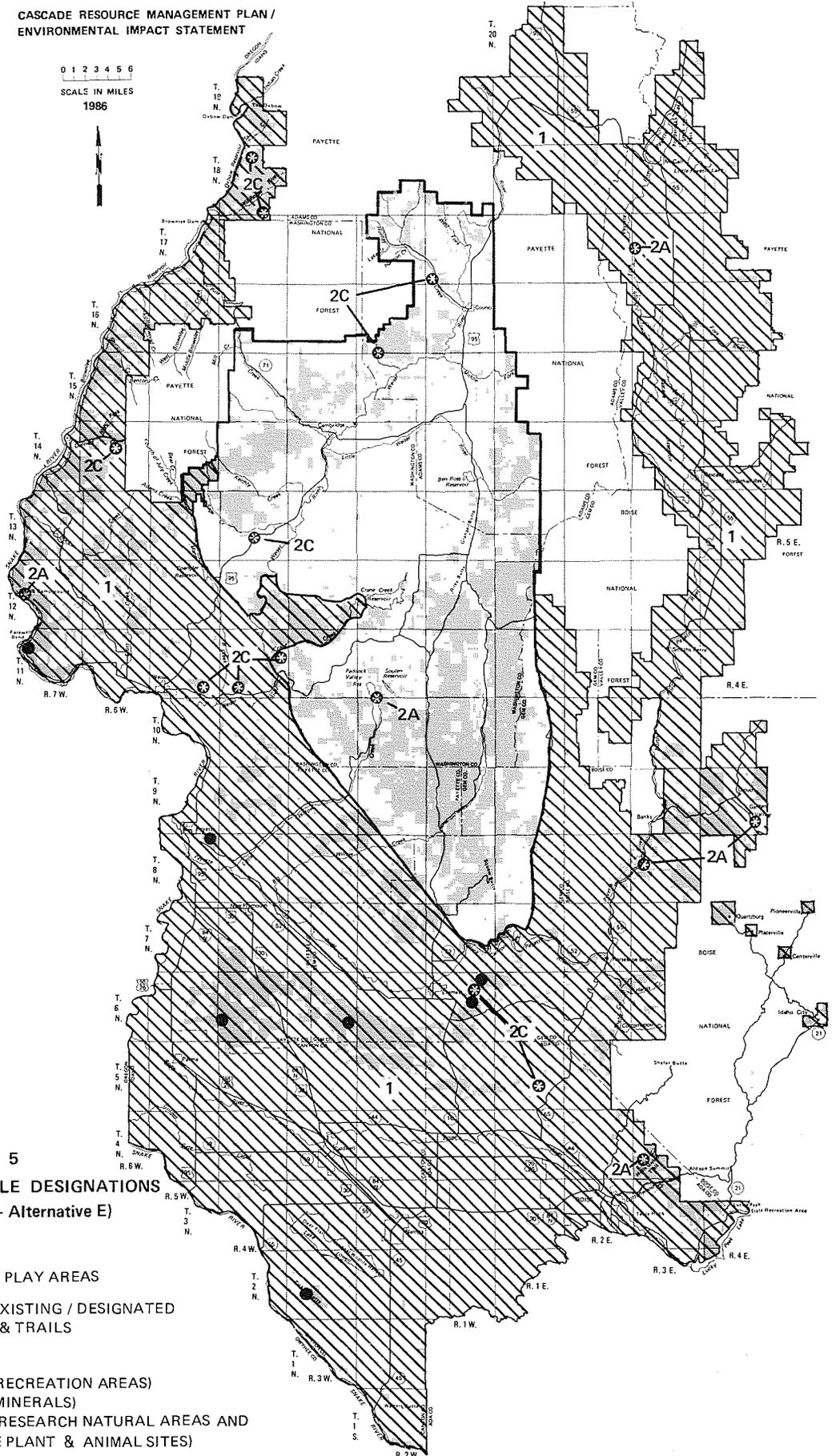


MAP 5
OFF - ROAD VEHICLE DESIGNATIONS
(Proposed Plan - Alternative E)

- OPEN
- OPEN ORV PLAY AREAS
- ▨ LIMITED TO EXISTING / DESIGNATED ROADS & TRAILS
- CLOSED
- 2A CLOSED (RECREATION AREAS)
- 2B CLOSED (MINERALS)
- 2C CLOSED (RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS AND SENSITIVE PLANT & ANIMAL SITES)

CASCADE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

0 1 2 3 4 5 6
SCALE IN MILES
1986



MAP 5
OFF-ROAD VEHICLE DESIGNATIONS
(Proposed Plan - Alternative E)

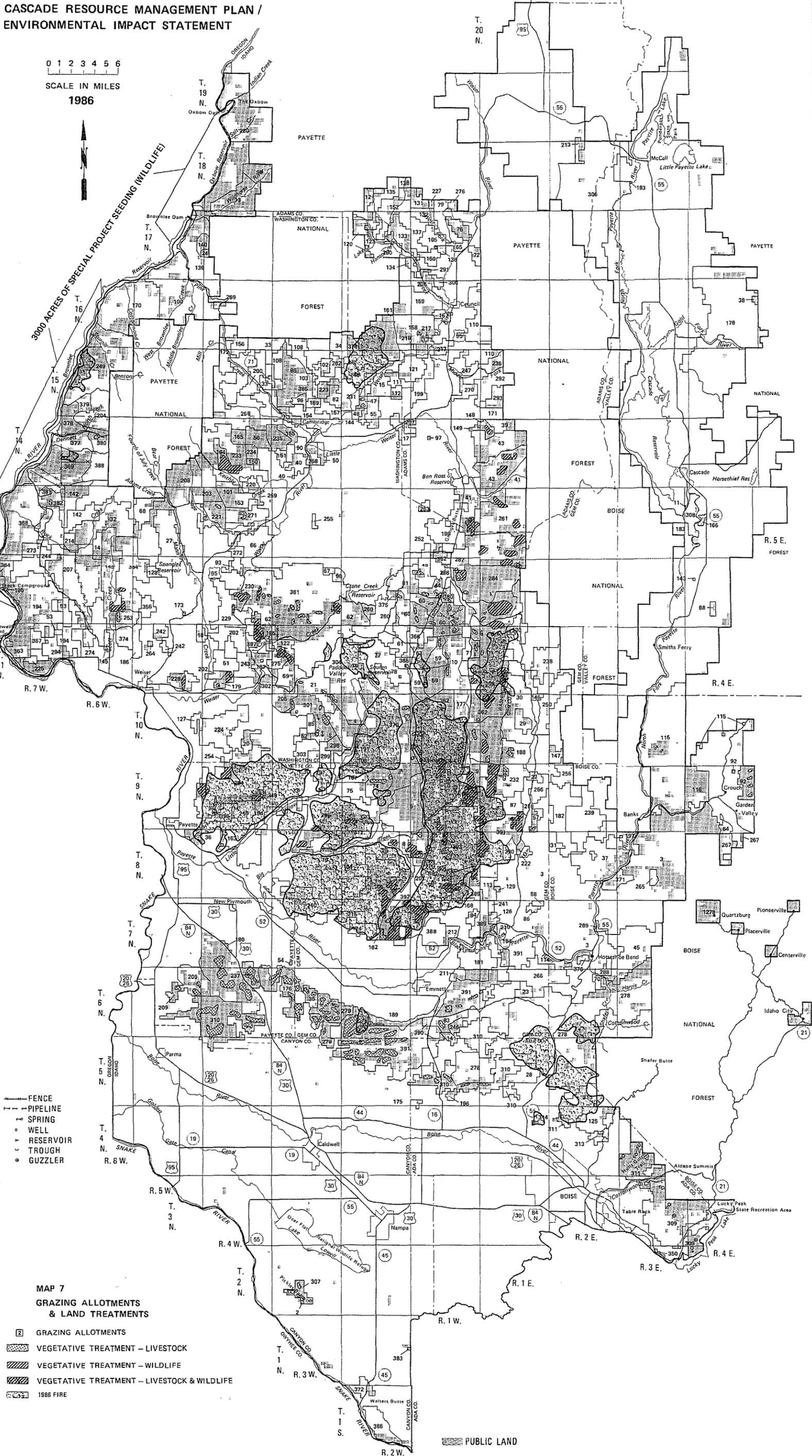
- OPEN
- OPEN ORV PLAY AREAS
- ▨ LIMITED TO EXISTING / DESIGNATED ROADS & TRAILS
- ⊗ CLOSED
- 2A CLOSED (RECREATION AREAS)
- 2B CLOSED (MINERALS)
- 2C CLOSED (RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS AND SENSITIVE PLANT & ANIMAL SITES)

CASCADE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

0 1 2 3 4 5 6
SCALE IN MILES
1986



3000 ACRES OF SPECIAL PROJECT SEEDING (WILDLIFE)



- FENCE
- PIPELINE
- SPRING
- WELL
- RESERVOIR
- TROUGH
- GUZZLER

MAP 7
GRAZING ALLOTMENTS
& LAND TREATMENTS

- ▭ GRAZING ALLOTMENTS
- ▨ VEGETATIVE TREATMENT - LIVESTOCK
- ▩ VEGETATIVE TREATMENT - WILDLIFE
- ▧ VEGETATIVE TREATMENT - LIVESTOCK & WILDLIFE
- ▦ 1986 FIRE

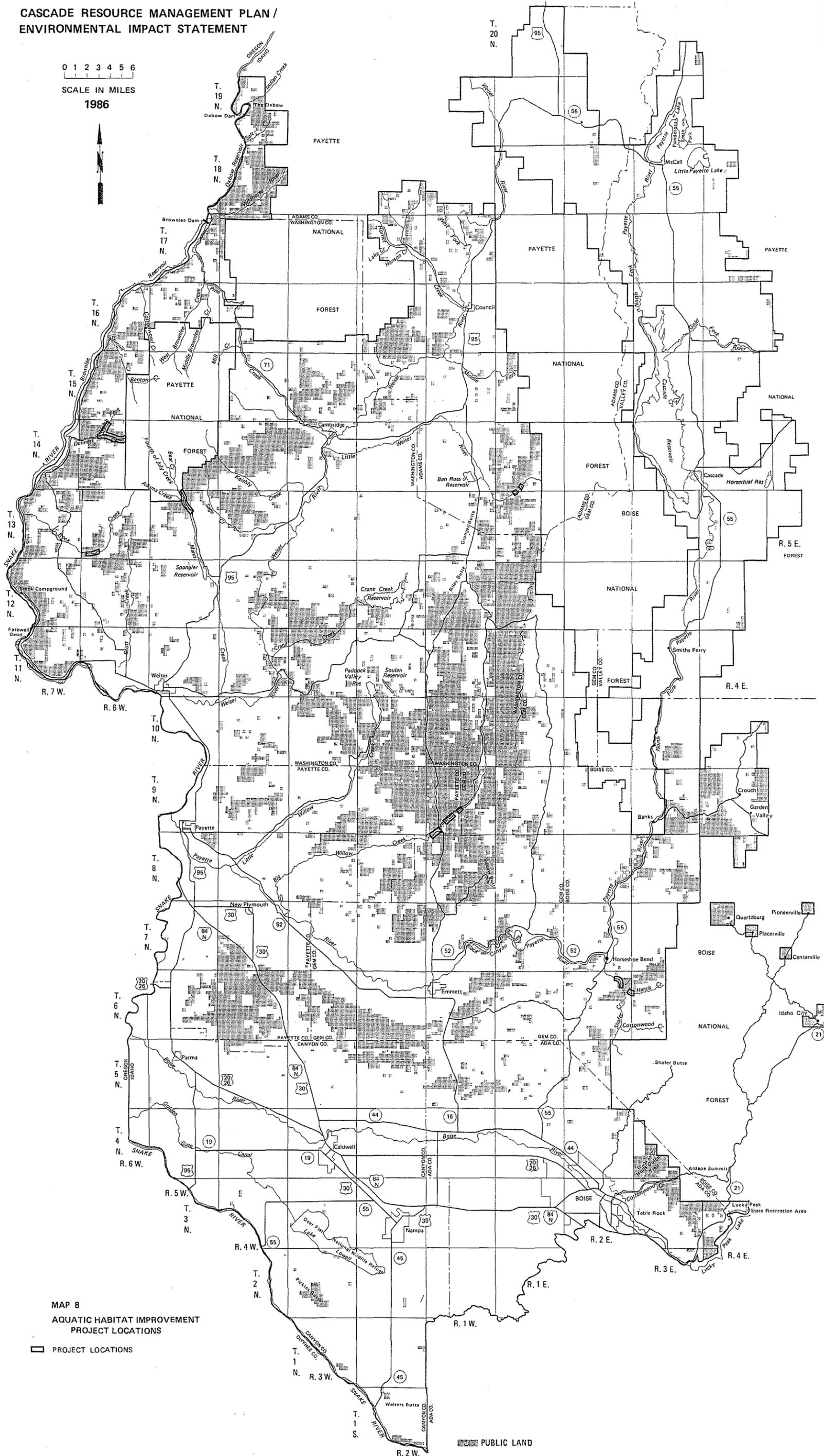
PUBLIC LAND

CASCADE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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SCALE IN MILES

1986



MAP 8
AQUATIC HABITAT IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT LOCATIONS

▨ PROJECT LOCATIONS

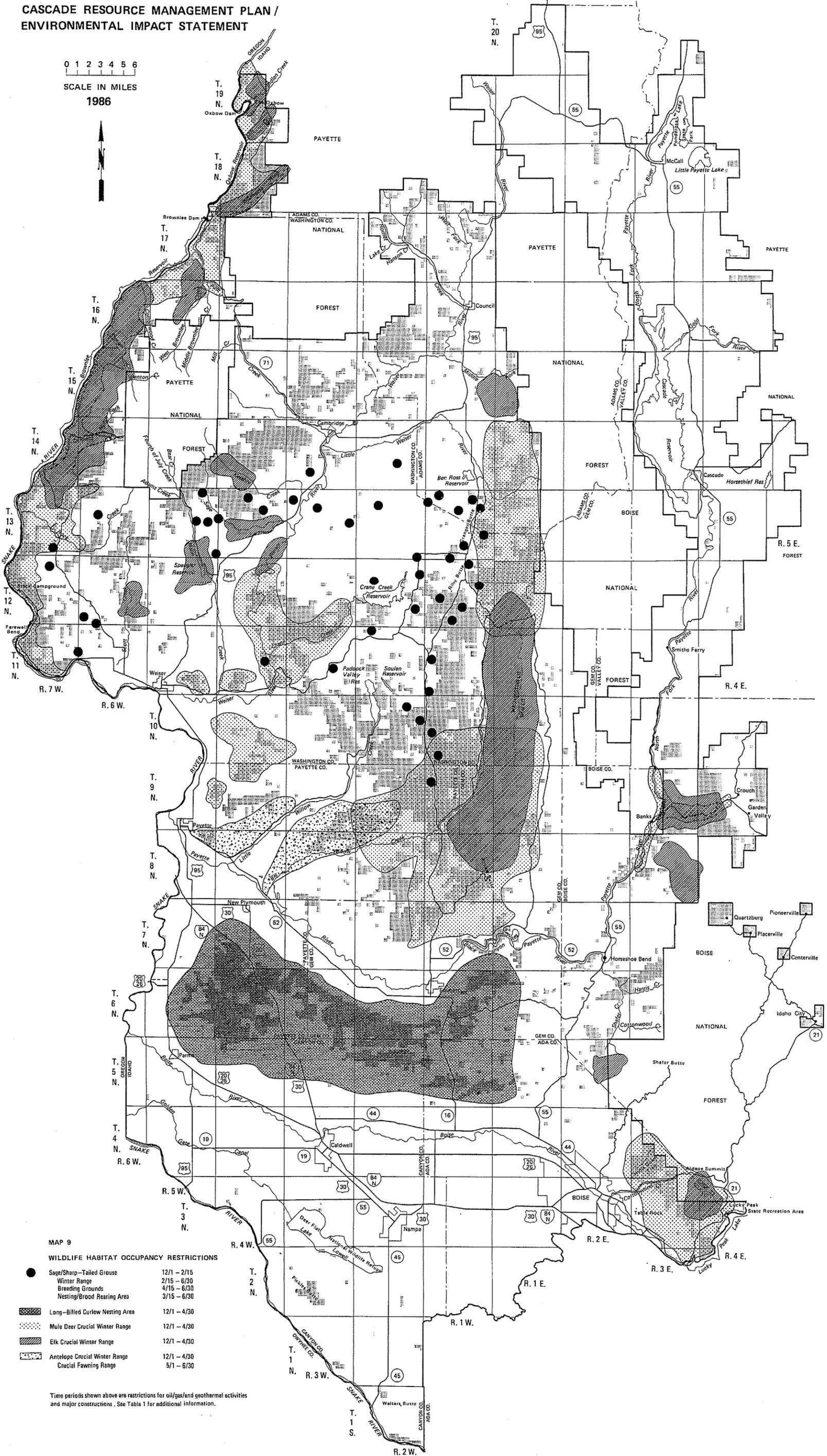
▨ PUBLIC LAND

CASCADE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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SCALE IN MILES

1986



MAP 9

WILDLIFE HABITAT OCCUPANCY RESTRICTIONS

- Sage/Sharp-Tailed Grouse
 - Winter Range 12/1 - 2/15
 - Breeding Grounds 2/15 - 6/30
 - Nesting/Brood Rearing Area 4/15 - 6/30
 - 3/15 - 6/30
- ▨ Long-Billed Curlew Nesting Area 12/1 - 4/30
- ▤ Mule Deer Crucial Winter Range 12/1 - 4/30
- ▧ Elk Crucial Winter Range 12/1 - 4/30
- ▩ Antelope Crucial Winter Range 12/1 - 4/30
- Crucial Fawning Range 5/1 - 6/30

Time periods shown above are restrictions for oil/gas/and geothermal activities and major constructions. See Table 1 for additional information.