

LEMHI  
RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT PLAN



April 1987

LEMHI RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE LEMHI RESOURCE AREA

### Introduction

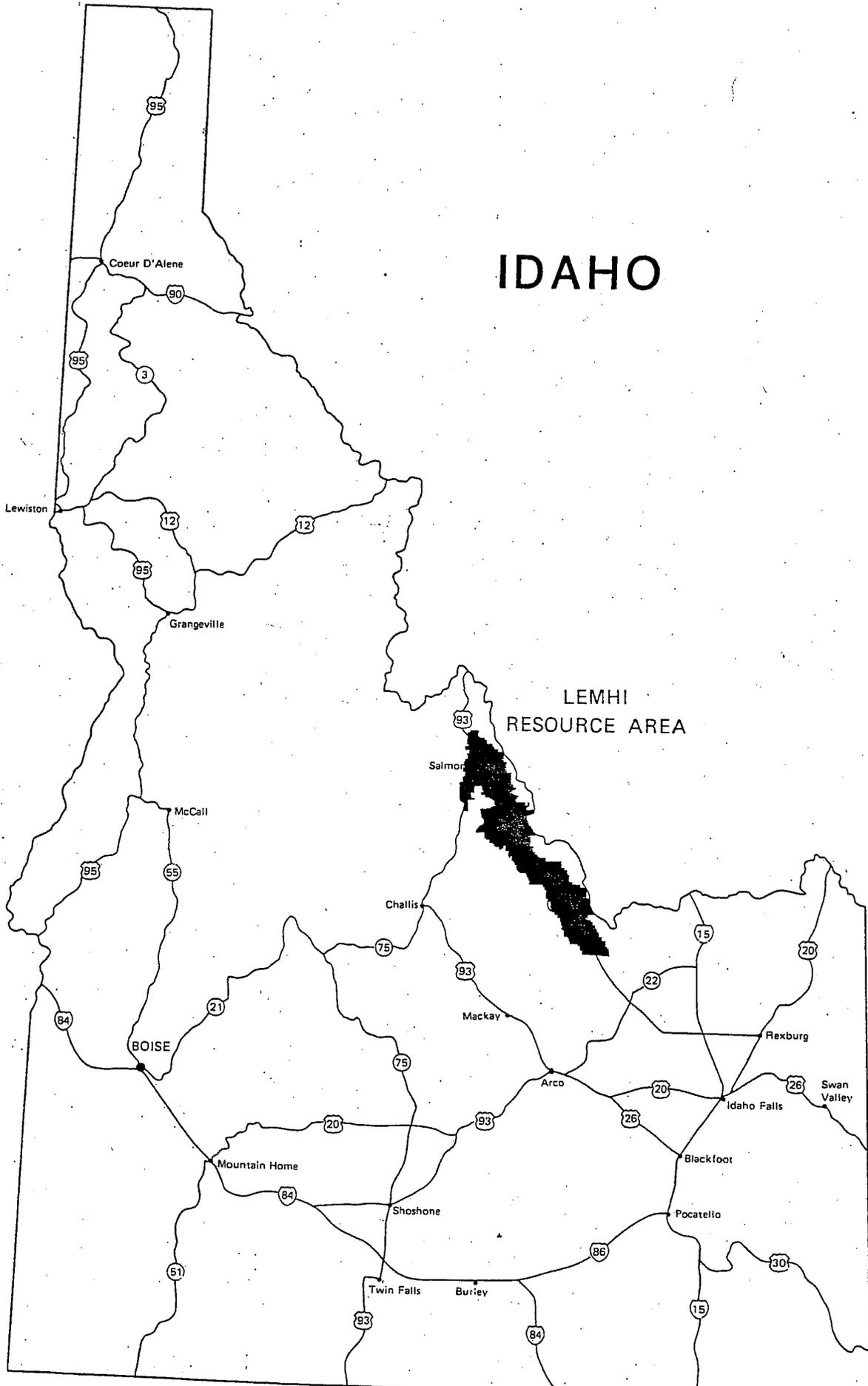
This Lemhi Resource Management Plan (RMP) is the land use plan that will guide BLM in the management of the resource area for the next 15 to 20 years. BLM considered all of the comments received by letter and at the public hearing and made a thorough review of the Draft RMP/EIS. Alternative F, with some minor additions and corrections, was chosen as the Plan for the area.

A portion of the Ellis Planning Unit (Approximately 40,000 Acres) is now a part of the Lemhi Resource Area. The entire Ellis-Pahsimeroi area was recently covered by the Ellis-Pahsimeroi Management Framework Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (1982). Since that plan is still current, the BLM has not developed or analyzed a new plan for that portion of the Ellis Planning Unit which is now in the Lemhi Resource Area.

The Lemhi RMP is being prepared under the authority of and in accordance with Sections 201 and 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579, FLPMA). Further, pursuant to Section 603 of FLPMA, this document contains a preliminary wilderness suitability recommendation for the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area (WSA) located within the planning area boundary. For this WSA, this document will make only preliminary recommendations as to its suitability or nonsuitability for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System. This recommendation will be reported through the Director of the BLM, the Secretary of the Interior, and the President to Congress. The final decision on suitability or nonsuitability of the WSA will be made by Congress. A separate Final Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for the Eighteenmile WSA.

This document also serves as the instrument to satisfy the intent of the 1975 U.S. District Court approved agreement (Case 1983-73) between BLM and the Natural Resources Defense Council et al., in which BLM agreed to consider the impacts of various intensities of livestock grazing in its decision-making process. Livestock grazing has been identified as one of the planning issues. This issue is addressed in the land use plan and considered in the EIS.

# IDAHO



LEMHI  
RESOURCE AREA

GENERAL LOCATION MAP

## Plan Approval

The Lemhi RMP was approved by the State Director on April 8, 1987.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREA

The Lemhi Resource Area is located in south-central Idaho and encompasses 459,566 acres of public land (see Location Map 1). The area includes the lands surrounding the town of Salmon in the northern end of the Salmon District and then stretches to the southeast along the Lemhi River Valley and the upper reaches of Birch Creek, joining the Idaho Falls District at the Clark/Butte County line. The Lemhi and Salmon rivers run through the area. The Salmon River provides recreational use such as fishing, boating and camping. The Lemhi River is essentially all on private land.

Elevation varies from 4,000 feet at Salmon to 11,000 feet along the Montana line. The climate varies from semi-arid to sub-humid. Precipitation varies from 9 inches at Salmon to 22 inches at higher elevations and occurs mostly during winter and spring.

Most of the public lands are dry grazing lands. These dry grazing lands are for the most part marginal for agricultural development and are left over from Homestead Act and Desert Land Act settlement. Livestock use the public land during spring, summer, and fall.

The total population in the area is about 6,000. The area's largest communities are Salmon (population 3,303) and Leadore (population 114). During the summer months Salmon and Lemhi County experience a noticeable population increase. Summer homes; government, timber and recreation jobs; and recreation use results in a large influx of people.

Agriculture and agriculture related industries provide the base for the local economy. Agriculture is mainly livestock grazing. Beef cattle numbers remain relatively constant in Lemhi County, fluctuating between 30,000 and 32,000 brood cows. Also significantly contributing to the economy are recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, camping, river floating, and off-road vehicle use.

### MANAGEMENT ACTIONS OR CONCERNS THAT WILL GUIDE MANAGEMENT OF THE LANDS IN THE LEMHI RESOURCE AREA

#### Fire Management

Develop a fire management plan for the Lemhi Resource Area and maintain vegetation types based on:

1. Capability of the land for improvement through fire manipulation.
2. Protection of certain public and private lands (e.g., critical wildlife and watershed areas, cultural resources, privately owned structures such as homes, oil and gas pumping stations, etc.).

3. Need to change plant communities to a subclimax vegetation, primarily for the benefit of livestock and wildlife forage, as well as to improve watershed conditions.
4. Economic impacts of any fire management alternatives.

#### Cultural Resource Management

The BLM will manage cultural resources so that representative samples of the full array of scientific and socio-cultural values are maintained consistent with state and federal laws.

The Lemhi Valley has special cultural resource significance because of the high socio-cultural value the Lemhi Shoshone place on the area as a significant part of their heritage. The American Indian Religious Freedom Act (P.L. 95-341) emphasizes considering the impact of federal policies and procedures on American Indian religious freedoms. Many of the tribal members now residing on the Fort Hall Reservation, as well as the local Lemhi Indians, are descendants of the Sheepstealer or Mountain Shoshoni and the Lemhi Indians who resided in the Lemhi River Valley until the reservation at Lemhi was closed and most moved to Fort Hall in 1907. The values, memories, and traditions attached to the Lemhi River Valley by these Indians are as important as the material remains themselves.

Significant sites or districts will continue to be managed for their cultural resource values. Management will emphasize appropriate site use through the development of specific management plans which identify cultural resource protection and use objectives, establish the actions BLM must take to achieve its objectives, and outline procedures for evaluating accomplishments.

During the planning process there has been consultation with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

#### Noxious Weeds

Control of noxious weeds is an important management concern. Especially important is Leafy Spurge (Euphorbia esula), which has infected the area from Kirtley Creek to Badger Springs. Leafy Spurge is a very persistent perennial that spreads both vegetatively and by seeding. It is difficult and expensive to control and is readily spread by livestock and wildlife. It is the most persistent weed known of all the weeds capable of growing in this climatic area. BLM policy is to control noxious weeds and BLM has prepared the "Idaho Noxious Weed Control Environmental Assessment" and "Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program EIS." Control of noxious weeds will be accomplished through close coordination and cooperation with Lemhi County and the Lemhi County Agent.

As stated in the "Idaho Noxious Weed Control Environmental Assessment" the purpose of weed control is twofold:

1. To reduce present and future economic losses to ranchers, farmers, and the general public caused by reduced crop yields, lowered range-land productivity, and costly weed control efforts. These losses could be reduced by controlling the designated noxious weeds on public lands.
2. To comply with state and federal laws. Federal law restricts interstate shipping of contaminated products and addresses itself to weed control efforts. These losses could be reduced by controlling the designated noxious weeds on public lands.

The BLM is responsible for implementing the proposed weed control program on public land and may do so through cooperative agreements with county weed control districts. The Idaho Department of Agriculture is responsible for coordinating weed control activities on federal, state, and private land. Proposed control efforts to minimize infestations of noxious weeds will use an interdisciplinary approach.

The need to control noxious weeds has been recognized by federal and state lawmakers. It is also demonstrated by annual estimated economic losses which could be reduced by an effective weed control program.

As stated in the Standard Operating Procedures noxious weed control will be considered under all alternatives. Individual sites and species (larkspur, Canadian thistle, leafy spurge, etc.) will be handled on a case-by-case basis through the environmental assessment (EA) process. Where biological controls have proven to be effective, they will be used in preference to chemical or mechanical methods.

#### Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals

Whenever possible, management activities in habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species will be designed to benefit those species through habitat improvement.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be consulted prior to implementing projects that may affect habitat for threatened and endangered species. If a "may affect" situation is determined through the BLM biological assessment process, consultation with the USFWS will be initiated in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

The BLM is aware of the presence of three listed species (gray wolf, peregrine falcon, and bald eagle) in the Lemhi Resource Area. Also, several plants are listed as candidate species. Therefore, BLM has consulted with the USFWS throughout the Lemhi RMP process and will continue to coordinate with the USFWS.

Physaria didymocarpa var. lyrata is presently listed as a candidate federally endangered species. A monitoring plan has been developed in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Williams Creek shale pit site. An ongoing inventory of potential sites is being conducted in hopes of locating other populations of this rare plant.

Penstemon lemhiensis is presently listed as a candidate federally threatened species. It has been identified along many roads within the RMP area. Herbicide spraying along roads is the only activity that could seriously impact this species.

Astragalus scaphoides has only recently been considered as a proposed federally endangered species. Any future management will consider impacts to this species.

#### QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS NOT ADDRESSED

The following questions and management concerns were considered but not analyzed in the planning process.

1. "Access for minerals and energy exploration is a concern. Conflicts exist where roads to public lands cross private land."

The access concern cannot be addressed in alternative levels (proposed levels of management action). The resource area staff will continue to work with those landowners who own lands which block access to large parcels of public land. Negotiations to obtain an access easement where needed to manage the public lands will be sought. In some cases, the guarantee of total public access onto or through private lands may not be possible.

2. "Utility Corridors may be needed for future development."

Should area growth require additional transmission lines, there are regulations and BLM procedures that will allow for this.

3. "Trespass land uses should be identified".

The resolution of trespass will be considered a priority within the constraints of funding. An inventory will be done to determine areas being used in trespass. The cases will be reviewed to determine if the trespass should be authorized or terminated based on the long-term planning for the area.

4. "What opportunities exist for blocking state and federal lands?"

The current Idaho BLM policy and directives require development of a statewide program, in coordination with the state of Idaho, to identify opportunities for blocking and the process for the blocking of both state and BLM lands. An amendment would be prepared on this action and incorporated into those plans in effect, including this RMP, at the time of approval.

5. "Are there any Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)?"

There are no identified ACECs in the resource area. If such areas are identified in the future and their resource values cannot be protected through other management techniques, ACEC designation will be proposed and a plan amendment completed for the Lemhi RMP.

#### MULTIPLE USE AND TRANSFER CLASSES

The Lemhi RMP Area has been broken down into the following multiple use or transfer classes: intensive use, moderate use, limited use, or transfer. Multiple use and transfer classes are general planning categories included in Idaho RMPs to provide statewide consistency and uniformity.

Multiple use and transfer classes serve two purposes in this plan. The first is to describe overall 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 that must be protected, and whether BLM would consider transfer of public lands from its jurisdiction. The second purpose is to provide a basis for considering unexpected proposals by supplementing the detailed resource management objectives and required actions established for the resource area with general purpose and policy statements. This feature is intended to help keep the plan responsive to future demands and to reduce the number of future plan amendments that otherwise might be needed.

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.

The multiple use classes assigned to the RMP area are shown on Map 3 in the Proposed Lemhi RMP/EIS. Map 3 illustrates all of the potential transfer classes. Public lands are placed in the multiple use or transfer class that best reflects the specific resources and management priorities for the area. The multiple use and transfer classes described for the RMP area pertain only to the surface acreage managed by the BLM. A description of these classes and their purposes and policies is given in the following sections:

##### Moderate Use Class

A total of 140,047 acres are classified as moderate use in this RMP.

##### Purpose

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

## Policy

The first priority for managing a moderate use class is to provide for the production or use of forage, timber, minerals and energy, recreation, or other consumptive resources while maintaining or enhancing natural systems. These areas will be managed for a moderate intensity of use and 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 will be retained in federal ownership.

### Limited Use Class

A total of 313,684 acres are classified as limited use in this RMP.

#### Purpose

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

#### Policy

The first priority for managing a limited use class is to protect key wildlife habitat, scenic values, wilderness, cultural resources, watershed, and other 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 off-road vehicle use, mineral and energy exploration and development, forest management practices, location of utility corridors and installations, and livestock grazing. Because of the relatively significant environmental considerations in these areas, some uses may not be permitted. Special attention will be given to finding appropriate locations for compatible uses. Public lands in a limited use class will be retained in federal ownership.

### Intensive Use/Development Class

The following nine recreation sites are classified as intensive management sites:

#### Existing

Tower Rock  
Morgan Bar  
Shoup Bridge  
Williams Lake  
Agency Creek  
McFarland  
Smokey's Cubs

#### Proposed

Elevenmile  
Camp Creek

### Purpose

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

### Policy

The first priority for managing an intensive use/development class is to provide for existing and projected demands for large-scale intensive use and development. Intensive use areas are generally reserved for major recreation sites or facilities, off-road vehicle intensive use areas, large-scale mineral or energy extraction operations, military use areas, or major utility installations. These areas will be managed for a high intensity of use. 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.

### Transfer Class

A total of 5,835 acres are classified for transfer in this RMP.

### Purpose

The purpose of a transfer class is to delineate public lands that may be considered for transfer out of federal ownership.

### Policy

The transfer class is the 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 developments, 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.

## THE MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

This section identifies resource management objectives and required management actions. The resource management objectives set priorities for managing the various resources in the area. Required management actions identify the management actions, limitations, and other provisions that are needed to accomplish the objectives.

## Lands

### Management Objective

Retain a public land base of 453,731 acres for long-term management in federal ownership.

### Required Management Actions

BLM will examine 4,495 acres of public land, applying the standard operating procedures for sales or for state or private exchanges. An additional 1,340 acres will be considered for transfer under the Desert Land Act. Detailed examination will be made before any lands were transferred under sale, exchange, or Desert Land Application. BLM will acquire 5,600 acres. (Refer to Map 3 in Appendix of Lemhi Proposed RMP and Final EIS, June 1986).

## Minerals

### Management Objective

Manage 475,595 acres of federal mineral estate for mineral and energy exploration and development while minimizing adverse impacts to other resource values.

### Required Management Actions

A total of 161,909 acres will be open for oil and gas leasing with standard stipulations, 221,519 acres with seasonal occupancy restrictions, and 77,369 acres with no-surface-occupancy restrictions. Approximately 14,796 acres will be closed to oil and gas leasing. About 161,214 acres will be available for geothermal leasing with standard stipulations, 221,519 acres with seasonal occupancy restrictions, and 79,569 acres with no surface occupancy; 15,596 acres will be closed. A total of 160,848 acres will be open for solid mineral leasing with standard stipulations; 221,885 acres will be open with seasonal restrictions; and, 92,165 acres will be closed to solid mineral leasing. A total of 455,434 acres will be open for the location of mining claims, while 18,921 acres will be closed to mineral entry. An additional 540 acres will be open to location but subject to superior rights established by community pit and mineral material site designations. Mineral material (sand and gravel) disposals will be permitted on 382,888 acres; 92,010 acres will be closed.

## Forest Management

### Management Objective

Intensively manage 28,865 acres of available commercial forest land for the sustained yield production of timber (see Map 5 in Proposed RMP/EIS). Manage 23,138 acres of woodland for the production of woodland products (firewood, Christmas trees, etc.).

## Required Management Actions

Timber sales could occur on 28,865 acres. Of this, 1,179 acres will receive special management to protect crucial elk winter range. An additional 581 acres will receive special management to enhance the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Setting aside of 1,354 acres of commercial forest land will be made to protect Wilderness Values within the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area. Another 15 acres will be set aside to protect the Williams Lake Recreation Site. In order to maintain the visual qualities of the existing landscape along the Continental Divide Trail, 75 acres of commercial forest land will be set-aside. No timber harvesting will be scheduled in any of these set-aside stands.

Woodland product sales (firewood, Christmas trees, etc.) will occur on 23,183 acres. Within the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area, 2,509 acres will be closed to woodland product sales. In addition, 622 acres will be closed along the Continental Divide Trail.

## Range Management

### Management Objective

Manage 459,481 acres for grazing. Improve 595 acres of poor condition range to good and 21,876 acres of fair condition range to good. Provide 52,632 animal unit months (AUMs) of livestock forage in 20 years.

### Required management Actions

In the long-term, reductions will be made on 46 allotments, increases will occur on 6, and 36 will remain unchanged. Grazing adjustments will be made over the 20-year life of the RMP and will occur only after conducting monitoring studies and coordinating with affected users. The initial stocking level of 43,602 AUMs will be below the active preference and the five-year average use. The long-term stocking level of 52,632 AUMs will be 18 percent below the active preference but only 2 percent below the five-year average use. Proposed improvements will include 22,700 acres of brush control, 4,400 acres of seedings, 32 springs, 50 miles of pipelines, 4 reservoirs, and 63 miles of fences. Selected allotment management plans (AMPs) will be designed to maintain or enhance forage for wintering elk herds (8,800 acres). Refer to Appendix B (Draft RMP/EIS) for specific allotment recommendations. (Refer to Table 5 of Proposed Lemhi RMP/EIS for Allotment Summary, and Map 4 in Appendix of Proposed Lemhi RMP/EIS).

These management actions will be accomplished in the steps outlined in the Implementation Section of this document.

## Wildlife

### Management Objective

Provide forage for 9,350 deer, 2,194 elk, 2,950 antelope, and 200 bighorn sheep. Improve 4,000 acres of elk winter/spring range; 17,000 acres of deer, antelope, and sage grouse seasonal ranges; and 22,000 acres of non-game habitat from fair to good ecological range condition to good. Improve 7,320 acres of seasonal elk and bighorn sheep ranges. Provide 40 acres of river habitat for waterfowl. Provide a more consistent water supply on 81,000 acres of antelope, sage grouse, and non-game habitat in the Gilmore and Muddy Creek area. Preserve habitat values of 30 small isolated seeps and wet meadows created by livestock water developments. Enhance big game movement and safety. Protect the future integrity of the elk breeding area in McDevitt Creek and antelope migration corridor near Center Ridge. Enhance the integrity and availability of 69,057 acres of crucial habitat of raptors, waterfowl, elk, and other wildlife. Improve the quality of 10,400 acres of crucial elk and bighorn habitat. Enhance bighorn sheep health protection in the Little Eightmile to Eighteenmile area.

### Required Management Actions

BLM will reserve 6,466 AUMs of forage for big game. Table 4 of the Appendix in Proposed RMP/EIS illustrates big game forage demand for the Management Plan. Seven habitat management plans (HMPs) would be developed on about 299,000 acres.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Elk/Deer	Haynes Cr. to Hayden Cr.	54,000
Elk/Deer	Kenney Cr. to Peterson Cr.	58,000
Elk/Bighorn	Little Eightmile to Eighteenmile	28,000
Antelope/Sage Grouse	Leadore to Blue Dome	120,000
Antelope/Sage Grouse	Upper Lemhi Valley	39,000
Nongame/Waterfowl	Morgan Bar	16
Nongame/Waterfowl	Tower Creek Flats	40

Prescribed burning will occur on 7,320 acres of big game range and 40 acres of river habitat. The BLM will install 18 guzzlers, construct six miles of pipeline, and fence numerous guzzlers (2 1/2 miles of fence). Roughly 3 to 4 miles of fence will be required on 30 small isolated seeps. About 154 miles of fence will be modified for big game movement and safety. The BLM will acquire 4,960 acres of state land and 640 acres of private land to protect critical habitat in the McDevitt Creek and Center Ridge areas. Crucial habitat will be enhanced through adoption of no-surface-occupancy restrictions on 69,057 acres available for mineral leasing. The quality of 8,800 acres of big game habitat will be improved through restrictions on livestock use and timber management and harvest. Bighorn sheep health protection will be improved by shifting all domestic sheep use to cattle use from Little Eightmile to Eighteenmile Creek.

## Watershed Management

### Management Objective

Manage 31 miles of stream to improve riparian habitat and water quality. Improve 500 acres of riparian area that are in unsatisfactory condition. Improve 1,494 acres of unsatisfactory condition watershed to satisfactory condition.

### Required Management Actions

Four watershed activity plans will be written to help evaluate management options in different areas within the RMP area. New timber harvest roads will be closed when timber sales were completed except for use in forest and fire management. BLM will fence 15.5 miles of perennial stream riparian area.

## Fisheries Habitat Management

### Management Objective

Maintain 94.7 miles of stream in their present condition; improve 3.0 miles of McDevitt Creek from fair to excellent condition. Improve 2.5 miles of Sevenmile Creek, a tributary to the Salmon River.

### Required Management Actions

Livestock grazing will be managed to maintain existing fishery habitat. Surface disturbing activities that will affect fisheries habitat will not be allowed. Stabilization projects will be considered in areas with unstable banks. Livestock will be excluded on 2.25 miles of Sevenmile Creek and 3.0 miles of McDevitt Creek and associated riparian areas by fencing. The current land ownership pattern will be retained.

## Recreation Management

### Management Objective

Recognize recreation as the principal use of the lands in the three special recreation management areas—the Salmon River, Continental Divide Trail, and Lewis and Clark Trail. Continue to manage for dispersed recreation by maintaining existing recreational opportunity settings. Manage the visual resources on lands outside of the special recreation management areas to maintain existing scenic qualities. Protect existing and planned investments in developed recreation sites.

### Required Management Actions

The three special recreation management areas (SRMAs) will entail mineral withdrawals, restrictions on some nonrecreational uses, and restrictive visual management practices. A recreation area management plan (RAMP) will be written for each SRMA.

The Salmon River SRMA will include 4,405 acres. River access recreation sites will be constructed at Camp Creek and Elevenmile. The river will be managed as a "recreational" wild and scenic river, but Congressional direction for a formal Wild and Scenic River Study is not anticipated.

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail SRMA will include 4,600 acres that will result from establishing a trail corridor one-quarter mile on either side of the proposed treadway. Visual resources within the corridor will be managed under Class II guidelines within a 200-foot-wide corridor along the treadway and under Class III guidelines within the remainder of the corridor. The set-aside of 75 acres of commercial forest land from the timber production base and all woodland product sales will be proposed. Restricted management activities on an additional 518 acres is proposed in order to maintain existing visual qualities. Restrictions may be imposed on the size of harvest units, siting of roads, slash disposal, and percentage of cover reduction.

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail SRMA will include 9,080 acres that will result from establishing a corridor wide enough to retain the natural aspects of the historic trail route. Visual resources within the corridor will be managed under Class II guidelines. Withdrawal of 1,820 acres from mineral entry will protect the trail route from disturbance. A no-surface-occupancy stipulation will also be added to all leases within these 1,820 acres.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: Recreation opportunities in the recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) classes will remain similar to the existing situation. Lands will be managed in the primitive (.8 percent), semi-primitive nonmotorized (2.4 percent), semi-primitive motorized (4.2 percent), roaded natural (90.6 percent), and rural (2 percent) opportunity classes.

#### Off-Road Vehicle Use

Lands open to unrestricted vehicle use will total 428,540 acres (93 percent). Recreational off-road vehicle use will continue to be limited during winter months on 16,230 acres (6 percent of the RMP area) of big game winter range. A year-round closure to all vehicle use will be placed on 14,796 acres (3.5 percent of the RMP area) because of a wilderness designation.

#### Visual Resource Management

For visual resource management, the following designations will be made: Class I, 14,796 acres; Class II, 29,280 acres; Class III, 184,205 acres; and Class IV, 231,285 acres. No interim classes would remain.

#### Withdrawals

Existing and planned investments in developed recreation sites will be protected by withdrawal of 186.75 acres from mineral entry. However, revocation of existing withdrawals on 640.14 acres no longer required for recreation program management will be recommended. An additional 800

acres at Sharkey Hot Springs will be closed to geothermal leasing, subject to valid existing rights. Withdrawal of 15 acres of productive timber in the existing Williams Lake Campground will be necessary.

### Wilderness

#### Management Objective

Recommend 14,796 acres of the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area as wilderness and the remaining 10,126 acres as nonwilderness.

#### Required Management Actions

Following designation by Congress, a wilderness management plan will be prepared for 14,796 acres of the Eighteenmile Wilderness Area. Approximately 1,354 acres of commercial forest land will be withdrawn from the timber production base. The 14,796 acres will be withdrawn from mineral entry and leasing as well as closed to all vehicle use.

### Fire Management

#### Management Objectives

Manage fire for the protection and enhancement of resource values such as livestock forage, wildlife habitat, and timber. Reduce fire hazard potential on 10,000 acres.

#### Required Management Actions

Full suppression fire management guidelines will be followed on 444,770 acres. Under this alternative, 14,796 acres will be managed under the suppression restriction to maintain wilderness quality. All developed recreation sites and sites that have the potential for site development will be under suppression restrictions, i.e., no retardant, no heavy equipment use, and no fire line explosives. Prescribed burns for vegetation manipulation will be conducted on 30,078 acres. Heavy fuel loading caused by logging debris and dead trees will be reduced on 10,000 acres to decrease the likelihood of having a disastrous fire.

### Cultural Resources

#### Management Objectives

Manage cultural resources so that representative samples of the full range of scientific and socio-cultural values are maintained consistent with state and federal laws.

## Required Management Actions

Cultural resource management plans will be written and implemented for the Chief Tendoy Cemetery, the Salmon River corridor, the two Indian burial areas, and the Lewis and Clark Trail. These sites will be protected from surface disturbance through appropriate withdrawals and no-surface-occupancy restrictions:

<u>Cultural Area</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	<u>No Surface Occupancy</u>
a. Chief Tendoy Cemetery	80 acres	160 acres
b. Lewis and Clark Trail	1,820 acres	1,820 acres
c. Salmon River Corridor	120 acres	4,405 acres
d. Indian Area A	120 acres	120 acres
e. Indian Area B	120 acres	880 acres

## SELECTION OF THE PLAN

Seven alternatives are analyzed in the Lemhi Resource Management Plan EIS (Part II of Draft). Each alternative emphasizes a different management philosophy, ranging from continuing present management to making significant changes in future management. Impact assessment of these alternatives has identified the magnitude of environmental consequences associated with each. A Plan has been selected based on the planning criteria described on pages 28 to 36 of the Proposed RMP/EIS.

### PLANNING CRITERIA

Planning criteria are the factors or data that BLM must consider prior to arriving at a land use decision relative to any issue. Listed below are the planning criteria and a discussion of how the ten general criteria have been applied in selection of the Plan.

#### 1. Social and Economic Values

The Plan considers social and economic values in Lemhi County by providing for land disposal, livestock grazing, mineral development, timber harvest and wildlife values. About 5,835 acres will be transferred from federal ownership. Livestock management will provide 43,602 AUMs of livestock forage. A total of 460,797 acres will be open for oil and gas leasing and 455,434 acres will be open for location of mining claims. Approximately 28,865 acres of public forest land will be open to commercial harvest, with an allowable cut of 1.07 million board feet per year.

#### 2. Plans, Programs, and Policies of Other Federal Agencies, State and Local Governments, and Indian Tribes

The BLM's resource management plans must be consistent with officially approved and adopted resource-related plans (or in their absence, policies or programs) of other federal agencies, state, and local governments, and Indian tribes. The Proposed Plan is consistent with the 1981 Lemhi County Comprehensive Plan. Public input from federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes does not indicate that there are any inconsistencies with their plans.

#### 3. Existing Law, Regulations, and BLM Policy

In the Plan, there does not appear to be any discrepancy with existing law, regulation, or BLM policy.

#### 4. Future Needs and Demand for Existing or Potential Resource Commodities and Values

The demand for minerals and energy is expected to remain low. The demand for the livestock grazing resource is high and there is a moderate demand for the timber resource. The Plan meets or exceeds these demands.

A significant portion of the Resource Area is presently leased for oil and gas or on the oil and gas simultaneous list. However, actual development for oil and gas is limited. Coal does occur in the Lemhi Resource Area but is of low quality; no coal mines have operated in the area for over 40 years. Leasing interest for geothermal resources is generally low. Phosphate rocks of low and medium grade do occur but development in the near future is unlikely.

The average use by livestock the past five years has been 52,541 AUMs. While the initial stocking rate will be 43,602 AUMs, the long-term stocking rate will increase to 52,632 AUMs.

Approximately 28,865 acres of public forest land will be open to commercial harvest, with an allowable cut of 1.07 million board feet per year.

#### 5. Public Input

The Plan has taken into consideration the concerns of the minerals and energy industry by making lands accessible and available for exploration. Other public concerns have dealt with range resource, wildlife habitat, wilderness, lands disposal, and timber harvest. The Plan provides for the protection and use of all of these resources.

#### 6. Public Welfare and Safety

Facilities provided at developed campgrounds and other recreational areas will provide for public welfare and safety. While public land within areas identified as open to motorized vehicle use generally will remain available for such use without restrictions, restrictions could be imposed when there was a need to promote user safety. To provide for public safety, stipulations will be included in mining plans of operations. Public hazards will be clearly marked and fenced, if necessary, to prevent injury. Full suppression fire management guidelines would be followed on 444,770 acres. In addition, heavy fuel loading caused by logging debris and dead trees will be reduced on 10,000 acres to decrease the likelihood of having a disastrous fire.

#### 7. Past and Present Use of Public and Adjacent Lands

The Plan provides for the continuation of past and present use of public and adjacent lands while still providing for the protection and development of other resource values.

Livestock management will provide 43,602 AUMs of livestock forage in the short-term and 52,632 in the long-term. A total of 460,797 acres will be open for oil and gas leasing and 455,434 acres will be open for location of mining claims. Approximately 28,865 acres of public forest land will be open to commercial harvest, with an allowable cut of 1.07 million board feet per year. Game populations of 9,350 deer, 2,194 elk, 2,950 antelope, and 200 bighorn sheep will utilize

6,466 AUMs of forage. For fisheries, BLM will maintain 94.7 miles of stream in their present condition and improve 3.0 miles. A total of 15.5 miles of perennial stream riparian area will be improved.

This plan will recognize recreation as the principal use of the lands in three special recreation management areas. Lands open to unrestricted vehicle use will total 428,540 acres.

8. Public Benefits of Providing Goods and Services in Relation to Costs

It is estimated that it will cost \$1.7 million over the 20-year life of the RMP to provide goods and services. However, over a 20-year period, revenues of \$10.8 million will be generated and state and local governments will receive \$9.6 million.

9. Quantity and Quality of Noncommodity Resource Values

The Plan provides noncommodity resource values such as wildlife, fisheries, watershed, recreation, wilderness, and cultural sites. The quantity and quality of these resources will best be protected by alternative C. However, the Preferred Alternative (now the Plan) will result in game populations of 9,350 deer, 2,194 elk, 2,950 antelope, and 200 bighorn sheep. For fisheries, BLM will maintain 94.7 miles of stream in their present condition and improve 3.0 miles. A total of 15.5 miles of perennial stream riparian area will be improved.

This plan will recognize recreation as the principal use of the lands in three special recreation management areas. Lands open to unrestricted vehicle use will total 428,540 acres. The Plan recommends 14,796 acres as suitable for wilderness designation. Five cultural resource management plans will be written.

10. Environmental Impacts

Transfer of lands out of federal ownership will result in a loss of administrative control of all resource values except mineral values. Designation of the Eighteenmile WSA as wilderness will result in the loss of harvestable timber yield from suitable commercial forest land in that area. Completion of nonstructural range improvements will represent a commitment of land and resources for the lives of the projects. Recreation opportunity spectrum classes that shifted from primitive and semi-primitive nonmotorized to semi-primitive motorized and roaded natural will likely never return to the original class.

On the positive side, the Plan will provide for improvement in ecological range condition. Livestock AUMs would show a minor increase over the 5-year average use. Wildlife habitat condition and available AUMs will increase. Fisheries habitat will show a moderate improvement. Improvements in riparian areas and watershed can be expected. A major increase in recreational opportunities will take place. Wilderness acreage will be 14,796 acres. Impacts to cultural resources will decrease slightly.

## Rationale

The Plan gives no special emphasis to any one resource but emphasizes balanced, multiple use management and is based upon a realistic expectation of funding. Alternative G would be the Plan if the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area is not designated by Congressional action. The rationale for selection of the Preferred Alternative (now the Plan) is summarized below.

Outlined below is a discussion of how the Plan addresses the issues developed during the planning process.

### LANDS - Retention and Transfer

Issue No. 1 deals with the disposal or retention of public lands. The Plan identifies a total of 5,835 acres to be evaluated through detailed studies for potential transfer out of public ownership. Of this total, 4,295 acres will be considered for transfer by public sales or exchanges; 1,340 acres through the Desert Land Act, and 200 acres by exchange only. Land acquisitions include the possibility of acquiring 1,240 acres of private and 4,360 acres of state land.

**Rationale:** The issue of disposal or retention of the public lands can best be handled by using a balanced land tenure adjustment program that improves management efficiency. The Plan will allow for a balanced sale, exchange, and Desert Land Entry program. This alternative maintains continuity in the grazing program and retains parcels that have high wildlife and other multiple use values. Only parcels of relatively low multiple use value that are difficult to manage or present management problems will be available for transfer.

The Plan will also recognize the expressed need to make land with agricultural potential available for development under the Desert Land Act. The lands specifically available for agricultural development will be transferred only if determined suitable as a result of the required detailed studies. Otherwise, they will be retained in federal ownership. This will assure continued multiple use management if the lands were not suitable for agricultural development.

Acquisitions will be aimed at benefitting the wildlife program (Issue No. 2b) by acquiring valuable wildlife habitat and migration corridors.

### MINERALS

The Plan will maintain approximately 97 percent of the RMP area open to energy leasing, 81 percent open to solid mineral leasing and saleable mineral disposals, and 96 percent open to mineral location. All of the RMP area is prospectively valuable for oil and gas. The occurrence of known solid leasable minerals is limited to a small area, approximately half of which will be closed. Mineral materials are widespread throughout the RMP area.

Approximately 18,921 acres will be withdrawn from mineral location by the recommendation for wilderness designation on a portion of the Eighteen-mile WSA, for the protection of important historical and cultural resources, and for the protection of recreational developments. Roughly 92,596 acres will be closed to solid mineral leasing, but only 1,580 acres or 2 percent of this has any known potential for solid mineral leasing.

Rationale: The specific issues affecting minerals management are wildlife (Issue #5), wilderness (Issue #9), and recreation (Issue #7). In addition, minerals are affected by the management concern relating to cultural resources. The Energy and Minerals issue (#2) asks, "How will energy and mineral resource development be accommodated?" (2a); and "What lands would be closed to various mineral activities for the preservation of other resources?" (2b). These issues are addressed and answered in the Plan as follows:

Wildlife (Issue #5): This issue is addressed by the seasonal closures for fluid mineral leasing and by some of the closures to solid mineral leasing and mineral material sales. Disruption of wildlife habitat by operations under the 1872 Mining Law can often be reduced or mitigated during the review process under the surface management regulations.

Wilderness (Issue #9): The issue is whether or not the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area (WSA) should be recommended for wilderness designation. Under this Plan, over half (roughly 60 percent) of the WSA will be recommended for wilderness designation. Designation of the area as wilderness will close it to mineral activity. Preliminary data (Geology, Energy, and Minerals Studies Phase 1 and Phase 2) indicate that potential for mineral development of this area is low. There are no known mineral occurrences within the WSA, and there are no mining claims located within the WSA. The Phase 2 study conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey is not conclusive as to the possibility of mineral occurrences within the area, since some of their geochemical data may indicate potential for metallic minerals. However, the lack of reported occurrences and mining claims is a good indicator that the industry may consider the area to have low potential. Therefore, the withdrawal of this area from all forms of mineral activity is thought to have no significant impact on national mineral production.

Recreation (Issue #7): The first recreation issue (#7a), overcrowding of facilities, would hardly affect mineral production. Developed recreational areas will be withdrawn from the operations of the mining law, closed to mineral material sales and non-energy mineral leasing, and leased for fluid minerals only with the no-surface-occupancy stipulations. None of the existing recreation sites, or future proposed sites, are in areas with known mineral potential, so any impact will be small if areas were closed or withdrawn.

The second recreation issue (#7b) is, "What management practices should occur within areas of national significance?" This issue is answered by the use of no surface occupancy for fluid mineral leasing and the closure of some areas to material sales and solid mineral leasing in the Plan. Activity under the 1872 Mining Law can be adequately managed under the

surface management regulations during the Plan of Operations review process. In general, the primary restrictions on minerals will be placed on the Lewis and Clark Trail area, the Salmon River corridor, and the Continental Divide Trail. Of these areas, only the Continental Divide Trail has a significant known mineral deposit (primarily thorium), and the trail will not be withdrawn from location under the Plan.

Cultural Resources (Management Concern #2): Under the Plan, this management concern would be answered by the use of the no-surface-occupancy stipulation for fluid mineral leasing, closure to solid mineral leasing and mineral material sales, and, where necessary, withdrawal from the operation of the 1872 Mining Law. In general, closures will be small and would have little, if any, impact on local or nationally significant mineral values.

#### FOREST MANAGEMENT

Under the Plan, over 95 percent of the suitable commercial forest land will be available for intensive forest management (see Map 5 of the Proposed Plan). The set-aside acreage under this alternative will amount to 90 acres for protection of recreation values and 1,354 acres for protection of recommended wilderness.

Of the 95 percent available for intensive management, approximately 6 percent will be restricted for protection of high value resources. Specifically, 1,179 acres will be restricted to reduce the impacts to crucial elk winter range and 581 acres to maintain the visual qualities of the existing landscape along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

Approximately 88 percent of the woodland within the planning area will be open to woodland product sales (firewood, Christmas trees, etc.). The remaining 12 percent will be closed to protect 622 acres having high recreation values and 2,509 acres encompassing recommended wilderness.

Intensive management of the 28,865 acres of available commercial forest land will enable the planning area to support its present sustained yield allowable cut of approximately 10.71 million board feet per decade.

Rationale: The Plan recognizes the local demand for timber while accommodating other high value resources requiring protection from the impacts of timber harvesting. This Plan designates the commercial forest lands available for intensive management (Issue 3a) and provides for the planning area to meet its present sustained yield allowable cut. The Plan further delineates areas of restricted management in response to important recreation, watershed, and wildlife values (Issue 3b).

Protection of certain high value resources includes the set-aside of 1,444 acres necessitated by the importance of maintaining the visual quality within the proposed Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area, Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, and the Williams Creek Recreation Site. Less restrictive measures allowing the harvest of timber were found to be

inadequate in the proposed management of these resources under this alternative. All of the proposed set-asides in this plan are in conformance with current BLM forest land policy.

Selection of this plan provides an even supply of timber to local markets, yet mitigates the impacts of timber harvesting on other important resource values. Designations of set-asides and restrictions are consistent with current BLM forest land policy; they eliminate major impacts to conflicting resources while having negligible economic impact to the local community.

#### RANGE MANAGEMENT

The Plan is based on 459,481 acres of public land in 88 grazing allotments with the short-term grazing preference reduced from 63,898 AUMs to 43,602 AUMs. If 5,182 acres of public land are transferred to private ownership, this will leave 454,299 acres in 82 allotments with a short-term grazing preference of 42,842 AUMs. The long-term stocking level will be between 51,872 AUMs and 52,632 AUMs depending on the acres transferred.

The Plan recognizes the need to improve watershed condition, riparian areas, and livestock distribution while providing forage and habitat for wildlife and initiating a brush control program. Seeding will be done in areas where a native perennial seed source was not available. Additional range improvements--spring developments, pipelines, reservoirs, and fences--will also be provided.

Rationale: The Plan recognizes livestock grazing on public land as the third most important economic resource for this area. It maintains most of the current livestock operations with the exception of those allotments which will be transferred to private ownership through lands actions. The Plan will provide for multiple use by allowing livestock grazing, soil protection, wildlife habitat, and other resource uses. It addresses the major range management problems of repetitive early grazing of spring range and over-utilization of riparian zones and meadows, both wet and dry. It also provides the parameters for controlling the spread of noxious plants. It identifies small allotments which could be combined with other adjoining small allotments to improve management flexibility and opportunities.

Range improvements, designed to improve livestock distribution, will enhance or have minimal adverse impacts on the other resources.

There will not be significant long-term grazing reductions while increasing good ecological condition range from 61 to 66 percent of the planning area.

The Plan would address three issues: (4.a) managing the range resource to meet existing and future livestock demand, (4.b) designating forage for livestock and wildlife uses, and (4.c) using special management techniques for livestock grazing to improve sensitive areas.

## WILDLIFE

The Plan will provide for existing big game populations and Idaho Department of Fish and Game population projections through 1995. It will provide for improvement of crucial elk winter range; deer, antelope and sage grouse habitat; and nongame habitat. Habitat will be protected or enhanced through acquisition of limited acreages of state and private land; moderate restrictions on livestock use, forestry, and mineral activity; and retention of all important habitat. Fences presenting a hazard or movement problem for big game will be modified. Guzzlers will be installed for antelope, sage grouse, and nongame in water deficient areas. Sensitive and threatened or endangered species habitats will be protected through standard operating procedures. This Plan should provide enhanced habitat conditions such that population increases for many wildlife species will be possible.

Rationale: The Plan formally recognizes the ecologic nonconsumptive and consumptive values associated with viable populations of diverse species of wildlife and their habitat. Supporting that recognition are accommodations for wildlife by other, potentially competing, resource activities and various habitat improvement efforts. The Plan should provide the enhanced habitat conditions that will make possible population increases for many wildlife species.

The Plan addresses the issues of livestock and wildlife forage designations (4.b), wildlife habitat management (5.a,b,c), restrictions on forestry to protect wildlife habitat (3.b), and restrictions on mineral activities to protect wildlife habitat (2.b).

## WATERSHED

Under the Plan, 1,494 acres of watershed presently in unsatisfactory condition will be improved through monitoring and livestock grazing use modifications. Approximately 15.5 miles of perennial stream riparian area will be improved by fencing to exclude livestock. Thirteen of fourteen riparian areas listed in Table 3-5 page 3-20 of the Draft RMP/EIS as "most in need of improvement" will improve under this plan. Timber harvest roads will be closed except for forestry and fire management purposes following completion of timber harvest activities to mitigate the adverse impacts of timber harvesting on watersheds and water quality.

Rationale: The Plan recognizes that water and water-related resources in the area are of great importance to both public and private lands. Mitigation efforts for water and watershed resources will support this recognition. The Plan should maintain or improve riparian and watershed conditions such that benefits associated with healthy riparian areas and watersheds (improved wildlife, fisheries, recreation, water quality, and flood control) could be maintained or improved.

The Plan addresses the issues of riparian degradation due to overuse by livestock (6.a), watershed degradation caused by timber harvest practices (6.b), and overgrazing by livestock on highly erosive, low elevation rangeland (6.c). The plan recognizes the direct and indirect values associated with healthy riparian areas. The political, socioeconomic, and ecological complexities surrounding the riparian problems are enormous. Refer to Appendix A-8 of the Proposed RMP/EIS for detailed rationale concerning riparian management.

#### FISHERIES HABITAT MANAGEMENT

The Plan would improve fisheries habitat on 3.0 miles of McDevitt Creek and improve water quality on 2.25 miles of Sevenmile Creek. A total of 94.7 miles of stream will be managed to maintain fisheries habitat in its present condition.

Rationale: The Plan recognizes the importance of the aquatic/riparian habitat along 5.5 miles of perennial stream that will be improved. The other 94.7 miles will remain in an overall static trend. This addresses planning issues (6.a) and (4.c).

#### SOILS

Issue 6.c asks, "How should the problem of early spring turnout and overgrazing by livestock on highly erosive, low elevation rangeland be handled?"

Rationale: The Plan will establish lower stocking rates, implement more range improvements, and improve livestock distribution. The improved distribution will lead to improvement of the poor and fair ranges (20,200 acres), thus reducing the erosion potential on these areas. The better distribution will lessen, but not eliminate, the impact of grazing and wildlife on the bentonite badlands areas (5,028 acres).

#### RECREATION

Recreation use varies in direct proportion to the national economy, river water levels, big game seasons, and anadromous fish runs. Principal uses include hunting, fishing, off-road vehicle (ORV) use, river running, and sightseeing. The Plan will continue the designation of three special recreation management areas: the Salmon River, Continental Divide Trail, and Lewis and Clark Trail. Recreation sites will be developed at two locations. Mineral entry withdrawals, no-surface-occupancy restrictions, and other use restrictions will be used in developed recreation sites and special recreation management areas. The Plan will leave 93 percent of the area open to ORV use. There will be 14,796 acres closed to ORV use, and 16,230 acres will have a seasonal (winter) use limit.

Rationale: The development and protection of recreation sites and nationally designated trails will help meet the projected demand for recreation in the area. There has been an increasing demand for recreation opportunities along the Salmon River. The special recreation management area designations will provide for more detailed planning so that most uses could be accommodated. The closure of 14,796 acres to ORV use is required for the area recommended for wilderness (if designated by Congress).

This plan designates open, limited, and closed ORV areas in response to Issue #8 and provides specific management direction for existing recreational facilities and nationally significant areas in response to Issue #7.

#### WILDERNESS

Within the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area (WSA), 14,796 acres will be recommended for wilderness designation and 10,126 acres for nonwilderness uses under the Plan.

Rationale: The area recommended for wilderness designation contains the heart of the WSA, including all of the primitive and most of the semi-primitive nonmotorized lands. This area is manageable as wilderness, little influenced by past land uses, and borders a portion of the Italian Peaks Roadless Area recommended for wilderness by the U.S. Forest Service.

The area recommended for nonwilderness is a narrow strip adjacent to several mining areas that has been more affected by nearby past uses than the rest of the WSA. Management of this narrow strip of land as wilderness would be difficult. Adjacent Forest Service lands are not recommended for wilderness designation.

This plan offers a reasonable response to the issue of wilderness suitability (Issue #9).

#### FIRE MANAGEMENT

The Plan will provide for full suppression on 444,770 acres and limited suppression only on isolated tracts. A total of 14,796 acres will be managed under the suppression restrictions within the WSA. A hazard reduction program will be conducted on 10,000 acres. Prescribed fires will be used to treat 30,078 acres to improve forage and wildlife habitat.

Rationale: Prescribed fire is an economical means of carrying out brush control and other vegetative manipulation projects. The WSA has certain criteria that state what type of suppression actions can be taken in that area. Hazard reduction is a means of removing fuel loading in areas that have the potential, if a fire starts, to support a disastrous fire.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Plan will protect and preserve documented prehistoric and historic sites. Cultural resource management plans will be prepared for five areas, including the Chief Tendoy Cemetery, the Salmon River, the Lewis and Clark Trail, and Indian Area A and Indian Area B. Management plans will guide the use and protection of significant cultural, natural history, and paleontological resources under BLM administration. The cultural resources standard operating procedures will be applied to protect cultural resources.

**Rationale:** The Lemhi Resource Area's cultural resources are fragile, nonrenewable resources. They have significant socio-cultural values as well as excellent archaeological research potential. The Plan recognizes the nature and significance of these resources and will recommend protective and interpretive measures. The Bureau is required by law to protect the cultural resources on the public lands. Cultural resource protection and use will remain consistent and compatible with other public land resource uses and activities. The standard operating procedures will help protect cultural resources throughout the planning area. This alternative addresses management concern #2, which was identified during the scoping process.

## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

The following management guidance applies to, and is a part of, the Management Prescription. All Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are based on existing laws, regulations, and policy.

### Allowable Uses

The public lands will be managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield as required by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). Any valid use, occupancy, or development of the public lands that conforms with the RMP will be considered. Those uses, including rights-of-way, leases, and permits, will be subject to environmental review and may require limitations or stipulations to protect and preserve natural resources. Limitations may also be imposed on either the type or intensity of use, or both, because of environmental values, hazards, or special management considerations. Some limitations have already been identified for specific areas. These are included in the land use allocations and management objectives in this land use plan.

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

The BLM will ensure that the detailed management plans and individual projects resulting from the RMP are consistent with officially adopted and approved plans, policies, and programs of other agencies, state and local governments, and Indian Tribes. Cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding will be developed as needed to promote close cooperation between BLM and other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian Tribes.

## Lands

### Land Ownership Adjustments

Objectives for acquiring public lands are discussed under activity needs within the alternatives. Site-specific decisions regarding land ownership adjustments in the resource area will be made based on whether the lands are needed for Bureau programs or are considered more valuable for other purposes. The following criteria will be applied to site-specific determinations for lands that are within transfer areas:

1. Public resource values, including but not limited to:
  - a. Threatened, endangered, or sensitive species habitat.
  - b. Riparian areas.
  - c. Fisheries.
  - d. Nesting/breeding habitat for game animals.
  - e. Key big game seasonal habitat.
  - f. Developed recreation and recreation access sites.
  - g. Class A scenery.
  - h. Municipal watersheds.
  - i. Energy and mineral potential.
  - j. Sites or places eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.
  - k. Wilderness areas and areas being studied for wilderness.
  - l. Other designations authorized by law.
2. Accessibility of the land for public uses.
3. Amount of public investment in facilities or improvements and the potential for recovering that investment.
4. Difficulty or cost of administration (manageability).
5. Suitability of the land for management by another federal agency.
6. Significance of the decision in stabilizing business, social, and economic conditions and/or lifestyles.
7. Encumbrances, including, but not limited to, Recreation and Public Purposes leases, withdrawals, and other leases or permits.
8. Consistency of the decision with cooperative agreements and plans or policies of other agencies.
9. Suitability, and need for change in land ownership or use, for purposes including, but not limited to, community expansion or economic development such as industrial, residential, or agricultural (other than grazing) development.

The land ownership adjustment criteria identified above will be considered in land reports and environmental analyses prepared for specific adjustment proposals.

### Retention Areas

Public land within retention areas generally will remain in public ownership and be managed by the BLM. Transfers to other public agencies will be considered where improved management efficiency would result. Recreation and Public Purpose applications will be considered on all public lands except those lands of national significance. Land exchange proposals will be considered on all public lands. However, these proposals must be in the public interest, which will be determined by site-specific application of the land ownership adjustment criteria.

### Transfer Areas

Public land within transfer areas generally will be made available for disposal through sales, exchanges, or desert land entry. Some land may be retained in public ownership based on site-specific application of the land ownership adjustment criteria.

### Exchanges

Land to be acquired by BLM through exchanges generally should be located in the retention areas. In addition, acquisition of such land should:

1. Facilitate access to public lands and resources.
2. Maintain or enhance important public values and uses.
3. Maintain or enhance local social and economic values.
4. Improve management efficiency through the elimination of isolated tracts and the blocking up of public lands.
5. Facilitate implementation of other aspects of the Lemhi RMP.

### Sales

Public land to be sold must meet one or more of the following criteria derived from Section 203(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976:

1. The land must be difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands and must not be suitable for management by another federal department or agency.
2. The land must have been acquired for a specific purpose and must no longer be required for that or any other federal purpose.
3. Disposal of the land will serve important public objectives that can be achieved prudently or feasibly only if the land is removed from public ownership, and these objectives outweigh other public objectives and values that would be served by maintaining the land in federal ownership.

Sale will be the preferred method of disposal when:

1. It is required by national policy.
2. The level of interest in a specific tract indicates that competitive bidding is desirable for reasons of fairness.
3. Disposal through exchange is not feasible.

#### Agricultural Development

Public land identified for agricultural development must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Each 40-acre parcel in an application must contain at least 40 percent of Soil Conservation Service capability Class I, II, or III soils.
2. The land must be lower than 6,350 feet in elevation.
3. The land must meet the requirements of the Desert Land Act of March 3, 1877, as amended.

#### Unauthorized Use

It is BLM policy to identify, abate, and prevent unauthorized use of public lands. Existing unauthorized uses of public land will be resolved either through termination, temporary authorization by short-term permit, issuance of rights-of-way, leasing through the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, sale, exchange, or other appropriate manner.

#### Utility/Rights-of-Way (ROW) Avoidance

Utility and transportation development may be permitted based on consideration of the following criteria:

1. Type of and need for the proposed facility.
2. Conflicts with other existing or potential resource values and uses.
3. Availability of alternatives and/or mitigation measures.

#### Land Use Authorizations

Land use permits under Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act may be used 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 will 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 an area that may also be needed for future materials sources, or for community expansion needs.

Cooperative agreements, under certain circumstances, may be reached with other federal entities for uses that 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.

#### Withdrawals and Classifications

It is BLM policy to review all withdrawals on and classifications of public lands by October 20, 1991. This includes a review of approximately 6,180 acres of various withdrawals as well as review of the Classification and Multiple Use Act (I-1639) that will involve approximately 422,578 acres of public land. Review of these latter acres is to be complete by the end of September 1987.

The multiple use classification will be reviewed through the planning process and a decision will be made to cancel or continue the classification, either in whole or in part, based on the transfer and retention areas.

#### Access

All existing public access routes will be reserved if the lands are transferred out of public ownership. Easements will be obtained across private property as needed for general public use and public land management by BLM.

#### Energy and Minerals

##### Oil and Gas Leasing

Oil and gas leasing is presently covered by a district-wide environmental assessment, which is incorporated in this RMP.

As a general rule, public lands within the resource area are available for oil and gas leasing. In many areas, oil and gas leases will be issued with only the standard stipulations. In other areas, leases will have special stipulations attached to them at the time of issuance to protect seasonal wildlife habitat or other sensitive resource values. In highly sensitive areas, where special stipulations do not provide adequate protection for important surface resource values, portions of the lease, or the entire lease, will be issued with a "no-surface-occupancy" stipulation.

This analysis assumes that horizontal deviations of up to 1,500 feet are feasible with current directional drilling techniques. However, because of the high cost of directional drilling, such operations would not be anticipated unless there is high potential for a discovery.

The general areas where standard, special, and "no-surface-occupancy" stipulations would apply are shown on the map. During any given year, the authorized officer could waive the special restrictions if actual conditions did not warrant them. The standard stipulations are as follows:

Endangered, Threatened, or Sensitive Species: The Federal Surface Management Agency is responsible for assuring that the leased land is examined prior to undertaking any surface-disturbing activities to determine effects upon any plant or animal species, listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened, or their habitats. The findings of this examination may result in some restrictions to the operator's plans or even disallow use and occupancy that would be in violation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 by detrimentally affecting endangered or threatened species of their habitats.

The lessee/operator may, unless notified by the authorized officer of the Surface Management Agency that the examination is not necessary, conduct the examination on the leased lands at his discretion and cost. This examination must be done by or under the supervision of a qualified resources specialist approved by the Surface Management Agency. An acceptable report must be provided to the Surface Management Agency identifying the anticipated effects of a proposed action on endangered or threatened species or their habitats.

Erosion Control: Surface disturbing activities may be prohibited during muddy and/or wet soil period. This limitation does not apply to operation and maintenance of producing wells using authorized roads.

Controlled or Limited Surface Use Stipulation: This stipulation may be modified by special stipulations which are hereto attached or when specifically approved in writing by the District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, with concurrence of the Federal surface management agency. Distances and/or time periods may be made less restrictive depending on the actual on-ground conditions. The lessee should contact the Federal Surface Management Agency for more specific locations and information regarding the restrictive nature of this stipulation.

The lessee operator is given notice that the lands within this lease may include special areas and that such areas may contain special values, may be needed for special purposes, or may require special attention to prevent damage to surface and/or other resources. Possible special areas are identified below (would be listed below on an actual lease). Any surface use or occupancy within such special areas will be strictly controlled or, if absolutely necessary, excluded. Use or occupancy will be restricted only when the Bureau of Land Management and/or the Surface Management Agency demonstrates the restriction necessary for the protection of such special areas and existing or planned uses. Appropriate modifications to imposed restrictions will be made for the maintenance and operations of producing oil and gas wells.

#### Geothermal Leasing

Geothermal resource leasing is covered by a district-wide environmental assessment at the present time, and this assessment is incorporated in the RMP. Lease applications will continue to be processed as received. Stipulations developed during the preparation of the district-wide environmental assessment will be attached to the leases prior to issuance. Specific proposals for prelease exploration or operation on leases will

be reviewed by an interdisciplinary team. This review process will result in a site-specific environmental assessment of the proposal and may include additional special stipulations necessary to protect other resources. Seasonal or no-surface-occupancy stipulations for oil and gas leasing apply also to geothermal leasing in the same specified areas.

#### Non-Energy Mineral Leasing

Prospecting permits and lease applications will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary team and environmental assessments will be prepared for each proposed action. These assessments will develop any special stipulations necessary for the protection of other surface resources. A phased approach will be used, with site-specific analysis of a proposed activity following the analysis completed for permit issuance. The only known potential for hardrock leasing is in the Hawley Creek area; an environmental assessment has been completed for Hawley Creek, with a recommendation for issuance of prospecting permits.

#### Coal Leasing

In this RMP, coal leasing is not considered as an issue because the potential for commercial development appears very low. Applications for coal prospecting permits or coal leases will be evaluated when received. Preliminary applications of the "Coal Suitability Criteria" indicate that not all lands identified as having coal potential are suitable for leasing.

#### Locatable Minerals

Mineral exploration and development on public land will be regulated under 43 CFR 3800 to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of the land. The BLM will conduct validity examinations, checking mining claims to determine whether a claimant has established any right to the mineral resources, under the following conditions:

1. Where a mineral patent application has been filed and a field examination is required to verify the validity of the claim(s).
2. Where there is a conflict with a disposal application and it is deemed in the public interest to do so, or where the statute authorizing the disposal requires the removal of mining claims that are not valid. If the validity examination showed that the mining claim was valid, the disposal action could not be completed.
3. Where the land is needed for a federal program.
4. Where a mining claim is located under the guise of the mining law and flagrant unauthorized use of the land or mineral resource is occurring.

Withdrawals from mineral entry will be used only where there are significant resource values that cannot be adequately protected under the surface management regulations. This would include areas recommended for wilderness designation, important historical and cultural resources, and recreational developments.

Public land will be reopened to mineral entry where mineral withdrawals are revoked through the withdrawal review process.

#### Salable Minerals (Common Variety)

Applications for the removal of common variety mineral materials will be processed using the standards developed in this RMP and the restrictions developed for each alternative. Since most disposals within the resource area are generally under the 100,000 ton or cubic yard threshold, the Categorical Exclusion Review process for critical resources will be used; an environmental assessment need not be prepared. Community pits will be designated where there is sufficient demand to open new material sites. Disposals to state, county, and municipal governments will generally be handled through issuance of free use permits rather than establishment of mineral material sites.

#### Forest Management

##### General Forest Management and Planning

The suitable timber production base, as determined by the Timber Production Capability Classification inventory, will be subject to the specific restrictions and withdrawals required by this RMP. These RMP actions further refine the timber base to those acres available for sustained yield production of forest products. All lands within the available timber production base will be considered for scheduled timber harvesting and subject to a variety of forest development activities.

Restrictions placed on the available timber base because of concerns for other resource values (wildlife, recreational use, etc.) will not rule out intensive forest management and planned timber harvest. However, any loss in timber yield resulting from these restrictions will be taken into consideration in future allowable cut computations.

Any commercial forest lands set aside are removed from the timber production base will not be available for scheduled timber harvesting. This acreage will not be included in allowable cut calculations. However, these set aside stands, along with those classified as woodland, will be subject to limited forest management activities such as logging road right-of-ways, salvage operations, and firewood cutting. Any volumes of timber removed from these lands will not be used to satisfy allowable cut levels.

## Timber Harvesting and Silvicultural Treatments

Methods of harvest will include clearcutting and shelterwood systems. Clearcutting will be utilized in predominantly lodgepole pine stands, with limited use in Douglas-fir to control dwarf mistletoe infestations. Clearcuts will be limited to 40 acres and will be irregularly shaped to minimize wildlife escape distances and blend into the surrounding landscape.

Timber marking prescriptions will concentrate on genetic improvement of the regenerated stand and will be designed primarily to encourage natural regeneration.

Natural regeneration will be the primary method of reforestation except where an area has been depleted or heavily affected by insects, disease, fire, or other natural catastrophe. Artificial reforestation or site preparation will be considered when natural regeneration does not occur within five years after harvest. The backlog of harvest areas without adequate regeneration stocking levels will also be planted or scarified as forest development funds become available.

Tractor skidding will be restricted to slopes of 45 percent or less in the volcanic, granitic, and sediment land types. Skidding on quartzite soils will be allowed on slopes up to 60 percent. One exception to the 45 percent restriction would be on small areas of convex slopes with inadequate deflection for cable yarding. Some limited skidding activity on slopes up to 60 percent would be allowed in these areas.

Slash treatments will vary with the specific harvesting system and the silvicultural objectives for the stand. Most Douglas-fir harvest units will require lop and scatter slash disposal with some piling of large concentrations at landings. Lodgepole pine slash treatments will vary between lop and scatter and piling depending on cone serotiny and stand objectives. All burning of slash will be conducted by BLM personnel in conformance with state air quality guidelines.

All skid trails will be cross-drained with the construction of water bars upon completion of skidding operations.

All harvest units susceptible to livestock damage will be protected by grazing closures or fencing until such time as regeneration becomes stocked and established.

At least three nonhazardous snags per acre will be left in shelterwood harvest units for nongame wildlife use. In the absence of sufficient numbers of nonhazardous snags, some large culls will be substituted.

Seasonal harvest restrictions and road closures will be imposed to protect soils, watershed, and wildlife values during critical periods.

No firewood cutting permits will be issued in cottonwood/aspen and associated riparian areas/drainages except as part of a special vegetation management project designed to encourage sprouting and regeneration of the stand.

All forestry practices will meet or exceed those set forth under the Idaho Forest Practices Act, Title 38, Chapter 13, Idaho Code.

## Range

### Allotment Categorization

All grazing allotments in the resource area have been assigned to one of three management categories--M (maintain), I (improve), and C (custodial)--based on present resource conditions, potential for improvement, and management objectives. The M category allotments generally will be managed to maintain current satisfactory resource conditions, I category allotments generally will be managed to improve resource conditions, and C category allotments will receive custodial management while protecting existing resource values.

### Allotment-Specific Objectives for the Improvement Category

Multiple use management objectives have been developed for each allotment in the I category (see Appendix B, Draft Lemhi RMP/EIS). Future management actions, including approval of allotment management plans, will be tailored to meet these objectives. However, the priorities assigned to achieving sometimes conflicting objectives for wildlife habitat, watershed, vegetation condition, and livestock forage production differ between alternatives.

### Implementing Changes in Allotment Management

Activity plans 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 AMP that affect the environment will be analyzed and compared to alternative actions. During the analysis, the proposal may be altered or completely revamped to mitigate adverse impacts. The following sections contain discussions of the types of change likely to be recommended in an activity plan and the guidance that applies to these administrative actions.

### Livestock Use Adjustments

Livestock use adjustments are made by changing one or more of the following: the season of use, the number of head, or the pattern of grazing. For each of the alternatives presented in this RMP, target stocking rates have been set for each allotment (refer to Appendix B, Draft Lemhi RMP/EIS). While most livestock use adjustments will occur in the I allotments, use adjustments are permitted for allotments in categories C and M.

In reviewing the target stocking rate figures and other recommended changes, it is emphasized that the target animal unit month (AUM) figures are not final stocking rates. All livestock use adjustments will be implemented through documented mutual agreement or by decision. When adjustments are made through mutual agreement, they may be implemented once

the Rangeland Program Summary has been through a public review period. When livestock use adjustments are implemented by decision, the decision will be based on operator consultation, range survey data, and monitoring of resource conditions. Current BLM policy emphasizes the use of a systematic monitoring program over a period of years to verify the need for livestock adjustments proposed on the basis of one-time inventory data.

Monitoring will also be used to measure the changes brought about by new livestock management practices and to evaluate the effectiveness of management changes in meeting stated objectives. Detailed guidance for rangeland monitoring is available in current BLM policy and guidance. (Refer to Implementation Section of this document).

The federal regulations that govern changes in allocation of livestock forage provide specific direction for livestock use adjustments implemented by decision. The regulations specify that permanent increases in livestock forage or suspensions of preference "shall be implemented over a five-year period...." The regulations do provide for adjustments to be implemented in less than five years when (1) an agreement is reached to implement the adjustment in less than five years or (2) a shorter implementation period is needed to sustain resource productivity.

#### Temporary Suspensions and Closures

Temporary suspensions of grazing use or closures of all or portions of allotments may be implemented to protect the public lands because of drought, fire, flood, or insect infestation. When conditions such as fire, flood, or insect infestation create a significant impact on the normal operation of a grazing operator, efforts to mitigate the impact will be taken by BLM. These mitigating efforts may consist of relocation of grazing use, modification of grazing systems, and granting of temporary nonrenewable grazing use in other allotments under permit or lease. No action will be taken by BLM prior to consultation and coordination with affected permittees or lessees and other affected parties.

#### Range Improvements and Treatments

Typical range improvements and treatments and the general procedures to be followed in implementing them are described in Appendix B, Draft Lemhi RMP/EIS. The extent, location, and timing of such actions will be based on the allotment-specific management objectives adopted through the resource management planning process, interdisciplinary development and review (to include the Idaho Department of Fish and Game) of proposed actions, operator contributions, and BLM funding capability. Since some of the soils in the resource area may be unsuitable for range improvement projects, proposed projects will be investigated for feasibility prior to approving location and design plans.

All new fence construction will comply with the Lemhi Resource Area fencing policy dated May 20, 1983 which is as follows:

It shall be standard policy for the Lemhi Resource Area that:

- A. All wire fences constructed subsequent to this policy statement shall be 3-wire only.
- B. Wire spacing shall be as follows:
  - a. Top wire shall be set no higher than 38" from ground level.
  - b. Bottom wire shall be smooth and set at a minimum of 18" from ground level.
  - c. Mid-wire shall be set at 26" from ground level unless:
    - 1. Bighorn sheep are involved (34")
    - 2. Fence is adjustable for antelope (29")
- C. All new fences shall be flagged (e.g. cloth strips, survey flagging) between every other post.
- D. Exceptions: Variances or exceptions to the above may be allowed in unusual or unique circumstances where public safety is involved or where total exclusion of animals is required (e.g. campgrounds, enclosures, etc.). Exceptions will be justified in writing.

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 spending range improvement funds that are needed to carry out activity plans. The highest priority for implementation generally will be assigned to those improvements for which the total anticipated benefits exceed costs. Generally, all structural range improvements will be maintained by the benefitting party(s). All nonstructural range improvements will be maintained by BLM.

Noxious weed control will be considered under all alternatives. Individual sites and species (i.e., larkspur, Canadian thistle, leafy etc.) will be handled on a case-by-case basis through the environmental assessment (EA) process. Where biological controls have proven to be effective, they will be used in preference to chemical or mechanical methods.

#### Grazing Systems

The type of system to be implemented will be based on consideration of the following factors:

1. Allotment-specific management objectives (see Appendix B, Draft Lemhi RMP/EIS)
2. Resource characteristics, including vegetation potential and water availability
3. Operator needs
4. Implementation costs

Typical grazing systems available for consideration are described in Appendix B of the Draft Lemhi RMP/EIS.

## Unleased or Unpermitted Tracts

Unleased or unpermitted tracts generally will remain available for further consideration for authorized grazing, as provided for in the current BLM grazing regulations. However, certain tracts currently closed or restricted to grazing use will remain so.

## Wildlife and Fisheries Program

### General

Fish and wildlife habitat will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as a part of project-level planning. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of fish and wildlife habitat in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to assure compatibility of projects with management objectives for fish and wildlife habitat. Habitat improvement projects will be implemented where necessary to stabilize or improve unsatisfactory or declining wildlife habitat condition. Such projects will be identified through habitat management plans or multiple resource management activity plans.

### Seasonal Restrictions

Seasonal restrictions will continue to be applied where they are needed to mitigate the impacts of human activities on important seasonal wildlife habitat. The major types of seasonal wildlife habitat and the time periods in which restrictions may be needed are shown in Table 1. Approximately 60 percent (226,000 acres) of the resource area lies within areas potentially subject to restriction. During any given year, the authorized officer may waive seasonal restrictions if actual conditions do not warrant them.

TABLE 1  
SEASONAL WILDLIFE RESTRICTIONS

Habitat	Restricted Period
Big Game Winter Range (Deer/Elk/Bighorn)	11/15 - 03/15
Elk Rut Areas	08/15 - 10/01
Elk Calving Areas	04/30 - 06/30
Raptor Nest Sites	Dates vary by species
Sage Grouse Strutting Grounds	03/01 - 04/30
Sage Grouse Nesting & Broodrearing	04/30 - 06/30
Antelope Fawning Grounds	05/01 - 06/30
Antelope Winter Ranges	11/15 - 03/15

### Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Habitat

Whenever possible, management activities in habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species will be designed to benefit those species through habitat improvement.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be consulted prior to implementing projects that may affect habitat for threatened and endangered species. If a "may affect" situation is determined through the BLM biological assessment process, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be initiated in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. All activities occurring within the interagency wolf coordination zone (east of Idaho Highway 28 between Kenney Creek and Eighteenmile Creek) will be subject to Section 7 consultation.

Table 2 shows species and areas where all management activities will be analyzed for possible impacts during the writing of any activity plans or environmental assessments.

TABLE 2  
T & E PLANT MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Species	Area
<u>Physaria didymocarpa</u> var. <u>lyrata</u>	Williams Creek
	Pattee Creek
	Basin Creek
	Trail Creek
	Agency Creek
<u>Astragalus scaphoides</u>	Agency Creek

The only activity that would seriously impact Penstemon lemhiensis is herbicide spraying, particularly along roads. An analysis of impacts to populations of this species will be done if herbicide spraying is proposed.

#### Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat

Sufficient forage and cover will be provided for wildlife on seasonal habitat. Forage and cover requirements will be incorporated into allotment management plans and will apply to specific areas of primary wildlife use.

Range improvements generally will be designed to achieve both wildlife and range objectives. Existing fences will be modified and new fences will be built so as to allow wildlife passage. Water developments generally will not be established for livestock where significant conflicts with wildlife for vegetation would result.

Vegetation manipulation projects will be designed to minimize impact on wildlife habitat and to improve it whenever possible. These projects will comply with sage grouse, antelope, and mule deer management guidelines. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will be consulted two years in advance on all vegetation manipulation projects. Animal control programs will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Management actions within floodplains and wetlands will include measures to preserve, protect, and, if necessary, restore their natural functions (as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 and BLM Manual 6740). Management techniques will be used to minimize the degradation of stream banks and the loss of riparian vegetation. Bridges and culverts will be designed and installed to maintain adequate fish passage.

Riparian habitat needs will be taken into consideration in developing livestock grazing systems and pasture designs. Some of the techniques that can be used to lessen impacts are:

1. Constructing shade structures in conjunction with water development away from riparian areas
2. Using prescribed fire to draw cattle away from riparian zones
3. Changing class of stock from cow/calf pairs to herded sheep or yearlings.
4. Eliminating hot season grazing or scheduling hot season grazing for only one year out of every three.
5. Locating salt away from riparian zones.
6. Laying out pasture fences so that each pasture has as much riparian habitat as possible.
7. Locating fences so that they do not confine or concentrate livestock near the riparian zone.
8. Developing alternative sources of water to lessen the grazing pressure on the riparian habitat.
9. Using temporary electric fencing.
10. Excluding livestock completely from riparian habitat as a last resort by using protective fencing.

#### Forestry Activities

Where applicable, the elk management guidelines contained in Elk Habitat Relations for Central Idaho (Ralphs, 1981) will be followed. These include:

1. Managing public vehicle access to maintain the habitat effectiveness of security cover and key seasonal habitat (such as winter range and calving/nursery areas) for deer and elk.
2. Maintaining adequate untreated peripheral zones around important moist sites (for example, wet sedge meadows, springs, and riparian zones).

3. Ensuring that slash depth inside clear cuts does not exceed 1 1/2 feet.
4. Generally discouraging thinning immediately adjacent to clear cuts.

#### Fencing

To the extent possible, fences will be located and constructed to maximize their visibility, to take advantage of flat areas (benches, saddles, etc.), and to cross contour lines.

Existing fences posing a potential or known problem to big game movement will be modified as necessary.

All new fence construction will comply with the Lemhi Resource Area fencing policy dated May 20, 1983. See Range Improvements and Treatments. 37

#### Water Development

1. Free water for use by wildlife shall be maintained at or within 1/4 mile of all spring developments. This water shall remain available for at least as long a period as predevelopment conditions provided.
2. Adequate water shall remain at spring developments to maintain any associated riparian zone.
3. Height of troughs or other water containers shall not exceed 20 inches above ground level.
4. Bird ladders or other appropriate wildlife escape devices will be installed and maintained in all water troughs.
5. As appropriate, pipelines and troughs will remain charged with water from June 15 to October 1 to provide for wildlife that has become dependent upon them. Maintenance of these projects will be negotiated between BLM, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the permittee.

#### Vegetation Manipulation

1. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game shall be given at least two years notice prior to any vegetation manipulation project.
2. Brush control projects will be designed to maximize edge effect to the extent possible. Islands of untreated sagebrush will be incorporated into project design as necessary to provide cover for sage grouse and other species.
3. Proposed brush manipulation projects on sage grouse winter and/or nesting range or antelope winter and/or fawning range must have a predicted neutral or beneficial effect on these species.

- a. The sagebrush canopy cover will not be reduced below 10 percent on sage grouse broodrearing areas.
  - b. The sagebrush canopy cover will not be reduced below 20 percent on sage grouse nesting and wintering areas.
  - c. The sagebrush canopy cover will not be reduced below 10 percent on general antelope ranges. Winter ranges and spring fawning areas will not be treated unless overall benefits to antelope will result.
4. Brush control proposals within 2 miles of known strutting grounds will be subject to on-site inspection by BLM and Idaho Department of Fish and Game personnel to determine prohibited areas.
  5. As a rule, no brush control will be allowed within 100 yards of streams, meadows, or secondary drainages (dry and intermittent). The desirability of increasing or decreasing the width on specific areas will be determined via on-site evaluation by BLM and Idaho Department of Fish and Game personnel.
  6. A mixture of grasses, forbs, and shrubs (if appropriate) will be used in all range rehabilitation or improvement projects.

#### Soil, Water, and Air

##### General

Soil, water, and air resources will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as a part of project level planning. Such an evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed projects and the sensitivity of the resources. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to prevent adverse impacts to soil, water, and air.

##### Soils

Adequate cover will be maintained to keep soil erosion within tolerable limits. Recent research suggests the soil loss tolerance figure for rangeland is 1.0 ton per acre per year (personal communication with Agricultural Research Service staff).

##### Water

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. Management actions on public land within municipal watersheds will be designed to protect water quality and quantity.

All BLM initiated or authorized programs and actions potentially affecting wetland-riparian areas will comply with the spirit and intent of Executive Order 11990 (Wetlands Act) and BLM Policy as put forth in BLM

Manual Section 6740.06. These directives stress the avoidance of (1) "...long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetland-riparian areas" and (2) the preservation and enhancement of "the natural and beneficial values of wetland-riparian areas which may include constraining or excluding those uses that cause significant, long-term ecological damage."

Roads and utility corridors will avoid riparian zones to the extent practicable.

The Lemhi RMP will utilize State Director Planning Guidance being prepared in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency titled Resource Management Plan Water Quality/Riparian Monitoring Guidance. This document utilizes or references techniques and procedures specifically developed to detect water quality and riparian habitat degradation prior to their having significant adverse impact on beneficial uses.

#### Air Quality

Under the Clean Air Act (as amended, 1977), BLM-administered lands were given a Class II air quality classification, which allows moderate deterioration associated with moderate, well-controlled industrial and population growth. The 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 classification for that specific area.

#### Recreation

##### Recreation Opportunities

A broad range of outdoor recreation opportunities will continue to be provided for all segments of the public, depending on demand. Trails and other means of public access will continue to be maintained and developed where necessary to enhance recreation opportunities and allow public use. Developed recreation facilities receiving the heaviest use will receive first priority for operation and maintenance funds. Sites that cannot be maintained to acceptable health and safety standards will be closed until deficiencies are corrected. Investment of public funds for new recreation developments will be permitted only on land identified to remain in public ownership.

Recreation resources will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as a part of project-level planning. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of recreation resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to assure compatibility of projects with recreation management objectives.

## Motorized Vehicle Use

Travel planning, including the designation of areas open, restricted, and closed to motorized vehicle access, will remain a high priority for public land. Public land within areas identified as open to motorized vehicle use generally will remain available for such use without restrictions. Exceptions to this general rule may be authorized after consideration of the following criteria:

1. The need to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, or other resource values.
2. The need to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant degradation of wildlife habitats.
3. The need to promote user safety.

Public land within areas currently having motorized vehicle use restrictions generally will receive priority attention during travel planning. Specific roads, trails, or portions of such areas may be closed seasonally or yearlong to all or specified types of motorized vehicle use.

Public land within areas closed to motorized vehicle use will be closed yearlong to all forms of motorized vehicle use except emergency or authorized vehicles.

Restrictions and closures will be established for specific roads, trails, or areas only where problems have been identified. Areas not designated as restricted or closed will remain open for motorized vehicle use.

## Visual Resources

Visual resources will continue to be evaluated as a part of activity and project planning. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the visual sensitivity of the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to maintain designated visual resource management classes.

## Wilderness Resources

The Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area (WSA) will continue to be managed in compliance with the Interim Management Policy until it is reviewed and acted upon by Congress. If all or part of this area is designated as wilderness by Congress, it will be managed under BLM's Wilderness Management Policy. A site-specific wilderness management plan will be developed to guide future management.

If all or part of the Eighteenmile WSA is not designated as wilderness, it will be managed under the multiple use guidelines set forth in this RMP.

### Wild and Scenic River Area

The Salmon River from North Fork to its headwaters has been identified as a potential Wild and Scenic Study River. The area will continue to be managed to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation until it is reviewed and acted upon by Congress.

### Fire

The primary fire protection objective will continue to be the control of all wildfires on or threatening public land during the first burning period. Upon completion and approval of the RMP, activity plans will be completed to accomplish the direction of the RMP guidance.

The resource area has many scattered talus mountain tops with lone or scattered trees. These would be limited suppression areas. However, each public report on a fire would have to be checked to make sure the fire was not spreading or sliding down into adjacent fuels. If found to be safe, a fire would be monitored and allowed to burn out unless too many reports were received from residents or tourists.

Fire suppression within the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area will follow the Interim Management Policy until the area is designated as wilderness or nonwilderness by Congress.

Prescribed burning will continue to be used in support of resource management objectives.

### Cultural Resources

The BLM is required to identify, evaluate, and protect 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 Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and amendments, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Executive Order 11593 (1971), Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, together with 36 CFR 800.

Prior to starting any Bureau initiated or authorized action that involves surface disturbing activities, sale, or transfer from Federal management, BLM will conduct, or cause to be conducted, a Class III (intensive) inventory as specified in BLM Manual Section 8111.4. This intensive inventory supplements previous surveys and will be done to locate, identify, and evaluate cultural resource properties in the affected areas. If properties that may be eligible for the National Register are discovered, 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.

Since any Bureau authorized or initiated action recognizes and accommodates cultural resources by virtue of standard operating procedures, the only activity that may damage these resources is unplanned public use. Such activities include unauthorized recreational vehicle use, artifact collection, and illegal excavation for materials and antiquities. The location of these activities is impossible to predict and may occur in spite of measures designed to exclude or limit them.

Cultural resource values discovered in a proposed project or authorized action area will be protected by adhering to the following methods.

1. Avoidance. Cultural resources would be protected by redesigning or relocating the project or excluding significant cultural resource areas from development, use, or disposal.
2. Salvaging. If a project cannot be redesigned or relocated, cultural resource values will be salvaged through controlled, scientific methods pursuant to the SHPO agreement.
3. Project/Action Abandonment. If the site is determined to be of significant value or the above-mentioned methods are not considered adequate, the project will be abandoned.

All cultural sites identified as special management areas will be closed to off-road vehicle use, vegetation manipulation, and surface occupancy.

All cultural sites known to be eligible for National Register nomination or listed on the National Register will be protected from deterioration and be retained in federal ownership.

Cemetery areas or known concentrations of burials will be closed to livestock grazing. Known cemeteries or concentrations of burials will be withdrawn from mineral entry. No surface occupancy will be stipulated for known cemeteries or concentrations of burials.

#### Paleontological Resources

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

The potential impacts to the paleontologic resources of the Lemhi Resource Area are unknown as an inventory has not yet been completed. Once an inventory is completed and site clearances become standard practice, the resource will be adequately protected.

#### Cadastral Survey

Cadastral surveys will continue to be conducted in support of resource management programs. Survey requirements and priorities will be determined on a yearly basis as a part of the annual work planning process.

## Road and Trail Construction and Maintenance

Road and trail construction and maintenance will continue to be conducted in support of resource management objectives. Construction and maintenance requirements and priorities will be determined on a yearly basis as a part of the annual work planning process.

Investment of public funds for road and trail construction generally will be permitted only on land identified for retention in public ownership. Exceptions may be allowed where investment costs can be recovered as a part of land disposal actions.

Specific road and trail construction standards will be determined based on the following criteria:

1. Resource management needs.
2. User safety.
3. Impacts to environmental values, including but not limited to wildlife and fisheries habitat, soil stability, recreation, and scenery.
4. Construction and maintenance costs.

## Detailed Management 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, including range (allotment management plans), recreation (recreation area management plans), wildlife (habitat management plans), and cultural resources (cultural resource management plans). Where two or more activities have activity planning needs in the same general area, a single consolidated activity plan may be prepared. Coordination, consultation, and public involvement are important in the formulation of activity plans. Each activity plan will be analyzed through the environmental review process and these environmental assessments will be available for public review.

## Economic and Social Considerations

The 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.

### Environmental Review

An environmental analysis or categorical exclusion review will be completed prior to approval of any project involving public lands. If no significant impacts are identified, the analysis will be documented through an environmental assessment and a finding of no significant impact. If the analysis suggests a major federal action that would significantly affect the human environment, an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared under the direction of the BLM Idaho State Director.

## SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

The RMP will require support from many sources in order to be implemented. Support requirements are shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3  
SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

SUPPORT	RESOURCE	REMARKS
Appraisal	Lands, Forestry, Range Management, Wildlife, Recreation	Appraisals must be conducted on those lands identified for transfer and acquisitions. Also access acquired for timber sales, range and wildlife projects, and recreation developments must be appraised.
Cadastral Survey	Minerals, Wildlife, Range, Lands, Forestry, Wilderness	Identification of public land boundaries may be required for actions such as: mineral disposal, land transfers, timber sales, range projects, wildlife projects, and occupancy trespass settlements.
Access	Forestry, Minerals, Range, Wildlife, Recreation, Cultural, Watershed	Legal access is required for a number of actions such as: timber sales, mineral disposal, range projects, recreation use, wildlife projects, cultural resource management, and watershed projects.
Water Rights	Watershed, Wildlife, Range	All BLM water developments require water rights.
Engineering	Range, Wildlife, Forestry, Recreation	Engineering design, review, and construction or contract preparation; administration of construction is required for range projects, recreation developments, and road building and maintenance projects

TABLE 3 (cont'd)  
SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

SUPPORT	RESOURCE	REMARKS
Fire Management	Range and Wildlife Habitat Management	Technical assistance is required for preparation of prescriptions for prescribed burning and fire management on prescribed burns designed to improve range and wildlife habitat.
	All	Fire suppression, as specified in the RMP for the protection of resource values and property.

## CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER PLANS

This Plan does not appear to be inconsistent with the officially adopted plans, programs, or policies of other federal, state, or local governments or with Indian tribes. The public comments to date have shown no inconsistencies.

The Lemhi County Comprehensive Plan was reviewed by BLM. The Lemhi Draft RMP is consistent with the Lemhi County plan. Coordination with the U.S. Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Lemhi County, city of Salmon, local Lemhi Indians, and Shoshone Bannock tribe does not indicate any inconsistencies.

Agencies, governments, and Indian tribes could notify BLM of inconsistencies with their plans during the 90-day public review period. There were no inconsistencies identified.

The BLM planning regulations provide for a 60-day review by the Governor of BLM's proposed plans or amendments (1610.3-2(e)). The purpose of this review is to give the Governor the opportunity to identify inconsistencies between BLM's proposed plan and state or local plans, policies, or programs. A Memorandum of Understanding (May 3, 1984) with the Office of the Governor has been executed to provide for The Governor's consistency review. In accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding, the BLM notified the Governor of the Lemhi RMP and provided the proposed plan and associated final EIS, including BLM's responses to comments on the Draft Plan and EIS, to the Office of the Governor for the 60-day review. The Office of the Governor did not identify any inconsistencies.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Decisions in the plan will be implemented over a period of years and must be tied to the BLM budgeting process. Priorities will be established to guide the order of implementation for each resource and will be reviewed annually to help develop annual work plan commitments for the coming year. New policy, Departmental guidance, or new BLM goals may influence priorities.

Detailed activity plans and environmental assessments may be needed before taking some actions such as timber harvest or range improvement construction. Rangeland improvement projects, for example, will require a site-specific analysis and a review of economic efficiency.

The following steps will be taken to implement the Plan:

1. Initially, grazing permittees will be allowed to run up to their Active Grazing Preference.
2. Develop and conduct monitoring program for each allotment.
3. Comprehensive allotment management plans will be developed to meet multiple use resource objectives.

4. Implement range improvements identified in Allotment Management Plans.
5. Adjustments in livestock use will be made after monitor data indicates the need. These adjustments could include:
  - A. Change in season of use.
  - B. Change in grazing system or management.
  - C. Change in number of livestock.
6. Changes in kind (cattle, sheep, or horses) and class (cow/calf pairs or yearlings) would be incorporated into the AMP initially at 75% of the total calculated conversion rate. Through monitoring, the conversion could be changed from the initial level.
7. Continue to monitor to insure that resource objectives are being achieved.

#### MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The results of implementing the selected RMP will be examined periodically to inform the BLM resource managers and the public of the progress of the plan. The results being achieved under the plan will be compared with the plan objectives.

Monitoring and evaluation will help the resource managers to:

1. Determine whether an action is accomplishing the intended purpose.
2. Determine whether mitigating measures are satisfactory.
3. Determine if the decisions in the plan are being implemented.
4. Determine if the related plans of other agencies, governments, or Indian tribes have changed, resulting in an inconsistency with the RMP.
5. Identify any unanticipated or unpredictable effects.
6. Identify new data of significance to the plan.

The proposed monitoring and evaluation plan for the Lemhi Resource Area RMP is shown in Appendix I of the Draft Lemhi RMP/EIS and attached to this document. The plan specifies resource components to be monitored and how, when, and where these components will be monitored. Monitoring intensity (the number and frequency of studies) will vary among areas and allotments according to the amount of information that is needed to determine if the plan objectives are being met. If future monitoring shows that important RMP objectives are not being met, the reasons will be examined closely. An RMP decision may need to be changed even if the problem is due to factors beyond BLM's control, such as changes in the climate or economic factors.

MITIGATION THAT WILL TAKE PLACE

The Lemhi RMP will utilize State Director Planning Guidance being prepared in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency titled Resource Management Plan Water Quality/Riparian Monitoring Guidance. This document utilizes or references techniques and procedures specifically developed to detect water quality and riparian habitat degradation prior to their having significant adverse impact on beneficial uses.

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APPENDIX I  
RESOURCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

TABLE I-1

Element	Item	Location	Technique	Unit of Measure	Frequency	Information Warranting A Decision Change	Annual Cost
<u>FOREST MANAGEMENT</u>	Reforestation stocking survey	All past and present timber sale areas, plantations, and wildfires in timber types	Regeneration stocking survey method as out- lined in April 24, 1985 District Instruction Memorandum	Trees/acre	Plantations: 1, 3, and 5 years following plant- ing or until stocked and estab- lished; natural Regeneration: 5- year intervals until stocked and established	Identification of non- stocked timber stands	\$1,500
	Timber sale contract compliance	All active timber sales	Timber sale inspections Site inspection; monitoring com- pliance with tim- ber sale contract		Minimum of twice per week during periods of log- ging activity	Noncompliance with con- tract specifications; exceeding environmental parameters of Idaho Forest Practices Act	\$2,000
	Forest insect and disease reconnaissance	All timber stands	Aerial and field sur- veys	Number of infected acres & extent of infection	One USFS flight per year and ran- dom field recon- naissance	Data revealing above aver- age occurrence of forest insects or disease	\$ 500
<u>VEGETATION</u>	Utilization	All allotments	Key forage plant method (Draft Manual 4423)	Percent of forage plant removed	Annually (within 10 days after close of each grazing period)	Generally utilization greater than 50% on native range; special cases, ri- parian zones, meadows, vegetation treatment areas, seeding, fall use areas, etc., will require variation in allowable utilization levels.	\$5,000
	Actual use	All allotments	Actual grazing use re- ports submitted by live- stock operators; live- stock compliance checks	Animal unit months (AUMs)	Annually	Consider with precipitation in determining why utiliza- tion is at monitored level.	\$3,125

TABLE I-1 (Continued)

Element	Item	Location	Technique	Unit of Measure	Frequency	Information Warranting A Decision Change	Annual Cost
VEGETATION (cont'd)	Precipitation	All allotments	Special site-specific precipitation gauges	Inches of precipitation	Quarterly year-long	Consider with actual use in determining why utilization is at monitored level.	\$3,750
	Trend	a) All "I" category allotments with AMPs and selected "M" category allotments b) Allotments not under an AMP where adjustments in active preference are proposed	Nested frequency plot method, photos	Percent frequency of key species; percent ground cover	a) Annually for one complete grazing cycle after each grazing cycle b) First, third, and fifth year, then on a 5-year basis	(a and b) Downward index summary from base of 10 points	\$27,500
	Condition	All allotments	Range Condition Guide as outlined in SCS National Range Handbook, Section 305	Percent pounds production compared to climate allowance	At the end of each grazing cycle for AMP areas; at 5-year intervals on other allotments	Condition reduced by 1 class or 10% from original reading (if latest reading is less than good or indications are that next reading will be less than good)	\$3,750
WILDLIFE	Bald eagle	Salmon & Lemhi rivers	Aerial, winter	Number and age	Annually	20% or greater decrease in number for two consecutive years	\$2,000
	Gray wolf	Approx. Sandy Creek to Eighteenmile Creek	Aerial winter, big game winter range condition, human activity levels	Extensive forage utilization transects and cover mapping; zones and estimated level of human activity	Annually and tri-annually	Downward trend in big game winter range condition; more than incidental or casual human activity	\$3,600
	Idaho sensitive species	Throughout resource area	Observation of representative sites during key periods	Occupied sites and population levels	Annually	10% loss of occupied sites and numbers/site	\$1,400

TABLE I-1 (Continued)

Element	Item	Location	Technique	Unit of Measure	Frequency	Information Warranting A Decision Change	Annual Cost	
WILDLIFE (cont'd)	Big game winter range condition	Selected ranges	Extensive browse transects	Age/fawn class utilization	3-year cycle	Over 70% utilization for 2 consecutive cycles 25% decrease in numbers Over 30% utilization prior to winter	\$5,000	
			Pellet transects	Big game days/ac. percent	Annually			
			Utilization of grasses in key elk winter range		2-year cycle			
Distribution on winter range	Selected ranges	Aerial and ground surveys		Estimate numbers, location level of human activity	Annually	Any noticeable change in use areas for two comparable winters and/or apparent trend in numbers that seem unusual	\$3,000	
Antelope habitat condition	Selected ranges	Canopy cover of sagebrush		Canopy cover of sagebrush, forb production index	Tri-annually (more frequently in areas subject to modification)	Any reduction of shrub canopy parameters as shown in Standard Operating Procedures No improvement in distribution and breeding territories	\$5,000	
				Guzzler observations	Number of animals and frequency of use			annually
					Number of birds & frequency of use			Annually
					Number of males			Annually
Sage grouse	Selected summer ranges	Guzzler observations		% cover of shrubs and forbs	3-year cycle	No improvement in distribution Population levels below 1981 levels 20% decrease in key forbs and browse species (see Standard Operating Procedures) Any decrease in forb composition until areas are back into satisfactory condition 10% variation from sage grouse guidelines (see Standard Operating Procedures)	\$2,000	
					% cover of forbs and visual view of foliage height			Annually
					% cover of sagebrush and amount of nesting material available			3-year cycle

TABLE I-1 (Continued)

Element	Item	Location	Technique	Unit of Measure	Frequency	Information Warranting A Decision Change	Annual Cost
<u>WATERSHED</u>	Water quality, McDevitt Creek, Hawley Marsh-McBurney Meter, Water temp., Creek, Pattee Creek, HACH water chemical analysis kit	Henry Creek, Sevenmile Creek		Variable	Once every 2 years	Water quality parameters exceeding recommended state of Idaho standards	\$ 225/ stream/ year
	PH, dissolved O <sub>2</sub> , water discharge, turbidity						
<u>FISHERIES</u>	Wetland/riparian areas	McDevitt Creek, Hawley Photo transects Creek, Pattee Creek, Cow Creek, Sevenmile Creek, Henry Creek, Beercan Flats, Muddy Creek, Eighteenmile Creek		Variable	Once every 2 years	Streambank instability, heavy utilizations, woody riparian vegetation response	\$ 75/ stream/ year
	Fisheries habitat	McDevitt Creek, Eighteenmile Creek, Sevenmile Creek	Photo transects	Variable	Once every 2 years	Streambank instability, heavy utilizations, woody riparian vegetation response	\$ 75/ stream/ year
<u>SOILS</u>	Erosion	Bentonite badlands	Patrol, photo recordation, point step transect as needed	% ground cover, acres affected	3 to 5 years	Downward trend, limited response of desirable species	\$ 1,500
	Compaction	Areas surrounding new troughs and guzzlers	Photo recordation and bulk density samples	Pounds per cubic foot	Before installation and biannually thereafter	Information gathered will determine future sites to reduce existing compaction and identify highly compact potential soils.	\$ 2,000
<u>RECREATION</u>	General recreation use	All of resource area outside of special recreation management areas	Ocular reconnaissance, aerial photography	Visitor counts, area inspections to look for vandalism, road proliferation	Two days/month, one flight/year, photos every 2nd year	Collected data revealing user conflicts, resource degradation, or safety hazards	\$ 5,000/ year + \$2,000 every other year.
	Developed site use	Developed Sites (?)	Ocular reconnaissance	Visitor counts, site damage, overuse of vegetation	Once every other week at each site	Vandalism, excessive wear and tear, or nonuse	\$10,000

TABLE I-1 (Concluded)

Element	Item	Location	Technique	Unit of Measure	Frequency	Information Warranting A Decision Change	Annual Cost
<u>WILDERNESS</u>	Interim management	Eighteenmile wilderness study area	Ocular and photo reconnaissance	Road proliferation, mining sites	Monthly	Any change to existing landscape	\$ 5,000
	Condition of cultural resources	Cultural resource management plan areas, plus the remainder of the planning area	Patrol and observation	Number of impacts on sites	3 to 5 trips annually	Any adverse impact to site	\$ 3,000
<u>NATURAL HISTORY OR PALEONTOLOGY</u>	Condition of caves, natural history, or paleontological resources	Areas of geological interest	Patrol and observation	Number of impacts on sites	3 to 5 trips per year	Any adverse impact to site	\$2,000
			Photo inventory, patrol and observation	Number of impacts	Once every 2 years	Any new incidence of collecting or vandalism at any area	\$1,000