

# **CHAPTER 2: ALTERNATIVES**

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# Volume 1: Chapter 2

## Alternatives

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## 2.1. INTRODUCTION

Chapter 2 discusses the alternatives that describe different approaches to management of the resources and uses managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Jarbidge Field Office (FO) area. This chapter begins with an explanation of the alternative development process. Each alternative is a complete and reasonable set of desired future conditions based upon:

- Resource management goals and objectives,
- Management actions to meet goals and objectives, and, where appropriate,
- The allocations of land and resources to facilitate multiple resource management.

These components of each alternative are integral in guiding future management of the public land resources and uses in the planning area.

Six management alternatives (the No Action Alternative and five “action” alternatives) are presented in detail in this chapter. These alternatives represent reasonable approaches to managing resources and uses consistent with law, regulation, and policy and provide a range of choices for achieving the purpose and need, meeting the multiple-use mandate of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), and resolving the planning issues identified in Chapter 1:

- The No Action Alternative continues to implement management direction contained in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP and its amendments.
- Alternative I focuses on enhancing and sustaining existing and historic uses of the planning area.
- Alternative II focuses on increasing commercial uses in the planning area.
- Alternative III focuses on restoring the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function through intensive management of fuels and enhanced fire suppression capabilities.
- Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative) focuses on actively restoring the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function through restoration projects and managing uses.
- Alternative V focuses on the restoration of habitats toward historic vegetation communities using less-intensive methods and more restrictions on uses than Alternative IV.

BLM has the discretion to select an alternative in its entirety or to combine aspects of the various alternatives presented in this draft to develop the Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Identification of an alternative as Preferred is not equivalent to identification of the Proposed Alternative in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. The Proposed RMP will reflect changes or adjustments to the Preferred Alternative based on comments received on the Draft RMP/EIS, new information, or changes in BLM policies or priorities and could include goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions described as portions of other analyzed alternatives. BLM has the discretion to select an alternative in its entirety or to combine aspects of the various alternatives presented in this Draft RMP/EIS to develop the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

### 2.1.1. How to Read This Chapter

Chapter 2 presents alternative management direction for the planning area. The chapter begins with introductory materials regarding the development of the alternatives for the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS, followed by a general narrative description of the alternatives. The chapter continues with a discussion of the alternatives considered but eliminated from further detailed analysis and the rationale for selecting the preferred alternative.

The majority of the chapter contains sections detailing the goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions for each alternative. Topics are presented under five major categories: *Tribal Rights and Interests*, *Resources*, *Resource Uses*, *Special Designations*, and *Social and Economic Features*. Sections under these categories identify the specific topics being addressed (e.g., cultural resources, livestock grazing, National Historic Trails). Goals, objectives, and management actions are identified by section and organized under the following headings:

- **Management Specific to the No Action Alternative** – This heading contains goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions specific to the No Action Alternative.

- **Management Common to the No Action Alternative and All Action Alternatives** – This heading contains goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions that apply to every alternative.
- **Management Common to the Action Alternatives** – This heading contains goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions that apply to all of the action alternatives, but not to the No Action Alternative.
- **Management Specific to Alternative I** – This heading contains goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions that apply to Alternative I and that are not common to all of the action alternatives.
- **Management Specific to Alternative II** – This heading contains goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions that apply to Alternative II and that are not common to all of the action alternatives.
- **Management Specific to Alternative III** – This heading contains goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions that apply to Alternative III and that are not common to all of the action alternatives.
- **Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)** – This heading contains goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions that apply to Alternative IV and that are not common to all of the action alternatives. Where differences between Alternatives IV-A and IV-B (the Preferred Alternative) occur, they are identified under this heading.
- **Management Specific to Alternative V** – This heading contains goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions that apply to Alternative V and that are not common to all of the action alternatives.

Guidance for a specific resource, use, or designation is generally provided in the corresponding section; however, additional plan direction may also be included under another section. For this reason, any management direction contained within an alternative would apply to any future proposed action or activity, regardless of the organizational heading under which it appears in this document. For example, a special designation may contain restrictions related to livestock grazing within that designation; these restrictions may not necessarily be represented in the management direction for livestock grazing, but would still apply to any future livestock grazing actions.

In order to understand the complete suite of all management objectives and actions for a specific action alternative, the reader is encouraged to read management guidance common to the No Action and all action alternatives, management guidance common to all action alternatives, and finally, management guidance specific to each alternative.

The intent of any reference in the alternatives to regulations or policy is that BLM would follow regulations or policies in place at the time implementation actions are taken.

Each goal, objective, allocation, and management action in Chapter 2 of the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS is assigned a reference code to facilitate public comment by giving the public the ability to target their comments to specific items without repeating entire phrases or struggling with page and paragraph numbers. Codes are broken into four components for easy identification of the section, alternative, decision type, and order of appearance in the document.

The first component of the reference code is used to identify the section. The codes and their corresponding sections are identified in Table 2- 1. The information is presented in the order in which it appears in this chapter.

The second component of the reference code identifies the alternative under which the item appears. The codes and their corresponding alternatives are identified in Table 2- 2. This information is presented in the order in which it appears in Chapter 2. Headings for management common to the No Action Alternative and all action alternatives, management common to all action alternatives, and management specific to the action alternatives only appear in Chapter 2 when there are items in those categories.

The third component of the code identifies the decision type. The codes and their corresponding decision type are identified in Table 2- 3.

The fourth component of the code identifies the order in which the item appears within a section, alternative, and decision type. Sequential numbering is used for this section.

Examples illustrating the coding system are provided in Table 2- 4.

**Table 2- 1. Section Codes**

<b>Code<sup>A</sup></b>	<b>Section</b>
TI	Tribal Rights and Interests
AAV	Air and Atmospheric Values
GE	Geologic Features
SR	Soil Resources
WR	Water Resources
UV	Upland Vegetation
RI	Riparian Areas and Wetlands
FI	Fish
WI	Wildlife
SS	Special Status Species
NW	Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants
WFM	Wildland Fire Management
FE	Fuels and Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation (ES&BAR)
WH	Wild Horses
PR	Paleontological Resources
CR	Cultural Resources
VR	Visual Resources
WC	Non-Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
LG	Livestock Grazing
REC	Recreation
TR	Transportation and Travel
LA	Land Use Authorizations
LT	Land Tenure
LE	Leasable Minerals
SA	Salable Minerals
LO	Locatable Minerals
ACEC	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)
NHT	National Historic Trails (NHTs)
WSR	Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs)
WSA	Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)
SE	Social and Economic Features
HM	Hazardous Materials
IOE	Interpretation, Outreach, and Environmental Education
<sup>A</sup> The codes are presented in the order in which they appear in this chapter.	

**Table 2- 2. Alternative Codes**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Alternative</b>
NA	Management Specific to the No Action Alternative
C	Management Common to the No Action Alternative and All Action Alternatives
CA	Management Common to All Action Alternatives
I	Management Specific to Alternative I
II	Management Specific to Alternative II
III	Management Specific to Alternative III
IV	Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)
V	Management Specific to Alternative V

**Table 2- 3. Decision Type Codes**

Code	Decision Type
G	Goal
O	Objective
A	Allocation
MA	Management Action

**Table 2- 4. Examples**

Code	Section	Alternative	Decision Type	Order of Appearance
<b>UV-I-MA-6</b>	Upland Vegetation	Alternative I	Management Action	6 <sup>th</sup> Management Action for Upland Vegetation in Alternative I
<b>SS-IV-O-1</b>	Special Status Species	Alternative IV	Objective	1 <sup>st</sup> Objective for Special Status Species in Alternative IV
<b>LG-CA-MA-4</b>	Livestock Grazing	Management Common to All Action Alternatives	Management Action	4 <sup>th</sup> Management Action in Livestock Grazing that is Common to All Action Alternatives
<b>WSA-NA-G-1</b>	Wilderness Study Areas	No Action Alternative	Goal	1 <sup>st</sup> Goal for Wilderness Study Areas in the No Action Alternative

Some management actions reference the use of toolboxes. Toolboxes are used to give an indication of what tools can be used to achieve objectives without being too prescriptive in the RMP on how objectives will be achieved. Also, some components of toolboxes vary by alternative to respond to comments that we allow or not allow the use of specific tools to achieve objectives. We will include a statement that describes the purpose of these toolboxes and that the specific tools to be used as well as conditions for using them would be determined and applied on a site-specific basis once an implementation action has been proposed.

Chapter 2 ends with tables summarizing the general differences between each alternative and the impacts resulting from implementation of each alternative. The effects of the various management actions in each alternative are discussed in detail in the environmental consequences section presented in Chapter 4.

Acreages used in the alternatives are approximate and serve for comparison and analytic purposes only. Data from Geographic Information System (GIS) have been used in developing acreage calculations and are rounded to the nearest 1,000 acres, unless finer distinction is needed for comparison purposes. Readers should not infer that they reflect exact measurements or precise calculations.

## 2.1.2. Alternative Development Process

BLM complied with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requirements in developing alternatives for this Draft RMP/EIS, including seeking public input and analyzing an adequate range of reasonable alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. Alternative formulation took into consideration existing decisions in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP and its amendments, the 2001 Jarbidge RMP evaluation, the Stipulated Settlement Agreement (SSA; Appendix A) in the case of *Western Watershed Project v. Bennett et al. (Case No. CV-04-181-S-BLW) (D. Idaho)*, and issues and concerns developed internally and solicited from the public during scoping.

Some decisions from the 1987 Jarbidge RMP were acceptable and reasonable. In these instances, there was limited need to develop alternative management prescriptions, and the decision was carried forward into one or more of the action alternatives. In most cases, in order to meet the planning criteria; to address issues and comments from tribes, cooperating agencies, and the public; or to provide a reasonable range of alternatives, the alternatives included management options for the planning area that

would modify or amend decisions made in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP. On occasion, management prescriptions are the same across all alternatives or reflect only a decision to implement or not implement an action. Each action alternative represents a complete and reasonable interdisciplinary land use plan to achieve the purpose and need and guide future management of the public land resources and uses in the planning area.

Public input received during the scoping process was considered to ensure that all issues and concerns would be addressed, as appropriate, in developing the alternatives. The scoping process and its results, as well as other opportunities for public involvement, are summarized in Chapters 1 and 5, respectively. The development of alternatives began with compiling the No Action Alternative. To begin developing action alternatives, the Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) and cooperating agency representatives met in a series of workshops to share their respective knowledge and expertise and to collaborate to identify goals and objectives for the resources and uses in the planning area. Common themes emerged from the lists of goals and objectives developed; these themes formed the basis of eight conceptual alternatives. In a second series of workshops, the ID Team and cooperating agency representatives expanded on the goals and objectives to develop more detailed management direction for each conceptual alternative. Following this process, BLM determined three of the conceptual alternatives could be dropped as stand-alone alternatives because they either lacked focus, did not address the planning issues or purpose and need, or were too similar to other conceptual alternatives; the reasonable components of these alternatives were incorporated into at least one of the other five conceptual alternatives.

The remaining five alternatives were finalized and reviewed as preliminary alternatives by the tribes, cooperating agencies, counties, the Twin Falls District Resource Advisory Council (RAC), the parties to the SSA, and the public through workshops hosted by the RAC. The preliminary alternatives were then refined based on the feedback received as well as changes in the planning area resulting from the Murphy Complex Fires, which occurred during the review process and burned 31% of BLM-managed lands in the planning area. As a result of the review process, the similarity between two alternatives became apparent, so the components of each were merged into one alternative; this alternative was later split into two sub-alternatives differing only in ACEC acreage. A new alternative was added to respond to the array of concerns expressed following the Murphy Complex Fires. The focus and content of the remaining alternatives were refined based on the comments received. These comments included four additional alternatives submitted by the public. Many components of these four alternatives were already included in a preliminary alternative; some components fell beyond the range BLM considered reasonable. As a result, these alternatives were not analyzed as stand-alone alternatives, and reasonable components were included in at least one alternative. These four alternatives are described in more detail in the section *Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Detailed Analysis*.

This alternative development process resulted in five action alternatives, one with two variations, as well as the No Action Alternative.

### **2.1.3. Summary of Alternatives Analyzed in Detail**

The major features of the No Action Alternative and the five action alternatives are summarized below. These alternative summaries focus on how the alternatives address the planning issues described in Chapter 1.

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#### ***No Action Alternative***

The No Action Alternative continues to implement the objectives and management actions provided in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP and its amendments. Lands in poor ecological condition would be improved, while lands in good and excellent ecological condition in the Bruneau River-Sheep Creek and Jarbidge River Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) would be maintained. Vegetation treatments could use native or non-native species. The majority of the planning area would remain available for resource uses, including livestock grazing, cross-country motorized vehicle use, and land use authorizations.

## Fuels and Fire

- Fuels treatments would include restoration, fuel breaks, and noxious weed treatments within and outside the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
- Prescribed fires may be reduced, postponed, or cancelled in areas where they, in combination with recent burns, would cause significant cumulative impacts to wildlife or watershed conditions.
- The entire planning area would remain a full suppression area (1,374,000 acres).

## Habitat

- A limited number of upland vegetation treatments would focus on maintaining or improving wildlife habitat, especially habitat for big game, greater sage-grouse (sage-grouse), and upland game birds.
- Riparian areas would be managed to improve riparian areas and fish habitat in WSAs, the Inside Desert, and the Jarbidge Foothills.
- Strategies to address noxious weeds and invasive species would focus on control.

## Livestock Grazing

- Most upland vegetation treatments would focus on maintaining or improving vegetation for livestock grazing.
- The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing. Salmon Falls Creek Canyon and areas not contained within grazing allotments would not be available for livestock grazing (51,000 acres).
- Between 160,000 and 260,000 animal unit months (AUMs) would be allocated for livestock use.
- Livestock grazing systems and practices that recognize the physiological requirements of forbs and shrubs and that meet fisheries, riparian, and water quality needs would be designed and established.

## Recreation

- Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers, Hagerman-Owsley Bridge, Jarbidge Forks, Oregon Trail, and Salmon Falls Creek and Canyon would be managed as Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs; 77,000 acres total).
- The majority of the planning area would remain open to cross-country motorized vehicle use. Transportation and travel within the Sand Point Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), California bighorn sheep (bighorn sheep) habitat, and portions of Devil Creek would be limited to designated routes (216,000 acres), while a seasonal limitation on travel within big game winter range could be invoked if the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) determines harassment is occurring. Canyons within WSAs and some cultural resource sites would be closed to motorized vehicle use (25,000 acres). The remaining portions of the WSAs would be limited to inventoried ways (70,000 acres).

## Energy Development

- Right-of-way (ROW) avoidance/restricted areas would include Sand Point ACEC, portions of Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC, Dove Springs, the Oregon Trail, recommended suitable wilderness areas, the suitable Wild and Scenic River (WSR) corridors, Salmon Falls Creek Canyon, riparian areas, paleontological sites, and cultural resource complexes (110,000 acres).
- No ROW exclusion areas would be identified.
- Wind farms would be allowed throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas.

## ACECs

- The Bruneau-Jarbidge, Salmon Falls Creek, and Sand Point areas would be managed as ACECs (89,000 acres total).

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## **Alternative I**

Alternative I focuses on enhancing and sustaining existing and historic uses of the planning area. This alternative would have the largest component of active recreation management, including SRMAs for motorized recreation, hunting and fishing, hiking, and water-based recreation. Livestock grazing would be maintained near current forage allocation levels. This alternative would focus more on implementing management to benefit mule deer than other alternatives. Restoration projects would focus on providing habitat for mule deer and special status species, including treatments in some non-native perennial communities. Annual communities would also be a focus for vegetation treatments. Vegetation treatments could use native or non-native species depending on vegetation objectives. Reducing the amount of wildland fire in the planning area would be addressed through treatments to move vegetation toward Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) 1, treatments for noxious weeds and invasive plants, and construction of fuel breaks.

### **Fuels and Fire**

- Fuels treatments within WUI would focus on areas with high and high/moderate Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area.
- Fuels treatments outside WUI would include restoration, fuel breaks, and noxious weed treatments.
  - Restoration would focus on moving plant communities toward FRCC 1.
  - Outside SRMAs, fuel breaks would follow disturbance corridors; fuel breaks for SRMAs could be used to protect surrounding areas, facilities, and high-use areas.
  - Noxious weed treatments would focus on special designations, access points, riparian areas, special status species habitat, mule deer winter range, roadsides, and native plant communities.
- The toolbox for reducing fuels, treating noxious weeds and invasive plants, or otherwise restoring or treating upland vegetation communities would include: chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments; seeding and planting; and targeted grazing. Prescribed fire would not be allowed.
- Temporary fences could be considered when there are at least 2,000 unburned acres in a pasture; they would be removed once Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation (ES&BAR) objectives have been met.
- Critical Suppression Areas would include WUI; the Bruneau-Jarbidge, Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs; and key sage-grouse habitat (481,000 acres).

### **Habitat**

- Upland vegetation treatments would include actively restoring native and non-native perennial communities in big game and sage-grouse habitat, as well as converting annual communities.
- Riparian areas would be managed to maintain proper functioning condition (PFC) on 83 miles of streams, achieve PFC on an additional 60 miles of streams, and be moving toward PFC on the remaining streams; within the priorities identified in the Aquatic and Riparian Management Strategy (ARMS; Appendix D), streams with habitat for suitable for game fish would have priority for restoration.
- Strategies to address noxious weeds and invasive species would include measures for both prevention and control.

### **Livestock Grazing**

- A limited number of treatments to actively maintain non-native perennial communities for livestock would be implemented.
- The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing. The following areas would not be available for livestock grazing: canyons associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers and Salmon Falls Creek; portions of the Middle Snake ACEC; reference areas; Wildlife Tracts; areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use; and areas not contained within grazing allotments (84,000 acres).

- 25% to 35% of native perennial grass production, 30% to 40% of non-native perennial grass production, 20% to 30% of annual grass production, and 7% to 10% of shrub and forb production would be allocated for livestock use.
- In native plant communities, except the Sandberg/non-native areas, livestock grazing would be managed to maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance.
- In non-native plant communities, including Sandberg/non-native areas, livestock grazing would be managed to maintain and improve perennial plant species diversity and abundance, taking into account big game habitat needs.

### Recreation

- The Deadman/Yahoo, Balanced Rock, Little Pilgrim, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Jarbidge Forks, Canyonlands, Jarbidge Foothills, and Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMAs would be designated (342,000 acres total).
- Transportation and travel within the majority of the planning area would be limited to designated routes. Areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use would include designated play areas in the Deadman/Yahoo SRMA (3,620 acres). Salmon Falls Creek ACEC, the portions of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons within WSAs, and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics would be closed to motorized vehicle use (57,000 acres). The remaining portions of the WSAs would be limited to designated ways (72,000 acres).

### Energy Development

- ROW avoidance areas would include United States Air Force (USAF) Military Operations Areas (MOAs); the Oregon National Historic Trail (NHT) protective corridor; eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors; non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics; and the Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs (896,000 acres).
- ROW exclusion areas would include the Sand Point ACEC and WSAs (95,000 acres).
- Wind farms would be allowed in areas that have already been converted from native communities to annual, non-native perennial, or non-native understory communities, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

### ACECs

- The Sand Point, Middle Snake, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Salmon Falls Creek, and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs would be designated (97,000 acres total).

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## ***Alternative II***

Alternative II focuses on increasing commercial uses throughout the planning area. Livestock grazing would be increased substantially. Non-native perennial communities would be actively maintained for livestock, and treatments in non-native annual communities would focus on converting these areas to a non-native, more fire tolerant, forage-producing perennial community. Native plant communities would be maintained. Other commercial uses, including energy development, would be allowed throughout most areas and have the fewest restrictions compared to the other alternatives. Vegetation treatments could use native or non-native species depending on vegetation and resource use objectives. Reducing the amount of wildland fire in the planning area would be addressed through treatments to move native vegetation toward FRCC 1, treatments for noxious weeds and invasive plants, construction of fuel breaks, and fuels reduction through increased permitted livestock grazing.

### Fuels and Fire

- Fuels treatments within WUI would focus on areas with high, high/moderate, and moderate Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area and near Roseworth.
- Fuels treatments outside WUI would include restoration, fuel breaks, landscape-scale fuels reduction, and noxious weed treatments.

- Restoration would focus on moving native plant communities toward FRCC 1.
  - Fuel breaks would focus on protecting commercial facilities; fuel breaks would also be placed in non-native communities to protect native communities.
  - Landscape-scale fuels reduction would occur primarily through increased allocation of vegetation for permitted livestock grazing and through increased livestock grazing utilization.
  - Noxious weed treatments would focus on riparian areas, special status species habitat, and native plant communities.
- The toolbox for reducing fuels, treating noxious weeds and invasive plants, or otherwise restoring or treating upland vegetation communities would include: chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments; seeding and planting; targeted grazing; and prescribed fire. Prescribed fire would not be allowed in native grassland or native shrubland communities.
  - Temporary fences could be considered on a case-by-case basis; they could become permanent if they enhance management of the burned area.
  - Critical Suppression Areas would only include WUI (172,000 acres).

### Habitat

- A limited amount of restoration in native plant communities would be implemented, focusing on special status species habitat.
- Riparian areas would be managed to maintain 85 miles at PFC and be moving toward PFC on the remaining streams; within the priorities identified within the ARMS (Appendix D), fish-bearing streams would have priority for restoration.
- Strategies to address noxious weeds and invasive species include measures for both prevention and control.

### Livestock Grazing

- Upland vegetation treatments would focus on actively maintaining non-native perennial and non-native understory communities for livestock and converting annual communities to non-native perennial.
- The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing. The following areas would not be available for livestock grazing: canyons associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers and Salmon Falls Creek; reference areas; Wildlife Tracts; and areas not contained within grazing allotments (59,000 acres).
- 40% to 50% of native perennial grass production, 50% to 60% of non-native perennial grass production, 70% to 80% of annual grass production, and 12% to 15% of shrub and forb production would be allocated for livestock use.
- In native plant communities, except the Sandberg/non-native areas, livestock grazing would be managed to maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance.
- In non-native plant communities, livestock grazing would be managed to sustain the forage base and allow for other commercial uses.

### Recreation

- The Little Pilgrim, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Jarbidge Forks, and Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMAs would be designated (21,000 acres total).
- Transportation and travel in the majority of the planning area would be limited to designated routes. No areas would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use. Portions of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons within WSAs would be closed to motorized vehicle use (21,000 acres). The remaining portions of the WSAs would be limited to inventoried ways (73,000 acres).

### Energy Development

- ROW avoidance areas would include USAF MOAs; the Oregon NHT protective corridor; and eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors (878,000 acres).

- ROW exclusion areas would include WSAs (94,000 acres).
- Wind farms would be allowed throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

### ACECs

- No ACECs would be designated.

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### ***Alternative III***

Alternative III focuses on restoring the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function through intensive management of fuels and enhanced fire suppression capabilities throughout the planning area. This alternative would provide for the highest amount of fuels treatments. Non-native perennial plant communities would be actively managed to contribute to wildland fire prevention and suppression efforts; this management would include increased levels of permitted livestock grazing. Treatments of annual communities would focus on converting these areas to a non-native perennial fire-tolerant community. Native plant communities would be restored to move toward their historic fire regime; extreme fuels reduction measures may be taken to manage native plant communities. Vegetation treatments may use both native and non-native species, with fire-tolerant and fire-resistant species having a high priority. Other uses would be allowed to the extent they do not contribute to an increase in wildland fire size and intensity. The quality and quantity of infrastructure such as roads and water would be increased to support fire suppression activities more in this alternative than in other alternatives.

### Fuels and Fire

- Fuels treatments within WUI would focus on areas with high, high/moderate, and moderate Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area and near Roseworth and Three Creek.
- Fuels treatments outside WUI would include restoration, fuel breaks, landscape-scale fuels reduction, and noxious weed treatments.
  - Restoration would focus on moving native plant communities toward FRCC 1.
  - Fuel breaks would focus on strategic locations to disrupt the continuity of fuels and to protect important resources and structures.
  - Landscape-scale fuels reduction would occur primarily in annual and non-native perennial communities through increased allocation of vegetation for permitted livestock grazing and through increased livestock grazing utilization.
  - Noxious weed treatments would focus on special designations, fuel breaks, areas with high wildland fire occurrence, areas around historic structures, roadsides, and special status species habitat.
- The toolbox for reducing fuels, treating noxious weeds and invasive plants, or otherwise restoring or treating upland vegetation communities would include: chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments; seeding and planting; targeted grazing; and prescribed fire.
- Temporary fences could be considered on a case-by-case basis; they would be removed once ES&BAR objectives have been met.
- Critical Suppression Areas would include WUI; the Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs; and key sage-grouse habitat (469,000 acres).

### Habitat

- Upland vegetation treatments would focus on treatments that would reduce fuels, convert annual communities to perennial, and restore native grassland communities to native shrubland, focusing on special status species habitat.
- Riparian areas would be managed to maintain 85 miles of streams at PFC, achieve PFC on an additional 98 miles of streams, and be moving toward PFC on the remaining streams; within the priorities identified within the ARMS (Appendix D), streams with the potential to serve as fire breaks would have priority for restoration.

- Strategies to address noxious weeds and invasive species include measures for both prevention and control.

### **Livestock Grazing**

- Non-native perennial communities would not be actively maintained for livestock.
- The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing. The following areas would not be available for livestock grazing: canyons associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers and Salmon Falls Creek, reference areas, Wildlife Tracts, and areas not contained within grazing allotments (61,000 acres).
- 35% to 45% of native perennial grass production, 40% to 50% of non-native perennial grass production, 40% to 50% of annual grass production, and 11% to 14% of shrub and forb production would be allocated for livestock use.
- In native plant communities, including the Sandberg/non-native areas, livestock grazing would be managed to maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance.
- In non-native plant communities, livestock grazing would be managed to reduce fuels.

### **Recreation**

- The Deadman/Yahoo, Balanced Rock, Little Pilgrim, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Jarbidge Forks, and Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMAs would be designated (56,000 acres total).
- Transportation and travel in the majority of the planning area would be limited to designated routes. Areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use would include designated play areas in the Deadman/Yahoo SRMA (3,570 acres). Salmon Falls Creek ACEC and portions of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons within WSAs would be closed to motorized vehicle use (24,000 acres). The remaining portions of the WSAs would be limited to inventoried ways (72,000 acres).

### **Energy Development**

- ROW avoidance areas would include USAF MOAs; the Oregon NHT protective corridor; eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors; and the Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs (880,000 acres).
- ROW exclusion areas would include the Sand Point ACEC and WSAs (95,000 acres).
- Wind farms would be allowed in areas that have already been converted from native communities to annual, non-native perennial, or non-native understory communities, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

### **ACECs**

- The Sand Point, Bruneau-Jarbidge, and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs would be designated (61,000 acres total).

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### ***Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)***

Alternative IV focuses on actively restoring the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function through restoration projects and managing uses. Priorities would be to treat at-risk or fragmented habitats and non-native perennial and annual communities. This alternative would provide for active restoration using more tools and more intensive approaches in more areas than in Alternative V. Vegetation treatments could use native or non-native species depending on vegetation objectives. Reducing the amount of wildland fire in the planning area would be addressed through treatments to move vegetation toward FRCC 1, treatments for noxious weeds and invasive plants, and construction of fuel breaks.

Alternative IV has been split into two sub-alternatives. The only difference between the sub-alternatives is the size of the Inside Desert and Jarbidge Foothills ACECs; these ACECs would have larger boundaries in Alternative IV-A than in Alternative IV-B. Differences between Alternatives IV-A and IV-B also appear in

sections in which ACEC management is a factor. When differences are specified between Alternatives IV-A and IV-B, Alternative IV-B is the Preferred Alternative.

### **Fuels and Fire**

- Fuels treatments within WUI would focus on areas with high and high/moderate Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area.
- Fuels treatments outside WUI would include restoration, fuel breaks, and noxious weed treatments.
  - Restoration would focus on moving plant communities toward FRCC 1.
  - Fuel breaks would follow disturbance corridors.
  - Noxious weed treatments would focus on special designations, riparian areas, special status species habitat, and native plant communities.
- The toolbox for reducing fuels, treating noxious weeds and invasive plants, or otherwise restoring or treating upland vegetation communities would include: chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments; seeding and planting; targeted grazing; and prescribed fire.
- Temporary fences could be considered when there are at least 2,000 unburned acres in a pasture; they would be removed once ES&BAR objectives have been met.
- Critical Suppression Areas would include WUI; the Bruneau-Jarbidge, Inside Desert, Jarbidge Foothills, and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs; and key sage-grouse habitat (594,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 555,000 acres in Alternative IV-B).

### **Habitat**

- Upland vegetation treatments would focus on restoring non-native perennial and native grassland communities to native shrubland and converting annual communities, focusing on special status species, mule deer, and pronghorn habitat.
- Riparian areas would be managed to maintain 85 miles of streams at PFC, achieve PFC on an additional 98 miles of streams, and be moving toward PFC on the remaining streams; within the priorities identified within the ARMS (Appendix D), streams containing special status species habitat would have priority for restoration.
- Strategies to address noxious weeds and invasive species include measures for both prevention and control.

### **Livestock Grazing**

- Non-native perennial communities would not be actively maintained for livestock.
- The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing. The following areas would not be available for livestock grazing: the Bruneau Canyon Allotment, canyons or riparian corridors associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers, and Deer (Nevada; NV), Dave, Rocky Canyon and Salmon Falls Creeks; reference areas; Wildlife Tracts; the Inside Desert ACEC; and areas not contained within grazing allotments (145,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 113,000 acres in Alternative IV-B).
- 15% to 25% of native perennial grass production and 20% to 30% of non-native perennial grass production would be allocated for livestock use.
- In native plant communities, including the Sandberg/non-native areas, livestock grazing would be managed to maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance.
- In non-native plant communities, livestock grazing would be managed to achieve restoration objectives.

### **Recreation**

- The Deadman/Yahoo, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Jarbidge Forks, Canyonlands, and Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMAs would be designated (205,000 acres total).
- Transportation and travel in the majority of the planning area would be limited to designated routes. Areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use would include designated play areas in the

Deadman/Yahoo SRMA (3,570 acres). Portions of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons within WSAs and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics would be closed to motorized vehicle use (74,000 acres). The remaining portions of the WSAs would be limited to inventoried ways (73,000 acres).

### Energy Development

- ROW avoidance areas would include USAF MOAs; the Oregon NHT protective corridor; eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors; and the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (896,000 acres).
- ROW exclusion areas would include the Sand Point ACEC, WSAs, and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics (148,000 acres).
- Wind farms would be allowed in areas that have already been converted from native communities to annual, non-native perennial, or non-native understory communities, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

### ACECs

- The Sand Point, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Inside Desert, Lower Bruneau Canyon, and Jarbidge Foothills ACECs would be designated (335,000 acres total in Alternative IV-A; 232,000 acres total in Alternative IV-B).

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## Alternative V

Alternative V focuses on the restoration of habitats toward historic vegetation communities. In native plant communities, passive restoration approaches would be preferred. Active restoration would take place in non-native perennial and annual communities; treatments in non-native perennial communities would minimize soil disturbance. Restoration projects would focus on habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species as well as special designations. Vegetation treatments would use only native species. Reducing the amount of wildland fire in the planning area would be addressed through treatments to move vegetation toward FRCC 1, treatments for noxious weeds and invasive plants, and construction of fuel breaks.

### Fuels and Fire

- Fuels treatments within WUI would focus on areas with high Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area.
- Fuels treatments outside WUI would include restoration, fuel breaks, and noxious weed treatments.
  - Restoration would focus on moving plant communities toward FRCC 1.
  - Fuel breaks would follow designated roads and designated primitive roads.
  - Noxious weed treatments would focus on special designations, riparian areas, special status species habitat, and native plant communities.
- The toolbox for reducing fuels, treating noxious weeds and invasive plants, or otherwise restoring or treating upland vegetation communities would include: chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments; seeding and planting; removal of grazing; and prescribed fire. Chemical treatments could only be used after all other methods have been exhausted. Targeted grazing would not be allowed.
- Temporary fences would not be allowed.
- Critical Suppression Areas would include WUI; the Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Sagebrush Sea ACECs; and key sage-grouse habitat (1,067,000 acres).

### Habitat

- Upland vegetation treatments would focus on restoring annual communities to native shrubland and restoring a shrub component to non-native perennial and native grassland communities, focusing on special status species habitat.
- Riparian areas would be managed to maintain PFC on 85 miles of streams, achieve PFC on an additional 98 miles of streams, and be moving toward PFC on the remaining streams; within the

priorities identified within the ARMS (Appendix D), streams containing special status species habitat would have priority for restoration.

- Strategies to address noxious weeds and invasive species include measures for both prevention and control.

### **Livestock Grazing**

- Vegetation treatments would not include active maintenance of non-native perennial communities for livestock.
- The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing. The following areas would not be available for livestock grazing: the Bruneau Canyon Allotment; canyons or riparian corridors associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers, and Upper Cedar, Deer (Idaho; ID), Deer (NV), Clover (Robeson crossing to mouth), Rocky Canyon, Flat, Shack, China, Dave, and Salmon Falls Creeks; the Middle Snake, Sand Point, and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs; reference areas; the Browns Bench/China Mountain area; Wildlife Tracts; and areas not contained within grazing allotments (309,000 acres).
- 10% to 20% of native and non-native perennial grass production would be allocated to livestock.
- In native plant communities, including the Sandberg/non-native areas, livestock grazing would be managed to maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance.
- In non-native plant communities, livestock grazing would be managed to maintain and improve shrub cover for sage-grouse.

### **Recreation**

- The Yahoo, Bruneau-Jarbidge, and Jarbidge Forks SRMAs would be designated (19,000 acres total).
- Transportation and travel in the majority of the planning area would be limited to designated routes. Areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use would include designated play areas in the Yahoo SRMA (700 acres). WSAs and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics would be closed to motorized vehicle use (147,000 acres).

### **Energy Development**

- ROW avoidance areas would include USAF MOAs; the Oregon NHT protective corridor; eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors; and the Sagebrush Sea ACEC (1,229,000 acres).
- ROW exclusion areas would include the Sand Point ACEC, WSAs, and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics (148,000 acres).
- Wind farms would be allowed in areas that have already been converted from native communities to annual, non-native perennial, or non-native understory communities, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

### **ACECs**

- The Sand Point, Middle Snake, Lower Bruneau Canyon, and Sagebrush Sea ACECs would be designated (968,000 acres total).

## **2.1.4. Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Detailed Analysis**

The following alternative was eliminated from detailed study because it did not meet the purpose and need for this RMP.

### ***No Grazing Alternative***

An alternative that proposes to close the entire planning area to livestock grazing would not meet the purpose and need of this Draft RMP/EIS. NEPA requires that agencies study, develop, and describe

appropriate alternatives to recommended courses of action in any proposal that involves unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. No issue or conflict has been identified during this land use planning effort that requires the complete elimination of grazing within the planning area for its resolution. Resource conditions do not warrant planning area-wide prohibition of any particular use, including livestock grazing; therefore, an alternative eliminating this use where resource conditions do not justify such measures is not reasonable. Closures and adjustments to livestock use have been incorporated into the alternatives on an allotment or area basis, where appropriate, in order to address issues identified in the RMP. Because the BLM has considerable discretion through its grazing regulations to determine and adjust stocking levels, seasons of use, and grazing management activities and to allocate forage to uses of the public lands in RMPs, the analysis of an alternative to entirely eliminate grazing is not needed.

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### ***Alternatives Submitted during Public Scoping***

The ID Team developed preliminary alternatives in late 2006 and early 2007. In April 2007, these alternatives were presented to the public in a series of public workshops. Four alternatives were submitted to BLM following these workshops. After careful review, the ID Team determined many components of these four alternatives were already included in a preliminary alternative and were carried forward into the alternatives analyzed in detail; the ID Team incorporated other concepts from the submitted alternatives into the analyzed alternatives as appropriate, preventing any submitted alternative from being entirely eliminated. The ID Team eliminated these alternatives from further detailed analysis as stand-alone alternatives because they did not meet the purpose and need; did not adequately address the planning issues; contained internal inconsistencies; were inconsistent with the planning criteria; or were inconsistent with BLM's multiple use mandate.

The submitted alternatives are summarized below; the summary indicates the alternatives in which concepts from each submitted alternative were analyzed. The alternatives were titled by the submitters and are presented in alphabetical order.

### **Community and Environmental Stabilization and Improvement Alternative**

The following list briefly summarizes how the Community and Environmental Stabilization and Improvement Alternative addressed the planning issues:

- **Fuels and Fire** – Fuels treatments would protect public safety, life, and property, including WUI and valued resources, and would aggressively limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire. Livestock grazing management would be used to help reduce fine fuels and the risk of landscape-scale fires. Following wildland fires, soils would be stabilized, annual-dominated vegetation communities would be replaced with self-sustaining perennial vegetation, and burned areas would be rehabilitated or converted to establish a mosaic of vegetation types and seral stages.
- **Habitat** – Existing wildlife habitat, including crucial winter big game habitat and upland game nesting and cover habitat, would be maintained or improved. Early seral vegetation communities would be converted to mid-seral or desired plant communities to improve perennial watershed cover. Livestock management would be used to achieve a mixture in the number of acres of native vegetation communities in mid-seral, late-seral, or potential natural community. Native cultivar and non-native perennial seedings would be maintained.
- **Livestock Grazing** – Livestock grazing would be managed to create a mosaic of patterns and levels of utilization at different periods of the year. Forage would be allocated and authorized for use by livestock through monitoring of actual use and utilization over time, by allocating 0% of the native shrub forage base, 0% of the native forb forage base, 50% of the native grass forage base, and 60% of non-native forage base
- **Recreation** - Outdoor recreation opportunities would be provided with an emphasis towards destination and community recreation activities. Salmon Falls Creek Canyon and the Jarbidge Canyon would be managed as SRMAs.
- **Energy Development** – Renewable energy development was not addressed.
- **ACECs** - The Sand Point and Bruneau-Jarbidge ACECs (boundary complying with the Owyhee Initiative) would be designated.

Components of the Community and Environmental Stabilization and Improvement Alternative were incorporated into Alternative II.

### Friends of the Jarbidge Alternative

The following list briefly summarizes how the Friends of the Jarbidge Alternative addressed the planning issues:

- **Fuels and Fire** – Fuels treatments would include targeted livestock grazing and greenstrips.
- **Habitat** – Big game winter range would be expanded. Increasing water developments should be used to expand wildlife habitat.
- **Livestock Grazing** – Seedings would be maintained for livestock forage. Grazing permits would allocate 50% of native grasses and 60% of non-native forage. Temporary Non-Renewable Authorizations (TNR) would be allowed where excess forage is available.
- **Recreation** – SRMAs would include the Oregon Trail, Balanced Rock, Little Pilgrim, reduced Bruneau-Jarbidge, and Salmon Falls Reservoir.
- **Energy Development** – Renewable energy development, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, communication sites, and other uses would be allowed. Wind development would be allowed where the wind is strong enough to generate power. Facilities would maintain minimum distances from special status species habitat and should avoid special status species and other fish and wildlife during critical time periods. Wind development would be restricted where adverse impacts to wildlife and cultural resources cannot be mitigated.
- **ACECs** – The Sand Point, Middle Snake, Purple Sage,<sup>1</sup> and Bruneau-Jarbidge (reduced boundary) ACECs would be designated.

Components of the Friends of the Jarbidge Alternative were incorporated into Alternatives I, II, and III.

### Habitat Restoration Alternative

The following list briefly summarizes how the Habitat Restoration Alternative addressed the planning issues:

- **Fuels and Fire** – Wildland fire management would limit 90% of fires to less than 50 acres and all remaining fires to less than 1,000 acres. Areas would be rehabilitated and stabilized to help promote natural recovery, establish pre-fire or historic vegetation and stabilize soils.
- **Habitat** – The primary management focus would be to promote diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitats for fish and wildlife species. Native plant communities would be restored to eliminate fragmentation.
- **Livestock Grazing** – Livestock grazing would be excluded in most of the southern two-thirds of the planning area to increase native species plant diversity and abundance. In allotments with livestock grazing, 25% of available forage would be allocated for livestock, and utilization would be between 10% to 15%. Extended rest would be provided to restore vigor and production of native plant species.
- **Recreation** – Recreation would be managed to minimize disturbance to wildlife and the impact to watershed and special status species, limit the introduction and spread of invasive species, and prevent wildland fire. Undeveloped and non-motorized recreation would be emphasized.
- **Energy Development** – Renewable energy development, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, and communication sites would be allowed where other goals are not compromised; these uses would not be allowed in native plant communities or areas targeted for restoration to native plant communities.
- **ACECs** – The Sand Point, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Jarbidge Forks, Inside Desert, Inside Lakes<sup>2</sup>, Purple Sage, Jarbidge Foothills, Salmon Falls Creek, Middle Snake, and Sagebrush Sea ACECs would be designated.

Components of the Habitat Restoration Alternative were incorporated into Alternatives IV and V.

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<sup>1</sup> This is the same area referred to as the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC.

<sup>2</sup> This area is included within the expanded boundary of the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC.

## Maximize Commodity Use Alternative

The following list briefly summarizes how the Maximize Commodity Use Alternative addressed the planning issues:

- **Fuels and Fire** – Public safety, life, and property would be protected from wildland fires. Fuels treatments would include greenstrips and would protect WUI and aggressively limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire.
- **Habitat** – A mosaic of native vegetation communities would be maintained in mid-seral, late-seral, or potential natural community ecological condition. Access and use in wildlife breeding and wintering areas would be managed to benefit commodity uses.
- **Livestock Grazing** – Livestock grazing would be managed to optimize the utilization of perennial and annual forage species. 50% of the native shrub forage base, 50% of the native forb forage base, 60% of the native grass forage base, 70% of non-native perennial forage base, and 90% of non-native annual forage base would be allocated for use by livestock.
- **Recreation** – Outdoor recreation opportunities that provide revenue enhancement to communities within the planning area would be provided. SRMAs would include the Jarbidge River North Forks and Jarbidge Forks.
- **Energy Development** – Renewable energy development, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, and communication sites would be allowed. Wind development would be allowed anywhere not identified for ROW avoidance or exclusion.
- **ACECs** – No new ACECs would be designated, and ACEC designation would be removed from existing ACECs.

Components of the Maximize Commodity Use Alternative were incorporated into Alternative II.

## 2.1.5. Rationale for the Identification of the Preferred Alternative

Alternative IV is selected at the Preferred Alternative. When differences are specified between sub-alternatives IV-A and IV-B, Alternative IV-B is the Preferred Alternative.

Each alternative, as developed, provides a different emphasis for managing public lands and resources within the planning area, and each action alternative represents a complete and reasonable land use plan that meets the purpose and need described in Chapter 1. Once the alternatives were developed, they were analyzed to predict and estimate their impacts on the environment (see Chapter 4). The impact analysis provides a relative comparison of estimated outcomes and effects between the alternatives to better inform the decision-making process – it is not a reflection of an absolute expected outcome.

The BLM used the impact analysis, along with knowledge of specific issues raised throughout the planning process; recommendations from the tribes, cooperating agencies, and BLM resource specialists; consideration of planning criteria; and anticipated resolution of resource conflicts to select Alternative IV-B as the Preferred Alternative from the suite of alternatives analyzed. Selection of the Preferred Alternative was based on the following criteria:

- Satisfaction of statutory requirements
- Achievement of BLM goals and policies
- Achievement of the purpose and need
- Provision of an acceptable approach to addressing key planning issues
- Consideration of cooperating agencies and BLM specialists' recommendations

The Preferred Alternative indicates the agency's preliminary preference. However, identification of this alternative as Preferred is not equivalent to identification of the Proposed Alternative in the Proposed RMP/ Final EIS. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS will reflect changes or adjustments to the Preferred Alternative based on comments received on the Draft RMP/EIS, new information, or changes in BLM policies or priorities and could include goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions described as portions of other analyzed alternatives. BLM has the discretion to select an alternative in its entirety or to combine aspects of the various alternatives presented in this Draft RMP/EIS to develop the Proposed RMP and Final EIS.

## 2.2. TRIBAL RIGHTS AND INTERESTS

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### ***Management Specific to the No Action Alternative***

#### **Goal**

No goal stated.

#### **Objective**

No objective stated.

#### **Management Actions**

**TI-NA-MA- 1.** Coordinate review of detailed management plans and individual projects prepared in conjunction with the RMP to ensure consistency with officially adopted and approved plans, policies, and programs of Native American tribes, Federal agencies, and State and local governments.

### ***Management Common to All Action Alternatives***

#### **Goal and Objective**

**TI-CA-G- 1.** Manage public lands to protect resources and values associated with Native American treaty rights.

**TI-CA-G- 2.** Manage natural and cultural resources of importance to the tribes in a manner that respects tribal beliefs, traditions, and values.

#### **Objective**

See *Goal and Objective* section.

#### **Management Actions**

**TI-CA-MA- 1.** Consult with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in accordance with BLM policy and other authorities. Consultation would be an ongoing process between BLM and the tribes, within the context of general management of public lands and programs, as well as specific proposals that may affect natural and cultural resources of importance to the tribes.

**TI-CA-MA- 2.** Consider the effects of decisions on vegetation, fish, wildlife, mineral, and water resources of importance to the tribes, as identified through consultation, and seek ways to lessen or avoid impacts on these where practical. This action would also apply to other Federal entities whose decisions affect BLM-managed lands within the planning area.

**TI-CA-MA- 3.** Strive to protect the physical condition of sacred sites and traditional cultural properties and to preserve tribal access to such sites.

**TI-CA-MA- 4.** Work collaboratively with the tribes regarding the management of traditional cultural properties.

**TI-CA-MA- 5.** Provide information to staff and contractors regarding existing and historic use of the planning area by the tribes, Federal government trust responsibilities, and the importance of Native American treaty rights.

## 2.3. RESOURCES

### 2.3.1. Air and Atmospheric Values

#### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

##### Goal

No goal stated.

##### Objective

No objective stated.

##### Management Actions

**AAV-NA-MA- 1.** Manage all public lands in the planning area as Class II Airsheds unless they are reclassified by the State as a result of the procedures prescribed in the Clean Air Act.

**AAV-NA-MA- 2.** Administrative actions on the public lands would comply with the air quality classification for that specific area.

**AAV-NA-MA- 3.** Consider the sensitivity of air resources in the affected area on a site-specific basis during project-level planning.

**AAV-NA-MA- 4.** Design construction of management facilities and land treatments to minimize adverse impacts to the air resources. Stipulations would ensure project compatibility with air resource management.

#### *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*

##### Goal

**AAV-CA-G- 1.** Ensure BLM management activities and authorized uses contribute to maintaining the quality of the planning area's air resources.

##### Objective

**AAV-CA-O- 1.** Maintain the quality of air resources and limit impacts to air quality to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) air quality standards.

##### Management Actions

**AAV-CA-MA- 1.** Manage the planning area airshed as Class II unless it is reclassified by the State through the process prescribed in the Clean Air Act.

**AAV-CA-MA- 2.** Ensure BLM management activities and authorized uses, including prescribed fire, are designed to comply with Federal, State, and local air quality regulations, classifications, and standards.

**AAV-CA-MA- 3.** Manage prescribed fires to minimize impacts of smoke to sensitive areas such as the Class I airshed of the Jarbidge Wilderness and the city of Twin Falls, ID, both of which are near the planning area.

**AAV-CA-MA- 4.** Develop a burn plan with information and techniques to reduce or alter smoke emission levels for all prescribed fire activities.

**AAV-CA-MA- 5.** Coordinate with the Montana-Idaho Airshed Group Smoke Management Program or its equivalent for all actions related to prescribed fire. Under this program, prescribed fire could be restricted when regional or local air quality is compromised or if the

project would negatively affect visual quality in Class I airsheds, non-attainment areas, and other sensitive areas

**AAV-CA-MA- 6.** Develop and implement a dust abatement strategy, including dust abatement stipulations, for BLM-authorized construction and maintenance activities that have the potential to generate large quantities of particulate matter.

**AAV-CA-MA- 7.** Design BLM management activities and authorized uses to minimize night time light intrusions (e.g., modifications to the structure and timing of lighting).

**AAV-CA-MA- 8.** Design BLM management activities and authorized uses to comply with State requirements for noise management and to minimize noise intrusion where noise has the potential to be a nuisance to adjacent residences on private land.

## 2.3.2. Geologic Features

### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

#### Goal

No goal stated.

#### Objective

No objective stated.

#### Management Actions

**GE-NA-MA- 1.** Manage geologic resources so significant scientific, recreational, and educational values would be maintained or enhanced.

**GE-NA-MA- 2.** Unique geological resources of the planning area would be protected and interpreted for the public.

### *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*

#### Goal

**GE-CA-G- 1.** Manage unique geologic features for their tribal, scientific, recreational, and educational use.

#### Objective

**GE-CA-O- 1.** Protect unique geologic features and provide opportunities for their use and enjoyment.

#### Management Actions

**GE-CA-MA- 1.** Manage unique geologic features so traditional tribal, scientific, recreational, and educational values would be maintained or enhanced.

**GE-CA-MA- 2.** Conduct and maintain a cave inventory with participation from the tribes and interested organizations to identify and compile quantitative and qualitative data on cave resources and to determine cave significance in accordance with the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988.

**GE-CA-MA- 3.** Based on the results of the cave inventory, determine the administrative designation needed for significant caves to provide adequate protection for significant cave resources.

**GE-CA-MA- 4.** Set outcome-based management objectives and setting prescriptions for significant caves.

### 2.3.3. Soil Resources

#### ***Management Specific to the No Action Alternative***

##### **Goal**

No goal stated.

##### **Objective**

**SR-NA-O- 1.** Manage soils to maintain productivity and to minimize erosion.

##### **Management Actions**

**SR-NA-MA- 1.** During project-level planning, consider the sensitivity of soil resources in the affected area on a site-specific basis.

**SR-NA-MA- 2.** Design the construction of management facilities and land treatments to minimize adverse impacts to the soil resources. Stipulations would ensure project compatibility with soil resource management.

**SR-NA-MA- 3.** Manage native perennial range to attain good ecological condition.

**SR-NA-MA- 4.** Mitigate erosion from irrigated agricultural lands onto adjacent public lands that could erode Sand Point paleontological deposits.

#### ***Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives***

##### **Goal**

See goals in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

##### **Objective**

See objectives in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

##### **Management Actions**

**SR-C-MA- 1.** Minimize soil erosion by maintaining adequate perennial vegetation cover based on site potential.

#### ***Management Common to All Action Alternatives***

##### **Goal and Objective**

**SR-CA-G- 1.** Manage resources and uses to maintain or enhance biological and physical functions and stability of soils.

##### **Objective**

See *Goal and Objective*.

##### **Management Actions**

**SR-CA-MA- 1.** Conduct management facility construction and maintenance and land treatments to reduce impacts to soil. Stipulations would ensure project consistency with soil management objectives.

**SR-CA-MA- 2.** Work with County Highway Districts to reduce impacts from road maintenance along stream corridors and in areas of highly erosive soils.

**SR-CA-MA- 3.** Modify routes or mitigate the erosive effects of transportation and travel as needed.

**SR-CA-MA- 4.** Where BLM management activities or authorized uses have resulted in accelerated erosion, revegetate or stabilize the area.

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### ***Management Specific to Alternative I***

#### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Management Actions**

**SR-I-MA- 1.** Mitigate impacts of BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses on soils with severe or very severe potential for wind erosion (218,000 acres; Map 5) or with high potential for water erosion (437,000 acres; Map 6) for watershed and ecosystem health.

**SR-I-MA- 2.** Develop and implement an erosion control strategy for new land use authorizations, Special Recreation Permits (SRPs), and mineral exploration and development involving surface disturbance on slopes greater than 20% or on soils with severe or very severe potential for wind erosion or with high potential for water erosion.

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### ***Management Specific to Alternative II***

#### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Management Actions**

**SR-II-MA- 1.** Mitigate impacts of BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses on soils with severe or very severe potential for wind erosion (218,000 acres; Map 5) or with high potential for water erosion (437,000 acres; Map 6) for watershed and ecosystem health.

**SR-II-MA- 2.** Develop and implement an erosion control strategy for new land use authorizations, SRPs, and mineral exploration and development involving surface disturbance on slopes greater than 20% or on soils with severe or very severe potential for wind erosion or with high potential for water erosion.

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### ***Management Specific to Alternative III***

#### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Management Actions**

**SR-III-MA- 1.** Mitigate impacts of BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses on soils with severe or very severe potential for wind erosion (218,000 acres; Map 5) or with high

potential for water erosion (437,000 acres; Map 6) for watershed and ecosystem health.

**SR-III-MA- 2.** Develop and implement an erosion control strategy for new land use authorizations, SRPs, and mineral exploration and development involving surface disturbance on slopes greater than 20% or on soils with severe or very severe potential for wind erosion or with high potential for water erosion.

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### ***Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)***

#### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Management Actions**

**SR-IV-MA- 1.** Mitigate impacts of BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses on soils with moderate, severe, or very severe potential for wind erosion (1,122,000 acres; Map 5) or with medium or high potential for water erosion (1,289,000 acres; Map 6) for watershed and ecosystem health.

**SR-IV-MA- 2.** Develop and implement an erosion control strategy for new land use authorizations, SRPs, and mineral exploration and development involving surface disturbance on slopes 20% to 40% or on soils with moderate, severe, or very severe potential for wind erosion or with medium or high potential for water erosion. No surface disturbance from these activities would be allowed on slopes greater than 40%.

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### ***Management Specific to Alternative V***

#### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Management Actions**

**SR-V-MA- 1.** Mitigate impacts of BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses on soils with moderate, severe, or very severe potential for wind erosion (1,122,000 acres; Map 5) or with medium or high potential for water erosion (1,289,000 acres; Map 6) for watershed and ecosystem health.

**SR-V-MA- 2.** Develop and implement an erosion control strategy and topsoil restoration plan for new land use authorizations, SRPs, and mineral exploration and development involving surface disturbance on slopes 20% to 40% or on soils with moderate, severe, or very severe potential for wind erosion or with medium or high potential for water erosion. No surface disturbance from these activities would be allowed on slopes greater than 40%.

## 2.3.4. Water Resources

### ***Management Specific to the No Action Alternative***

#### **Goal**

No goal stated.

#### **Objective**

**WR-NA-O- 1.** Maintain or improve water quality in accordance with Federal and State standards.

#### **Management Actions**

**WR-NA-MA- 1.** During project-level planning, consider the sensitivity of water resources in the affected area on a site-specific basis.

**WR-NA-MA- 2.** Design the construction of management facilities and land treatments to minimize adverse impacts to the water resources. Stipulations would ensure project compatibility with water resource management.

**WR-NA-MA- 3.** Facilities and structures designed to maintain or improve water sources, provide new water sources, control water level or flow characteristics, or maintain or improve water quality may be developed. Proposals that include dewatering of the streambed would not be allowed.

**WR-NA-MA- 4.** Work closely with the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, US Army Corps of Engineers, and other Federal, State, and local agencies to determine appropriate location and designs for such projects.

**WR-NA-MA- 5.** Maintain recommended instream flows for the maintenance and preservation of aquatic and riparian ecosystems.

**WR-NA-MA- 6.** A variety of methods may be employed to maintain, improve, protect, and restore watershed conditions.

**WR-NA-MA- 7.** Give priority to meeting emergency watershed needs due to flooding, severe drought, or fire.

### ***Management Common to All Action Alternatives***

#### **Goal**

**WR-CA-G- 1.** Maintain or improve the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of water resources.

#### **Objective**

**WR-CA-O- 1.** Make progress towards meeting Federal and State water quality standards.

#### **Management Actions**

**WR-CA-MA- 1.** Priority streams for management of water quality include streams containing special status species and their habitat, fish-bearing streams, and 303(d)-listed streams. Map 17 displays the location of streams meeting these criteria in 2009; this map can be updated to reflect changes in a stream's status through the life of the plan.

**WR-CA-MA- 2.** Implement the ARMS to achieve water resource objectives (Appendix D).

**WR-CA-MA- 3.** Mitigate the impacts of BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses on water quality to comply with Federal, State, and local water quality regulations.

**WR-CA-MA- 4.** Modify or suspend BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses that are a factor in not meeting water quality standards.

**WR-CA-MA- 5.** Where applicable, incorporate best management practices (BMPs) to maintain and improve water quality (Appendix E). Implement recommendations from state water quality plans to achieve goals and objectives (e.g., Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan).

**WR-CA-MA- 6.** Consider new water development projects and improvements to existing water development projects if impacts to water and riparian resources can be mitigated; see the *Livestock Grazing* section for additional guidance on water developments. See the *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* section for guidance on water developments for fire suppression activities.

**WR-CA-MA- 7.** Consult with the tribes and work with Federal, State, and local agencies when determining location and designs for water development projects.

**WR-CA-MA- 8.** Coordinate with IDWR and DEQ to identify opportunities to mitigate impacts of water management on public land resources.

## 2.3.5. Vegetation Communities

### 2.3.5.1. Upland Vegetation

The *Upland Vegetation* section outlines goals and objectives for all vegetation treatments. Management actions for restoration treatments, treatments for annual communities, and treatments for livestock are described in this section. Treatments for weeds and fuels are in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

For management and analysis purposes, the 55 vegetation communities in the planning area were grouped into five vegetation sub-groups (VSGs; see the *Upland Vegetation* section in Chapter 3); Map 9 displays VSGs present in 2008. Vegetation communities were grouped into VSGs based on the dominant vegetation and community structure as well as similarity in management objectives:

- **Annual communities** – dominated by invasive annual grasses; includes communities with and without a shrub overstory.
- **Non-native Perennial communities** – dominated by non-native perennial grasses; some also have an overstory of four-wing saltbush or rabbitbrush.
- **Non-native Understory communities** – dominated by non-native perennial grasses in the understory; have an overstory of Wyoming big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, black sagebrush, or low sage.
- **Native Grassland communities** – dominated by native grasses; do not have a shrub overstory.
- **Native Shrubland communities** – dominated by native grasses in the understory; have a shrub overstory; also includes aspen, juniper, and mountain mahogany communities which are present in small, scattered inclusions within other native shrubland communities.
- **Unvegetated areas** – include breaks, barren areas, sand dunes, and Recent Burn vegetation communities, which may be present for up to two years following a fire.

The planning area was divided into Vegetation Management Areas (VMAs) A, B, C, and D, creating west-east bands across the planning area based on potential natural community (PNC), elevation, and mean annual precipitation (Map 8).

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## ***Management Specific to the No Action Alternative***

### **Goal**

No goal stated.

### **Objectives**

**UV-NA-O- 1.** Improve lands in poor ecological condition across all Multiple Use Areas (MUAs; Map 4). Improve lands in MUA 14 through natural plant succession and removal of livestock. Maintain lands that are in good and excellent ecological condition in MUA 10.

**UV-NA-O- 2.** Maintain non-native perennial communities.

### **Management Actions**

**UV-NA-MA- 1.** Develop Multiple Use Activity Plans for MUAs 11, 12, and 15. The plan for MUA 11 would include grazing, wildlife, and fire management coordination, and an ad-hoc group of technical, user, and conservation interests would be set up to provide input into the plan.

**UV-NA-MA- 2.** Maintain non-native perennial communities for livestock as follows:

- 499 acres in MUA 4
- 75,107 acres in MUA 6
- 155,612 acres in MUA 7
- 1,866 acres in MUA 10
- 21,177 acres in MUA 11
- 23,518 acres in MUA 12
- 47,510 acres in MUA 13
- 24,159 acres in MUA 15

**UV-NA-MA- 3.** Implement seeding treatments for livestock as follows:

- 4,254 acres in MUA 15
- 6,300 acres in MUA 16

**UV-NA-MA- 4.** Implement brush control and seeding treatments for livestock as follows:

- 9,245 acres in MUA 11
- 2,000 acres in MUA 12
- 1,787 acres in MUA 13

**UV-NA-MA- 5.** Implement brush control treatments for livestock as follows:

- 5,000 acres in MUA 11
- 4,100 acres in MUA 12
- 7,500 acres in MUA 15
- 15,000 acres in MUA 16

**UV-NA-MA- 6.** Most of the sites to be treated are in poor or fair vegetative conditions and have a low potential to improve under other management practices. Most of the vegetation would be eliminated during seedbed preparation, and the site would be seeded with species adapted to the site. The final selection of the species to be seeded would depend on the planned use of the site and the management objectives for the allotment. Seed would be drilled wherever possible. The application of mulch or fertilizer would be prescribed based on site characteristics.

**UV-NA-MA- 7.** Implement interseeding or reseeding treatments for wildlife as follows:

- 250 acres in MUA 10
- 500 acres in MUA 11
- 500 acres in MUA 12
- 4,400 acres in MUA 13
- 3,750 acres in MUA 15

**UV-NA-MA- 8.** Desirable plant species would be interseeded with vegetation. A seed dribbler used with a crawler tractor, a small scalper/seeder, or range drill would be used to interseed strips. Broadcast seedings could possibly be used as well. Species to be seeded would be selected to meet management objectives developed for the allotment.

**UV-NA-MA- 9.** Interseeding and reseeding projects in MUAs with objectives to improve ecological condition to benefit wildlife or livestock will use shrub, forb, and grass seed mixtures that are normally found in that type of ecological zone or type.

**UV-NA-MA- 10.** The order of priority for vegetation treatment would be:

- Areas where unacceptable soil loss is occurring
- Areas where the livestock operator is grazing at levels below preference
- Areas where excessive annual vegetation is causing management problems or economic burdens, i.e., season of use restriction or high fire management costs
- Areas where unacceptable wildlife habitat condition exists (appropriate seed mixtures for wildlife will be used)
- Areas for overall multiple use improvement using seed mixtures for both wildlife and livestock

**UV-NA-MA- 11.** Burning is proposed to reduce the amount of big sagebrush and/or other brush on a site. Burning would normally be done during July to October, depending on the specific prescription written for each area, desired results, weather, and moisture conditions. Burn plans would be developed for each burn.

**UV-NA-MA- 12.** Reseed all areas disturbed during project construction with a mixture of grasses, forbs, and shrubs.

**UV-NA-MA- 13.** Rehabilitated or manipulated sites are considered to be in good condition from a watershed standpoint when at least 75% (by weight) of the sites potential for production is composed of perennial vegetation.

**UV-NA-MA- 14.** Chemical control of sagebrush would not be allowed.

**UV-NA-MA- 15.** No reference areas would be identified.

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## **Management Common to All Action Alternatives**

### **Goal**

**UV-CA-G- 1.** Manage upland vegetation communities to promote soil stability, water infiltration, nutrient cycling, and energy flow; provide habitat for sage-grouse and other sagebrush steppe obligates; and provide for multiple use.

### **Objective**

See objectives for specific alternatives.

### **Management Actions**

#### **All VMAs**

**UV-CA-MA- 1.** Design BLM management activities and authorized uses in consideration of plant reproductive and physiological needs with a focus on the critical growing season, as well as vegetation objectives; guidelines for specific uses are found in the appropriate sections.

**UV-CA-MA- 2.** Implement drought management guidelines during periods of drought to maintain or achieve long-term resource productivity (Appendix F).

**UV-CA-MA- 3.** Rest vegetation treatment areas from uses, including but not limited to livestock and wild horse grazing and recreational use, until treatment objectives are met and are predicted to be sustainable. This guideline would not apply to uses that do not conflict with the treatment objectives.

**UV-CA-MA- 4.** Assess proposed vegetation treatments in consultation with the tribes and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for their potential to affect cultural resources. Where previous inventory has been sufficient to identify vulnerable cultural resources, no inventory should be needed; however, where adequate inventory is lacking, inventory of the area as determined in consultation with the SHPO would be conducted.

## Management Specific to Alternative I

### Goal

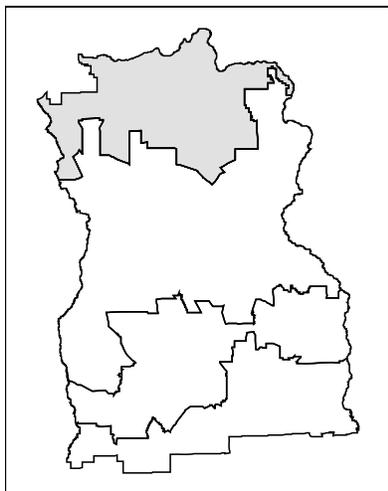
**UV-I-G- 1.** Manage vegetation to enhance and sustain existing and historic uses and to improve big game winter range and habitat for sage-grouse.

### Objectives

#### VMA A

**UV-I-O- 1.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	50,000
Non-Native Perennial Communities	97,500
Non-Native Understory Communities	5,000
Native Grassland Communities	32,500
Native Shrubland Communities	32,500
Unvegetated Areas	2,500
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	



### Management Actions

#### VMA A

**UV-I-MA- 1.** Treat approximately 33% of annual communities. Annual communities would be restored to native shrubland in Wildlife Tracts, the Middle Snake and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs, and the Oregon NHT protective corridor. Half of the annual communities within the Deadman-Yahoo SRMA would be treated using fire-tolerant native and non-native species.

**UV-I-MA- 2.** Restore approximately 5% of non-native perennial communities to native shrubland. Treatments would focus on the Wildlife Tracts and the Middle Snake and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs. Actively maintain the remainder of the non-native perennial communities for livestock grazing.

**UV-I-MA- 3.** Non-native understory and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for active restoration treatments.

**UV-I-MA- 4.** Native grassland communities will not be a focus for active restoration treatments. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

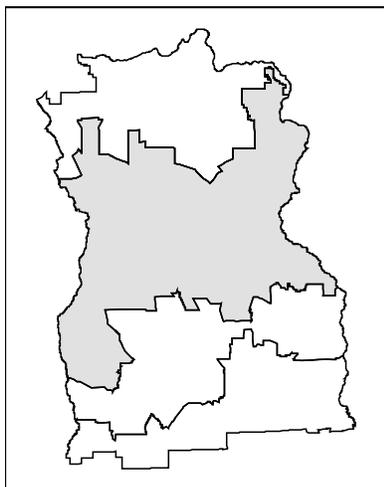
**UV-I-MA- 5.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**VMA B**

**UV-I-O- 2.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	17,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	147,500
Non-Native Understory Communities	17,500
Native Grassland Communities	97,500
Native Shrubland Communities	335,000
Unvegetated Areas	15,000
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	



**VMA B**

**UV-I-MA- 6.** Restore approximately 50% of annual communities to native shrubland, focusing on big game winter range and Wildlife Tracts.

**UV-I-MA- 7.** Restore approximately 20% of non-native perennial communities to native shrubland, focusing on big game winter range. Actively maintain the remainder of the non-native perennial communities for livestock grazing.

**UV-I-MA- 8.** Restore approximately 33% of non-native understory communities to native shrubland, focusing on big game winter range. The remainder of the non-native understory communities may be treated to introduce forbs to the understory.

**UV-I-MA- 9.** Restore approximately 50% of native grassland communities to native shrubland. Treatments would focus on big game winter range and sage-grouse habitat. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed in the remainder of the native grassland communities.

**UV-I-MA- 10.** Native shrubland communities may be treated to introduce forbs and late-seral grasses to the understory.

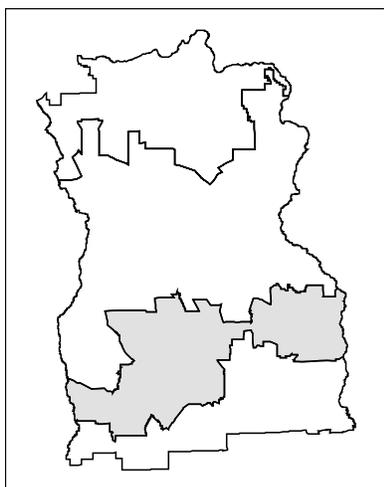
**UV-I-MA- 11.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**VMA C**

**UV-I-O- 3.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	7,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	37,500
Non-Native Understory Communities	5,000
Native Grassland Communities	65,000
Native Shrubland Communities	195,000
Unvegetated Areas	2,500
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500	



**VMA C**

**UV-I-MA- 12.** Treatment of annual communities within this VMA would be limited due to the location of these areas at canyon bottoms and within WSAs. Localized treatments may be used when necessary.

**UV-I-MA- 13.** Restore approximately 33% of non-native perennial communities to native shrubland, focusing on big game winter range, sage-grouse habitat, and the Canyonlands and Jarbidge Foothills SRMAs. Actively maintain the remaining non-native perennial communities for livestock grazing.

**UV-I-MA- 14.** Restore approximately 75% of non-native understory communities to native shrubland, focusing on big game winter range, sage-grouse habitat, and the Canyonlands and Jarbidge Foothills SRMAs.

**UV-I-MA- 15.** Restore approximately 50% of native grassland communities to native shrubland, focusing on big game winter range and connecting native shrubland communities. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

**UV-I-MA- 16.** Native shrubland communities may be treated to introduce forbs and late-seral grasses to the understory.

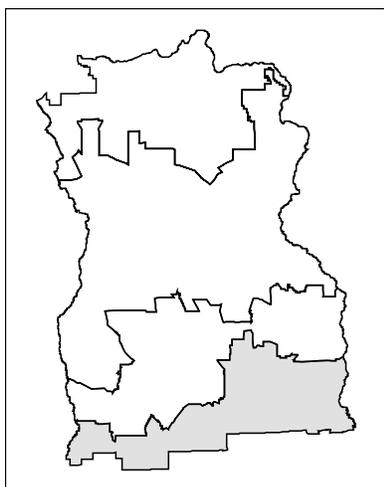
**UV-I-MA- 17.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**VMA D**

**UV-I-O- 4.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	2,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	15,000
Non-Native Understory Communities	12,500
Native Grassland Communities	17,500
Native Shrubland Communities	152,500
Unvegetated Areas	10,000
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	



**VMA D**

**UV-I-MA- 18.** Treat approximately 50% of annual communities to move toward non-native perennial; treatments would focus on species that provide wildlife food and cover (e.g., four-wing saltbush, alfalfa, winterfat).

**UV-I-MA- 19.** Actively maintain non-native perennial communities for livestock grazing. Up to 50% of non-native perennial communities may be seeded with species that provide wildlife food and cover (e.g., four-wing saltbush, alfalfa, winterfat).

**UV-I-MA- 20.** Non-native understory communities would not be a focus for active restoration treatments.

**UV-I-MA- 21.** Restore approximately 67% of native grassland communities to native shrubland; treatments would include primarily native species that provide wildlife food and cover (e.g., bitterbrush, chokecherry, winterfat); approximately 10% of native grassland communities would be treated with non-native species that provide wildlife food and cover, primarily around similarly treated annual communities. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

**UV-I-MA- 22.** Native shrubland communities may be treated to introduce forbs and late-seral grasses to the understory.

**UV-I-MA- 23.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**All VMAs**

**UV-I-MA- 24.** The first priority for implementing vegetation treatments would be treatments identified for VMA C to improve habitat for mule deer and sage-grouse; the second priority would be treatments identified for VMA A to move toward perennial vegetation. Opportunities for treatments outside these priority areas would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**UV-I-MA- 25.** Focus restoration treatments identified for each VMA on habitat for sage-grouse, other special status species, and mule deer.

**UV-I-MA- 26.** The toolbox to restore or treat upland vegetation communities would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting; and
- Targeted grazing.

Prescribed fire would not be allowed. See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

**UV-I-MA- 27.** Upland vegetation treatments may use native species, including cultivars of native species, and non-native species, consistent with management actions to achieve vegetation objectives. Native species would be used in vegetation treatments when practical, with special emphasis on species of importance to the tribes. However, desirable non-native species may be used on harsh or degraded sites, when native seed is not available, or where they would structurally mimic the natural plant community and prevent soil loss and invasion by noxious weeds and invasive plants. The non-native species used would be those that have the highest probability of establishment on these sites. These "placeholders" would maintain the area for potential future native restoration. Native seed would be used more frequently and at larger scales as species adapted to local areas become more available.

**UV-I-MA- 28.** Create 75 ungrazed reference areas (12,000 acres) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities (Map 11). Each reference area would be approximately 160 acres and would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

**UV-I-MA- 29.** Reseed all areas disturbed during project construction, maintenance, or removal with a mixture of grasses, forbs, or shrubs appropriate to surrounding vegetation.

**UV-I-MA- 30.** Assess biological soil crusts in native grassland and shrubland communities and manage them to move toward site potential by modifying levels and timing of BLM management activities and authorized uses during periods when soil crusts are most vulnerable to damage.

## Management Specific to Alternative II

### Goal

**UV-II-G- 1.** Manage vegetation to increase commercial uses while maintaining native plant communities and habitat for sage-grouse.

### Objectives

#### VMA A

**UV-II-O- 1.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	30,000
Non-Native Perennial Communities	140,000
Non-Native Understory Communities	5,000
Native Grassland Communities	25,000
Native Shrubland Communities	17,500
Unvegetated Areas	2,500
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	

### Management Actions

#### VMA A

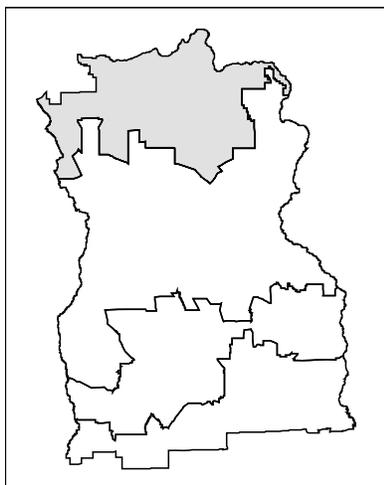
**UV-II-MA- 1.** Treat approximately 60% of annual plant communities to move toward non-native perennial communities, with an emphasis on using fire-tolerant species that provide forage for livestock.

**UV-II-MA- 2.** Actively maintain non-native perennial plant communities for livestock grazing.

**UV-II-MA- 3.** Non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for active restoration treatments.

**UV-II-MA- 4.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

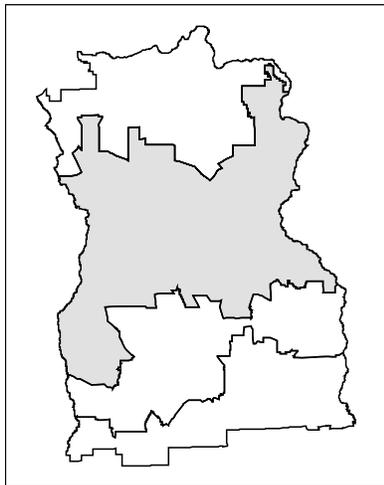
Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.



**VMA B**

**UV-II-O- 2.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	7,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	220,000
Non-Native Understory Communities	17,500
Native Grassland Communities	195,000
Native Shrubland Communities	175,000
Unvegetated Areas	15,000
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	



**VMA B**

**UV-II-MA- 5.** Treat approximately 75% of annual communities to move toward non-native perennial communities, focusing on areas adjacent to non-native perennial communities.

**UV-II-MA- 6.** Actively maintain non-native perennial plant communities for livestock grazing.

**UV-II-MA- 7.** Treat approximately 33% of non-native understory communities to move toward non-native perennial communities, focusing on pastures where non-native perennial communities predominate.

**UV-II-MA- 8.** Native grassland communities may be treated to increase late-seral grasses. Native grassland areas that have been seeded with shrubs would be allowed to transition to native shrubland, and shrubs would continue to be allowed in ES&BAR seedings. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

**UV-II-MA- 9.** Native shrubland communities may be treated to increase late-seral grasses. Shrubs would continue to be allowed in ES&BAR seedings.

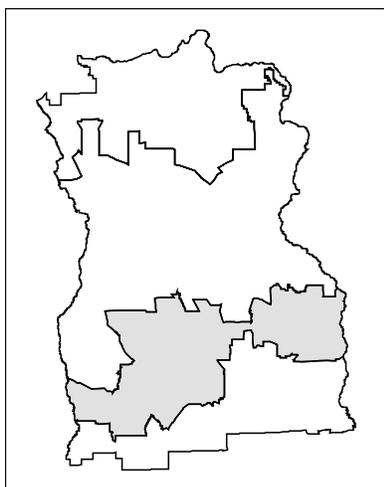
**UV-II-MA- 10.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**VMA C**

**UV-II-O- 3.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	7,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	67,500
Non-Native Understory Communities	10,000
Native Grassland Communities	132,500
Native Shrubland Communities	92,500
Unvegetated Areas	2,500
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	



**VMA C**

**UV-II-MA- 11.** Treatment of annual communities within this VMA would be limited due to the location of these areas at canyon bottoms and within WSAs. Localized treatments may be used when necessary.

**UV-II-MA- 12.** Actively maintain non-native perennial plant communities for livestock grazing.

**UV-II-MA- 13.** Treat approximately 50% of non-native understory communities to move toward non-native perennial communities, focusing on pastures where non-native perennial communities predominate.

**UV-II-MA- 14.** Native grassland communities may be treated to increase late-seral grasses. Native grassland areas that have been seeded with shrubs would be allowed to transition to native shrubland, and shrubs would continue to be allowed in ES&BAR seedings. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

**UV-II-MA- 15.** Native shrubland communities may be treated to increase late-seral grasses. Shrubs would continue to be allowed in ES&BAR seedings.

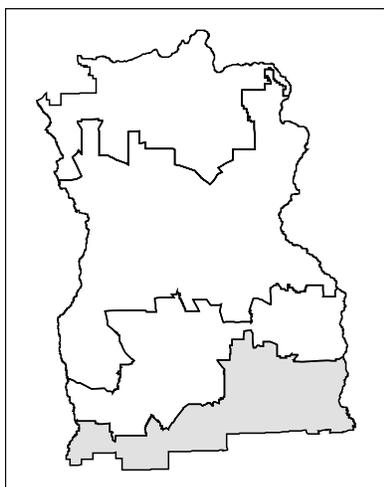
**UV-II-MA- 16.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**VMA D**

**UV-II-O- 4.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	2,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	20,000
Non-Native Understory Communities	0
Native Grassland Communities	72,500
Native Shrubland Communities	105,000
Unvegetated Areas	10,000
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	



**VMA D**

**UV-II-MA- 17.** Treat approximately 50% of annual communities to move toward non-native perennial communities, focusing on Taylor Pocket and annual areas near China Creek.

**UV-II-MA- 18.** Actively maintain non-native perennial plant communities for livestock grazing.

**UV-II-MA- 19.** Actively maintain non-native understory communities for livestock grazing by removing shrubs.

**UV-II-MA- 20.** Native grassland communities may be treated to increase late-seral grasses. Native grassland areas that have been seeded with shrubs would be allowed to transition to native shrubland, and shrubs would continue to be allowed in ES&BAR seedings. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

**UV-II-MA- 21.** Native shrubland communities may be treated to increase late-seral grasses. Shrubs would continue to be allowed in ES&BAR seedings.

**UV-II-MA- 22.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**All VMAs**

**UV-II-MA- 23.** The first priority for implementing vegetation treatments would be treatments identified for VMA A to increase perennial forage for livestock; the second priority would be treatments identified for VMA B to increase forage for livestock. Opportunities for treatments outside these priority areas would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**UV-II-MA- 24.** Focus restoration treatments identified for each VMA on habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.

**UV-II-MA- 25.** The toolbox to restore or treat upland vegetation communities would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Targeted grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

Prescribed fire would not be allowed in native grassland or native shrubland communities. See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

**UV-II-MA- 26.** Use primarily non-native species in upland vegetation treatments, consistent with management actions to achieve vegetation objectives; fire tolerant species would also be used, primarily in annual communities.

**UV-II-MA- 27.** Create 52 ungrazed reference areas (2,000 acres) in native grassland and native shrubland communities, as well as non-native perennial communities that have burned multiple times in the last 20 years (Map 12). Each reference area would be approximately 40 acres and would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

**UV-II-MA- 28.** Reseed all areas disturbed during project construction, maintenance, or removal with grasses.

### Management Specific to Alternative III

#### Goal

**UV-III-G- 1.** Manage vegetation to reduce fire size and intensity while maintaining habitat for sage-grouse.

#### Objective

**VMA A**

**UV-III-O- 1.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	37,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	130,000
Non-Native Understory Communities	5,000
Native Grassland Communities	25,000
Native Shrubland Communities	17,500
Unvegetated Areas	5,000
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	

#### Management Actions

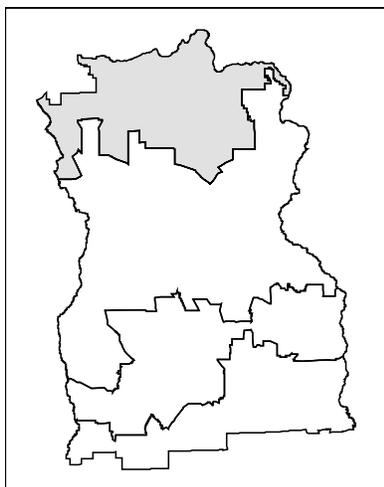
**VMA A**

**UV-III-MA- 1.** Treat at least 45% of annual communities with fire-tolerant, non-native perennial species between fuel breaks to reduce the fine fuel load.

**UV-III-MA- 2.** Non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for vegetation treatments outside treatments discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**UV-III-MA- 3.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

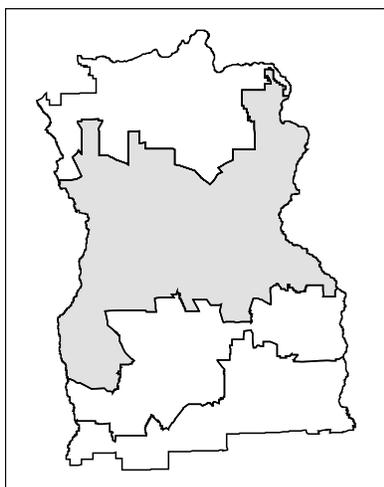
Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.



**VMA B**

**UV-III-O- 2.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	10,000
Non-Native Perennial Communities	215,000
Non-Native Understory Communities	25,000
Native Grassland Communities	90,000
Native Shrubland Communities	270,000
Unvegetated Areas	20,000
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	



**VMA B**

**UV-III-MA- 4.** Treat approximately 75% of annual communities with fire-tolerant non-native perennial species, focusing on areas adjacent to non-native perennial communities.

**UV-III-MA- 5.** Non-native perennial, non-native understory, and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for vegetation treatments outside treatments discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**UV-III-MA- 6.** Treat approximately 50% of native grassland communities to incorporate a shrub component to break up the continuity of grassland fuels.

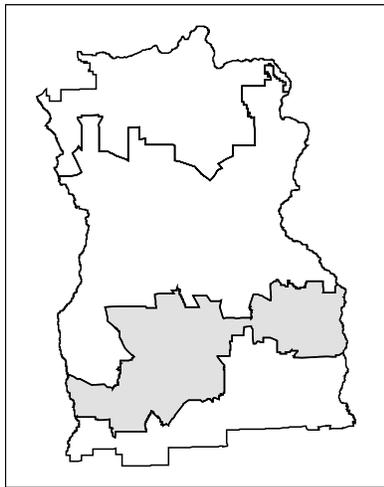
**UV-III-MA- 7.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**VMA C**

**UV-III-O- 3.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	7,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	60,000
Non-Native Understory Communities	22,500
Native Grassland Communities	60,000
Native Shrubland Communities	157,500
Unvegetated Areas	5,000
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	



**VMA C**

**UV-III-MA- 8.** Treatment of annual communities within this VMA would be limited due to the location of these areas at canyon bottoms and within WSAs. Localized treatments may be used when necessary.

**UV-III-MA- 9.** Non-native perennial, non-native understory, and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for vegetation treatments outside treatments discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**UV-III-MA- 10.** Treat approximately 50% of native grassland communities to incorporate a shrub component to break up the continuity of grassland fuels.

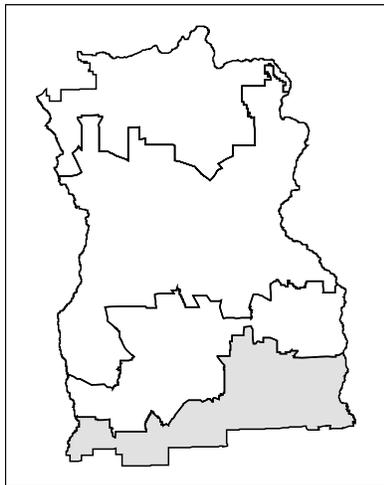
**UV-III-MA- 11.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**VMA D**

**UV-III-O- 4.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	2,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	7,500
Non-Native Understory Communities	10,000
Native Grassland Communities	55,000
Native Shrubland Communities	125,000
Unvegetated Areas	10,000
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	



**VMA D**

**UV-III-MA- 12.** Restore approximately 75% of annual communities to native grassland using fire-tolerant native species.

**UV-III-MA- 13.** Non-native perennial, non-native understory, and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for vegetation treatments outside treatments discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**UV-III-MA- 14.** Treat approximately 30% of native grassland communities to incorporate a shrub component to break up the continuity of grassland fuels.

**UV-III-MA- 15.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**All VMAs**

**UV-III-MA- 16.** The first priority for implementing vegetation treatments would be treatments identified for VMA A to help lengthen the fire return interval; the second priority would be treatments identified for VMA D to protect native shrubland communities. Opportunities for treatments outside these priority areas would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**UV-III-MA- 17.** Focus vegetation treatments identified for each VMA on protecting or restoring habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.

**UV-III-MA- 18.** The toolbox to restore or treat upland vegetation communities would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Targeted grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

**UV-III-MA- 19.** Fire-tolerant and fire-resistant species would have high priority for upland vegetation treatments. Treatments may also use other native species, including cultivars of native species, and non-native species, consistent with management actions to achieve vegetation objectives.

**UV-III-MA- 20.** Create 75 ungrazed reference areas (3,000 acres) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities (Map 13). Each reference area would be approximately 40 acres and would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

**UV-III-MA- 21.** Treat all areas disturbed during project construction, maintenance, or removal as appropriate to reduce wildland fire size and intensity.

## Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

### Goal

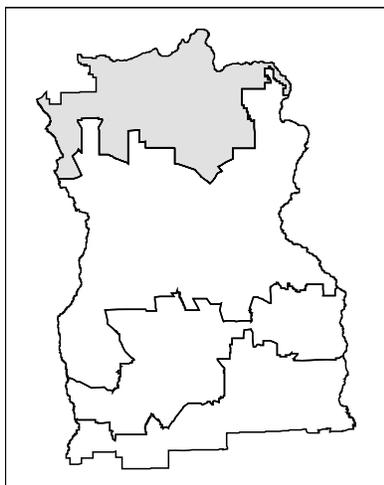
**UV-IV-G- 1.** Manage vegetation to restore the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function and reduce fragmentation of habitat for sage-grouse and other native species.

### Objective

#### VMA A

**UV-IV-O- 1.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	30,000
Non-Native Perennial Communities	87,500
Non-Native Understory Communities	5,000
Native Grassland Communities	12,500
Native Shrubland Communities	82,500
Unvegetated Areas	2,500
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	



### Management Actions

#### VMA A

**UV-IV-MA- 1.** Treat approximately 60% of annual plant communities. Areas along the Snake River to the top of the canyon rim, drainages into the Snake River, and areas that would help connect native grassland and shrubland communities would be restored to native shrubland. Areas adjacent to non-native perennial communities would be treated using non-native species.

**UV-IV-MA- 2.** Restore approximately 25% of non-native perennial plant communities to native shrubland. Treatments would focus on connecting native grassland and shrubland communities in the Saylor Creek Herd Management Area (HMA) and in the eastern portion of the VMA. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed in the remainder of the non-native perennial communities.

**UV-IV-MA- 3.** Non-native understory communities would not be a focus for active restoration treatments to native shrubland. Treatments in these areas would focus on introducing forbs to the understory.

**UV-IV-MA- 4.** Restore approximately 50% of native grassland communities to native shrubland. Treatments would focus on areas adjacent to native shrubland communities. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

**UV-IV-MA- 5.** Native shrubland communities may be treated to introduce forbs and late-seral grasses to the understory. Forb species could include both native and non-native species.

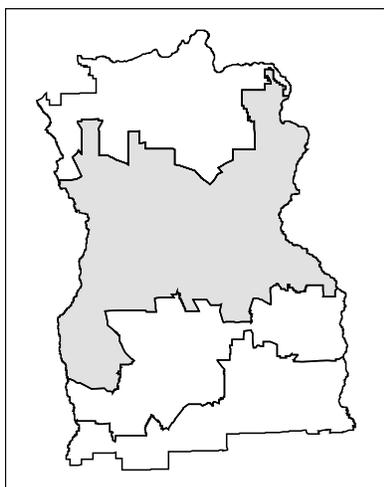
**UV-IV-MA- 6.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**VMA B**

**UV-IV-O- 2.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	7,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	65,000
Non-Native Understory Communities	72,500
Native Grassland Communities	97,500
Native Shrubland Communities	372,500
Unvegetated Areas	15,000
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	



**VMA B**

**UV-IV-MA- 7.** Treat approximately 75% of annual communities. Areas adjacent to native grassland and shrubland communities would be restored to native shrubland; areas adjacent to non-native perennial communities would be treated with non-native species.

**UV-IV-MA- 8.** Restore approximately 40% of non-native perennial communities to native shrubland, focusing on the Inside Desert ACEC and areas in the central and eastern portion of the VMA adjacent to native communities. Introduce shrubs into approximately 30% of non-native perennial communities, focusing on areas adjacent to native communities. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed in the remainder of the non-native perennial communities.

**UV-IV-MA- 9.** Restore approximately 33% of non-native understory communities to native shrubland, focusing on areas adjacent to native communities. The remainder of the non-native understory communities may be treated to introduce forbs to the understory.

**UV-IV-MA- 10.** Restore approximately 50% of native grassland communities to native shrubland. Treatments would focus on areas that would expand or connect native shrubland communities. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

**UV-IV-MA- 11.** Native shrubland communities may be treated to introduce forbs and late-seral grasses to the understory.

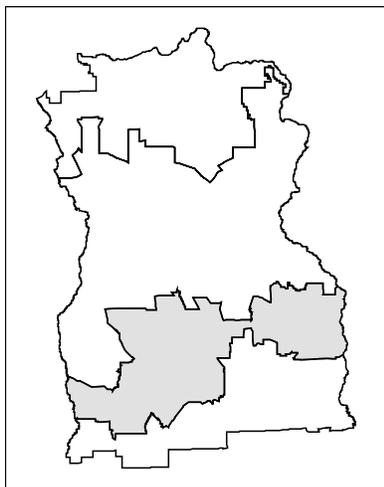
**UV-IV-MA- 12.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**VMA C**

**UV-IV-O- 3.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	7,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	0
Non-Native Understory Communities	50,000
Native Grassland Communities	32,500
Native Shrubland Communities	220,000
Unvegetated Areas	2,500
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	



**VMA C**

**UV-IV-MA- 13.** Treatment of annual communities within this VMA would be limited due to the location of these areas at canyon bottoms and within WSAs. Localized treatments may be used when necessary.

**UV-IV-MA- 14.** Restore approximately 50% of non-native perennial communities to native shrubland, focusing on ACECs and islands within native communities. Treat the remaining non-native perennial communities to introduce shrubs; natural succession of shrubs would also be allowed in non-native perennial communities.

**UV-IV-MA- 15.** Restore approximately 5% of non-native understory communities to native shrubland, focusing on areas adjacent to native communities. The remainder of the non-native understory communities may be treated to introduce forbs to the understory.

**UV-IV-MA- 16.** Restore approximately 75% of native grassland communities to native shrubland. Treatments would focus on areas that would expand or connect native shrubland communities. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

**UV-IV-MA- 17.** Native shrubland communities may be treated to introduce forbs and late-seral grasses to the understory.

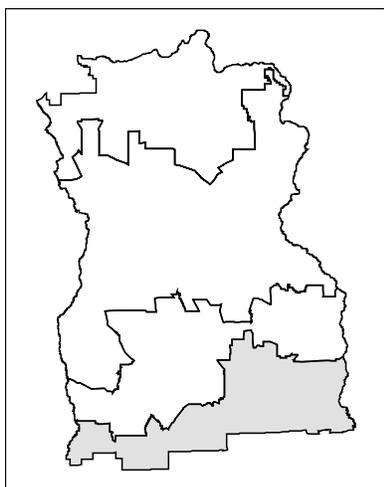
**UV-IV-MA- 18.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**VMA D**

**UV-IV-O- 4.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	2,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	0
Non-Native Understory Communities	5,000
Native Grassland Communities	7,500
Native Shrubland Communities	185,000
Unvegetated Areas	10,000
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	



**VMA D**

**UV-IV-MA- 19.** Restore approximately 50% of annual communities native shrubland, focusing on Taylor Pocket and annual areas near China Creek.

**UV-IV-MA- 20.** Restore approximately 75% of non-native perennial communities to native shrubland; treatment would focus on areas adjacent to native shrubland communities. The remaining non-native perennial communities would be treated to introduce shrubs; natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout non-native perennial communities.

**UV-IV-MA- 21.** Restore approximately 67% of non-native understory communities to native shrubland, focusing on areas adjacent to native shrubland communities. The remainder of the non-native understory communities may be treated to introduce forbs to the understory.

**UV-IV-MA- 22.** Restore approximately 90% of native grassland communities to native shrubland.

**UV-IV-MA- 23.** Native shrubland communities may be treated to introduce forbs and late-seral grasses to the understory.

**UV-IV-MA- 24.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

### **All VMAs**

**UV-IV-MA- 25.** The first priority for implementing vegetation treatments would be treatments identified for VMA D to improve sage-grouse habitat; the second priority would be treatments identified for VMA C to reconnect and expand habitat for sage-grouse. Opportunities for treatments outside these priority areas would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**UV-IV-MA- 26.** Focus restoration treatments identified for each VMA on habitat for sage-grouse, other special status species, mule deer, and pronghorn.

**UV-IV-MA- 27.** The toolbox to restore or treat upland vegetation communities would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Targeted grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

**UV-IV-MA- 28.** Upland vegetation treatments may use native species, including cultivars of native species, and non-native species, consistent with management actions to achieve vegetation objectives. Native species would be used in vegetation treatments when practical, with special emphasis on species of importance to the tribes. Desirable non-native species may be used on harsh or degraded sites, when native seed is not available, or where they would structurally mimic the natural plant community and prevent soil loss and invasion by noxious weeds and invasive plants. The non-native species used would be those that have the highest probability of establishment on these sites. These "placeholders" would maintain the area for potential future native restoration. Native seed would be used more frequently and at larger scales as species adapted to local areas become more available.

**UV-IV-MA- 29.** Create 75 ungrazed reference areas (12,000 acres) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities (Map 11). Each reference area would be approximately 160 acres and would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

**UV-IV-MA- 30.** Reseed all areas disturbed during project construction, maintenance, or removal with a mixture of native grasses, forbs, or shrubs that are appropriate to the ecological site.

**UV-IV-MA- 31.** Assess biological soil crusts and manage them to move toward site potential by modifying levels and timing of BLM management activities and authorized uses during periods when soil crusts are most vulnerable to damage.

## Management Specific to Alternative V

### Goal

**UV-V-G- 1.** Manage vegetation to move toward historic vegetation communities by sustaining, improving, or increasing native plant communities that provide habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.

### Objectives

**VMA A**

**UV-V-O- 1.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	55,000
Non-Native Perennial Communities	72,500
Non-Native Understory Communities	30,000
Native Grassland Communities	25,000
Native Shrubland Communities	35,000
Unvegetated Areas	2,500
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	

### Management Actions

**VMA A**

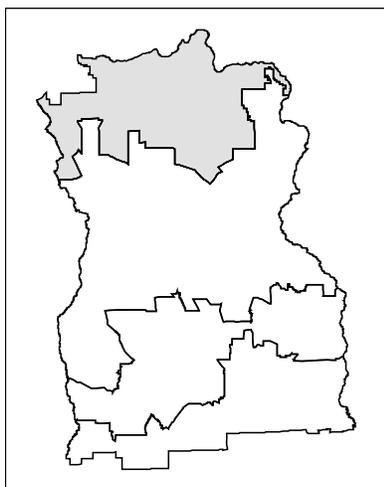
**UV-V-MA- 1.** Restore approximately 25% of annual communities to native shrubland. Treatments would focus on areas occupied by special status plants, the Middle Snake and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs, the Oregon NHT protective corridor, and areas adjacent to native grassland and shrubland.

**UV-V-MA- 2.** Treat approximately 25% of non-native perennial communities to introduce shrubs. Treatments would focus on the Middle Snake and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs, the Oregon NHT protective corridor, and areas adjacent to native grassland and shrubland. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout non-native perennial communities.

**UV-V-MA- 3.** Non-native understory, native grassland communities, and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for active restoration treatments. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

**UV-V-MA- 4.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

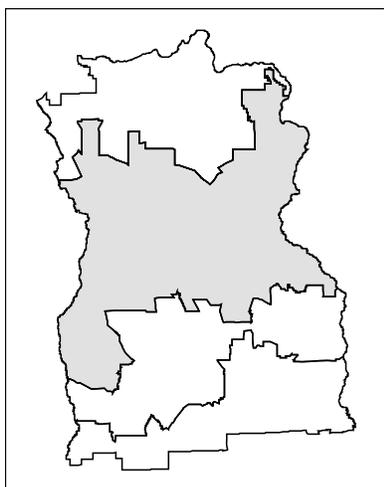
Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.



**VMA B**

**UV-V-O- 2.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	17,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	60,000
Non-Native Understory Communities	150,000
Native Grassland Communities	130,000
Native Shrubland Communities	257,500
Unvegetated Areas	15,000
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	



**VMA B**

**UV-V-MA- 5.** Restore approximately 50% of annual communities to native shrubland, focusing on the Sagebrush Sea ACEC.

**UV-V-MA- 6.** Treat approximately 67% of the non-native perennial communities to introduce shrubs, focusing on the Sagebrush Sea ACEC. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout non-native perennial communities.

**UV-V-MA- 7.** Restore approximately 33% of native grassland communities to native shrubland, focusing on the Sagebrush Sea ACEC. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

**UV-V-MA- 8.** Non-native understory and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for active restoration treatments.

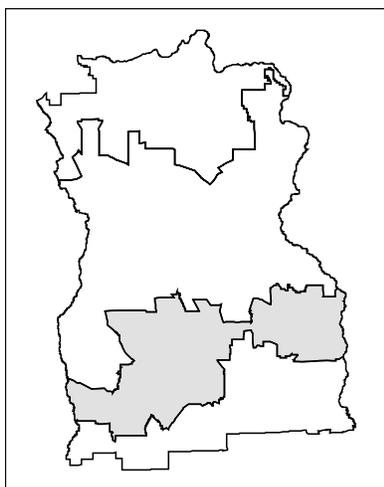
**UV-V-MA- 9.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**VMA C**

**UV-V-O- 3.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	7,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	17,500
Non-Native Understory Communities	62,500
Native Grassland Communities	65,000
Native Shrubland Communities	157,500
Unvegetated Areas	2,500
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	



**VMA C**

**UV-V-MA- 10.** Treatment of annual communities within this VMA would be limited due to the location of these areas at canyon bottoms and within WSAs. Localized treatments may be used when necessary.

**UV-V-MA- 11.** Treat approximately 70% of non-native perennial communities to introduce shrubs, focusing on sage-grouse, bighorn sheep, and slickspot peppergrass habitat. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout non-native perennial communities.

**UV-V-MA- 12.** Restore approximately 50% of native grassland communities to native shrubland. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

**UV-V-MA- 13.** Non-native understory and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for active restoration treatments.

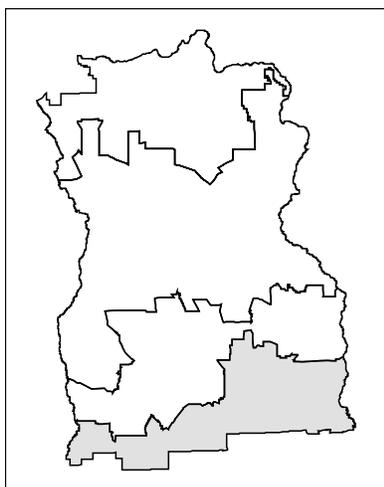
**UV-V-MA- 14.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**VMA D**

**UV-V-O- 4.** Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres <sup>A</sup>
Annual Communities	2,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	2,500
Non-Native Understory Communities	15,000
Native Grassland Communities	25,000
Native Shrubland Communities	155,000
Unvegetated Areas	10,000
<sup>A</sup> Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.	



**VMA D**

**UV-V-MA- 15.** Restore approximately 50% of annual communities to native shrubland, focusing on Taylor Pocket and annual areas near China Creek.

**UV-V-MA- 16.** Treat approximately 75% of non-native perennial communities to introduce shrubs; treatment would focus on areas adjacent to native shrubland communities. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout non-native perennial communities.

**UV-V-MA- 17.** Restore approximately 67% of native grassland communities to native shrubland, focusing on areas that have been seeded with shrubs previously. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

**UV-V-MA- 18.** Non-native understory and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for active restoration treatments.

**UV-V-MA- 19.** Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

**All VMAs**

**UV-V-MA- 20.** The first priority for implementing vegetation treatments would be treatments identified for VMA A to move toward native perennial vegetation; the second priority would be treatments identified for VMA C to reconnect and expand habitat for sage-grouse. Opportunities for treatments outside these priority areas would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**UV-V-MA- 21.** Focus restoration treatments identified for each VMA on habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.

**UV-V-MA- 22.** The toolbox to restore or treat upland vegetation communities would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Removal of grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

Chemical treatments could only be used after all other methods have been exhausted. Targeted grazing would not be allowed.

**UV-V-MA- 23.** Limit treatments in non-native perennial communities to methods with minimal soil disturbance, including but not limited to:

- Broadcast seeding,
- Chaining, and
- Harrowing.

**UV-V-MA- 24.** Use only native species or cultivars of native species in upland vegetation treatments.

**UV-V-MA- 25.** Create 40 ungrazed reference areas (193,000 acres) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities (Map 14). Each reference area would consist of an entire pasture and would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

**UV-V-MA- 26.** Reseed all areas disturbed during project construction, maintenance, or removal with a mixture of native grasses, forbs, or shrubs that are appropriate to the ecological site.

**UV-V-MA- 27.** Assess biological soil crusts and manage them to move toward site potential by modifying levels and timing of BLM management activities and authorized uses during periods when soil crusts are most vulnerable to damage.

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## 2.3.5.2. Riparian Areas and Wetlands

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### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

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#### Goal

No goal stated.

#### Objective

**RI-NA-O- 1.** Maintain 1987 condition of riparian habitat in MUAs 4, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 16; improve 44.4 miles of riparian habitat in MUAs 10, 11, 14, and 15 (Map 4).

#### Management Actions

**RI-NA-MA- 1.** Management activities in riparian zones would be designed to maintain or improve riparian habitat condition.

**RI-NA-MA- 2.** Riparian and wetland habitat would have a high priority for protection and improvement in accordance with national policy. Manage watersheds to maintain or improve stream channel stability and overall watershed conditions.

**RI-NA-MA- 3.** In those areas where fish/riparian values are identified as high priority, all other management practices would be designed to accommodate those priority needs.

**RI-NA-MA- 4.** Follow the guidelines outlined in the BMP manual of management and protection of western stream ecosystems (American Fisheries Society, 1982) in all activities including maintenance of roads, and other facilities.

**RI-NA-MA- 5.** Install gap fencing in MUAs 10, 11, 12, 14, 15.

**RI-NA-MA- 6.** In those instances where management systems alone cannot meet objectives for fisheries, riparian areas, or water availability, provisions for fencing or other means of exclusion would be utilized.

**RI-NA-MA- 7.** Monitor and implement periodic rest or nonuse when these stream systems do not show signs of adequate recovery.

**RI-NA-MA- 8.** Avoid construction activities that remove or destroy riparian vegetation and instream fish cover.

**RI-NA-MA- 9.** Provide a riparian buffer zone of sufficient width (100 to 300 feet minimum) to protect riparian vegetation, fisheries, and water quality as determined by an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists, which includes fisheries and wildlife specialists. Within the riparian buffer zone:

- Limit new road construction that parallels streams (use BMPs when construction cannot be avoided).
- Maintain full fire suppression.
- Generally exclude spraying of herbicides and pesticides.
- Generally exclude gravel extraction.

**RI-NA-MA- 10.** Utilize a 1,000 foot (500 feet for each side) riparian buffer zone for the total exclusion of the following activities:

- Oil and gas occupancy and/or surface disturbance.
- Introduction of chemical toxicants as a result of construction, mining, or agriculture.

**RI-NA-MA- 11.** Management actions within floodplains and wetlands would include measures to preserve, protect, and, if necessary, restore their natural functions.

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## **Management Common to All Action Alternatives**

### **Goal**

**RI-CA-G- 1.** Provide healthy, functioning watersheds, riparian areas, and associated aquatic habitats.

### **Objective**

See objectives for specific alternatives.

### **Management Actions**

**RI-CA-MA- 1.** Create Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) around riparian areas and wetlands that contain or are tributaries to streams that contain special status species or their habitat to protect riparian vegetation, fisheries, and water quality. RCA widths would be as follows:

- **Category 1** – Fish-bearing streams: The RCA consists of the stream and the area on either side of the stream. This area extends from the edges of the active channel to the top of the inner gorge, to the outer edges of the 100-year floodplain, to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation, or 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel), whichever is greatest.
- **Category 2** – Permanently flowing non-fish-bearing streams: The RCA consists of the stream and the area on either side of the stream. This area extends from the edges of the active channel to the top of the inner gorge, to the outer edges of the 100-year floodplain, to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation, or 150 feet slope distance (300 feet, including both sides of the stream channel), whichever is greatest.
- **Category 3** – Ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands greater than 1 acre: The RCA consists of the body of water or wetland and the area to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation, to the extent of the seasonally saturated soil, or 150 feet slope distance from the edge of the maximum pool elevation of constructed ponds and reservoirs, or from the edge of the wetland, pond, or lake, whichever is greatest.
- **Category 4** – Seasonally flowing or intermittent streams, wetlands less than 1 acre, landslides, and landslide-prone areas: This category includes features with high variability in size and site-specific characteristics. The RCA includes the intermittent stream channel and the area to the top of the inner gorge, the intermittent stream channel or wetland and the area to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation, the area from the edges of the stream channel, wetland, or slide /landslide prone area, or 50 feet slope distance, whichever is greatest.

Activities can occur within RCAs with proper stipulations or mitigation, but must follow guidelines in the ARMS.

**RI-CA-MA- 2.** Implement the ARMS (Appendix D) to achieve riparian management objectives within RCAs and other riparian areas and wetlands. Use the ARMS to develop and apply site-specific objectives and management guidelines for riparian areas and wetlands through implementation of activity plans. Use adaptive management as outlined in the ARMS to reduce impacts on riparian areas and wetlands from uses and activities.

**RI-CA-MA- 3.** Riparian management priorities would include the following:

- **Priority 1 streams** – Streams rated as functioning-at-risk (FAR) or FAR with a downward trend (FAR-DN; 77 miles); management emphasis for Priority 1 streams would be on restoration.
- **Priority 2 streams** – Streams rated as FAR with an upward trend (FAR-UP) or non-functioning (NF; 63 miles); management emphasis for Priority 2 streams would be on restoration.
- **Priority 3 streams** – Streams rated at PFC (85 miles); management emphasis for Priority 3 streams would be on maintaining proper function.

See management specific to Alternatives I through V for more detailed management priorities.

**RI-CA-MA- 4.** Assess condition of wetlands associated with ponds and springs.

**RI-CA-MA- 5.** Survey aquatic habitat (instream and riparian) and maintain updated aquatic habitat inventories.

**RI-CA-MA- 6.** Consider authorizing activities or facilities where long-term benefits outweigh short-term impacts to riparian vegetation and fish habitat.

**RI-CA-MA- 7.** Identify and remove nonessential human-made structures and objects that adversely impact the function of floodplains (e.g., unused bridge abutments, unused diversions, abandoned cars).

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative I***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**RI-I-O- 1.** Maintain 85 miles of Priority 3 streams at PFC; improve 60 miles of Priority 1 streams to achieve PFC; and improve the remaining 17 miles of Priority 1 streams and 63 miles of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC in the life of the plan.

**RI-I-O- 2.** Manage wetlands to move toward PFC.

### **Management Actions**

**RI-I-MA- 1.** Within the priorities identified in the ARMS (Appendix D), stream reaches with game fish or habitat suitable for game fish would be a high priority for restoration.

**RI-I-MA- 2.** The toolbox for restoration of stream reaches would include, but not be limited to:

- Road closures,
- Culvert replacements,
- Closing pastures,
- Exclosure fencing,
- Modification or removal of water developments,
- Replanting of riparian areas,
- Active herding,
- Reintroduction of beaver,
- Erosion control measures,
- Riparian pastures,
- Instream fish habitat improvements, and
- Modification or elimination of land uses that prevent attainment of aquatic and riparian management objectives.

**RI-I-MA- 3.** Conduct multiple indicator surveys on riparian areas according to BLM policy.

**RI-I-MA- 4.** Create 10 ungrazed riparian reference areas (3,000 acres; Map 11). Each reference area would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

## ***Management Specific to Alternative II***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**RI-II-O- 1.** Maintain 85 miles of Priority 3 streams at PFC and improve the Priority 1 and 2 streams to be moving toward PFC in the life of the plan.

**RI-II-O- 2.** Manage wetlands to move toward PFC.

### **Management Actions**

**RI-II-MA- 1.** Within the priorities identified in the ARMS (Appendix D), fish-bearing stream reaches, including reaches containing game and non-game fish, would be a high priority for restoration, according to the ARMS.

**RI-II-MA- 2.** The toolbox for restoration of stream reaches would include, but not be limited to:

- Road closures,
- Culvert replacements,
- Exclosure fencing,
- Modification of water developments,
- Replanting of riparian areas,
- Active herding,
- Erosion control measures,
- Riparian pastures,
- Instream fish habitat improvements, and
- Modification or elimination of land uses that prevent attainment of aquatic and riparian management objectives.

The toolbox would not include:

- Closing pastures,
- Removal of water developments, or
- Reintroduction of beaver.

**RI-II-MA- 3.** Conduct multiple indicator surveys on riparian areas according to BLM policy.

**RI-II-MA- 4.** Create 10 ungrazed riparian reference areas (1,000 acres; Map 12). Each reference area would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative III**

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**RI-III-O- 1.** Maintain 85 miles of Priority 3 streams at PFC; improve 77 miles of Priority 1 streams and 21 miles of Priority 2 streams to achieve PFC; and improve the remaining 42 miles of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC in the life of the plan.

**RI-III-O- 2.** Manage wetlands to move toward PFC.

### **Management Actions**

**RI-III-MA- 1.** Within the priorities identified in the ARMS (Appendix D), stream reaches/riparian areas with the potential to serve as fire breaks would be a high priority for restoration.

**RI-III-MA- 2.** The toolbox for restoration of stream reaches would include, but not be limited to:

- Culvert replacements,
- Closing pastures,
- Exclosure fencing,
- Modification of water developments,
- Replanting of riparian areas,
- Active herding,
- Reintroduction of beaver,
- Erosion control measures,
- Riparian pastures,
- Instream fish habitat improvements, and
- Modification or elimination of land uses that prevent attainment of aquatic and riparian management objectives.

The toolbox would not include:

- Removal of water developments, or
- Road closures.

**RI-III-MA- 3.** Conduct multiple indicator surveys on riparian areas according to BLM policy.

**RI-III-MA- 4.** Create 10 ungrazed riparian reference areas (1,000 acres; Map 13). Each reference area would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)**

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Objective**

**RI-IV-O- 1.** Maintain 85 miles of Priority 3 streams at PFC; improve 77 miles of Priority 1 streams and 21 miles of Priority 2 streams to achieve PFC; and improve the remaining 42 miles of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC in the life of the plan.

**RI-IV-O- 2.** Manage wetlands to move toward PFC.

**Management Actions**

**RI-IV-MA- 1.** Within the priorities identified in the ARMS (Appendix D), stream reaches containing special status species or their habitat would be a high priority for restoration.

**RI-IV-MA- 2.** The toolbox for restoration of stream reaches would include, but not be limited to:

- Road closures,
- Culvert replacements,
- Closing pastures,
- Exclosure fencing,
- Modification or removal of water developments,
- Replanting of riparian areas,
- Active herding,
- Reintroduction of beaver,
- Erosion control measures,
- Riparian pastures,
- Instream fish habitat improvements, and
- Modification or elimination of land uses that prevent attainment of aquatic and riparian management objectives.

**RI-IV-MA- 3.** Conduct multiple indicator surveys on riparian areas according to BLM policy.

**RI-IV-MA- 4.** Create 10 ungrazed riparian reference areas (3,000 acres; Map 11). Each reference area would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

**Management Specific to Alternative V****Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Objective**

**RI-V-O- 1.** Maintain 85 miles of Priority 3 streams at PFC; improve 77 miles of Priority 1 streams and 21 miles of Priority 2 streams to achieve PFC; and improve the remaining 42 miles of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC in the life of the plan.

**RI-V-O- 2.** Manage wetlands to move toward PFC.

**Management Actions**

**RI-V-MA- 1.** Within the priorities identified in the ARMS (Appendix D), stream reaches containing special status species or their habitat would be a high priority for restoration. Active restoration would be limited to FAR-DN and NF reaches.

**RI-V-MA- 2.** The toolbox for restoration of stream reaches would include, but not be limited to:

- Road closures,
- Culvert replacements,
- Closing pastures,
- Exclosure fencing,
- Removal of water developments,
- Replanting of riparian areas,
- Active herding,
- Riparian pastures,

- Instream fish habitat improvements, and
- Modification or elimination of land uses that prevent attainment of aquatic and riparian management objectives.

The toolbox would not include:

- Modification of water developments,
- Reintroduction of beaver, or
- Erosion control measures.

**RI-V-MA- 3.** Conduct multiple indicator surveys on riparian areas according to BLM policy, with emphasis on those areas that are rated FAR, FAR-DN, and NF or areas containing special status species.

**RI-V-MA- 4.** Create six ungrazed riparian reference areas (23,000 acres; Map 14). Each reference area would consist of an entire pasture and would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

## 2.3.6. Fish and Wildlife

### 2.3.6.1. Fish

#### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

##### Goal

No goal stated.

##### Objective

**FI-NA-O- 1.** Maintain 1987 condition of fish habitat in MUAs 7 and 13; improve 39.4 miles of fisheries habitat in MUAs 10, 11, 12, and 15 (Map 4).

##### Management Actions

No management actions stated.

#### *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*

##### Goal

See goal for specific alternatives.

##### Objective

See objectives for specific alternatives.

##### Management Actions

**FI-CA-MA- 1.** Maintain, improve, or restore native fish habitat through actions identified for riparian areas, water resources, and special status species and through guidelines contained in the ARMS (Appendix D). Incorporate BMPs to maintain and improve habitat for native fish (Appendix E).

**FI-CA-MA- 2.** Inventory and monitor fish habitat. Use adaptive management as outlined in the ARMS to minimize negative impacts to native fish habitat from uses and activities (Appendix D).

**FI-CA-MA- 3.** Activities within riparian areas and wetlands would be designed to mitigate impacts to the riparian and aquatic habitat(s) through implementation of specific standards and guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).

### ***Management Specific to Alternative I***

#### **Goal**

**FI-I-G- 1.** Manage public lands to promote diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitats for fish.

#### **Objective**

**FI-I-O- 1.** Maintain or improve streams so 70% of the miles of fish-bearing streams are properly functioning for fish. The remaining 30% of fish-bearing streams would be moving toward properly functioning for fish in the life of the plan.

#### **Management Actions**

See management actions in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### ***Management Specific to Alternative II***

#### **Goal**

**FI-II-G- 1.** Manage public lands to maintain or improve habitat for fish.

#### **Objective**

**FI-II-O- 1.** Maintain or improve all fish-bearing streams so they remain or are moving toward properly functioning for fish in the life of the plan.

#### **Management Actions**

See management actions in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### ***Management Specific to Alternative III***

#### **Goal**

**FI-III-G- 1.** Manage public lands to maintain habitat for fish while reducing wildland fire size and intensity.

#### **Objective**

**FI-III-O- 1.** Maintain or improve all fish-bearing streams so they remain or are moving toward properly functioning for fish in the life of the plan.

#### **Management Actions**

See management actions in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### ***Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)***

#### **Goal**

**FI-IV-G- 1.** Manage public lands to promote diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitats for fish.

### Objective

**FI-IV-O- 1.** Maintain or improve streams so 70% of the miles of fish-bearing streams and their perennial tributaries are properly functioning for fish. The remaining 30% of miles of fish-bearing streams and their perennial tributaries are moving toward properly functioning for fish in the life of the plan.

### Management Actions

See management actions in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative V***

### Goal

**FI-V-G- 1.** Manage public lands to promote diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitats for fish.

### Objective

**FI-V-O- 1.** Maintain or improve streams so 70% of the miles of fish-bearing streams and their perennial tributaries are properly functioning for fish. The remaining 30% of miles of fish-bearing streams and their perennial tributaries are moving toward properly functioning for fish in the life of the plan.

### Management Actions

See management actions in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

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## **2.3.6.2. Wildlife**

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### ***Management Specific to the No Action Alternative***

#### Goal

No goal stated.

#### Objectives

**WI-NA-O- 1.** Maintain present levels of upland game nesting and cover habitat in MUAs 6, 7, and 10 (Map 4).

**WI-NA-O- 2.** Manage 3,990 acres of the cheatgrass study area for curlews (MUA 7; Map 4).

**WI-NA-O- 3.** Manage all wildlife habitat within the planning area to provide a diversity of vegetation and habitats.

#### Management Actions

**WI-NA-MA- 1.** Priority for habitat management would be given to habitat for Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, Candidate, and other BLM Sensitive species.

**WI-NA-MA- 2.** Manage all ecological sites on mule deer, pronghorn, elk, bighorn sheep, and sage-grouse habitat in fair or poor ecological condition in 1987 for good ecological condition.

**WI-NA-MA- 3.** Follow "Mule Deer Habitat Guidelines" contained in Technical Note 336 (Kerr, 1979) where applicable. Guidelines include:

- Maintain a 60/40 ratio of forage area to cover area in range rehabilitation or manipulation projects;
- Try to achieve a mosaic or mottled pattern of cover in prescribed burning and manipulation projects; and
- Improve forage condition by establishing seedings or plantings of bitterbrush, four-wing saltbush or other palatable shrub species

**WI-NA-O- 4.** Manage big game habitat to support 7,360 winter mule deer and 2,565 mule deer year-round across all MUAs; 1,932 pronghorn in MUAs 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16; and 364 bighorn sheep in MUAs 10, 15, and 16 (Map 4).

**WI-NA-O- 5.** Protect crucial winter big game habitat and bighorn sheep habitat in MUAs 10 and 15, and improve 8,750 acres of bighorn sheep and big game habitat by 2005 in MUAs 11, 15, and 16 (Map 4).

on crucial mule deer winter range that presently has less than 30% palatable shrub composition by weight of the shrub component.

**WI-NA-MA- 4.** On crucial mule deer and elk winter ranges that do not have an adequate composition of early maturing grass, develop small seedings of Siberian wheatgrass and Russian wildrye and other appropriate early maturing grasses to improve deer and elk nutrition in the early spring period.

**WI-NA-MA- 5.** Follow "Habitat Management Guides for the American Pronghorn Antelope" contained in Technical Note 347 (Yoakum, 1980) where applicable. Guidelines include:

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

**WI-NA-MA- 6.** Monitoring and coordination needs for elk are as follows:

- Identify elk use patterns as they occur on BLM lands;
- Identify areas of cumulative use due to elk and livestock;
- Monitor forage use to determine if overuse of plant communities is occurring; and
- Coordinate elk management and the exchange of information with the livestock users in the area and other agencies including the Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, and IDFG.

**WI-NA-MA- 7.** Areas managed as winter range are shown on Map 19.

**WI-NA-MA- 8.** Design vegetative manipulation projects to minimize impacts and improve wildlife habitat by including a variety of palatable shrubs, forbs and grass.

**WI-NA-MA- 9.** Improve raptor habitat by requiring all new power lines in raptor areas to be constructed to electrocution-proof specification and that any problem lines be modified to be electrocution proof.

**WI-NA-MA- 10.** Maintain the short-grass habitats occupied by long-billed curlew.

**WI-NA-MA- 11.** Transfer of land within the curlew habitat area would not be allowed prior to the development of an agreement between IDFG and IDWR which identifies satisfactory mitigation measures to protect curlew habitat.

**WI-NA-MA- 12.** Maintain size and configuration of Wildlife Tracts. Manage Wildlife Tracts according to Snake River Wildlife Tracts Habitat Management Plan (13,000 acres; Map 23).

**WI-NA-MA- 13.** Install wildlife escape devices on all troughs and tanks.

**WI-NA-MA- 14.** Provide water in allotments during seasonal periods of need for wildlife.

**WI-NA-MA- 15.** Incorporate wildlife provisions into all future fence proposals.

**WI-NA-MA- 16.** Schedule major construction and maintenance work in crucial wildlife habitats to avoid or minimize disturbance to wildlife.

**WI-NA-MA- 17.** Restrict occupancy for oil and gas activities in crucial wildlife habitats as shown below.

- December through April in mule deer winter range;
- December through April in pronghorn winter range;
- May through June in pronghorn fawning range;
- Year round within 500 feet of riparian areas occupied by river otter;
- Year round within essential nesting habitat for birds of prey;
- Year round within 0.5 miles of heron rookeries;
- February through June within 0.75 miles of golden eagle nests;
- Mid March through June within 0.75 miles of long-billed curlew nests;
- Mid March through June within 0.25 miles of Western burrowing owl nests;
- Mid April through August within 0.75 miles of osprey nests; and
- Year round within 500 feet of reservoirs, ponds, lakes, streams, wetland, marshes, and riparian areas for riparian-dependent species.

Additional activities would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the need for compliance with these recommendations.

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## **Management Common to All Action Alternatives**

### **Goal**

See goal for specific alternatives.

### **Objectives**

See objectives for specific alternatives.

### **Management Actions**

**WI-CA-MA- 1.** Maintain or improve habitat for priority wildlife species as specified in the *Upland Vegetation* section for each alternative and according to guidelines contained in relevant species management plans (plans in effect as of 2009 are listed in Appendix G).

**WI-CA-MA- 2.** When making management decisions affecting big game, use the most current big game winter range map provided by IDFG and the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). Areas considered big game winter range in 2009 are shown on Map 19.

**WI-CA-MA- 3.** Implement IDFG and NDOW guidelines to maintain or improve mule deer and pronghorn winter range when and where needed.

**WI-CA-MA- 4.** Management specific to elk would not be implemented unless requested by IDFG or NDOW; management actions for elk are allowed consistent with habitat management for priority wildlife species.

**WI-CA-MA- 5.** Management of habitat for migratory birds identified in the Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy Species of Conservation Need, Intermountain West Joint Venture - Idaho, and Idaho Partners in Flight would emphasize avoiding or minimizing negative impacts and restoring and enhancing habitat quality to implement Executive Order 13186. Promote the maintenance and improvement of their habitat quantity and quality through the permitting process for all land use authorizations. Avoid, reduce, or mitigate adverse impacts on the habitats of migratory bird species of conservation concern to the extent feasible, and in a manner consistent with regional or statewide bird conservation priorities.

**WI-CA-MA- 6.** Incorporate BMPs for wildlife into BLM management activities and authorized uses as appropriate (Appendix E). Specific BMPs would be determined at the project level.

**WI-CA-MA- 7.** Install and properly maintain wildlife escape devices on all troughs and open tanks.

**WI-CA-MA- 8.** Fence construction and maintenance would follow BLM policy for wildlife-friendly fences.

**WI-CA-MA- 9.** Schedule construction and maintenance activities to avoid or minimize disturbance to the priority species and their habitat during their important seasonal periods (Appendix H).

**WI-CA-MA- 10.** Schedule energy-related activities (e.g., exploration, development, and maintenance) to avoid or minimize disturbance to priority species and their habitat during important seasonal periods (Appendix H).

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative I***

### **Goal**

**WI-I-G- 1.** Manage public lands to promote diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitats for wildlife.

### **Objective**

**WI-I-O- 1.** Maintain or improve habitat for big game species by managing uses and activities and actively restoring annual, non-native perennial, and native communities.

### **Management Actions**

**WI-I-MA- 1.** Mule deer and special status species, including bighorn sheep and sage-grouse, have the highest priority for habitat management; secondary priorities are pronghorn, chukar, and pheasant.

Special status species management is discussed in the *Special Status Species* section.

**WI-I-MA- 2.** Focus vegetation treatments for mule deer winter range areas as shown on Map 20.

**WI-I-MA- 3.** Plant desirable browse species appropriate to site potential on big game winter range where browse was reduced by past wildland fires. Species may include, but not be limited to: winterfat, four-wing saltbush, bitterbrush, chokecherry, and serviceberry.

**WI-I-MA- 4.** Reconfigure and expand Wildlife Tracts (from 13,000 acres to 20,000 acres) to reduce conflicts with uses, to improve management efficiency of Wildlife Tracts and allotments, and to increase the average size of individual tracts (Map 23). Prepare a new plan for joint IDFG-BLM management of Wildlife Tracts through a public process and to obtain partners for projects to improve wildlife values.

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### ***Management Specific to Alternative II***

#### **Goal**

**WI-II-G- 1.** Manage public lands to maintain or improve habitat for wildlife.

#### **Objective**

**WI-II-O- 1.** Maintain or improve wildlife habitat in native communities while promoting commercial uses throughout the planning area.

#### **Management Actions**

**WI-II-MA- 1.** Sage-grouse and other special status species are priority species for habitat management.

Special status species management is discussed in the *Special Status Species* section.

**WI-II-MA- 2.** As part of ES&BAR, plant desirable browse species on big game winter range where browse was reduced by past wildland fires. Species may include, but not be limited to: winterfat, four-wing saltbush, bitterbrush, chokecherry, and serviceberry.

**WI-II-MA- 3.** Remove areas from the Wildlife Tracts program that are difficult to access and manage and would otherwise be identified for disposal (from 13,000 acres to 10,000 acres; Map 23). Prepare a new plan for joint IDFG-BLM management of the remaining Wildlife Tracts (10,000 acres) through a public process and to obtain partners for projects to improve wildlife values.

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### ***Management Specific to Alternative III***

#### **Goal**

**WI-III-G- 1.** Manage public lands to maintain habitat for wildlife while reducing wildland fire size and intensity.

#### **Objective**

**WI-III-O- 1.** Maintain wildlife habitat in native communities while reducing wildland fire size and intensity throughout the planning area.

#### **Management Actions**

**WI-III-MA- 1.** Sage-grouse and other special status species are priority species for habitat management.

Special status species management is discussed in the *Special Status Species* section.

**WI-III-MA- 2.** Reconfigure Wildlife Tracts to reduce conflicts with uses, to improve management efficiency of Wildlife Tracts and allotments, and to increase the average size of individual tracts (from 13,000 acres to 14,000 acres; Map 23). Prepare a new plan for joint IDFG-BLM management of Wildlife Tracts through a public process and to obtain partners for projects to improve wildlife values.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)**

### **Goal**

**WI-IV-G- 1.** Manage public lands to promote diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitats for wildlife.

### **Objective**

**WI-IV-O- 1.** Maintain or improve wildlife habitat by managing uses and activities and actively restoring annual, non-native perennial, and native communities.

### **Management Actions**

**WI-IV-MA- 1.** Sage-grouse, other special status species, mule deer, and pronghorn are priority species for habitat management.

Special status species management is discussed in the *Special Status Species* section.

**WI-IV-MA- 2.** Focus vegetation treatments for mule deer and pronghorn winter range on areas as shown on Map 20.

**WI-IV-MA- 3.** Plant desirable browse species appropriate to site potential on big game winter range where browse was reduced by past wildland fires. Species may include, but not be limited to: winter fat, four-wing saltbush, bitterbrush, chokecherry, and serviceberry.

**WI-IV-MA- 4.** Reconfigure Wildlife Tracts to reduce conflicts with uses, to improve management efficiency of Wildlife Tracts and allotments, and to increase the average size of individual tracts (from 13,000 acres to 14,000 acres; Map 23). Prepare a new plan for joint IDFG-BLM management of Wildlife Tracts through a public process and to obtain partners for projects to improve wildlife values.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative V**

### **Goal**

**WI-V-G- 1.** Manage public lands to promote diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitats for wildlife.

### **Objective**

**WI-V-O- 1.** Maintain or improve wildlife habitat by managing uses and activities and actively restoring annual and non-native perennial communities toward historic vegetation communities.

### **Management Actions**

**WI-V-MA- 1.** Sage-grouse and other special status species are priority species for habitat management.

Special status species management is discussed in the *Special Status Species* section.

**WI-V-MA- 2.** Reconfigure Wildlife Tracts to reduce conflicts with uses, to improve management efficiency of Wildlife Tracts and allotments, and to increase the average size of individual tracts (from 13,000 acres to 14,000 acres; Map 23). Prepare a new plan for joint IDFG-BLM management of Wildlife Tracts through a public process and to obtain partners for projects to improve wildlife values.

## 2.3.7. Special Status Species

### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

#### Goal

No goal stated.

#### Objective

**SS-NA-O- 1.** Protect and enhance Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive species' habitats in order to maintain or enhance populations within the planning area. Enhance, restore and/or maintain habitat conditions and availability for special status species and prevent all avoidable loss of habitat.

#### Management Actions

##### **Management for All Special Status Species**

**SS-NA-MA- 1.** Work with IDFG to determine if Salmon Falls Creek Canyon contains possible bighorn sheep habitat.

##### **Management Related to Resource Uses**

**SS-NA-MA- 2.** Projects proposed in areas with known Endangered, Threatened, or Sensitive plants would give full consideration to protecting these species, including fencing if necessary.

**SS-NA-MA- 3.** If a proposed action is predicted, through the environmental assessment, to have an adverse effect on Endangered, Threatened, or Sensitive plants, the action would be foregone or redesigned to eliminate such adverse effects.

**SS-NA-MA- 4.** Use adjustments to livestock use levels, grazing seasons, season of use, or other management techniques to protect plants.

**SS-NA-MA- 5.** Allow no action to occur that would adversely affect the habitat of Endangered, Candidate, or Sensitive species in MUA 4 (Map 4).

##### **Management for Special Status Species in Upland Areas**

**SS-NA-MA- 6.** Maintain present areas for sage-grouse nesting habitat in MUA 13, and improve sage-grouse nesting through seeding and rehabilitation in MUA 10 (Map 4). Where applicable, *Guidelines for Habitat Protection in Sage Grouse Range* (*Guidelines for Habitat Protection in Sage Grouse Range*, 1973) and *Sage Grouse Management Practices* (Western States Sage Grouse Committee, 1982) would be followed. *Habitat Requirements and Management Recommendations for Sage Grouse* (Call, 1979) would be followed where applicable, including:

- Control work would not be allowed where live sagebrush cover is less than 20%;
- Treatment measures should be applied in irregular patterns using topography and other ecological considerations to minimize adverse effects to the sage-grouse resource;
- Where fire is used as a habitat management tool, it should be used in such manner as to result in a mosaic pattern of shrubs and open areas, with openings, optimally from 1 to 10 acres in size;
- Maintain the density of sagebrush canopy coverage at 20% to 30% within nesting habitats and at least 20% in wintering habitats;

- Control of sagebrush would not be considered in any area known to have supported important wintering populations of sage-grouse in the past 10 years; and
- Seed mixtures for range improvement projects and fire rehabilitation projects would include a mixture of grasses, forbs and shrubs that benefit sage-grouse.

**SS-NA-MA- 7.** Improve sage-grouse brood rearing habitat where sagebrush canopy cover is greater than 20% by removing sagebrush in small irregular areas and then reseeding.

**SS-NA-MA- 8.** Maintain a separation of use between cattle and bighorn sheep by not developing livestock water sources within 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat unless adverse impacts can be mitigated.

**SS-NA-MA- 9.** No conversion from cattle to sheep would be allowed in allotments containing bighorn sheep habitat, unless a satisfactory separation can be maintained by fences or topographic features. This separation would be agreed upon through consultation and coordination with IDFG or NDOW.

**SS-NA-MA- 10.** Manage human use within bighorn sheep habitat at levels that are not detrimental to the bighorn sheep population.

**SS-NA-MA- 11.** Adverse habitat alteration would not be allowed within 0.25 miles of any burrowing owl nest, 0.75 miles of any ferruginous hawk, golden eagle or prairie falcon nest, or 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat.

**SS-NA-MA- 12.** Permit no adverse habitat alteration of potential bighorn sheep habitat.

**SS-NA-MA- 13.** Restrict occupancy for oil and gas activities in crucial wildlife habitats as shown below.

- Year round in bighorn sheep habitat;
- December through mid February in sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse (sharp-tailed grouse) winter range;
- Mid February through June in sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse breeding grounds;
- April through June in within 2 miles of leks in sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse nesting and brood rearing habitat;
- Year round within 500 feet of occupied riparian areas for mountain quail;
- December through March in bald eagle and peregrine falcon winter habitat;
- Year round within 1 mile of bald eagle and peregrine falcon nests;
- Mid March through June within 0.75 miles of ferruginous hawk and prairie falcon nests; and
- Mid March through June within 0.25 miles of white-faced ibis nests.

Additional activities would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the need for compliance with these recommendations.

***Management for Special Status Species in Riparian Areas, Wetlands, and Streams***

**SS-NA-MA- 14.** Protect the aquatic habitat of Sensitive and Candidate species in the Snake River below Lower Salmon Falls Dam.

**SS-NA-MA- 15.** Restrict occupancy for oil and gas activities year round within 500 feet of streams occupied by Interior Columbia River redband trout (redband trout), white sturgeon, and Shoshone sculpin. Additional activities would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the need for compliance with these recommendations.

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***Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives***

**Goal**

See goals in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Objective**

See objectives for specific alternatives.

**Management Actions**

**SS-C-MA- 1.** Follow conservation measures in biological opinions (BOs) and letters of concurrence. BOs and letters of concurrence in place as of 2009 can be found in Appendix D; Conservation measures can be updated, revised, or replaced through future consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

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***Management Common to All Action Alternatives***

**Goal**

**SS-CA-G- 1.** Manage public lands to contribute to the conservation and recovery of sage-grouse and other special status species.

**Objective**

See objectives for specific alternatives.

**Management Actions**

***Management for All Special Status Species***

**SS-CA-MA- 1.** Special status species management would apply to Endangered, Threatened, Candidate, and Proposed species (Type 1 BLM Sensitive); other BLM Sensitive species (Types 2 through 4); and designated critical habitat; this includes plants, fish and other aquatic species, and wildlife.

**SS-CA-MA- 2.** Special status species management would also apply to species that are newly listed or added to the BLM Sensitive species list and to newly designated critical habitat, as appropriate to that species.

**SS-CA-MA- 3.** Special status species management would not apply to species that are removed from the BLM Sensitive species list. Those species would be managed according to any applicable delisting requirements, conservation strategies, IDFG or NDOW management guidance, and BLM guidance.

**SS-CA-MA- 4.** Management of one special status species would take into account the needs of other special status species.

**SS-CA-MA- 5.** Follow conservation plans, agreements, and strategies for special status species; those in place in 2009 include the plans, agreements, and strategies found in Appendix G.

**SS-CA-MA- 6.** Monitor special status species and their habitats, and maintain data on their populations, distribution, and habitats. Use adaptive management to reduce impacts to special status species and their habitats from uses and activities.

***Management Related to Resource Uses***

**SS-CA-MA- 7.** BLM management activities and authorized uses that would adversely affect Threatened or Endangered species or their habitat would not be allowed without consultation and mitigation; BLM management activities and authorized uses that would adversely affect other special status species or their habitat would not be allowed without mitigation.

**SS-CA-MA- 8.** Activities related to leasable and salable mineral development should avoid special status species and their habitats. If this is not possible, leases and permits would include mitigation for any adverse effects on special status species and their habitats.

**SS-CA-MA- 9.** Promote conservation and recovery of special status species through realty actions such as:

- Conservation easements that protect or conserve special status species habitat,
- Land acquisitions or exchanges that improve management of special status species, and
- Acquisition of lands with a high value for special status species.

**SS-CA-MA- 10.** New communication sites would not be located in special status species habitat unless impacts to special status species or their habitat can be mitigated.

**SS-CA-MA- 11.** ROW construction and maintenance activities should avoid disturbing special status species during important seasonal periods (Appendix H).

Additional management direction for BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses in special status species habitat can be found in the *Resource Uses* sections.

***Management for Special Status Species in Upland Areas***

**SS-CA-MA- 12.** BLM guidelines for sage-grouse habitat management (e.g., *2006 Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho*, Owyhee County and Jarbidge Local Working Group Sage-grouse Plans) would be used for BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses as appropriate. Sage-grouse would be an umbrella species for other special status sagebrush-obligate species.

**SS-CA-MA- 13.** Manage native shrubland communities in a landscape context to ensure that the seasonal habitat needs of sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate species are met across the planning area, where site conditions are suitable.

**SS-CA-MA- 14.** Maintain or improve the habitat for special status species by protecting and restoring their habitat, controlling noxious weeds and invasive plants, and minimizing direct habitat disturbance.

**SS-CA-MA- 15.** When designing seed mixes for vegetation treatments and surface-disturbing projects, consider the needs of special status species and their habitat in the project area.

**SS-CA-MA- 16.** Use seeding methods that minimize impacts to special status species populations.

**SS-CA-MA- 17.** Schedule livestock grazing to avoid pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat during breeding, wintering, and lambing periods to minimize disturbance during these important seasonal periods.

**SS-CA-MA- 18.** Manage for separation of domestic sheep and goats from bighorn sheep in both location and time to reduce the risk of disease transmission between domestic and bighorn sheep.

**SS-CA-MA- 19.** Avoid locating new transmission and phone lines in native shrubland and native grassland communities to minimize impacts to sage-grouse. If a transmission or phone line project must be located in sage-grouse habitat, the project should incorporate measures to reduce impacts to sage-grouse, including but not limited to:

- Burying lines,
- Using devices to deter raptor perching,
- Avoiding construction and maintenance during important seasonal periods for sage-grouse (Appendix H), or
- Off-site mitigation to restore or improve sage-grouse habitat in other areas in the planning area.

***Management for Special Status Species in Riparian Areas, Wetlands, and Streams***

**SS-CA-MA- 20.** Implement the ARMS (Appendix D) and other management actions in the *Riparian Areas and Wetlands* section to maintain or improve habitat for special status fish and aquatic invertebrates and other special status species dependent on riparian areas and wetlands.

**SS-CA-MA- 21.** Incorporate BMPs to maintain and improve habitat for special status fish and aquatic invertebrates (Appendix E).

**SS-CA-MA- 22.** Identify and eliminate, where feasible, migration barriers to special status fish species movement.

**SS-CA-MA- 23.** Identify and implement specific habitat improvement projects in redband trout habitat to reduce habitat fragmentation and promote their long-term recovery. Projects may include, but not be limited to:

- Replacing culverts,
- Working with private landowners so diversions are not a barrier,
- Screening diversions, and
- Planting riparian vegetation.

**SS-CA-MA- 24.** Identify and implement specific habitat improvement projects for Columbia River Basin bull trout (bull trout) as identified in *the Draft Recovery Plan for the Jarbidge River Distinct Population Segment of Bull Trout* (FWS, 2004).

**SS-CA-MA- 25.** Work cooperatively with Federal and State agencies, private landowners, and companies to identify and mitigate threats to Snake River snails, white sturgeon, and Shoshone sculpin from BLM-managed lands.

**SS-CA-MA- 26.** Work cooperatively with Federal and State agencies and private landowners to identify and mitigate threats to Bruneau hot springsnail from BLM-managed lands.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative I***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**SS-I-O- 1.** Maintain or improve the quality and quantity of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species by managing public land activities to sustain or benefit those species.

### **Management Actions**

#### ***Management for All Special Status Species***

**SS-I-MA- 1.** Where alternative management strategies would result in the same relative effect to a species, implement those strategies least harmful to other resource uses, where practical.

**SS-I-MA- 2.** Support projects to identify and monitor pollinators of special status plants.

**SS-I-MA- 3.** Evaluate special status plant habitat, and where it has been historically occupied, reintroduce special status plant species where practical.

**SS-I-MA- 4.** Conduct habitat suitability evaluations for potential reintroductions of special status wildlife, fish, and aquatic invertebrates in cooperation with FWS, IDFG, NDOW, and other interested and affected parties. Work with FWS, IDFG, and NDOW on reintroductions as appropriate.

#### ***Management Related to Resource Uses***

**SS-I-MA- 5.** Adjust livestock use levels, season of use, or other management techniques to maintain or enhance special status species and their habitat (refer to Appendices B, C, and F for guidelines).

**SS-I-MA- 6.** Construct, maintain, modify, or remove range infrastructure and other facilities as necessary to maintain or enhance special status species and their habitat.

Additional management direction for BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses in special status species habitat can be found in the *Resource Uses* sections.

#### ***Management for Special Status Species in Upland Areas***

**SS-I-MA- 7.** Implement management actions described in the *Upland Vegetation* section to maintain or improve habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species. Upland vegetation management to

benefit sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate special status species includes but is not limited to: Restoring annual, non-native perennial, and non-native understory communities toward native;

- Restoring native grassland communities to native shrublands; and
- Introducing forbs and late-seral grasses to native shrubland communities.

See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

**SS-I-MA- 8.** BLM management activities and authorized uses within 1 mile of known ferruginous hawk or prairie falcon nests would be designed to minimize impacts to their prey base and availability of nesting material from March through July.

**SS-I-MA- 9.** Remove troughs within 1 mile of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyon rims within bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the *Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review* (IMP; BLM-H-8550-1) within WSAs. Relocate troughs more than 1 mile from the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyon rims if the watering site is needed for livestock grazing, consistent with the IMP within WSAs.

**SS-I-MA- 10.** Remove fences and corrals within 1 mile of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyon rims within bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the IMP within WSAs, except fences for pasture and allotment boundaries or for other resource protection.

**SS-I-MA- 11.** New troughs, reservoirs, permanent fences, and corrals would be located at least 1 mile from the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyon rims within bighorn sheep habitat.

**SS-I-MA- 12.** Fences identified to protect resources would be allowed and would be designed to meet the needs of bighorn sheep.

**SS-I-MA- 13.** Trailing of domestic sheep or goats would not be authorized in allotments within 9 miles of bighorn sheep habitat.

**SS-I-MA- 14.** Conversions from cattle to domestic sheep and goats would not be allowed in allotments within 9 miles of bighorn sheep habitat.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative II***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**SS-II-O- 1.** Maintain or improve the quality of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species by managing public land activities to sustain or benefit those species.

### **Management Actions**

#### ***Management for All Special Status Species***

**SS-II-MA- 1.** Where alternative management strategies would result in the same relative effect to a species, implement those strategies most beneficial to commodity uses, where practical.

**SS-II-MA- 2.** Reintroductions of special status species would be limited to species listed under ESA as Threatened or Endangered and species that are Proposed or Candidates for listing under ESA.

**Management Related to Resource Uses**

**SS-II-MA- 3.** Adjust livestock use levels, season of use, or other management techniques to maintain or enhance special status species and their habitat (refer to Appendices B,C, and F for guidelines).

**SS-II-MA- 4.** Construct, maintain, modify, or remove range infrastructure and other facilities as necessary to maintain special status species and their habitat.

Additional management direction for BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses in special status species habitat can be found in the *Resource Uses* sections.

**Management for Special Status Species in Upland Areas**

**SS-II-MA- 5.** Implement management actions described in the *Upland Vegetation* section to maintain or improve habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species. Upland vegetation management to benefit sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate special status species includes, but is not limited to:

- Restoring native grassland communities to native shrublands, and
- Introducing forbs and late-seral grasses to native shrubland communities.

See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

**SS-II-MA- 6.** BLM management activities and authorized uses within 0.25 miles of known ferruginous hawk or prairie falcon nests would be designed to minimize impacts to their prey base and availability of nesting material from March through July.

**SS-II-MA- 7.** Keep existing troughs and reservoirs in bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the IMP within WSAs.

**SS-II-MA- 8.** Keep existing fences and corrals in bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the IMP within WSAs.

**SS-II-MA- 9.** New troughs, reservoirs, permanent fences, and corrals can be located within bighorn sheep habitat if they do not conflict with bighorn sheep.

**SS-II-MA- 10.** Trailing of domestic sheep or goats through bighorn sheep habitat would follow BLM policy.

**SS-II-MA- 11.** Conversions from cattle to domestic sheep or goats in allotments containing bighorn sheep habitat would follow BLM policy.

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**Management Specific to Alternative III****Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

## Objective

**SS-III-O- 1.** Maintain or improve the quality of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species by managing public land activities to sustain or benefit those species.

## Management Actions

### ***Management for All Special Status Species***

**SS-III-MA- 1.** Where alternative management strategies would result in the same relative effect to a species, implement those strategies most beneficial to fire suppression and prevention activities, where practical.

**SS-III-MA- 2.** Reintroductions of special status species would be limited to species listed under ESA as Threatened or Endangered and species that are Proposed or Candidates for listing under ESA.

### ***Management Related to Resource Uses***

**SS-III-MA- 3.** Adjust livestock use levels, season of use, or other management techniques to maintain or enhance special status species and their habitat (refer to Appendices B,C, and F for guidelines).

**SS-III-MA- 4.** Construct, maintain, modify, or remove range infrastructure and other facilities as necessary to maintain special status species and their habitat.

Additional management direction for BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses in special status species habitat can be found in the *Resource Uses* sections.

### ***Management for Special Status Species in Upland Areas***

**SS-III-MA- 5.** Implement management actions described in the *Upland Vegetation* section to maintain or improve habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species. Upland vegetation management to benefit sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate special status species includes, but is not limited to:

- Introducing shrubs to native grassland communities, and
- Protecting islands of sagebrush habitat through extensive fuel breaks.

See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

**SS-III-MA- 6.** BLM management activities and authorized uses within 1 mile of known ferruginous hawk or prairie falcon nests would be designed to minimize impacts to their prey base and availability of nesting material from March through July.

**SS-III-MA- 7.** Keep existing troughs and reservoirs in bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the IMP within WSAs.

**SS-III-MA- 8.** Keep existing fences and corrals in bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the IMP within WSAs.

**SS-III-MA- 9.** New troughs, reservoirs, permanent fences, and corrals can be located within bighorn sheep habitat if they do not conflict with bighorn sheep.

**SS-III-MA- 10.** Trailing of domestic sheep or goats through bighorn sheep habitat would follow BLM policy.

**SS-III-MA- 11.** Conversions from cattle to domestic sheep or goats in allotments containing bighorn sheep habitat would follow BLM policy.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**SS-IV-O- 1.** Maintain or improve the quality and quantity of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species by managing public land activities to sustain or benefit those species.

### **Management Actions**

#### ***Management for All Special Status Species***

**SS-IV-MA- 1.** Where alternative management strategies would result in the same relative effect to a species, implement those strategies most beneficial to other resources, where practical.

**SS-IV-MA- 2.** Support projects to identify and monitor pollinators of special status plants.

**SS-IV-MA- 3.** Evaluate special status plant habitat, and where it has been historically occupied, reintroduce special status plant species where practical.

**SS-IV-MA- 4.** Conduct habitat suitability evaluations for potential reintroductions of special status wildlife, fish, and aquatic invertebrates in cooperation with FWS, IDFG, NDOW, and other interested and affected parties. Work with FWS, IDFG, and NDOW on reintroductions as appropriate.

#### ***Management Related to Resource Uses***

**SS-IV-MA- 5.** Adjust livestock use levels, season of use, or other management techniques to maintain or enhance special status species and their habitat (refer to Appendices B,C, and F for guidelines).

**SS-IV-MA- 6.** Construct, maintain, modify, or remove range infrastructure and other facilities as necessary to maintain or enhance special status species and their habitat.

Additional management direction for BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses in special status species habitat can be found in the *Resource Uses* sections.

#### ***Management for Special Status Species in Upland Areas***

**SS-IV-MA- 7.** Implement management actions described in the *Upland Vegetation* section to maintain or improve habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species. Upland vegetation management to benefit sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate special status species includes, but is not limited to:

- Restoring annual, non-native perennial, and non-native understory communities toward native;
- Restoring native grassland communities to native shrublands; and
- Introducing forbs and late-seral grasses to native shrubland communities.

See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

**SS-IV-MA- 8.** BLM management activities and authorized uses within 1 mile of known ferruginous hawk or prairie falcon nests would

be designed to minimize impacts to their prey base and availability of nesting material from March through July.

**SS-IV-MA- 9.** Remove troughs and reservoirs within 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the IMP within WSAs; relocate troughs and reservoirs more than 1 mile from bighorn sheep habitat if the watering site is needed for livestock grazing, consistent with the IMP within WSAs.

**SS-IV-MA- 10.** Remove fences and corrals within 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the IMP within WSAs, except fences for pasture and allotment boundaries or for other resource protection.

**SS-IV-MA- 11.** New troughs, reservoirs, permanent fences, and corrals would be located at least 1 mile from bighorn sheep habitat.

**SS-IV-MA- 12.** Fences identified to protect resources would be allowed and would be designed to meet the needs of bighorn sheep.

**SS-IV-MA- 13.** Trailing of domestic sheep or goats would not be authorized in allotments containing bighorn sheep habitat.

**SS-IV-MA- 14.** Conversions from cattle to domestic sheep or goats would not be allowed in allotments containing bighorn sheep habitat.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative V***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**SS-V-O- 1.** Maintain or improve the quality and quantity of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species by managing public land activities to sustain or benefit those species.

### **Management Actions**

#### ***Management for All Special Status Species***

**SS-V-MA- 1.** Where alternative management strategies would result in the same relative effect to a species, implement the most passive strategies, where practical.

**SS-V-MA- 2.** Support projects to identify and monitor pollinators of special status plants.

**SS-V-MA- 3.** Evaluate special status plant habitat, and where it has been historically occupied, reintroduce special status plant species where practical.

**SS-V-MA- 4.** Conduct habitat suitability evaluations for potential reintroductions of special status wildlife, fish, and aquatic invertebrates in cooperation with FWS, IDFG, NDOW, and other interested and affected parties. Work with FWS, IDFG, and NDOW on reintroductions as appropriate.

#### ***Management Related to Resource Uses***

**SS-V-MA- 5.** Adjust livestock use levels, season of use, or other management techniques to maintain or enhance special status species and their habitat (refer to Appendices B, C, and F for guidelines).

**SS-V-MA- 6.** Remove or modify range infrastructure and other facilities as necessary to maintain or enhance special status species and their habitat.

Additional management direction for BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses in special status species habitat can be found in the *Resource Uses* sections.

***Management for Special Status Species in Upland Areas***

**SS-V-MA- 7.** Implement management actions described in the *Upland Vegetation* section to maintain or improve habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species. Upland vegetation management to benefit sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate special status species includes, but is not limited to:

- Restoring annual communities toward native, and
- Introducing shrubs to non-native perennial communities and native grassland communities.

See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

**SS-V-MA- 8.** BLM management activities and authorized uses within 1 mile of known ferruginous hawk or prairie falcon nests would be designed to minimize impacts to their prey base and availability of nesting material from March through July.

**SS-V-MA- 9.** Remove troughs and reservoirs within 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the IMP within WSAs, relocate troughs and reservoirs more than 1 mile from bighorn sheep habitat if the watering site is needed for livestock grazing, consistent with the IMP within WSAs.

**SS-V-MA- 10.** Remove fences and corrals within 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the IMP within WSAs, except fences for pasture and allotment boundaries or for other resource protection.

**SS-V-MA- 11.** New troughs, reservoirs, permanent fences, and corrals would be located at least 1 mile from bighorn sheep habitat.

**SS-V-MA- 12.** Fences identified to protect resources would be allowed and would be designed to meet the needs of bighorn sheep.

**SS-V-MA- 13.** Trailing of domestic sheep or goats would not be authorized in allotments within 9 miles of bighorn sheep habitat.

**SS-V-MA- 14.** Conversions from cattle to domestic sheep and goats would not be allowed in allotments within 9 miles of bighorn sheep habitat.

## 2.3.8. Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants

### ***Management Specific to the No Action Alternative***

#### **Goal**

No goal stated.

### Objective

No objective stated.

### Management Actions

**NW-NA-MA- 1.** Control the spread of noxious weeds on public lands where possible, where economically feasible, and to the extent that funds are prioritized for that purpose. Poisonous or noxious plants would be controlled where spot infestations occur or where BLM would cooperate with other affected landowners in controlling infestations on relatives large areas.

**NW-NA-MA- 2.** Consider alternatives including herbicide applications, plow and seed, burn and seed, livestock grazing strategies, and biological controls where weed control is warranted. Pursue coordination with adjoining landowners if appropriate.

**NW-NA-MA- 3.** If herbicide application is selected as the preferred method of control through the environmental analysis process, application would be made through the Idaho State Director to the BLM Director in Washington DC. This application would indicate all pertinent data including chemicals, rate, and method of application and target plant species. Herbicide applications would be applied under the directions of a licensed pesticide applicator and every effort would be taken to assure public safety.

**NW-NA-MA- 4.** Follow guidelines in BOs, Candidate Conservation Agreements (CCAs), management plans for ACECs and other special designations, and policy regarding specific herbicides and biological control.

**NW-NA-MA- 5.** Work with County governments to monitor the location and spread of noxious weeds and to maintain up-to-date inventory records.

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## ***Management Common to All Action Alternatives***

### Goal

**NW-CA-G- 1.** Manage public lands to prevent, eliminate, or control noxious weeds and invasive plants.

### Objective

See objectives for specific alternatives.

### Management Actions

**NW-CA-MA- 1.** Follow applicable laws, policy, and the most current vegetation treatment EIS as well as label instructions for the application of herbicides. In 2009, the vegetation treatment EIS is the September 2007 *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Vegetation Treatments on BLM Lands in 17 States*.

**NW-CA-MA- 2.** Inventory noxious weeds and invasive plants.

**NW-CA-MA- 3.** Consult with the tribes on herbicide use to consider timing of projects and benefits and impacts to plants of importance to the tribes.

**NW-CA-MA- 4.** Formulate methods of control in or near special status species habitat on a site- and species-specific basis to minimize impacts to special status species. Methods of control would comply with FWS consultation requirements.

**NW-CA-MA- 5.** Incorporate BMPs for noxious weeds and invasive plants into BLM management activities and authorized uses as appropriate (Appendix E).

**NW-CA-MA- 6.** Include site-specific stipulations in land use authorizations, permits, and leases to limit introduction and spread of noxious weeds.

**NW-CA-MA- 7.** Collaborate with Federal agencies, State and County governments, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to establish a Jarbidge Cooperative Weed Management Area or other cooperative agreements for noxious weed and invasive plants management.

Invasive plants in annual communities are addressed in the *Upland Vegetation* section.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative I**

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objectives**

#### **Noxious Weeds**

**NW-I-O- 1.** Reduce the number of acres containing noxious weeds by at least 10%; reduce the number of noxious weed species present.

#### **Invasive Plants**

**NW-I-O- 2.** Reduce cover of invasive plants in native communities to less than 5%; reduce cover of invasive plants in non-native perennial and non-native understory communities to less than 10%.

### **Management Actions**

**NW-I-MA- 1.** Treat areas containing noxious weeds and invasive plants to achieve objectives. Priority areas would include:

- Special designations,
- Motorized and recreational access points,
- Riparian areas,
- Special status species habitat,
- Mule deer winter range,
- Roadsides, and
- Native plant communities.

**NW-I-MA- 2.** Focus control efforts on species with new or small infestations and species that have higher potential for resource impacts. Eradicate noxious weeds and invasive plants where practical. Focus treatments for large infestations on reducing the size of the infestation.

**NW-I-MA- 3.** The toolbox for treating noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting; and
- Targeted grazing.

Prescribed fire would not be allowed. See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

**NW-I-MA- 4.** Develop and implement activities to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants on public lands. The toolbox for preventing introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Public outreach (e.g., kiosks, media, mailings, publications, brochures),
- Wash stations, and

- Modifying uses to minimize new introductions and spread (e.g., closing roads, not authorizing SRPs in highly infested areas).

**NW-I-MA- 5.** Use of certified weed-free forage, seed, and straw (as defined in the *Idaho Noxious Weed Free Forage and Straw Certification Rules* [IAC 02.06.31]) would be required for all BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative II***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objectives**

#### ***Noxious Weeds***

**NW-II-O- 1.** Reduce the number of acres containing noxious weeds by at least 10%; reduce the number of noxious weed species present.

#### ***Invasive Plants***

**NW-II-O- 2.** Reduce cover of invasive plants in native communities to less than 10%; reduce cover of invasive plants in non-native perennial and non-native understory communities to less than 15%.

### **Management Actions**

**NW-II-MA- 1.** Treat areas containing noxious weeds and invasive plants to achieve objectives. Priority areas would include:

- Riparian areas,
- Special status species habitat, and
- Native plant communities.

**NW-II-MA- 2.** Focus control efforts on species with new or small infestations, species that respond well to treatment, and species that have higher potential for resource impacts. Eradicate noxious weeds and invasive plants where practical. Focus treatments for large infestations on reducing the size of the infestation.

**NW-II-MA- 3.** The toolbox for treating noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Targeted grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

Prescribed fire would not be allowed in native grassland or native shrubland communities. See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

**NW-II-MA- 4.** Develop and implement activities to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants on public lands. The toolbox for preventing introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Public outreach (e.g., kiosks, media, mailings, publications, brochures), and
- Modifying uses to minimize new introductions and spread (e.g., closing roads).

**NW-II-MA- 5.** Use of certified weed-free forage, seed, and straw (as defined in the *Idaho Noxious Weed Free Forage and Straw Certification Rules* [IAC 02.06.31]) would be recommended for all BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative III***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Objectives****Noxious Weeds**

**NW-III-O- 1.** Manage uses and treat noxious weeds such that there is no net increase in the number of acres containing noxious weeds; reduce the number of noxious weed species present.

**Invasive Plants**

**NW-III-O- 2.** Reduce cover of invasive plants in native communities to less than 5%; reduce cover of invasive plants in non-native perennial and non-native understory communities to less than 5%.

**Management Actions**

**NW-III-MA- 1.** Treat areas containing noxious weeds and invasive plants to achieve objectives. Priority areas would include:

- Special designations,
- Fuel breaks,
- Areas with high wildland fire occurrence,
- Areas around historic structures,
- Roadsides, and
- Special status species habitat.

**NW-III-MA- 2.** Focus control efforts on species that decrease the fire return interval or contribute to high fuel loads. Eradicate noxious weeds and invasive plants where practical. Focus treatments for large infestations on reducing the size of the infestation.

**NW-III-MA- 3.** The toolbox for treating noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Targeted grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

**NW-III-MA- 4.** Develop and implement activities to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants on public lands. The toolbox for preventing introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Public outreach (e.g., kiosks, media, mailings, publications, brochures),
- Wash stations, and
- Modifying uses to minimize new introductions and spread (e.g., quarantining livestock, closing pastures, closing roads, not authorizing SRPs in highly infested areas).

**NW-III-MA- 5.** Use of certified weed-free forage, seed, and straw (as defined in the *Idaho Noxious Weed Free Forage and Straw Certification Rules* [IAC 02.06.31]) would be recommended for all BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses.

**Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)****Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Objectives****Noxious Weeds**

**NW-IV-O- 1.** Reduce the number of acres containing noxious weeds by at least 50%; reduce the number of noxious weed species present.

**Management Actions**

**NW-IV-MA- 1.** Treat areas containing noxious weeds and invasive plants to achieve objectives. Priority areas would include:

- Special designations,
- Riparian areas,
- Special status species habitat, and
- Native plant communities.

### ***Invasive Plants***

**NW-IV-O- 2.** Reduce cover of invasive plants in native communities to less than 5%; reduce cover of invasive plants in non-native perennial and non-native understory communities to less than 10%.

**NW-IV-MA- 2.** Focus control efforts on species with new or small infestations and species that have higher potential for resource impacts. Eradicate noxious weeds and invasive plants where practical. Focus treatments for large infestations on reducing the size of the infestation.

**NW-IV-MA- 3.** The toolbox for treating noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Targeted grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

**NW-IV-MA- 4.** Develop and implement activities to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants on public lands. The toolbox for preventing introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Public outreach (e.g., kiosks, media, mailings, publications, brochures), and
- Modifying uses to minimize new introductions and spread (e.g., closing roads).

**NW-IV-MA- 5.** Use of certified weed-free forage, seed, and straw (as defined in the *Idaho Noxious Weed Free Forage and Straw Certification Rules* [IAC 02.06.31]) would be required for all BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative V***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

#### ***Noxious Weeds***

**NW-V-O- 1.** Reduce the number of acres containing noxious weeds by at least 20%; reduce the number of noxious weed species present.

#### ***Invasive Plants***

**NW-V-O- 2.** Reduce cover of invasive plants in native communities to less than 5%; reduce cover of invasive plants in non-native perennial and non-native understory communities to less than 10%.

### **Management Actions**

**NW-V-MA- 1.** Treat areas containing noxious weeds and invasive plants to achieve objectives. Priority areas would include:

- Special designations,
- Riparian areas,
- Special status species habitat, and
- Native plant communities.

**NW-V-MA- 2.** Focus control efforts on species with new or small infestations and species that have higher potential for resource impacts. Eradicate noxious weeds and invasive plants where practical. Focus treatment for large infestations on reducing the size of the infestation.

**NW-V-MA- 3.** The toolbox for treating noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Removal of grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

Chemical treatments could only be used after all other methods have been exhausted. Target grazing would not be allowed.

**NW-V-MA- 4.** Develop and implement activities to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants on public lands. The toolbox for preventing introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Public outreach (e.g., kiosks, media, mailings, publications, brochures), and
- Modifying uses to minimize new introductions and spread (e.g., quarantining livestock, closing pastures, closing roads).

**NW-V-MA- 5.** Use of certified weed-free forage, seed, and straw (as defined in the *Idaho Noxious Weed Free Forage and Straw Certification Rules* [IAC 02.06.31]) would be required for all BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses.

## 2.3.9. Wildland Fire Ecology and Management

### 2.3.9.1. Wildland Fire Management

#### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

##### Goal

No goal stated.

##### Objective

No objective stated.

##### Allocations

**WFM-NA-A- 1.** Manage 1,374,000 acres for full suppression. Aggressively suppress all fires on or threatening public lands.

##### Management Actions

**WFM-NA-MA- 1.** Less than full suppression may occur when multiple fires ignite simultaneously. Priority would be given to fires threatening areas of highest value.

**WFM-NA-MA- 2.** Revise and implement a Fire Management Plan (FMP).

**WFM-NA-MA- 3.** Mechanical equipment would not be used on paleontological sites in MUA 4 and 6; in the canyon in MUA 14; WSAs areas, river canyons, or ACECs with special attention to bighorn sheep needs in MUA 10; and the Oregon NHT in MUA 4 and 7 (Map 4).

**WFM-NA-MA- 4.** Fire lines would not be allowed across the three paleontological sites found in MUA 4 or the Oregon NHT in MUAs 4 and 7 (Map 4).

**WFM-NA-MA- 5.** Extinguish fires with the least amount of surface disturbance possible. When direct attack is not feasible, the suppression strategy is to burn out from natural barriers and establish control points, such as roads.

**WFM-NA-MA- 6.** Utilize surface disturbing equipment, such as bulldozers, only with management approval. The first priority is

clearing of roads and second priority, when all other methods are exhausted, is construction of new control lines.

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## **Management Common to All Action Alternatives**

### **Goal**

**WFM-CA-G- 1.** Fire management strategies would result in firefighter and public safety and protection of property and natural and cultural resources, while considering suppression and rehabilitation costs.

### **Objective**

See objectives for specific alternatives.

### **Allocations**

**WFM-CA-A- 1.** No areas would be suitable for Wildland Fire Use (1,374,000 acres).

### **Management Actions**

**WFM-CA-MA- 1.** All wildland fires, in Critical or Conditional Suppression Areas, would receive an Appropriate Management Response (AMR). AMR includes any action taken to meet resource objectives identified in RMPs/FMPs. AMR ranges across a spectrum of tactical operations (from monitoring to aggressive/intensive suppression actions).

**WFM-CA-MA- 2.** Critical Suppression Areas represent highest suppression priority. The AMR in Critical Suppression Areas assumes suppression actions will be taken to reduce fire size and acres burned unless safety warrants alternative strategies. Wildland fire is generally not desired in these areas, with the exception of prescribed fire to be used for site preparation as described in the RMP. These areas will be geographically defined for each alternative.

**WFM-CA-MA- 3.** Conditional Suppression Areas represent areas of lower suppression priority where suppression efforts would be adjusted based on resource values and fire's desired role in the ecosystem. The AMR in Conditional Suppression Areas assumes suppression actions will be taken commensurate with the values at risk, and considering suppression costs. Wildland fire management strategies may be changed if fire danger is high or there will likely be undesired fire effects. Conditional suppression areas also represent areas where cost of suppression may exceed the value of resources to be protected as identified in the RMP. These areas will be geographically defined for each alternative.

**WFM-CA-MA- 4.** Areas for Wildland Fire for Resource Benefit would be determined after the wildland fire has been contained or controlled. Areas where vegetation treatments were planned and analyzed in the NEPA process or those ecosystems found to "need more disturbance" through the FRCC process would be candidates for "benefit" fires. Post-fire site visits would be required to determine if fire effects actually experienced resulted in conditions that moved the area toward resource objectives.

**WFM-CA-MA- 5.** Revise the FMP as required by policy to incorporate updated fire, vegetation, resource value, WUI, and fuels data. The FMP would be used to refine suppression, fuels treatment,

community assistance, and ES&BAR priorities. Consider priorities outlined in the RMP and cooperators priorities in the FMP.

**WFM-CA-MA- 6.** In addition to safety and resource concerns, consider fire suppression and rehabilitation costs when evaluating fire suppression techniques.

**WFM-CA-MA- 7.** Work collaboratively with the military to reduce the risk of wildland fire, improve suppression logistics on military lands adjacent to public lands, and protect public lands from wildland fires originating on military lands.

**WFM-CA-MA- 8.** Use techniques referenced in the ARMS for fire suppression in riparian areas (Appendix D).

**WFM-CA-MA- 9.** Incorporate BMPs for wildland and prescribed fire into BLM management activities and authorized uses as appropriate (Appendix E).

**WFM-CA-MA- 10.** Foster the public's understanding of the role of fire in the ecosystem, hazards associated with living in the WUI, and wildland fire prevention and suppression activities through methods such as:

- Tracting door to door,
- Using mass media,
- Providing outreach to local groups,
- Developing interpretive signs and kiosks, and
- Participating in the County Wildfire Protection Plan process.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative I**

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objectives**

**WFM-I-O- 1.** Strive to reduce average wildland fire size and number of human-caused fire starts within WUI.

**WFM-I-O- 2.** Reduce acres burned in vegetation types outside WUI where more wildland fires have burned than desired/historic in order to enhance and sustain existing and historic uses of the planning area.

### **Allocations**

**WFM-I-A- 1.** Critical Suppression Areas within the planning area would be:

- WUI;
- Bruneau-Jarbidge, Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs; and
- Key sage-grouse habitat.

The types of Critical Suppression Areas would remain the same throughout the life of the plan; however, the acres and specific locations for WUI and key sage-grouse habitat can be updated to reflect changing conditions. See Map 26 for the locations of these areas in 2009.

**WFM-I-A- 2.** The remainder of the planning area would be a Conditional Suppression Area.

### **Management Actions**

**WFM-I-MA- 1.** When multiple wildland fire ignitions occur in Critical Suppression Areas, based on the management priorities of Alternative I, the suppression priorities would be (in order of importance):

- VMA C
- VMA B
- VMA D
- VMA A

These priorities would also be used for general fire suppression management planning.

**WFM-I-MA- 2.** Within the perimeter of an active fire, protect unburned patches of native grassland and native shrubland communities from fire during wildland fire suppression activities. Patches of unburned annual and non-native perennial communities within the perimeter of an active fire would be allowed to burn.

**WFM-I-MA- 3.** Use Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) in:

- WSAs;
- Oregon NHT;
- Bruneau-Jarbidge, Salmon Falls Creek, and Sand Point ACECs;
- Bull trout habitat;
- Slickspot peppergrass habitat; and
- Other areas where appropriate to mitigate potential impacts of fire suppression.

**WFM-I-MA- 4.** Improve water availability for fire suppression in high recreational use areas, in accordance with Idaho State Law regarding the appropriation and use of water.

**WFM-I-MA- 5.** Design water developments for fire suppression to mitigate impacts to water resources. Water developments may include, but are not limited to:

- Water storage tanks,
- Draft sites,
- Hydrants off pipelines, and
- Vehicle wash stations.

Water storage may also be increased by enlarging and filling existing stock and storage ponds.

**WFM-I-MA- 6.** Consistent with other resource objectives, implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities including, but not limited to:

- Building new guard stations,
- Improving roads,
- Building new roads in areas with limited access,
- Improving stream crossings, and
- Developing better signage.

Tools to improve access would not include building new or improving existing airstrips or building helipads.

**WFM-I-MA- 7.** Transportation and travel restrictions may be imposed to reduce risk of wildland fire during fire restrictions, as determined by an authorized officer; restrictions may include, but not be limited to closing primitive roads, trails, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use. Travel related to administrative uses and emergency services may continue during fire restrictions.

**WFM-I-MA- 8.** Dozer blading should not occur within 300 feet of playas to protect associated cultural resources.

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## Management Specific to Alternative II

### Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Objectives

**WFM-II-O- 1.** Strive to reduce average wildland fire size and number of human-caused fire starts within WUI.

**WFM-II-O- 2.** Reduce acres burned in vegetation types outside WUI where more wildland fires have burned than desired/historic in order to facilitate commercial use of the planning area.

### Allocations

**WFM-II-A- 1.** Critical Suppression Areas within the planning area would be:

- WUI.

The types of Critical Suppression Areas would remain the same throughout the life of the plan; however, the acres and specific locations for WUI can be updated to reflect changing conditions. See Map 27 for the locations of these areas in 2009.

**WFM-II-A- 2.** The remainder of the planning area would be a Conditional Suppression Area.

### Management Actions

**WFM-II-MA- 1.** When multiple wildland fire ignitions occur in Critical Suppression Areas, based on the management priorities of Alternative II, the suppression priorities would be (in order of importance):

- VMA A
- VMA B
- VMA D
- VMA C

These priorities would also be used for general fire suppression management planning.

**WFM-II-MA- 2.** Within the perimeter of an active fire, protect unburned patches of native and non-native perennial communities from fire during wildland fire suppression activities. Patches of unburned annual communities within the perimeter of an active fire would be allowed to burn.

**WFM-II-MA- 3.** Use MIST in:

- WSAs,
- Oregon NHT,
- Bull trout habitat, and
- Other areas where appropriate to mitigate potential impacts of fire suppression.

**WFM-II-MA- 4.** In native plant communities and WUI, improve water availability for fire suppression, in accordance with Idaho State Law regarding the appropriation and use of water.

**WFM-II-MA- 5.** Design water developments for fire suppression to mitigate impacts to water resources. Water developments may include, but are not limited to:

- Water storage tanks,
- Draft sites, and
- Hydrants off pipelines.

Water storage may also be increased by enlarging and filling existing stock and storage ponds. Vehicle wash stations would not be developed.

**WFM-II-MA- 6.** Consistent with resource use objectives, implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities including, but not limited to:

- Building new guard stations,
- Improving roads,
- Building new roads in areas with limited access,
- Improving stream crossings, and
- Developing better signage.

Tools to improve access do not include building new or improving existing airstrips or building helipads.

**WFM-II-MA- 7.** Transportation and travel would not be restricted during fire restrictions.

**WFM-II-MA- 8.** Dozer blading should not occur within 150 feet of playas to protect associated cultural resources.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative III**

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**WFM-III-O- 1.** Strive to reduce average wildland fire size, number of human-caused fire starts, and number of acres burned within and outside WUI throughout the planning area.

### **Allocations**

**WFM-III-A- 1.** Critical Suppression Areas within the planning area would be:

- WUI,
- Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs, and
- Key sage-grouse habitat.

The types of Critical Suppression Areas would remain the same throughout the life of the plan; however, the acres and specific locations for WUI and key sage-grouse habitat can be updated to reflect changing conditions. See Map 28 for the locations of these areas in 2009.

**WFM-III-A- 2.** The remainder of the planning area would be a Conditional Suppression Area.

### **Management Actions**

**WFM-III-MA- 1.** When multiple wildland fire ignitions occur in Critical Suppression Areas, based on the management priorities of Alternative III, the suppression priorities would be (in order of importance):

- VMA B
- VMA A
- VMA C
- VMA D

These priorities would also be used for general fire suppression management planning.

**WFM-III-MA- 2.** Within the perimeter of an active fire, protect unburned patches of native and non-native perennial communities

from fire during wildland fire suppression activities. Patches of unburned annual communities within the perimeter of an active fire would be allowed to burn.

**WFM-III-MA- 3.** Use MIST in:

- Salmon Falls Creek and Sand Point ACECs, and
- On a case-by-case basis where they would not affect fire containment.

**WFM-III-MA- 4.** Improve water availability for fire suppression throughout the planning area, in accordance with Idaho and Nevada State Law regarding the appropriation and use of water.

**WFM-III-MA- 5.** Design water developments for fire suppression to mitigate impacts to water resources. Water developments may include, but are not limited to:

- New pipelines,
- Water storage tanks,
- Draft sites,
- Hydrants off pipelines, and
- Vehicle wash stations.

Water storage may also be increased by enlarging and filling existing stock and storage ponds.

**WFM-III-MA- 6.** Implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities including, but not limited to:

- Building new guard stations,
- Building new or improving existing airstrips,
- Building helipads,
- Improving roads,
- Building new roads in areas with limited access,
- Improving stream crossings, and
- Developing better signage.

**WFM-III-MA- 7.** Close primitive roads, trails, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use during fire restrictions to reduce risk of wildland fire, as determined by an authorized officer. Travel related to BLM administrative uses and emergency services may continue during fire restrictions.

**WFM-III-MA- 8.** Authorized uses may be limited or prohibited to reduce risk of wildland fire as determined by the authorized officer.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objectives**

**WFM-IV-O- 1.** Strive to reduce average wildland fire size and number of human-caused fire starts within WUI.

### **Allocations**

**WFM-IV-A- 1.** Critical Suppression Areas within the planning area would be:

- WUI,
- Bruneau-Jarbidge, Inside Desert, Jarbidge Foothills, and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs, and
- Key sage-grouse habitat.

**WFM-IV-O- 2.** Reduce acres burned in vegetation types outside WUI where more wildland fires have burned than desired/historic in order to achieve resilient ecosystem structure and function.

The types of Critical Suppression Areas will remain the same throughout the life of the plan; however, the acres and specific locations for WUI and key sage-grouse habitat can be updated to reflect changing conditions. See Maps 29 and 30 for the locations of these areas in 2009 for Alternatives IV-A and IV-B (the Preferred Alternative), respectively.

**WFM-IV-A- 2.** The remainder of the planning area would be a Conditional Suppression Area.

### Management Actions

**WFM-IV-MA- 1.** When multiple wildland fire ignitions occur in Critical Suppression Areas, based on the management priorities of Alternative IV, the suppression priorities would be (in order of importance):

- VMA C
- VMA D
- VMA B
- VMA A

These priorities would also be used for general fire suppression management planning.

**WFM-IV-MA- 2.** Within the perimeter of an active fire, protect unburned patches of native grassland and native shrubland communities from fire during wildland fire suppression activities. Patches of unburned annual and non-native perennial communities within the perimeter of an active fire would be allowed to burn.

**WFM-IV-MA- 3.** Use MIST in:

- WSAs,
- Oregon NHT,
- Bruneau-Jarbidge and Sand Point ACECs,
- Bull trout habitat,
- Slickspot peppergrass habitat, and
- Other areas where appropriate to mitigate potential impacts of fire suppression.

**WFM-IV-MA- 4.** Improve water availability for fire suppression throughout the planning area, in accordance with Idaho State Law regarding the appropriation and use of water.

**WFM-IV-MA- 5.** Design water developments for fire suppression to mitigate impacts to water resources. Water developments are limited to hydrants off pipelines. Water storage may be increased by enlarging and filling stock and storage ponds.

**WFM-IV-MA- 6.** Consistent with other resource objectives, implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities including, but not limited to:

- Building new guard stations,
- Improving roads,
- Building new roads in areas with limited access,
- Improving stream crossings, and
- Developing better signage.

Tools to improve access would not include building new or improving existing airstrips or building heliports.

**WFM-IV-MA- 7.** Transportation and travel restrictions may be imposed to reduce risk of wildland fire during fire restrictions, as determined by an authorized officer; restrictions may include, but not be limited to closing primitive roads, trails, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use. Travel related to administrative uses and emergency services may continue during fire restrictions.

**WFM-IV-MA- 8.** Authorized uses may be limited or prohibited to reduce risk of wildland fire as determined by the authorized officer.

**WFM-IV-MA- 9.** Dozer blading should not occur within 300 feet of playas to protect associated cultural resources.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative V**

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objectives**

**WFM-V-O- 1.** Strive to reduce average wildland fire size and number of human-caused fire starts within WUI.

**WFM-V-O- 2.** Reduce acres burned in vegetation types outside WUI where more wildland fires have burned than in the Historic Fire Regime (HFR).

### **Allocations**

**WFM-V-A- 1.** Critical Suppression Areas within the planning area would be:

- WUI,
- Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Sagebrush Sea ACECs; and
- Key sage-grouse habitat.

The types of Critical Suppression Areas would remain the same throughout the life of the plan; however, the acres and specific locations for WUI and key sage-grouse habitat can be updated to reflect changing conditions. See Map 31 for the locations of these areas in 2009.

**WFM-V-A- 2.** The remainder of the planning area would be a Conditional Suppression Area.

### **Management Actions**

**WFM-V-MA- 1.** When multiple wildland fire ignitions occur in Critical Suppression Areas, based on the management priorities of Alternative V, the suppression priorities would be (in order of importance):

- VMA C
- VMA B
- VMA D
- VMA A

These priorities would also be used for general fire suppression management planning.

**WFM-V-MA- 2.** Within the perimeter of an active fire, protect unburned patches of native grassland and native shrubland communities from fire during wildland fire suppression activities. Patches of unburned annual and non-native perennial communities within the perimeter of an active fire would be allowed to burn.

**WFM-V-MA- 3.** Use MIST in:

- WSAs,
- Oregon NHT,
- Sand Point ACEC,
- Bull trout habitat,
- Slickspot peppergrass habitat, and
- Other areas where appropriate to mitigate potential impacts of fire suppression.

**WFM-V-MA- 4.** Maintain water availability for fire suppression at 2009 levels.

**WFM-V-MA- 5.** Consistent with other resource objectives, implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities including, but not limited to:

- Improving roads,
- Improving stream crossings, and
- Developing better signage.

Tools to improve access do not include building new guard stations, building new or improving existing airstrips, building helipads, or building new roads in areas with limited access.

**WFM-V-MA- 6.** Transportation and travel restrictions may be imposed to reduce risk of wildland fire during fire restrictions, as determined by an authorized officer; restrictions may include, but not be limited to closing primitive roads, trails, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use. Travel related to administrative uses and emergency services may continue during fire restrictions.

**WFM-V-MA- 7.** Authorized uses may be limited or prohibited to reduce risk of wildland fire as determined by the authorized officer.

**WFM-V-MA- 8.** Dozer blading should not occur within 300 feet of playas to protect associated cultural resources.

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### 2.3.9.2. Fuels and Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation (ES&BAR)

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#### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

**Goal**

No goal stated.

**Objectives**

**Fuels**

No objective stated.

**Management Actions**

**Fuels**

**FE-NA-MA- 1.** Cooperate with adjacent landowners on a case-by-case basis to reduce fire hazard where efforts are cost effective and the results will benefit BLM's fire management program. Cooperative efforts may range from consulting with private landowners on hazard reduction plans, to development of cooperative agreements and performance of hazard reduction.

**FE-NA-MA- 2.** The following fuels reduction actions and procedures would be applied in all MUAs:

- Prescribed burns may be reduced, postponed, or cancelled in areas where they, in combination with recent burns, would cause significant cumulative impacts to wildlife or watershed conditions;
- A fire fuels break plan would be developed as part of a fire activity plan.

**ES&BAR**

**FE-NA-O- 1.** Rehabilitate public lands affected by wildland fires to accomplish multiple use objectives and designed to reduce fire size.

**ES&BAR**

**FE-NA-MA- 3.** The following rehabilitation actions would be applied across all MUAs:

- Rehabilitation of areas, particularly large areas, that have a high potential for fires or have a high frequency of fires, will utilize irregular buffer strips with seed mixtures that are fire resistant and/or meet watershed protection, wildlife, and riparian objectives. These buffer strips will receive first priority for seeding prior to reseeding the rest of the burned area.
- In areas where the RMP goal/objective is to return the area to an improved ecological condition, 10% to 25% of the wildland fire burn area would use seed mixtures to allow this objective to be met;
- All grazing licenses issued that included areas recently burned and/or seeded areas would include a statement concerning the amount of rest needed in the seedings or burn area. Normally, two years of rest would be necessary to protect these areas. This rested area may include remnant stands of desirable species that survived the fire; and
- Seedings would include appropriate seed mixtures to replace wildlife habitat that is burned.

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## ***Management Common to All Action Alternatives***

### **Goal**

**FE-CA-G- 1.** Reduce fire hazard to WUI.

### **Objectives**

**Fuels**

**FE-CA-O- 1.** Manage plant communities within WUI to reduce Relative Risk Rating as identified in the 2007 *Idaho Interagency Assessment of Wildland Fire Risk to Communities*.

### **Management Actions**

**Fuels**

**FE-CA-MA- 1.** Update FRCC analysis for the planning area when 20% of the planning area has been disturbed by wildland fires or treated by fuels projects since the previous FRCC analysis was completed or as needed.

**FE-CA-MA- 2.** Progress towards FRCC objectives would be achieved through actions and guidelines specified in the *Upland Vegetation, Riparian Areas and Wetlands, Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants*, and *Wildland Fire Management and Ecology* sections.

**FE-CA-MA- 3.** Fuels treatments in riparian areas would follow the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).

**FE-CA-MA- 4.** Coordinate fuels treatments with adjacent landowners and agencies through County Wildfire Protection Plans or other methods.

**FE-CA-MA- 5.** Rest fuels treatment areas from uses, including but not limited to livestock and wild horse grazing and recreational use,

until treatment objectives are met and are predicted to be sustainable. This guideline would not apply to uses that do not conflict with the treatment objectives.

**FE-CA-MA- 6.** Assess proposed vegetation treatments in consultation with the tribes and SHPO for their potential to affect cultural resources. Where previous inventory has been sufficient to identify vulnerable cultural resources, no inventory should be needed; however, where adequate inventory is lacking, inventory of the area as determined in consultation with the SHPO would be conducted.

**ES&BAR**

See objectives for specific alternatives.

**ES&BAR**

**FE-CA-MA- 7.** Use the full range of treatment options available to meet ES&BAR objectives, including, but not limited to:

- Mechanical treatments,
- Drill or broadcast seeding treatments,
- Chemical treatments,
- Seedling transplants, and
- Erosion control structures.

**FE-CA-MA- 8.** Develop a Programmatic ES&BAR Plan and update as needed to address specific treatment options.

**FE-CA-MA- 9.** Use seed mixes that would help stabilize soils and achieve objectives in the *Upland Vegetation, Riparian Areas and Wetlands, Fish and Wildlife, and Special Status Species* sections.

**FE-CA-MA- 10.** Use seed drilling equipment, tools, or techniques that minimize soil disturbance and place seed at the correct depth.

**FE-CA-MA- 11.** Rest burned areas from uses, including but not limited to livestock and wild horse grazing and recreational use, until ES&BAR objectives are met and are predicted to be sustainable or if the treatment is determined to be unsuccessful. This guideline would not apply to uses that do not conflict with the treatment objectives.

**FE-CA-MA- 12.** Consider emergency closures in areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use when necessary for ES&BAR efforts.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative I**

### **Goal**

**FE-I-G- 1.** Manage vegetation communities outside WUI to maintain or restore their fire regimes and mosaic of successional classes to within their historic range.

### **Objectives**

**Fuels**

**FE-I-O- 1.** Manage plant communities outside WUI to move toward FRCC 1.

### **Management Actions**

**Fuels**

**FE-I-MA- 1.** Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads with consideration for other resource and resource use objectives.

**FE-I-MA- 2.** Fuels treatments in WUI would include fuels reduction treatments and fuel breaks. Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on

**FE-I-O- 2.** Implement fuels treatments to protect Critical Suppression Areas; limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire; and maintain or improve vegetation.

areas with high and high/moderate Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area.

**FE-I-MA- 3.** Fuels treatments outside WUI would include:

- Restoration,
- Fuel breaks, and
- Noxious weed and invasive plant treatments.

**FE-I-MA- 4.** The toolbox for fuels treatments would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting; and
- Targeted grazing.

Prescribed fire would not be allowed. See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

**FE-I-MA- 5.** Fuels treatments would use native and non-native species.

**FE-I-MA- 6.** Upland vegetation management related to fuels treatments, includes but is not limited to:

- Converting annual communities to native or non-native perennial,
- Restoring non-native perennial and non-native understory communities toward native,
- Restoring native grassland communities to native shrublands, and
- Introducing forbs and late-seral grasses to native shrubland communities.

See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

**FE-I-MA- 7.** Outside SRMAs, fuel breaks would follow disturbance corridors or would protect restoration and ES&BAR treatments; fuel breaks for SRMAs could be used to protect adjacent areas, protect facilities, and protect high-use areas. Construct fuel breaks consistent with the *Upland Vegetation* section.

**FE-I-MA- 8.** Noxious weed and invasive plants management related to fuels treatments includes measures for treating and preventing noxious weeds and invasive plants; see the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* section for more details.

### **ES&BAR**

**FE-I-O- 3.** Rehabilitate and stabilize areas to help stabilize soils, promote natural recovery, and establish pre-fire or historic vegetation communities.

### **ES&BAR**

**FE-I-MA- 9.** Consider using temporary fences on a case-by-case basis to protect burned plant communities and to allow for uses in pastures with burned plant communities. Temporary fences may only be considered when there are at least 2,000 unburned acres in the pasture. Reconstruction of fire-damaged permanent facilities on BLM-managed lands would follow BLM policy.

**FE-I-MA- 10.** When planning temporary fences, consider the size of the pasture, the amount burned, the amount of pasture unaffected by rehabilitation, resource concerns, location of water, and expense.

**FFE-I-MA- 11.** Temporary fences would be removed once ES&BAR objectives have been met.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative II**

### **Goal**

**FE-II-G- 1.** Manage vegetation communities outside WUI to maintain or restore their fire regimes and mosaic of successional classes to within their historic range.

### **Objectives**

#### **Fuels**

**FE-II-O- 1.** Manage native plant communities outside WUI, excluding Sandberg/non-native areas, to move toward FRCC 1 and manage non-native plant communities and Sandberg/non-native areas for commodity use, which may not be toward FRCC 1.

**FE-II-O- 2.** Implement fuels treatments to protect Critical Suppression Areas; limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire; and maintain or improve vegetation.

### **Management Actions**

#### **Fuels**

**FE-II-MA- 1.** Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads with consideration for other resource and resource use objectives.

**FE-II-MA- 2.** Fuels treatments in WUI would include fuels reduction treatments and fuel breaks. Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on areas with high, high/moderate, and moderate Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area and near Roseworth.

**FE-II-MA- 3.** Fuels treatments outside WUI would include:

- Restoration,
- Fuel breaks,
- Landscape-scale fuels reduction, and
- Noxious weed and invasive plant treatments.

Many of these are described in the *Upland Vegetation and Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* sections.

**FE-II-MA- 4.** The toolbox for fuels treatments would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Targeted grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

Prescribed fire would not be allowed in native grassland or native shrubland communities. See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

**FE-II-MA- 5.** Fuels treatments would use primarily non-native species; fire-tolerant species would also be used, primarily in annual communities.

**FE-II-MA- 6.** Upland vegetation management related to fuels treatments includes, but is not limited to:

- Converting annual communities to non-native perennial,
- Restoring native grassland communities to native shrublands, and
- Introducing forbs and late-seral grasses to native shrubland communities.

See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

**FE-II-MA- 7.** Fuel breaks would focus on protecting commercial facilities; fuel breaks would also be placed in non-native communities to protect native communities. Construct fuel breaks consistent with the *Upland Vegetation* section.

**FE-II-MA- 8.** Landscape-scale fuels reduction would occur primarily through increased allocation of vegetation for permitted livestock

grazing and through increased livestock grazing utilization. See the *Livestock Grazing* section.

**FE-II-MA- 9.** Noxious weed and invasive plants management related to fuels treatments includes measures for treating and preventing noxious weeds and invasive plants; see the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* section for more details.

### **ES&BAR**

**FE-II-O- 3.** Rehabilitate and stabilize areas to help stabilize soils, promote natural recovery, and establish pre-fire or historic vegetation communities.

### **ES&BAR**

**FE-II-MA- 10.** Consider using temporary fences on a case-by-case basis to protect burned plant communities and to allow for commercial uses. Reconstruction of fire-damaged permanent facilities on BLM-managed lands would follow BLM policy.

**FE-II-MA- 11.** When planning temporary fences, consider the size of the pasture, the amount burned, the amount of pasture unaffected by rehabilitation, resource concerns, location of water, grazing management efficiency, and expense.

**FE-II-MA- 12.** With NEPA analysis, temporary fences may become permanent if they enhance the management of the burned area; these would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative III***

### **Goal**

**FE-III-G- 1.** Manage vegetation communities to lengthen the fire return interval.

### **Objectives**

#### ***Fuels***

**FE-III-O- 1.** Manage native plant communities outside WUI to move toward FRCC 1. Manage non-native plant communities to reduce wildland fire size and intensity, which may not be toward FRCC 1.

**FE-III-O- 2.** Implement fuels treatments to protect Critical Suppression Areas and limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire.

### **Management Actions**

#### ***Fuels***

**FE-III-MA- 1.** Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads as appropriate to reduce wildland fire size and intensity.

**FE-III-MA- 2.** Fuels treatments in WUI would include fuels reduction treatments and fuel breaks. Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on areas with high, high/moderate, and moderate Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area and near Roseworth and Three Creek.

**FE-III-MA- 3.** Fuels treatments outside WUI would include:

- Restoration,
- Fuel breaks,
- Landscape-scale fuels reduction, and
- Noxious weed and invasive plant treatments.

Many of these are described in the *Upland Vegetation and Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* sections.

**FE-III-MA- 4.** The toolbox for fuels treatments would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Targeted grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

**FE-III-MA- 5.** Fuels treatments may use both native and non-native species, with fire-tolerant and fire-resistant species having a high priority.

**FE-III-MA- 6.** Upland vegetation management related to fuels treatments includes, but is not limited to:

- Converting annual communities to non-native perennial,
  - Introducing shrubs to native grassland communities, and
  - Creating extensive unvegetated or type-converted fuel breaks.
- See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

**FE-III-MA- 7.** Fuel breaks would focus on strategic locations to disrupt the continuity of fuels and to protect structures and important resources such as habitat for sage-grouse and slickspot peppergrass. Construct fuel breaks consistent with the *Upland Vegetation* section.

**FE-III-MA- 8.** Landscape-scale fuels reduction would occur primarily through increased allocation of annual and non-native perennial vegetation for permitted livestock grazing and through increased livestock grazing utilization in annual and non-native perennial communities. See the *Livestock Grazing* section.

**FE-III-MA- 9.** Noxious weed and invasive plants management related to fuels treatments includes measures for treating and preventing noxious weeds and invasive plants; see the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* section for more details.

### **ES&BAR**

**FE-III-O- 3.** Rehabilitate and stabilize areas to help stabilize soils, promote natural recovery, and establish fire-tolerant vegetation communities.

### **ES&BAR**

**FE-III-MA- 10.** Consider using temporary fences on a case-by-case basis to protect burned plant communities. Reconstruction of fire-damaged permanent facilities on BLM-managed lands would follow BLM policy.

**FE-III-MA- 11.** When planning temporary fences, consider the size of the pasture, the amount burned, the amount of pasture unaffected by rehabilitation, resource concerns, location of water, grazing management efficiency, and expense.

**FE-III-MA- 12.** Temporary fences would be removed once ES&BAR objectives have been met.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)***

### **Goal**

**FE-IV-G- 1.** Manage vegetation communities outside WUI to maintain or restore their fire regimes and mosaic of successional classes to within their historic range.

### **Objectives**

#### ***Fuels***

**FE-IV-O- 1.** Manage plant communities outside WUI to move toward FRCC 1.

### **Management Actions**

#### ***Fuels***

**FE-IV-MA- 1.** Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads with consideration for other resource objectives.

**FE-IV-MA- 2.** Fuels treatments in WUI would include fuels reduction treatments and fuel breaks. Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on

**FE-IV-O- 2.** Implement fuels treatments to protect Critical Suppression Areas; limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire; and maintain or improve vegetation.

areas with high and high/moderate Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area.

**FE-IV-MA- 3.** Fuels treatments outside WUI would include:

- Restoration,
- Fuel breaks, and
- Noxious weed and invasive plant treatments.

Many of these are described in the *Upland Vegetation and Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* sections.

**FE-IV-MA- 4.** The toolbox to restore or treat upland vegetation communities would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Targeted grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

**FE-IV-MA- 5.** Fuels treatments would use native and non-native species.

**FE-IV-MA- 6.** Upland vegetation management related to fuels treatments includes, but is not limited to:

- Restoring annual, non-native perennial, and non-native understory communities toward native;
- Restoring native grassland communities to native shrublands; and
- Introducing forbs and late-seral grasses to native shrubland communities.

See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

**FE-IV-MA- 7.** Fuel breaks would follow disturbance corridors or would protect restoration or ES&BAR treatments. Construct fuel breaks consistent with the *Upland Vegetation* section.

**FE-IV-MA- 8.** Noxious weed and invasive plants management related to fuels treatments includes measures for treating and preventing noxious weeds and invasive plants; see the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* section for more details.

## **ES&BAR**

**FE-IV-O- 3.** Rehabilitate and stabilize areas to help stabilize soils, promote natural recovery, and establish pre-fire or historic vegetation communities.

## **ES&BAR**

**FE-IV-MA- 9.** Consider using temporary fences on a case-by-case basis to protect burned plant communities and to allow for uses in pastures with burned plant communities; however, temporary fences would not be allowed in pastures with native plant communities. Temporary fences may only be considered when there are at least 2,000 unburned acres in the pasture. Reconstruction of fire-damaged permanent facilities on BLM-managed lands would follow BLM policy.

**FE-IV-MA- 10.** When planning temporary fences, consider the size of the pasture, the amount burned, the amount of pasture unaffected by rehabilitation, resource concerns, location of water, and expense.

**FE-IV-MA- 11.** Temporary fences would be removed once ES&BAR objectives have been met.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative V**

### **Goal**

**FE-V-G- 1.** Manage vegetation communities outside WUI to maintain or restore their fire regimes and mosaic of successional classes to within their historic range.

### **Objectives**

#### **Fuels**

**FE-V-O- 1.** Manage plant communities outside WUI to move toward FRCC 1.

**FE-V-O- 2.** Implement fuels treatments to protect Critical Suppression Areas; limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire; and maintain or improve vegetation.

### **Management Actions**

#### **Fuels**

**FE-V-MA- 1.** Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads with consideration for other resource objectives.

**FE-V-MA- 2.** Fuels treatments in WUI would include fuels reduction treatments and fuel breaks. Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on areas with high Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area.

**FE-V-MA- 3.** Fuels treatments outside WUI would include:

- Restoration,
- Fuel breaks, and
- Noxious weed and invasive plant treatments.

Many of these are described in the *Upland Vegetation and Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* sections.

**FE-V-MA- 4.** The toolbox for fuels treatments would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Removal of grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

Chemical treatments could only be used after all other methods have been exhausted. Targeted grazing would not be allowed.

**FE-V-MA- 5.** Fuels treatments would use native species.

**FE-V-MA- 6.** Upland vegetation management related to fuels treatments includes, but is not limited to:

- Restoring annual communities toward native, and
- Introducing shrubs to non-native perennial communities and native grassland communities to break up the continuity of fuel. See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

**FE-V-MA- 7.** Fuel breaks would only follow designated roads and designated primitive roads. Construct fuel breaks consistent with the *Upland Vegetation* section.

**FE-V-MA- 8.** Noxious weed and invasive plants management related to fuels treatments includes measures for treating and preventing noxious weeds and invasive plants; see the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* section for more details. Construct fuel breaks consistent with the *Upland Vegetation* section.

**ES&BAR**

**FE-V-O- 3.** Rehabilitate and stabilize areas to help stabilize soils, promote natural recovery, and establish pre-fire or historic vegetation communities.

**ES&BAR**

**FE-V-MA- 9.** Temporary fences would not be used. Livestock grazing would be pulled back to pasture fences. Reconstruction of fire-damaged permanent facilities on BLM-managed lands would follow BLM policy.

## 2.3.10. Wild Horses

### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

#### Goal

**WH-NA-G- 1.** A viable, healthy population of wild horses will be maintained in accordance with Federal law.

#### Objective

**WH-NA-O- 1.** Provide forage to support a herd of 50 wild horses in the Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA.

#### Allocations

**WH-NA-A- 1.** Manage the entire Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Area as an HMA.

**WH-NA-A- 2.** No wild horse ranges are identified.

**WH-NA-A- 3.** Allocate 600 AUMs for wild horses in MUA 7 (Map 4).

#### Management Actions

**WH-NA-MA- 1.** Develop a Wild Horse Management Plan.

**WH-NA-MA- 2.** Where levels are to be adjusted, sufficient forage would be provided.

**WH-NA-MA- 3.** Design fences to minimize wild horse movement conflicts in MUA 7 (Map 4).

**WH-NA-MA- 4.** Animals being collected for adoption or removed by other appropriate means would receive care and attention. Adopted animals would be monitored in accordance with BLM policy until title for the animal(s) is/are issued.

### *Management Specific to Alternative I*

#### Goal

**WH-I-G- 1.** The Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA would be managed for a thriving natural ecological balance.

#### Objective

**WH-I-O- 1.** Manage a reproducing herd of 100 to 200 wild horses in the Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA.

#### Allocations

**WH-I-A- 1.** Manage the entire Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Area as an HMA.

**WH-I-A- 2.** The initial herd size would be approximately 130 wild horses; the estimated herd size for a reproducing population of wild horses would be approximately 100 to 200 head.

**WH-I-A- 3.** Allocate forage sufficient to maintain the wild horse population according to allocation levels described in the *Livestock Grazing* section.

### **Management Actions**

**WH-I-MA- 1.** Develop a Herd Management Area Plan.

**WH-I-MA- 2.** The HMA would remain open to livestock grazing, although grazing levels on an allotment-specific basis would be adjusted to accommodate wild horse numbers.

**WH-I-MA- 3.** Re-design pasture configurations and fences within the HMA to facilitate genetic exchange, wild horse social interactions, and free-roaming characteristics.

**WH-I-MA- 4.** Increase the reliability of artificial water sources for wild horses within the HMA.

**WH-I-MA- 5.** Seasonal restrictions would be placed on travel within the HMA during foaling (from March through July); motorized travel would not be allowed on primitive roads during this time.

**WH-I-MA- 6.** Seasonal restrictions on authorized uses within HMA to avoid disturbing wild horses during foaling (March through July) would be defined in the permit or authorization.

**WH-I-MA- 7.** Commercial SRPs would not be allowed in the HMA.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative II***

### **Goal**

**WH-II-G- 1.** The Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Area would be managed for commercial uses.

### **Objective**

**WH-II-O- 1.** Manage the Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Area as an unpopulated herd area.

### **Allocations**

**WH-II-A- 1.** Return the Saylor Creek HMA to Herd Area status.

**WH-II-A- 2.** The initial herd size would be approximately 130 wild horses; the estimated herd size would be zero.

**WH-II-A- 3.** No forage would be allocated for wild horses.

### **Management Actions**

**WH-II-MA- 1.** Gather and remove the total wild horse population in the Saylor Creek Herd Area. Once removed, offer the animals for adoption or sale to individuals who can provide them with good homes, relocate selected animals to other HMAs, or place wild horses for which there is no adoption or sale demand in long-term pastures.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative III***

### **Goal**

**WH-III-G- 1.** The Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA would be managed for a thriving natural ecological balance.

**Objective**

**WH-III-O- 1.** Manage a reproducing herd of 200 to 600 wild horses in the Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA.

**Allocations**

**WH-III-A- 1.** Manage the entire Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Area as an HMA.

**WH-III-A- 2.** The initial herd size would be approximately 130 wild horses; the estimated herd size for a reproducing population of wild horses would be approximately 200 to 600 head..

**WH-III-A- 3.** Allocate forage sufficient to maintain the wild horse population according to allocation levels described in the *Livestock Grazing* section.

**Management Actions**

**WH-III-MA- 1.** Develop a Herd Management Area Plan.

**WH-III-MA- 2.** The HMA would remain open to livestock grazing, although grazing levels would be adjusted on an allotment-specific basis to accommodate wild horse numbers.

**WH-III-MA- 3.** Reduce fences within the HMA to facilitate access to forage and water, genetic exchange, wild horse social interactions, and free-roaming characteristics.

**WH-III-MA- 4.** Increase the number and reliability of artificial water sources for wild horses and fire suppression within the HMA.

**WH-III-MA- 5.** Seasonal restrictions would be placed on travel within the HMA during foaling (from March through July); motorized travel would not be allowed on primitive roads during this time.

**WH-III-MA- 6.** Seasonal restrictions on authorized uses within HMA to avoid disturbing wild horses during foaling (March through July) would be defined in the permit or authorization.

**WH-III-MA- 7.** Commercial SRPs would not be allowed in the HMA.

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**Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)****Goal**

**WH-IV-G- 1.** The Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA would be managed for a thriving natural ecological balance.

**Objective**

**WH-IV-O- 1.** Manage a non-reproducing herd of up to 200 wild horses in the Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA.

**Allocations**

**WH-IV-A- 1.** Manage the entire Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Area as an HMA.

**WH-IV-A- 2.** Manage the Saylor Creek HMA for a non-reproducing population of wild horses. The initial herd size would be approximately 130 wild horses; the estimated herd size would be about 200 non-reproducing wild horses.

**WH-IV-A- 3.** Allocate forage sufficient to maintain the wild horse population according to allocation levels described in the *Livestock Grazing* section.

### Management Actions

**WH-IV-MA- 1.** Develop a Herd Management Area Plan.

**WH-IV-MA- 2.** The HMA would remain open to livestock grazing, although grazing levels would be adjusted on an allotment-specific basis to accommodate wild horse numbers.

**WH-IV-MA- 3.** Re-design pasture configurations and fences within the HMA to facilitate wild horse social interactions and free-roaming characteristics.

**WH-IV-MA- 4.** Increase the reliability of artificial water sources for horses within the HMA.

**WH-IV-MA- 5.** Commercial SRPs would not be allowed in the HMA.

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## Management Specific to Alternative V

### Goal

**WH-V-G- 1.** The Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA would be managed for a thriving natural ecological balance.

### Objective

**WH-V-O- 1.** Manage a non-reproducing herd of up to 500 wild horses in the Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA.

### Allocations

**WH-V-A- 1.** Manage the entire Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Area as an HMA.

**WH-V-A- 2.** Manage the Saylor Creek HMA for a non-reproducing population of wild horses. The initial herd size would be approximately 130 wild horses; the estimated herd size would be about 500 non-reproducing wild horses.

**WH-V-A- 3.** Allocate forage sufficient to maintain the wild horse population according to allocation levels described in the *Livestock Grazing* section.

### Management Actions

**WH-V-MA- 1.** Develop a Herd Management Area Plan.

**WH-V-MA- 2.** The HMA would remain open to livestock grazing, although grazing levels would be adjusted on allotment-specific basis to accommodate wild horse numbers.

**WH-V-MA- 3.** Reduce fences within the HMA to facilitate access to forage and water, wild horse social interactions, and free-roaming characteristics.

**WH-V-MA- 4.** Increase the reliability of artificial water sources for wild horses within the HMA.

**WH-V-MA- 5.** Commercial SRPs would not be allowed in the HMA.

## 2.3.11. Paleontological Resources

### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

#### Goal

No goal stated.

#### Objective

**PR-NA-O- 1.** Protect and manage paleontological sites in major paleontological areas in MUAs 4, 6, and 7 (Map 4), including Sand Point, Pasadena Valley, Rosevear Creek and Gulch, Dove Springs, Deer Gulch, Pilgrim Spring and Stage, and Glens Ferry.

#### Management Action

**PR-NA-MA- 1.** Manage paleontological resources to protect, maintain, or enhance sites or areas for their scientific and educational values.

### *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*

#### Goal

**PR-CA-G- 1.** Identify, manage, and protect paleontological resources for scientific research, educational purposes, and public use.

#### Objective

**PR-CA-O- 1.** Identify, manage, and protect important paleontological sites.

#### Management Actions

**PR-CA-MA- 1.** Implement measures to protect paleontological resources. Measures may include, but not be limited to:

- Avoidance,
- Fencing,
- Stabilization,
- Data recovery through collection or excavation,
- Interpretation, or
- Administrative closure.

**PR-CA-MA- 2.** Identify areas at risk of damage from illegal activities and implement management to discourage those activities.

**PR-CA-MA- 3.** Minimize or prevent human-caused damage to paleontological resources through educational and interpretive outreach programs.

**PR-CA-MA- 4.** Consider surface-disturbing activities that affect fossil-bearing geologic units (Potential Fossil Yield Class 5) in site-specific analyses, which may include a field inventory. Mitigate potential impacts to paleontological resources.

### *Management Specific to Alternative I*

#### Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Management Action**

**PR-I-MA- 1.** Issue permits for paleontological research to qualified paleontologists. Actively solicit research efforts to identify, monitor, and collect data on fossil resources.

---

***Management Specific to Alternative II***

**Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Management Action**

**PR-II-MA- 1.** Issue permits for paleontological research to qualified paleontologists.

---

***Management Specific to Alternative III***

**Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Management Action**

**PR-III-MA- 1.** Issue permits for paleontological research to qualified paleontologists.

---

***Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)***

**Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Management Action**

**PR-IV-MA- 1.** Issue permits for paleontological research to qualified paleontologists if proposed research is compatible with *Upland Vegetation* objectives.

---

***Management Specific to Alternative V***

**Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Management Action**

**PR-V-MA- 1.** Issue permits for paleontological research to qualified paleontologists if proposed research is compatible with *Upland Vegetation* objectives

## 2.3.12. Cultural Resources

### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

#### Goal

No goal stated.

#### Objective

**CR-NA-O- 1.** Protect the cultural values of the Dry Lake/Bruneau River Complex, Arch Canyon, the Dove Spring complex, and additional significant cultural resource complexes through special designation and management.

#### Management Actions

**CR-NA-MA- 1.** Develop a Cultural Plan for Pot Hole Complex, MUA 7 (Map 4), Dry Lake Beds/Bruneau River Complex, Post Office, Dry Lakes Complex, Juniper Ranch, Clover Creek, and Devil Creek.

**CR-NA-MA- 2.** All significant cultural sites, as determined by the SHPO and Advisory Council, would be retained in Federal ownership.

**CR-NA-MA- 3.** The ruts of the main route and south alternate route of the Oregon NHT and Kelton Freight Road would be protected by not allowing incompatible uses to occur with a 0.5 mile corridor through which these routes pass.

**CR-NA-MA- 4.** Place cultural signs in MUA 4 and 7 (Map 4).

**CR-NA-MA- 5.** Conduct a Class III inventory as specified in BLM Manual Section 8111.4 prior to commencement of any BLM-initiated or authorized action involving surface-disturbing activities or sale or transfer from Federal management. If properties that may be eligible for the National Register are discovered, consult with 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.

**CR-NA-MA- 6.** Recommend the Oregon Trail, Dry Lake Beds/Bruneau River Complex, and Devil Creek Complex for listing on the National Register.

**CR-NA-MA- 7.** Protect all cultural sites known to be eligible for National Register nomination or listed on the National Register from deterioration.

**CR-NA-MA- 8.** Cultural resource values discovered in a proposed work area would be protected by adhering to the following methods:

- Redesigning or relocating the project;
- Salvaging, through scientific methods, the cultural resource values pursuant to the SHPO agreement;
- Should the site be determined to be of significant value, and/or the above-mentioned methods are not considered adequate, the project would be abandoned.

---

## **Management Common to All Action Alternatives**

### **Goals**

#### **Management**

**CR-CA-G- 1.** Identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources and ensure they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.

#### **Protection**

**CR-CA-G- 2.** Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration or potential conflict with other resource uses by ensuring all authorizations for land use and resource use complies with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, Section 106.

### **Objectives**

#### **Management**

**CR-CA-O- 1.** Manage and protect cultural resources according to their potential traditional, scientific, conservation, public, or experimental value.

### **Allocations**

#### **Management**

**CR-CA-A- 1.** Cultural resources would be allocated as described in Appendix I.

### **Management Actions**

#### **Management**

**CR-CA-MA- 1.** Maintain on-going cultural resource inventory information in GIS format in accordance with confidentiality mandates.

**CR-CA-MA- 2.** Identify priority geographic areas for future inventory based on the probability of unrecorded significant resources, and conduct inventories independent of specific land use actions.

**CR-CA-MA- 3.** Implement measures to minimize or prevent damage to cultural resources due to BLM management activities, authorized and allowed uses, and human-caused damage such as vandalism, unauthorized surface collection of artifacts, and unintentional disturbances. Measures may include, but not be limited to:

- Avoidance,
- Fencing
- Stabilization,
- Data recovery through collection or excavation,
- Interpretation,
- Administrative closure, or
- Proactive law enforcement patrols.

**CR-CA-MA- 4.** Develop cultural resource project plans as needed to address preservation actions for cultural resource complexes or individual sites identified as high risk for adverse impacts.

**CR-CA-MA- 5.** The Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors include 0.25 miles on either side of the trail segments or the visual horizon of those segments, whichever is less (Map 112).

**CR-CA-MA- 6.** Manage the Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors as avoidance areas for surface-disturbing activities that could cause adverse effects, including but not limited to right-of-way construction and maintenance and placement of salting, supplemental feeding, watering, and holding facilities for livestock.

**CR-CA-MA- 7.** Developments such as roads, trails, pipelines, fences, and power lines may be allowed to cross segments of the Kelton and Toana Freight Roads in areas where previous disturbance has occurred after consultation with SHPO.

**CR-CA-MA- 8.** Surface-disturbing equipment, such as bulldozers and road graders, cannot be used on segments of the Kelton or Toana Freight Roads or within their protective corridors without prior management approval, unless to protect life or property.

### **Protection**

**CR-CA-O- 2.** Strive to limit the adverse effects of BLM decisions on important cultural resources.

### **Protection**

**CR-CA-MA- 9.** All authorizations for land and resource uses would comply with all cultural resource laws and regulations, including Section 106 of the NHPA, consistent with and subject to the objectives established in the RMP for the proactive use of cultural resources in the public interest.

**CR-CA-MA- 10.** Nominate eligible sites for the National Register on a case-by-case basis.

**CR-CA-MA- 11.** Manage sites that are determined eligible for the NRHP for their local, regional, or national significance. If natural- or human-caused deterioration cannot be prevented, BLM would consult with the tribes and SHPO, as appropriate, to mitigate the adverse effects.

**CR-CA-MA- 12.** Consider all prudent and feasible alternatives to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on cultural resources and their uses when resolving site-specific conflicts between cultural resource use allocations and competing land use allocations and where the competing land use has potential to adversely affect cultural resources. Where such alternatives require undue cost or would be incompatible with competing goals, managers shall seek to balance goals considering the magnitude of the harm to the cultural resource or its use, the significance of the resource or its use, the effect of mitigation activities on the competing use allocation, and public sensitivities.

---

## **Management Specific to Alternative I**

### **Goals**

See goals in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

See objectives in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Management Actions**

#### **Management**

**CR-I-MA- 1.** Allow research, including archaeological, historic, ethnographic, and non-intrusive research, to better define the extent, nature, and value of cultural resources in the planning area.

**CR-I-MA- 2.** Important cultural resources, as determined through consultation with tribes and/or SHPO, would generally be retained in Federal ownership. Under limited circumstances, after appropriate consultation and mitigation, lands containing important cultural resources may be exchanged for lands containing resources of greater or equal value.

**CR-I-MA- 3.** Avoid or minimize new ground disturbance within 300 feet of playas to protect associated cultural resources.

---

### ***Management Specific to Alternative II***

#### **Goals**

See goals in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

See objectives in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Management Actions**

##### ***Management***

**CR-II-MA- 1.** Allow research, including archaeological, historic, ethnographic, and non-intrusive research, to better define the extent, nature, and value of cultural resources in the planning area.

**CR-II-MA- 2.** Important cultural resources, as determined through consultation with tribes and/or SHPO, would generally be retained in Federal ownership. Under limited circumstances, after appropriate consultation and mitigation, lands containing important cultural resources may be exchanged or sold.

**CR-II-MA- 3.** Avoid or minimize new ground disturbance within 150 feet of playas to protect associated cultural resources.

---

### ***Management Specific to Alternative III***

#### **Goals**

See goals in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

See objectives in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Management Actions**

##### ***Management***

**CR-III-MA- 1.** Allow research, including archaeological, historic, ethnographic, and non-intrusive research, to better define the extent, nature, and value of cultural resources in the planning area.

**CR-III-MA- 2.** Important cultural resources, as determined through consultation with tribes and/or SHPO, would generally be retained in Federal ownership. Under limited circumstances, after appropriate consultation and mitigation, lands containing important cultural resources may be exchanged for lands containing resources of greater or equal value.

**CR-III-MA- 3.** Avoid or minimize new ground disturbance within 150 feet of playas to protect associated cultural resources; this restriction would not apply to fire suppression activities.

---

### ***Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)***

#### **Goals**

See goals in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

See objectives in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Management Actions**

##### ***Management***

**CR-IV-MA- 1.** Actively solicit researchers to identify, monitor, and gather data on cultural resources, including archaeological, historic,

ethnographic, and non-intrusive research. Develop cooperative agreements and partnerships with tribes, historical societies, and colleges to encourage research and assist with monitoring.

**CR-IV-MA- 2.** Important cultural resources, as determined through consultation with tribes and/or SHPO, would generally be retained in Federal ownership. Under limited circumstances, after appropriate consultation and mitigation, lands containing important cultural resources may be exchanged for lands containing resources of greater or equal value.

**CR-IV-MA- 3.** Avoid or minimize new ground disturbance within 300 feet of playas to protect associated cultural resources.

---

### ***Management Specific to Alternative V***

#### **Goals**

See goals in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

See objectives in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Management Actions**

##### ***Management***

**CR-V-MA- 1.** Actively solicit researchers to identify, monitor, and gather data on cultural resources, including archaeological, historic, ethnographic, and non-intrusive research. Develop cooperative agreements and partnerships with tribes, historical societies, and colleges to encourage research and assist with monitoring.

**CR-V-MA- 2.** Important cultural resources, as determined through consultation with tribes and/or SHPO, would generally be retained in Federal ownership. Under limited circumstances, after appropriate consultation and mitigation, lands containing important cultural resources may be exchanged for lands containing resources of greater or equal value.

**CR-V-MA- 3.** Avoid new ground disturbance within 300 feet of playas to protect associated cultural resources.

## **2.3.13. Visual Resources**

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### ***Management Specific to the No Action Alternative***

#### **Goal**

No goal stated.

#### **Objective**

No objective stated.

#### **Allocations**

**VR-NA-A- 1.** Areas managed as Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class I (129,000 acres) would include:

- The Oregon NHT protective corridor, and
- Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC

**VR-NA-A- 2.** Areas managed as VRM Class II (112,000 acres) would include:

- Corridors along the Snake River, Salmon Falls Creek, Devil Creek, and Lower Cedar Creek;

- Portions of Browns Bench and China Mountain; and
- Portions of the Jarbidge Foothills and Diamond A Desert.

**VR-NA-A- 3.** Areas managed as VRM Class III (292,000 acres) would include:

- Corridors along Clover Creek, Clover-Three Creek Road, and 17-Mile Road;
- An area between Lower Cedar Creek and Salmon Falls Creek; and
- Portions of the Jarbidge Foothills and Diamond A Desert.

**VR-NA-A- 4.** The remainder of the planning area would be managed as VRM Class IV (841,000 acres).

See Map 35 for locations of areas allocated to VRM Class I, II, III, and IV.

#### **Management Action**

**VR-NA-MA- 1.** Consider the visual and scenic values of the public lands whenever any physical actions are proposed on BLM lands. The degree of alterations to the natural landscape would be guided by the criteria established for the four VRM Classes as outlined in *BLM Manual 8400: Visual Resource Management*.

---

### **Management Common to All Action Alternatives**

#### **Goal and Objective**

**VR-CA-G- 1.** Maintain visual resource characteristics and values of public lands according to VRM classes.

#### **Objective**

See *Goal and Objective*.

#### **Allocations**

See allocations in specific alternatives.

#### **Management Action**

**VR-CA-MA- 1.** Ensure BLM management activities and authorized uses are designed to meet the VRM objectives for the project area.

---

### **Management Specific to Alternative I**

#### **Goal**

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Allocations**

**VR-I-A- 1.** Areas to be managed as VRM Class I (130,000 acres) would include:

- WSAs;
- Eligible/suitable WSRs with Scenic Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs; i.e., segments of Salmon Falls and Cougar Point Creeks and Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers);
- Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC; and
- Salmon Falls Creek ACEC.

**VR-I-A- 2.** Areas to be managed as VRM Class II (181,000 acres) would include:

- The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics;
- Jarbidge Foothills SRMA;
- Wilkins Island;
- The Jarbidge River corridor between Murphy Hot Springs and the Jarbidge Forks; and
- Areas near Buck Creek.

**VR-I-A- 3.** Areas to be managed as VRM Class III (119,000 acres) would include:

- The Snake River corridor (from the field office [FO] boundary to 0.25 miles above the breaks);
- The foreground of the Oregon NHT protective corridor (1.5 miles on each side);
- ROW corridors through areas otherwise managed as VRM Class I or II;
- Portions of the Diamond A Desert not otherwise managed as VRM Class I or II;
- Deadman/Yahoo SRMA; and
- The Toana Freight Road protective corridor.

**VR-I-A- 4.** The remainder of the planning area would be managed as VRM Class IV (944,000 acres).

See Map 36 for locations of areas allocated to VRM Class I, II, III, and IV.

### Management Action

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

---

## Management Specific to Alternative II

### Goal

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Objective

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Allocations

**VR-II-A- 1.** Areas to be managed as VRM Class I (103,000 acres) would include:

- WSAs, and
- Eligible/suitable WSRs with Scenic ORVs (i.e., segments of Salmon Falls and Cougar Point Creeks and Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers).

**VR-II-A- 2.** Areas to be managed as VRM Class II (11,000 acres) would include:

- The Oregon NHT protective corridor, and
- The Jarbidge River corridor between Murphy Hot Springs and the Jarbidge Forks.

**VR-II-A- 3.** Areas to be managed as VRM Class III (19,000 acres) would include:

- ROW corridors through areas otherwise managed as VRM Class I or II;
- The Toana Freight Road protective corridor; and
- Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA.

**VR-II-A- 4.** The remainder of the planning area would be managed as VRM Class IV (1,240,000 acres).

See Map 37 for locations of areas allocated to VRM Class I, II, III, and IV.

### Management Action

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

---

## Management Specific to Alternative III

### Goal

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Objective

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Allocations

**VR-III-A- 1.** Areas to be managed as VRM Class I (103,000 acres) would include:

- WSAs;
- Eligible/suitable WSRs with Scenic ORVs (i.e., segments of Salmon Falls and Cougar Point Creeks and Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers);
- Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC; and
- Salmon Falls Creek ACEC.

**VR-III-A- 2.** Areas to be managed as VRM Class II (11,000 acres) would include:

- The Oregon NHT protective corridor, and
- The Jarbidge River corridor between Murphy Hot Springs and the Jarbidge Forks.

**VR-III-A- 3.** Areas to be managed as VRM Class III (336,000 acres) would include:

- The Snake River corridor (from the FO boundary to 0.25 miles above the breaks);
- The foreground of the Oregon NHT protective corridor (1.5 miles on each side);
- ROW corridors through areas otherwise managed as VRM Class I or II;
- Portions of the Jarbidge Foothills and Diamond A Desert not otherwise managed as VRM Class I or II;
- Wilkins Island;
- Deadman/Yahoo SRMA; and
- The Toana Freight Road protective corridor.

**VR-III-A- 4.** The remainder of the planning area would be managed as VRM Class IV (924,000 acres).

See Map 38 for locations of areas allocated to VRM Class I, II, III, and IV.

### Management Action

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

## Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

### Goal

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Objective

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Allocations

**VR-IV-A- 1.** Areas to be managed as VRM Class I (128,000 acres) would include:

- WSAs,
- Eligible/suitable WSRs with Scenic ORVs (segments of Salmon Falls and Cougar Point Creeks and Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers), and
- Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC.

**VR-IV-A- 2.** Areas to be managed as VRM Class II (70,000 acres) would include:

- The Oregon NHT protective corridor,
- Browns Bench,
- Wilkins Island;
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics,
- The Jarbidge River corridor between Murphy Hot Springs and the Jarbidge Forks, and
- Areas near Buck Creek.

**VR-IV-A- 3.** Areas to be managed as VRM Class III (366,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 334,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative) would include:

- The Snake River corridor (from the FO boundary to .25 miles above the breaks);
- The foreground of the Oregon NHT protective corridor (1.5 miles on each side);
- ROW corridors through areas otherwise managed as VRM Class I or II;
- Portions of the Jarbidge Foothills and Diamond A Desert not otherwise managed as VRM Class I or II;
- Inside Desert ACEC;
- Deadman/Yahoo SRMA; and
- Lands between the Toana Road protective corridor and Salmon Falls Creek.

**VR-IV-A- 4.** The remainder of the planning area would be managed as VRM Class IV (810,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 842,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative).

See Maps 39 and 40 for locations of areas allocated to VRM Class I, II, III, and IV.

### Management Action

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

---

## Management Specific to Alternative V

### Goal

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Objective

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Allocations

**VR-V-A- 1.** Areas to be managed as VRM Class I (103,000 acres) would include:

- WSAs; and
- Eligible/suitable WSRs with Scenic ORVs (i.e., segments of Salmon Falls and Cougar Point Creeks and Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers).

**VR-V-A- 2.** Areas to be managed as VRM Class II (269,000 acres) would include:

- The Oregon NHT protective corridor,
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics,
- The Jarbidge Foothills, and
- Portions of the Diamond A Desert not otherwise managed as VRM Class I.

**VR-V-A- 3.** Areas to be managed as VRM Class III (649,000 acres) would include:

- Portions of the Sagebrush Sea ACEC not otherwise managed as VRM Class I or II;
- The Snake River corridor (from the FO boundary to .25 miles above the breaks);
- The foreground of the Oregon NHT protective corridor (1.5 miles on each side);
- Lands between the Balanced Rock ROW Corridor and Lower Salmon Falls Creek; and
- ROW corridors through areas otherwise managed as VRM Class I or II.

**VR-V-A- 4.** The remainder of the planning area would be managed as VRM Class IV (353,000 acres).

See Map 41 for locations of areas allocated to VRM Class I, II, III, and IV.

### Management Action

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

## 2.3.14. Non-Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

### ***Management Specific to the No Action Alternative***

#### **Goal**

No goal stated.

#### **Objective**

No objective stated.

#### **Management Actions**

No management actions stated.

### ***Management Common to All Action Alternatives***

#### **Goal**

**WC-CA-G- 1.** Maintain wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands as appropriate, considering manageability and the context of competing resource demands.

#### **Objective**

See objectives in specific alternatives.

#### **Management Actions**

See management actions in specific alternatives.

### ***Management Specific to Alternative I***

#### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

**WC-I-O- 1.** Manage non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in the western portion of the planning area for their undeveloped character and to provide opportunities for primitive recreational activities and solitude.

#### **Management Actions**

**WC-I-MA- 1.** Manage non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in the Bruneau-Jarbidge area to maintain their wilderness character. In 2009, these lands include the following areas:

- Hole in the Ground (7,000 acres),
- Columbet Table (4,000 acres),
- Long Draw (17,000 acres), and
- East Fork Jarbidge (6,000 acres).

See Map 42 for locations.

**WC-I-MA- 2.** Management for these lands would be as follows:

- Retain in Federal ownership (Land Tenure Zone 1).
- Manage as VRM Class II, with the exception of the existing utility corridor managed as VRM III.
- Close to motorized vehicle use. See the *Transportation and Travel* section for more details.
- Close to leasable mineral exploration and development.
- Close to salable mineral development.
- Allow new range infrastructure if the infrastructure would help enhance wilderness characteristics. Existing range infrastructure may be maintained.
- Make these lands a ROW avoidance area.

---

### ***Management Specific to Alternative II***

#### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

**WC-II-O- 1.** Non-WSA lands would not be managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.

#### **Management Actions**

No management actions stated.

---

### ***Management Specific to Alternative III***

#### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

**WC-III-O- 2.** Non-WSA lands would not be managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.

#### **Management Actions**

No management actions stated.

---

### ***Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)***

#### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

**WC-IV-O- 1.** Manage non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics for their undeveloped character and to provide opportunities for primitive recreational activities and solitude.

#### **Management Actions**

**WC-IV-MA- 1.** Manage non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to maintain their wilderness character. In 2009, these lands include the following areas:

- Corral Creek (6,000 acres),
- Hole in the Ground (7,000 acres),
- Black Canyon (8,000 acres),
- Salmon Falls Creek (5,000 acres),
- Columbet Table (4,000 acres),
- Long Draw (17,000 acres), and
- East Fork Jarbidge (6,000 acres).

See Map 42 for locations.

**WC-IV-MA- 2.** Management for these lands would be as follows:

- Retain in Federal ownership (Land Tenure Zone 1).
- Manage as VRM Class II, with the exception of the existing utility corridor managed as VRM III.
- Close to motorized travel vehicle use. See the *Transportation and Travel* section for more details.
- Close to leasable mineral exploration and development.
- Close to salable mineral development.
- Allow new range infrastructure if the infrastructure would help enhance wilderness characteristics. Existing range infrastructure may be maintained.
- Make these lands a ROW exclusion area.

---

## **Management Specific to Alternative V**

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**WC-V-O- 1.** Manage non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics for their undeveloped character and to provide opportunities for primitive recreational activities and solitude.

### **Management Actions**

**WC-V-MA- 1.** Manage non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to maintain their wilderness character. In 2009, these lands include the following areas:

- Corral Creek (6,000 acres),
- Hole in the Ground (7,000 acres),
- Black Canyon (8,000 acres),
- Salmon Falls Creek (5,000 acres),
- Columbet Table (4,000 acres), Long Draw (17,000 acres), and
- East Fork Jarbidge (6,000 acres).

See Map 42 for locations.

**WC-V-MA- 2.** Management for these lands would be as follows:

- Retain in Federal ownership (Land Tenure Zone 1).
- Manage as VRM Class II, with the exception of the existing utility corridor managed as VRM III.
- Close to motorized vehicle use. See the *Transportation and Travel* section for more details.
- Close to leasable mineral exploration and development.
- Close these lands to salable mineral development.
- Allow new range infrastructure if the infrastructure would help enhance wilderness characteristics. Existing range infrastructure may be maintained.
- Make these lands a ROW exclusion area.

## 2.4. RESOURCE USES

### 2.4.1. Livestock Grazing

#### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

##### Goal

No goal stated.

##### Objectives

###### **Forage and Grazing Management Practices**

**LG-NA-O- 1.** Design and establish grazing management practices to meet fisheries, riparian, and water quality needs.

**LG-NA-O- 2.** Establish livestock grazing systems and practices that recognize the physiological requirements of forbs and shrubs.

##### Allocation

###### **Forage and Grazing Management Practices**

**LG-NA-A- 1.** The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing (1,414,000 acres). Salmon Falls Creek Canyon would not be available for livestock grazing (2,700 acres). An additional 48,000 acres are not contained within grazing allotments and therefore are not grazed, even though the 1987 RMP does not specifically make these areas unavailable for livestock grazing; these areas would continue to be unavailable for livestock grazing. See Map 44 for locations.

**LG-NA-A- 2.** Continue allocating approximately 200,000 AUMs for livestock. As the plan is implemented, between 160,000 and 260,000 AUMs could be issued for livestock depending on implementation of treatments described in the *Upland Vegetation* section.

**LG-NA-A- 3.** Allocate the following forage:

- Bighorn sheep – 598 AUMs in MUAs 10, 15, and 16
- Mule deer – 1,600 AUMs in MUAs 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16
- Pronghorn – 261 AUMs in MUAs 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16.
- Wild horses – 600 AUMs in MUA 7.

See Map 4 for MUA boundaries.

##### Management Actions

###### **Forage and Grazing Management Practices**

**LG-NA-MA- 1.** Develop grazing systems to maintain condition in MUA 4. Develop grazing management systems on fair condition range in MUA 11 to improve to good or better condition (Map 4). Additional grazing systems would be implemented elsewhere. The type of system to be implemented would be based on the consideration of the following factors:

- MUA and allotment-specific management objectives;
- Resource characteristics, including vegetation potential and water availability;
- Operator needs; and
- Implementation costs.

Grazing systems that will be considered include:

- Rest-rotation grazing
- Deferred rotation grazing,
- Deferred grazing,

- Alternative grazing,
- Short-duration high intensity grazing, or
- Seasonal grazing.

**LG-NA-MA- 2.** Livestock management measures would be implemented where necessary to prevent livestock access to canyons.

**LG-NA-MA- 3.** Incorporate forage/cover requirements specific to areas of primary wildlife use into allotment management plans.

**LG-NA-MA- 4.** Livestock season of use would be adjusted in MUAs 10, 15, and 16, if necessary, to resolve any conflicts on mule deer, pronghorn and bighorn sheep ranges. These adjustments would entail the reduction in spring or fall livestock grazing use from a specific period(s) of a grazing year. Season of use changes would be made after monitoring is completed along with other needed grazing use adjustments, or when activity plans are completed. Priority would be given to resolving conflicts on crucial wildlife habitat areas in poor ecological condition.

**LG-NA-MA- 5.** Prioritize grazing allotments in the planning area for processing and issuing grazing authorizations and for monitoring effectiveness of grazing management according to their assigned Selective Management Category displayed in Appendix J. The "M" allotments generally would be managed to maintain satisfactory resource conditions; "I" allotments generally would be managed to improve resource conditions; and "C" allotments would receive custodial management to prevent resource deterioration.

### ***Range Infrastructure***

**LG-NA-O- 3.** Design range infrastructure to achieve objectives in the *Vegetation Communities, Fish and Wildlife, and Livestock Grazing* objectives.

### ***Range Infrastructure***

**LG-NA-MA- 6.** A variety of range infrastructure, grazing systems, and other range management practices may be considered in conjunction with livestock management on individual allotments. Such practices would be based on the range management category in which the allotment has been placed and would be formulated in consultation, coordination, and cooperation with livestock operators, and other interested parties.

**LG-NA-MA- 7.** The extent, location, and timing of infrastructure would be based on the allotment-specific management objectives adopted through the resource management planning process, interdisciplinary development and review of proposed actions, operator contributions, and BLM funding capability.

**LG-NA-MA- 8.** Use the following typical design features and construction practices for range infrastructure:

- Fences would be constructed to provide exterior allotment boundaries, divide allotments into pastures, protect streams, and control livestock.
- Most fences would be three or four wire with steel post spaced 16.5 feet apart with intermediate wire stays.
- Jack legs would be used where driving steel posts are not practical.

- Where fences may impair the movement of wildlife, they would be no more than 40 inches in height, three strand, with the bottom wire smooth and at least 16 inches above the ground.
- Where needed on key big game areas, the top wire would also be smooth.
- Fences that create wildlife movement problems would be modified.
- Proposed fence lines would not be bladed or scraped.
- Gates or cattleguards would be installed where fences cross roads.
- For any fences in wildlife migration areas, the need for let-down fences to allow passage of wildlife would be analyzed. These fences would be let down when livestock are not present. The BLM would be responsible for management of these special purpose fences.
- Springs would be developed or redeveloped using a backhoe to install a buried collection system, usually consisting of drain tile and a collection box. The collection box is normally made from a section of 24 to 42 inch metal culvert with a cover and a fitting to which a delivery pipe is connected. A short pipeline would be installed to deliver water to a trough for use by livestock and wildlife.
- Normally the spring area is fenced to exclude livestock following development.
- Wherever possible, water pipelines would be buried. The trench may be excavated by a backhoe, Ditch Witch, or similar equipment. Rigid plastic pipe would be placed in the trench and the excavated material would be used to backfill. While some flexible pipe may be installed using a ripper tooth, this is not a preferred technique.
- Most pipelines would have water tanks spaced 1 to 2 miles apart.
- Well sites would be selected based on geologic reports that predict the depth to reliable aquifers.
- All applicable State laws and regulations that apply to the development of groundwater would be observed.

**LG-NA-MA- 9.** Maintain range infrastructure in working condition as long as they are deemed necessary to management.

**LG-NA-MA- 10.** Develop pipelines as follows:

- 24.5 miles of pipeline in MUA 6
- 4 miles in MUA 7
- 2 miles in MUA 9
- 53.5 miles in MUA 11
- 57.8 miles in MUA 12
- 16.1 miles in MUA 13
- 3.5 miles in MUA 16

See Map 4 for MUA boundaries.

**LG-NA-MA- 11.** Develop reservoirs, wells, or springs as follows:

- 2 reservoirs or wells in MUA 7
- 1 springs and 2 reservoirs in MUA 10 if the WSA is released by Congress
- 1 reservoir, well, or spring in MUA 12

See Map 4 for MUA boundaries.

**LG-NA-MA- 12.** Develop fences as follows:

- 6.3 miles in MUA 10
- 2.7 miles in MUA 12
- 9.4 miles in MUA 13
- 7.6 miles in MUA 16

See Map 4 for MUA boundaries.

**LG-NA-MA- 13.** Fence reservoirs and provide water for livestock away from the reservoirs where possible and if needed by wildlife. Consider wildlife habitat needs when reservoir size determinations are made.

**LG-NA-MA- 14.** Design new spring developments and modify selected existing spring developments to protect wetted areas.

**LG-NA-MA- 15.** Livestock-related activities such as salting, feeding, construction of holding facilities, and stock driveways would not be allowed to occur within the riparian zone of a stream drainage system.

**LG-NA-MA- 16.** Modify fences to allow for pronghorn and mule deer passage in areas where their needs are not being met in MUA 7, 11, 12, 13, and 16 (Map 4). Modify other fences where specific wildlife needs are not being met. Build new fences to allow for wildlife passage.

**LG-NA-MA- 17.** Cattleguards would be considered a part of the fence and would be installed as necessary.

**LG-NA-MA- 168.** All allotments in which range improvement funds are to be spent will be subjected to an economic analysis. The analysis will be used to develop a final priority ranking of allotments for the commitment of the range improvement funds that are needed to implement activity plans. The highest priority for implementation generally will be assigned to those improvements for which total anticipated benefits exceed costs.

## ***Management Common to All Action Alternatives***

### **Goal**

**LG-CA-G- 1.** Manage livestock grazing to ensure achievement of or movement towards meeting *Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management* (S&Gs; Appendix K).

### **Objectives**

#### ***Forage and Grazing Management Practices***

**LG-CA-O- 1.** Manage livestock grazing in annual communities to achieve objectives in the *Upland Vegetation and Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

### **Management Actions**

#### ***Forage and Grazing Management Practices***

**LG-CA-MA- 1.** Implement adaptive management using grazing use indicators to meet resource and special designation area objectives as feasible and following BLM policy. Grazing use indicators may include:

- Utilization for upland vegetation and riparian areas,
- Bank and soil surface alteration,

Objectives for other vegetation communities are found in objectives specific to each action alternative.

- Indicators related to priority species and their habitats (see the *Fish and Wildlife* section), and
- Other indicators identified on an allotment-specific basis depending on the resources present.

**LG-CA-MA- 2.** Grazing permit renewal following the Record of Decision (ROD) would follow the process outlined in IM-ID-2009-040 or subsequent policy. The basic strategy for permit renewal is contained in Appendix L. Allotment-specific decisions for livestock grazing management, including grazing use indicators and grazing use criteria, and adjustments to an allotment's Selective Management Category would be made at that time.

**LG-CA-MA- 3.** The toolbox for managing livestock grazing would include, but not be limited to:

- Rest rotation,
- Deferred rotation,
- Seasons of use,
- Stocking rates,
- Class and kind of livestock,
- Herding,
- Frequency of grazing,
- Closure for resource protection,
- Location of range infrastructure, and
- Location and types of supplements.

Specific tools to be used would be identified on an allotment-specific basis through the permit renewal process, depending on the resources present.

**LG-CA-MA- 4.** Seasons of use and changes in class and kind of livestock would be consistent with resource objectives and analyzed in site-specific NEPA analysis through the permit renewal process.

**LG-CA-MA- 5.** Identify and implement measures to prevent livestock from entering areas closed to livestock grazing. Measures could include, but not be limited to:

- Fencing,
- Using natural barriers,
- Active herding,
- Water placement, and
- Supplement placement.

**LG-CA-MA- 6.** Implement drought management guidelines during periods of drought to maintain or achieve long-term resource productivity (Appendix F).

**LG-CA-MA- 7.** Allow spring and early summer livestock grazing periodically in big game winter range at levels to improve browse production.

**LG-CA-MA- 8.** Manage livestock grazing to move riparian and wetland conditions toward goals and objectives in the *Riparian Areas and Wetlands* section and to increase streambank stability relative to stream types by following guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).

**LG-CA-MA- 9.** When livestock are moved between pastures or allotments through riparian zones, stream crossings would be perpendicular to the riparian zone, where practical; trailing must be supervised by the permittee to ensure livestock do not remain in the riparian zone before or after the crossing.

### ***Range Infrastructure***

See objective specific to each alternative.

### ***Range Infrastructure***

**LG-CA-MA- 10.** Guidelines and management actions for range infrastructure apply to watering sites, fences, and corrals within WSAs, consistent with the IMP.

**LG-CA-MA- 11.** Follow BLM-approved design features and construction and maintenance practices for range infrastructure.

**LG-CA-MA- 12.** Range infrastructure would be consistent with the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).

**LG-CA-MA- 13.** Maintain range infrastructure in proper working condition. If infrastructure is no longer necessary, it may be removed.

**LG-CA-MA- 14.** Minimize disturbance at developed springs by using existing routes for access, redesigning the spring development, or limiting maintenance or reconstruction activities to areas disturbed during previous construction or to areas outside the wetland.

**LG-CA-MA- 15.** Modify fences to comply with BLM standards for wildlife (Karsky, 1999). Fences would be modified according to the following priority order:

- Key sage-grouse habitat,
- Big game winter range,
- Saylor Creek HMA, and
- The remainder of the planning area.

**LG-CA-MA- 16.** Fence reservoirs and provide water for livestock use outside the fence if necessary for improving wildlife habitat around a reservoir. Consider wildlife habitat needs when reservoir size determinations are made.

**LG-CA-MA- 17.** For permittee-maintained projects, the authorized officer would be notified prior to initiating work that requires the use of heavy equipment so that appropriate measures are adopted to protect resources.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative I***

### **Goal**

**LG-I-G- 1.** Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to enhance and sustain existing and historic uses and to improve habitat for big game and sage-grouse.

## Objectives

### **Forage and Grazing Management Practices**

**LG-I-O- 1.** In native plant communities excluding Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to help maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance, focusing on plant reproductive and physiological needs.

**LG-I-O- 2.** In non-native perennial communities including Sandberg/non-native areas (see Map 9), manage livestock grazing to maintain and improve perennial plant species diversity and abundance, taking into account sage-grouse and big game habitat needs.

## Allocations

### **Forage and Grazing Management Practices**

**LG-I-A- 1.** The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing (1,381,000 acres). The following areas would not be available for livestock grazing (84,000 acres):

- Canyons associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers and Salmon Falls Creek,
- Middle Snake ACEC except the Asquena pasture,
- Wildlife Tracts,
- Reference areas,
- Areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use, and
- Areas not contained within grazing allotments.

See Map 45 for locations.

**LG-I-A- 2.** Allocate vegetation production as follows:

- Native perennial grass production
  - 65% to 75% to watershed and wildlife
  - Less than 1% to wild horses
  - 25% to 35% to livestock
- Non-native perennial grass production
  - 60% to 70% to watershed and wildlife
  - Less than 1% to wild horses
  - 30% to 40% to livestock
- Annual grass production
  - 70% to 80% to watershed and wildlife
  - 20% to 30% to livestock
- Shrub and forb production
  - 89% to 92% to watershed and wildlife
  - 8% to 11% to livestock

These vegetation allocations would be implemented during the permit renewal process. The purpose of allocating vegetation is to determine the total AUMs available for livestock grazing in the planning area. Allocation percentages are not the same as utilization, as the allocation is used to identify the total number of AUMs for livestock, while utilization identifies the amount of vegetation used by livestock in a specific area. Allocation is not intended to prescribe what livestock can actually consume. Livestock use of specific vegetation types would be managed through the implementation of grazing use indicators developed on an allotment-specific basis.

**LG-I-A- 3.** Forage available for livestock use would likely change as the RMP is implemented, although allocation percentages would remain the same. Changes to AUMs in the future would be determined after adequate monitoring and site-specific NEPA analysis through future permit renewal processes.

## Management Actions

### **Forage and Grazing Management Practices**

**LG-I-MA- 1.** Utilization would be determined on a case-by-case basis to meet objectives in the *Livestock Grazing, Upland Vegetation, Riparian Areas and Wetlands, Fish and Wildlife, and Special Status Species* sections.

**LG-I-MA- 2.** Reserve Common Allotments would not be established.

**LG-I-MA- 3.** TNR would be allowed except in the following areas:

- Pastures containing areas within a WSA boundary,
- The riparian pasture of the Lower Saylor Creek Allotment in the Sand Point ACEC,
- Pastures comprised of more than 50% big game winter range, or
- Pastures comprised of more than 50% native communities (by cover) excluding Sandberg/non-native areas.

**LG-I-MA- 4.** Criteria for issuing TNR in a particular pasture would include:

- TNR may be allowed in years where additional forage for livestock is temporarily available, as determined by utilization levels,
- TNR must be consistent with the drought management guidelines,
- TNR may not be allowed if grazing use criteria are exceeded in any pasture in planning area allotments within the operation of the permittee, and
- TNR must be consistent with other resource objectives.

**LG-I-MA- 5.** Manage livestock grazing to provide a variety of residual cover heights to meet the needs of the ground-nesting birds present in an allotment.

**LG-I-MA- 6.** Follow BLM guidelines livestock grazing management for managing sage-grouse habitat (e.g., 2006 *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho*, Owyhee County and Jarbidge Local Working Group Sage-grouse Plans).

**LG-I-MA- 7.** Livestock grazing may be considered on a case-by-case basis in a portion of big game winter range in native shrubland communities during the winter (December through March). No date restrictions on livestock grazing in big game winter range in other vegetation communities would be made.

**LG-I-MA- 8.** During big game calving, fawning, and lambing (Appendix H), livestock grazing management would provide adequate cover for big game species, appropriate to site potential.

**LG-I-MA- 9.** Adjust livestock grazing in the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC so livestock seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in those pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat (Appendix H).

**LG-I-MA- 10.** In aspen groves, grazing management would allow for natural regeneration with a diversity of vegetation species and age class.

**LG-I-MA- 11.** Even though livestock grazing would not be authorized in the Jarbidge Canyon, trailing to the Wilkins Island Allotment would be permitted along the existing route across the East Fork of the Jarbidge River and up an un-named draw. Riders would be used to herd livestock to ensure livestock do not remain in the riparian zone after the crossing.

**LG-I-MA- 12.** Targeted grazing could be used as a tool to help meet objectives in the *Vegetation Communities, Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants*, and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections. Targeted grazing would be used as a vegetation treatment and would not be part of permitted livestock grazing use; it can be used throughout the planning area, including in areas unavailable for permitted livestock grazing use. Targeted grazing treatments are localized, short-term intensive grazing use to reduce fine fuels or reduce other undesirable vegetation. Targeted grazing could be accomplished using any kind of livestock (e.g., cattle, sheep, goats). Temporary water and fencing may be necessary to implement targeted grazing treatments. Most targeted grazing treatments for fuels reduction would occur in the late spring and early summer.

### **Range Infrastructure**

**LG-I-O- 3.** Manage (e.g., maintain, improve, build, realign, remove) range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments, consistent with resource objectives.

### **Range Infrastructure**

**LG-I-MA- 13.** Consider installing or constructing new pipelines on a case-by-case basis where they would help meet resource objectives. New pipelines would not be allowed within WSAs; eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs; and ACECs.

**LG-I-MA- 14.** Maintain existing pipelines for livestock or wild horse use. Modify any pipeline where monitoring determines the pipeline is causing resource objectives to not be met.

**LG-I-MA- 15.** Consider installing or constructing new reservoirs or wells on a case-by-case basis where they would help meet resource objectives.

**LG-I-MA- 16.** Maintain existing reservoirs or wells for livestock, wildlife, or wild horse use. Modify reservoirs or wells contributing to not meeting resource objectives, as identified through monitoring.

**LG-I-MA- 17.** Consider new spring developments on a case-by-case basis. New spring developments must meet resource objectives, avoid or minimize ground disturbance, protect the spring source, and ensure adequate water to maintain the wetland. Other mitigation may be required to minimize impacts to cultural and natural resources and tribal rights, interests, and values.

**LG-I-MA- 18.** Modify existing spring developments with wetlands rated as NF, FAR-DN, or FAR to improve wetland areas by protecting the spring source and ensuring adequate water to support spring hydrology and associated riparian vegetation.

**LG-I-MA- 19.** Place minerals, supplements, new troughs, new reservoirs, and new holding facilities more than 300 feet from canyon rims and playas. Avoid placing salting, minerals, supplements, troughs, reservoirs, and holding facilities in the protective corridor of the Oregon NHT, Kelton Freight Road, or Toana Freight Road. Ensure salting, minerals, supplements, new troughs, new reservoirs, and new holding facilities are located to avoid conflicts with other cultural resources as well.

**LG-I-MA- 20.** Adjust locations of livestock watering facilities and salting/supplements in sage-grouse and other upland game bird habitat on a case-by-case basis to provide adequate nesting and winter cover.

**LG-I-MA- 21.** Avoid placing new water developments in key sage-grouse habitat unless they would contribute to meeting resource objectives for sage-grouse. If a new water development is necessary, it should be located in a previously disturbed area.

**LG-I-MA- 22.** Consider installing or constructing new fences on a case-by-case basis to meet resource objectives.

**LG-I-MA- 23.** Remove fences that are not needed. Maintain fences to BLM specifications; the amount of fence in an allotment would be appropriate to objectives for livestock grazing and resource management. Modify, remove, or relocate fences contributing to not meeting resource objectives, as identified through monitoring.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative II***

### **Goal**

**LG-II-G- 1.** Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to maintain or improve the condition of forage resources while maintaining native plant communities and habitat for sage-grouse.

### **Objectives**

#### ***Forage and Grazing Management Practices***

**LG-II-O- 1.** In native plant communities excluding the Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to help maintain native plant species diversity and abundance, focusing on plant reproductive and physiological needs.

**LG-II-O- 2.** In non-native perennial communities including Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to sustain the perennial forage base and allow for other commercial uses.

### **Allocations**

#### ***Forage and Grazing Management Practices***

**LG-II-A- 1.** The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing (1,406,000 acres). The following areas would not be available for livestock grazing (59,000 acres):

- Canyons associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers and Salmon Falls Creek,
- Reference areas,
- Wildlife Tracts, and
- Areas not contained within grazing allotments.

See Map 46 for locations.

**LG-II-A- 2.** Allocate vegetation production as follows:

- Native perennial grass production
  - 50% to 60% to watershed and wildlife
  - 40% to 50% to livestock
- Non-native perennial grass production
  - 40% to 50% to watershed and wildlife
  - 50% to 60% to livestock
- Annual grass production
  - 20% to 30% to watershed and wildlife
  - 70% to 80% to livestock
- Shrub and forb production
  - 84% to 88% to watershed and wildlife
  - 12% to 16% to livestock

These vegetation allocations would be implemented during the permit renewal process. Allocations would only be adjusted during permit renewal based on available data. The purpose of allocating vegetation is to determine the total AUMs available for livestock grazing in the planning area. Allocation percentages are not the same as utilization, as the allocation is used to identify the total number of AUMs for livestock, while utilization identifies the amount of vegetation used by livestock in a specific area. Allocation is not intended to prescribe what livestock can actually consume. Livestock

use of specific vegetation types would be managed through the implementation of grazing use indicators developed on an allotment-specific basis.

**LG-II-A- 3.** Forage available for livestock use would likely change as the RMP is implemented, although allocation percentages would remain the same. Changes to AUMs in the future would be determined after adequate monitoring and site-specific NEPA analysis through future permit renewal processes.

## **Management Actions**

### ***Forage and Grazing Management Practices***

**LG-II-MA- 1.** Utilization would be determined on a case-by-case basis to meet objectives in the *Livestock Grazing, Upland Vegetation, Riparian Areas and Wetlands, Fish and Wildlife, and Special Status Species* sections.

**LG-II-MA- 2.** Reserve Common Allotments may be established to facilitate vegetation treatment projects and to provide increased livestock grazing management flexibility. Reserve Common Allotments may be established on acquired lands; in allotments where permits are relinquished or cancelled; or by agreement with a permittee; however, permits would not be cancelled for the purpose of establishing a Reserve Common Allotment. Reserve Common Allotments may be created from whole or partial allotments and can be permanent or temporary.

**LG-II-MA- 3.** Considerations for selecting areas to be used as Reserve Common Allotments include:

- Whether the area has special management concerns, such as habitat for Type 1 BLM Sensitive species, slickspot peppergrass, or redband trout; noxious weeds or invasive plants; or wild horses;
- Whether the area has intermingled private or State lands; and
- Whether the area can sustain grazing use without significant resource impacts.

**LG-II-MA- 4.** No more than 10% of the AUMs for livestock within the planning area can be within Reserve Common Allotments without approval from the BLM State Director.

**LG-II-MA- 5.** Priority for using Reserve Common Allotments would be as follows:

- Permittees and lessees whose normally permitted allotments are temporarily unavailable due to wildland fire,
- Permittees and lessees whose normally permitted allotments are under an approved vegetation treatment project (e.g., restoration, fuels treatments), and
- Permittees and lessees whose normally permitted allotments are temporarily unavailable due to insect outbreaks

**LG-II-MA- 6.** Permittees within the planning area would have the highest priority for using Reserve Common Allotments; permittees within the Twin Falls District would have second priority.

**LG-II-MA- 7.** When a Reserve Common Allotment is established, a management plan for the allotment will be developed to ensure achievement of or movement towards meeting Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health.

**LG-II-MA- 8.** TNR would be allowed except in pastures containing areas within a WSA boundary. Criteria for issuing TNR in a particular pasture would include:

- TNR may be allowed in years where additional forage for livestock is temporarily available, as determined by utilization levels,
- TNR must be consistent with the drought management guidelines,
- TNR may not be allowed if grazing use criteria are exceeded in any pasture in planning area allotments within the operation of the permittee, and
- TNR must be consistent with other resource objectives.

**LG-II-MA- 9.** Manage livestock grazing in allotments containing more than 50% native plant communities to provide a variety of residual cover heights to meet the needs of the ground-nesting birds present in an allotment.

**LG-II-MA- 10.** Follow BLM guidelines for livestock grazing management for managing sage-grouse habitat (e.g., 2006 *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-Grouse in Idaho*, Owyhee County and Jarbidge Local Working Group Sage-grouse Plans).

**LG-II-MA- 11.** No date restrictions on livestock grazing in big game winter range would be made.

**LG-II-MA- 12.** Even though livestock grazing would not be authorized in the Jarbidge Canyons, trailing to the Wilkins Island Allotment would be permitted along the existing route across the East Fork of the Jarbidge River and up an un-named draw. Riders would be used to herd livestock to ensure livestock do not remain in the riparian zone after the crossing.

**LG-II-MA- 13.** Targeted grazing could be used as a tool to help meet objectives in the *Vegetation Communities, Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants*, and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections. Targeted grazing would be used as a vegetation treatment and would not be part of permitted livestock grazing use; it can be used throughout the planning area, including in areas unavailable for permitted livestock grazing use. Targeted grazing treatments are localized, short-term intensive grazing use to reduce fine fuels or reduce other undesirable vegetation. Targeted grazing could be accomplished using any kind of livestock (e.g., cattle, sheep, goats). Temporary water and fencing may be necessary to implement targeted grazing treatments. Most targeted grazing treatments for fuels reduction would occur in the late spring and early summer.

**Range Infrastructure**

**LG-II-O- 3.** Manage (e.g., maintain, improve, build, realign, remove) range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments.

**Range Infrastructure**

**LG-II-MA- 14.** Consider installing or constructing new pipelines on a case-by-case basis to promote livestock distribution or meet resource objectives.

**LG-II-MA- 15.** Maintain existing pipelines for livestock use. Modify any pipeline where monitoring determines the pipeline is causing resource objectives to not be met.

**LG-II-MA- 16.** Consider installing or constructing new reservoirs or wells on a case-by-case basis to promote livestock distribution or meet resource objectives.

**LG-II-MA- 17.** Maintain existing reservoirs or wells for livestock use. Modify reservoirs or wells contributing to not meeting resource objectives, as identified through monitoring.

**LG-II-MA- 18.** Consider new spring developments on a case-by-case basis. New spring developments must meet resource objectives, avoid or minimize ground disturbance, protect the spring source, and ensure adequate water to maintain the wetland. Other mitigation may be required to minimize impacts to cultural and natural resources and tribal rights, interests, and values.

**LG-II-MA- 19.** Modify spring developments with wetlands rated as NF or FAR-DN to improve wetland areas by protecting the spring source and ensuring adequate water to support spring hydrology and associated riparian vegetation.

**LG-II-MA- 20.** Ensure salting, minerals, supplements, new troughs, new reservoirs, and new holding facilities are located to avoid conflicts with cultural resources.

**LG-II-MA- 21.** Adjust locations of livestock watering facilities and salting/supplements in sage-grouse habitat on a case-by-case basis to provide adequate nesting and winter cover.

**LG-II-MA- 22.** Consider installing or constructing new fences on a case-by-case basis to promote livestock distribution and management or to meet resource objectives.

**LG-II-MA- 23.** Maintain fences to BLM specifications; the amount of fence in an allotment would be appropriate to objectives for livestock grazing and resource management.

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**Management Specific to Alternative III**

**Goal**

**LG-III-G- 1.** Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to reduce wildland fire size and intensity while maintaining habitat for sage-grouse.

**Objectives****Forage and Grazing Management Practices**

**LG-III-O- 1.** In native plant communities including the Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to help maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance, focusing on plant reproductive and physiological needs.

**LG-III-O- 2.** Manage livestock grazing to reduce fuels in non-native perennial communities.

**Allocations****Forage and Grazing Management Practices**

**LG-III-A- 1.** The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing (1,404,000 acres). The following areas would not be available for livestock grazing (61,000 acres):

- Canyons associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers and Salmon Falls Creek,
- Reference areas,
- Wildlife Tracts, and
- Areas not contained within grazing allotments.

See Map 47 for locations.

**LG-III-A- 2.** Allocate vegetation production as follows:

- Native perennial grass production
  - 55% to 65% to watershed and wildlife
    - Less than 1% to wild horses
  - 35% to 45% to livestock
- Non-native perennial grass production
  - 50% to 60% to watershed and wildlife
  - Less than 1% to wild horses
  - 40% to 50% to livestock
- Annual grass production
  - 50% to 60% to watershed and wildlife
  - 40% to 50% to livestock
- Shrub and forb production
  - 86% to 89% to watershed and wildlife
  - 11% to 14% to livestock

These vegetation allocations would be implemented during the permit renewal process. The purpose of allocating vegetation is to determine the total AUMs available for livestock grazing in the planning area. Allocation percentages are not the same as utilization, as the allocation is used to identify the total number of AUMs for livestock, while utilization identifies the amount of vegetation used by livestock in a specific area. Allocation is not intended to prescribe what livestock can actually consume. Livestock use of specific vegetation types would be managed through the implementation of grazing use indicators developed on an allotment-specific basis.

**LG-III-A- 3.** Forage available for livestock use would likely change as the RMP is implemented, although allocation percentages would remain the same. Changes to AUMs in the future would be determined after adequate monitoring and site-specific NEPA analysis through future permit renewal processes.

**Management Actions****Forage and Grazing Management Practices**

**LG-III-MA- 1.** Allotment and pasture boundaries may be modified to facilitate the use of permitted livestock grazing to achieve fuels reduction objectives. Modifications may include but not be limited to aggregating allotments into larger allotments and realigning pasture boundary fences to concentrate livestock use for fuels reduction.

**LG-III-MA- 2.** Utilization would be determined on a case-by-case basis to meet objectives in the *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management, Riparian Areas and Wetlands, and Special Status Species* sections.

**LG-III-MA- 3.** Reserve Common Allotments may be established to facilitate vegetation treatment projects and to provide increased livestock grazing management flexibility. Reserve Common Allotments may be established on acquired lands; in allotments where permits are relinquished, sold, or cancelled; or by agreement with a permittee; however, permits would not be cancelled for the purpose of establishing a Reserve Common Allotment. Reserve Common Allotments may be created from whole or partial allotments and can be permanent or temporary.

**LG-III-MA- 4.** Considerations for selecting areas to be used as Reserve Common Allotments include:

- Whether the area has special management concerns, such as habitat for Type 1 BLM Sensitive species, slickspot peppergrass, or redband trout; noxious weeds or invasive plants; or wild horses;
- Whether the area has intermingled private and/or State lands; and
- Whether the area can sustain grazing use without significant resource impacts.

**LG-III-MA- 5.** No more than 10% of the AUMs for livestock within the planning area can be within Reserve Common Allotments without approval from the BLM State Director.

**LG-III-MA- 6.** Priority for using Reserve Common Allotments would be as follows:

- Permittees and lessees whose normally permitted allotments are temporarily unavailable due to wildland fire,
- Permittees and lessees whose normally permitted allotments are under an approved vegetation treatment project (e.g., restoration, fuels treatments), and
- Permittees and lessees whose normally permitted allotments are temporarily unavailable due to insect outbreaks

**LG-III-MA- 7.** Permittees within the planning area would have the highest priority for using Reserve Common Allotments; permittees within the Twin Falls District would have second priority.

**LG-III-MA- 8.** When a Reserve Common Allotment is established, a management plan for the allotment will be developed to ensure achievement of or movement towards meeting Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health.

**LG-III-MA- 9.** TNR would be allowed except in the following areas:

- Pastures containing areas within a WSA boundary,
- The riparian pasture of the Lower Saylor Creek Allotment in the Sand Point ACEC,
- Pastures comprised of more than 50% big game winter range, or
- Pastures comprised of more than 50% native communities (by cover) excluding Sandberg/non-native areas.

**LG-III-MA- 10.** Criteria for issuing TNR in a particular pasture would include:

- TNR may be allowed in years where additional forage for livestock is temporarily available, as determined by utilization levels,
- TNR must be consistent with the drought management guidelines,
- TNR may not be allowed if grazing use criteria are exceeded in any pasture in planning area allotments within the operation of the permittee, and
- TNR must be consistent with other resource objectives.

**LG-III-MA- 11.** Manage livestock grazing in allotments containing more than 50% native plant communities to provide a variety of residual cover heights to meet the needs of the ground-nesting birds present in an allotment.

**LG-III-MA- 12.** Follow BLM guidelines for livestock grazing management for managing sage-grouse habitat (e.g., 2006 *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-Grouse in Idaho*, Owyhee County and Jarbidge Local Working Group Sage-grouse Plans).

**LG-III-MA- 13.** Livestock grazing may be considered on a case-by-case basis in a portion of big game winter range in native shrubland communities during the winter (December through March). No date restrictions on livestock grazing in big game winter range in other vegetation communities would be made.

**LG-III-MA- 14.** Adjust livestock grazing south of Sheep Creek so livestock seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in those pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat (Appendix H).

**LG-III-MA- 15.** In aspen groves, grazing management would allow for natural regeneration with a diversity of vegetation species and age class.

**LG-III-MA- 16.** Even though livestock grazing would not be authorized in the Jarbidge Canyons, trailing to the Wilkins Island Allotment would be permitted along the existing route across the East Fork of the Jarbidge River and up an un-named draw. Riders would be used to herd livestock to ensure livestock do not remain in the riparian zone after the crossing.

**LG-III-MA- 17.** Targeted grazing could be used as a tool to help meet objectives in the *Vegetation Communities, Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants*, and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections. Targeted grazing would be used as a vegetation treatment and would not be part of permitted livestock grazing use; it can be used throughout the planning area, including in areas unavailable for permitted livestock grazing use. Targeted grazing treatments are localized, short-term intensive grazing use to reduce fine fuels or reduce other undesirable vegetation. Targeted grazing could be accomplished using any kind of livestock (e.g., cattle, sheep, goats). Temporary water and fencing may be necessary to implement

targeted grazing treatments. Most targeted grazing treatments for fuels reduction would occur in the late spring and early summer.

**Range Infrastructure**

**LG-III-O- 3.** Manage (e.g. maintain, improve, build, realign, remove) range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments and support fire suppression efforts.

**Range Infrastructure**

**LG-III-MA- 18.** Consider installing or constructing new pipelines on a case-by-case basis where they would help meet resource objectives or to aid in fire suppression.

**LG-III-MA- 19.** Maintain existing pipelines for livestock and wild horse use and fire suppression. Modify any pipeline where monitoring determines the pipeline is causing resource objectives to not be met.

**LG-III-MA- 20.** Consider installing or constructing new reservoirs or wells on a case-by-case basis to meet resource objectives or aid in fire suppression.

**LG-III-MA- 21.** Maintain existing reservoirs or wells for livestock or wild horse use and fire suppression. Modify reservoirs and wells contributing to not meeting objectives for resources or fire suppression, as identified through monitoring.

**LG-III-MA- 22.** Consider new spring developments on a case-by-case basis. New spring developments must meet resource objectives, avoid or minimize ground disturbance, protect the spring source, and ensure adequate water to maintain the wetland. Other mitigation may be required to minimize impacts to cultural and natural resources and tribal rights, interests, and values.

**LG-III-MA- 23.** Modify spring developments with wetlands rated as NF, FAR-DN, or FAR to improve wetland areas by protecting the spring source and ensuring adequate water to support spring hydrology and associated riparian vegetation.

**LG-III-MA- 24.** Place salting, minerals, supplements, new troughs, new reservoirs, and new holding facilities more than 300 feet from canyon rims and playas. Avoid placing salting, minerals, supplements, troughs, reservoirs, and holding facilities in the protective corridor of the Oregon NHT, Kelton Freight Road, or Toana Freight Road. Ensure salting, minerals, supplements, new troughs, new reservoirs, and new holding facilities in other areas are located to avoid conflicts with other cultural resources as well.

**LG-III-MA- 25.** Adjust locations of livestock watering facilities and salting/supplements in sage-grouse habitat on a case-by-case basis to provide adequate nesting and winter cover.

**LG-III-MA- 26.** Consider installing or constructing new fences on a case-by-case basis to meet resource objectives.

**LG-III-MA- 27.** Remove fences that are not needed. Maintain fences to BLM specifications; the amount of fence in an allotment would be appropriate to objectives for livestock grazing and resource management. Modify, remove, or relocate fences contributing to not meeting resource objectives, as identified through monitoring.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)**

### **Goal**

**LG-IV-G- 1.** Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to support restoration of the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function and to reduce fragmentation of habitat for sage-grouse and other native species.

### **Objectives**

#### **Forage and Grazing Management Practices**

**LG-IV-O- 1.** In native plant communities including the Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to help maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance, focusing on plant reproductive and physiological needs.

**LG-IV-O- 2.** In non-native perennial communities, manage livestock grazing to achieve restoration objectives outlined in the *Upland Vegetation* section.

### **Allocations**

#### **Forage and Grazing Management Practices**

**LG-IV-A- 1.** The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing (1,320,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 1,352,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative). The following areas would not be available for livestock grazing (145,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 113,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative):

- Canyons or riparian corridors associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers and the following creeks: Deer (NV), Dave, Rocky Canyon, and Salmon Falls;
  - Inside Desert ACEC;
  - Wildlife Tracts;
  - Reference areas; and
  - Areas not contained within grazing allotments.
- See Maps 48 and 49 for locations.

**LG-IV-A- 2.** Allocate vegetation production as follows:

- Native perennial grass production
  - 75% to 85% to watershed and wildlife
  - Less than 1% to wild horses
  - 15% to 25% to livestock
- Non-native perennial grass production
  - 70% to 80% to watershed and wildlife
  - Less than 1% to wild horses
  - 20% to 30% to livestock
- Annual grass production
  - 100% to watershed and wildlife
- Shrub and forb production
  - 100% to watershed & wildlife

These vegetation allocations would be implemented during the permit renewal process. The purpose of allocating vegetation is to determine the total AUMs available for livestock grazing in the planning area. Allocation percentages are not the same as utilization, as the allocation is used to identify the total number of AUMs for livestock, while utilization identifies the amount of vegetation used by livestock in a specific area. Allocation is not intended to prescribe what livestock can actually consume. Livestock use of specific vegetation types would be managed through the implementation of grazing use indicators developed on an allotment-specific basis.

**LG-IV-A- 3.** Forage available for livestock use would likely change as the RMP is implemented, although allocation percentages would remain the same. Changes to AUMs in the future would be determined after adequate monitoring and site-specific NEPA analysis through future permit renewal processes.

## Management Actions

### ***Forage and Grazing Management Practices***

**LG-IV-MA- 1.** Utilization would be determined on a case-by-case basis to meet objectives in the *Upland Vegetation, Riparian Areas and Wetlands, Fish and Wildlife, and Special Status Species* sections.

**LG-IV-MA- 2.** Reserve Common Allotments may be established to facilitate vegetation treatment projects and to provide increased livestock grazing management flexibility. Reserve Common Allotments may be established on acquired lands; in allotments where permits are relinquished, sold, or cancelled; or by agreement with a permittee; however, permits would not be cancelled for the purpose of establishing a Reserve Common Allotment. Reserve Common Allotments may be created from whole or partial allotments and can be permanent or temporary.

**LG-IV-MA- 3.** Considerations for selecting areas to be used as Reserve Common Allotments include:

- Whether the area has special management concerns, such as habitat for Type 1 Sensitive species, slickspot peppergrass, or redband trout; noxious weeds or invasive plants; or wild horses;
- Whether the area has intermingled private and/or State lands; and
- Whether the area can sustain grazing use without significant resource impacts.

**LG-IV-MA- 4.** No more than 10% of the AUMs for livestock within the planning area can be within Reserve Common Allotments without approval from the State Director.

**LG-IV-MA- 5.** Priority for using Reserve Common Allotments would be as follows:

- Permittees and lessees whose normally permitted allotments are temporarily unavailable due to wildland fire,
- Permittees and lessees whose normally permitted allotments are under an approved vegetation treatment project (e.g., restoration, fuels treatments), and
- Permittees and lessees whose normally permitted allotments are temporarily unavailable due to insect outbreaks

**LG-IV-MA- 6.** Permittees within the planning area would have the highest priority for using Reserve Common Allotments; permittees within the Twin Falls District would have second priority.

**LG-IV-MA- 7.** When a Reserve Common Allotment is established, a management plan for the allotment will be developed to ensure achievement of or movement towards meeting Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health.

**LG-IV-MA- 8.** TNR would be allowed except in the following areas:

- Pastures containing areas within a WSA boundary,
- The riparian pasture of the Lower Saylor Creek Allotment in the Sand Point ACEC,
- Pastures comprised of more than 50% big game winter range, or

- Pastures comprised of more than 25% native communities (by cover) excluding Sandberg/non-native areas.

**LG-IV-MA- 9.** Criteria for issuing TNR in a particular pasture would include:

- TNR may be allowed in years where additional forage for livestock is temporarily available, as determined by utilization levels,
- TNR must be consistent with the drought management guidelines,
- TNR may not be allowed if grazing use criteria are exceeded in any pasture in planning area allotments within the operation of the permittee, and
- TNR must be consistent with other resource objectives.

**LG-IV-MA- 10.** Manage livestock grazing to provide a variety of residual cover heights to meet the needs of the ground-nesting birds present in an allotment.

**LG-IV-MA- 11.** Follow BLM guidelines for livestock grazing management for managing sage-grouse habitat (e.g., 2006 *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-Grouse in Idaho*, Owyhee County and Jarbidge Local Working Group Sage-grouse Plans).

**LG-IV-MA- 12.** Livestock grazing may be considered on a case-by-case basis in a portion of big game winter range in native shrubland communities during the winter (December through March). No date restrictions on livestock grazing in big game winter range in other vegetation communities would be made.

**LG-IV-MA- 13.** During big game calving, fawning, and lambing (Appendix H), livestock grazing management would provide adequate cover for big game species, appropriate to site potential.

**LG-IV-MA- 14.** Adjust livestock grazing so livestock seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in those pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat (Appendix H).

**LG-IV-MA- 15.** In aspen groves, grazing management would allow for natural regeneration with a diversity of vegetation species and age class.

**LG-IV-MA- 16.** Even though livestock grazing would not be authorized in the Jarbidge Canyons, trailing to the Wilkins Island Allotment would be permitted on existing roads using riders to herd livestock.

**LG-IV-MA- 17.** Targeted grazing could be used as a tool to help meet objectives in the *Vegetation Communities, Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants*, and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections. Targeted grazing would be used as a vegetation treatment and would not be part of permitted livestock grazing use; it can be used throughout the planning area, including in areas unavailable for permitted livestock grazing use. Targeted grazing treatments are localized, short-term intensive grazing use to reduce fine fuels or reduce other undesirable vegetation. Targeted grazing could be

accomplished using any kind of livestock (e.g., cattle, sheep, goats). Temporary water and fencing may be necessary to implement targeted grazing treatments. Most targeted grazing treatments for fuels reduction would occur in the late spring and early summer.

### ***Range Infrastructure***

**LG-IV-O- 3.** Manage (e.g., maintain, improve, build, realign, remove) range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments and support resource objectives.

### ***Range Infrastructure***

**LG-IV-MA- 18.** Consider installing or constructing new pipelines on a case-by-case basis where they would help meet resource objectives. New pipelines would not be allowed within WSAs; eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs; and ACECs.

**LG-IV-MA- 19.** Maintain existing pipelines for livestock or wild horse use. Modify any pipeline where monitoring determines the pipeline is causing resource objectives to not be met.

**LG-IV-MA- 20.** Consider installing or constructing new reservoirs or wells on a case-by-case basis where they would help meet resource objectives.

**LG-IV-MA- 21.** Maintain existing reservoirs or wells for livestock, wildlife, or wild horse use. Modify reservoirs or wells contributing to not meeting resource objectives, as identified through monitoring.

**LG-IV-MA- 22.** Consider new spring developments on a case-by-case basis. New spring developments must meet resource objectives, avoid or minimize ground disturbance, protect the spring source, and ensure adequate water to maintain the wetland. Other mitigation may be required to minimize impacts to cultural and natural resources and tribal rights, interests, and values.

**LG-IV-MA- 23.** Modify spring developments with wetlands rated as NF, FAR-DN, or FAR to improve wetland areas by protecting the spring source and ensuring adequate water to support spring hydrology and associated riparian vegetation.

**LG-IV-MA- 24.** Place salting, minerals, supplements, new holding facilities, or new troughs or reservoirs more than 300 feet away from playas, canyon rims, and the protective corridors of the Oregon NHT, Kelton Freight Road, or Toana Freight Road. Ensure salting, minerals, supplements, new troughs, new reservoirs, and new holding facilities in other areas are located to avoid conflicts with other cultural resources as well.

**LG-IV-MA- 25.** Adjust locations of livestock watering facilities and salting/supplements in sage-grouse and other upland game bird habitat on a case-by-case basis to provide adequate nesting and winter cover.

**LG-IV-MA- 26.** Avoid placing new water developments in sage-grouse habitat unless they would contribute to meeting resource objectives for sage-grouse. If a new water development is necessary, it should be located in a previously disturbed area.

**LG-IV-MA- 27.** Consider installing or constructing fences on a case-by-case basis to meet resource objectives.

**LG-IV-MA- 28.** Remove fences that are not needed. Maintain fences to BLM specifications; the amount of fence in an allotment would be appropriate to objectives for livestock grazing and resource management. Modify, remove, or relocate fences contributing to not meeting resource objectives, as identified through monitoring.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative V***

### **Goal**

**LG-V-G- 1.** Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to move vegetation toward historic plant communities that provide habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.

### **Objectives**

#### ***Forage and Grazing Management Practices***

**LG-V-O- 1.** In native plant communities including the Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to help maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance, focusing on plant reproductive and physiological needs.

**LG-V-O- 2.** In non-native perennial communities, manage livestock grazing to maintain and improve shrub cover for sage-grouse.

### **Allocations**

#### ***Forage and Grazing Management Practices***

**LG-V-A- 1.** The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing (1,156,000 acres). The following areas would be not available for livestock grazing (309,000 acres):

- Canyons or riparian corridors associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers and the following creeks: Upper Cedar, Deer (ID), Deer (NV), Clover, Rocky Canyon, Flat, Shack, Dave, China, and Salmon Falls;
  - Middle Snake, Sand Point, and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs;
  - The Brown's Bench/China Mountain area;
  - Wildlife Tracts;
  - Reference areas; and
  - Areas not contained within grazing allotments.
- See Map 50 for locations.

**LG-V-A- 2.** Allocate vegetation production as follows:

- Native perennial grass production
  - 80% to 90% to watershed and wildlife
  - Less than 1% to wild horses
  - 10% to 20% to livestock
- Non-native perennial grass production
  - 80% to 90% to watershed and wildlife
  - Less than 1% to wild horses
  - 10% to 20% to livestock
- Annual grass production
  - 100% to watershed and wildlife
- Shrub and forb production
  - 100% to watershed & wildlife

These vegetation allocations would be implemented during the permit renewal process. The purpose of allocating vegetation is to determine the total AUMs available for livestock grazing in the planning area. Allocation percentages are not the same as utilization, as the allocation is used to identify the total number of AUMs for livestock, while utilization identifies the amount of vegetation used by livestock in a specific area. Allocation is not intended to prescribe what livestock can actually consume. Livestock use of specific vegetation types would be managed through the implementation of grazing use indicators developed on an allotment-specific basis.

**LG-V-A- 3.** Forage available for livestock use would likely change as the RMP is implemented, although allocation percentages would

remain the same. Changes to AUMs in the future would be determined after adequate monitoring and site-specific NEPA analysis through future permit renewal processes.

### Management Actions

#### ***Forage and Grazing Management Practices***

**LG-V-MA- 1.** Utilization would be determined on a case-by-case basis to meet objectives in the *Upland Vegetation, Riparian Areas and Wetlands, Fish and Wildlife, and Special Status Species* sections.

**LG-V-MA- 2.** Forage on acquired lands and in allotments where permits are relinquished, sold, or cancelled would be held for the life of the plan for wildlife habitat and watershed protection. Reserve Common Allotments would not be established and new grazing permits would not be issued for these lands for the life of the plan.

**LG-V-MA- 3.** TNR would not be issued.

**LG-V-MA- 4.** Manage livestock grazing to provide a variety of residual cover heights to meet the needs of the ground-nesting birds present in an allotment.

**LG-V-MA- 5.** Follow BLM guidelines for livestock grazing management for managing sage-grouse habitat (e.g., 2006 *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-Grouse in Idaho*, Owyhee County and Jarbidge Local Working Group Sage-grouse Plans).

**LG-V-MA- 6.** Livestock grazing would not be allowed in big game winter range during the winter (December through March).

**LG-V-MA- 7.** Adjust livestock grazing so livestock seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in those pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat (Appendix H).

**LG-V-MA- 8.** In aspen groves, grazing management would allow for natural regeneration with a diversity of vegetation species and age class.

**LG-V-MA- 9.** Even though livestock grazing would not be authorized in the Jarbidge Canyons, trailing to the Wilkins Island Allotment would be permitted on existing roads using riders to herd livestock.

**LG-V-MA- 10.** Targeted grazing would not be allowed to be used as a tool to help meet objectives in the *Vegetation Communities, Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants, and Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections

**Range Infrastructure**

**LG-V-O- 3.** Manage (e.g., maintain, improve, build, realign, remove) range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments and support resource objectives.

**Range Infrastructure**

**LG-V-MA- 11.** New pipelines would not be authorized.

**LG-V-MA- 12.** Maintain existing pipelines for livestock or wild horse use. Modify any pipeline where monitoring determines the pipeline is causing resource objectives to not be met.

**LG-V-MA- 13.** Consider installing or constructing new reservoirs or wells on a case-by-case basis where they would help meet resource objectives.

**LG-V-MA- 14.** Maintain existing reservoirs or wells for livestock, wildlife, or wild horse use. Modify reservoirs and wells contributing to not meeting resource objectives, as identified through monitoring.

**LG-V-MA- 15.** New spring developments would not be authorized.

**LG-V-MA- 16.** Modify spring developments with wetlands rated as NF, FAR-DN, or FAR to improve wetland areas by protecting the spring source and ensuring adequate water to support spring hydrology and associated riparian vegetation.

**LG-V-MA- 17.** Place salting, minerals, supplements, new holding facilities, or new troughs or reservoirs more than 300 feet from playas, canyon rims, and the protective corridors of the Oregon NHT, Kelton Freight Road, or Toana Freight Road. Ensure salting, minerals, supplements, new troughs, new reservoirs, and new holding facilities in other areas are located to avoid conflicts with other cultural resources as well.

**LG-V-MA- 18.** Adjust locations of livestock watering facilities and salting/supplements in sage-grouse and other upland game bird habitat on a case-by-case basis to provide adequate nesting and winter cover.

**LG-V-MA- 19.** Avoid placing new water developments in sage-grouse habitat unless they would contribute to meeting resource objectives for sage-grouse. If a new water development is necessary, it should be located in a previously disturbed area.

**LG-V-MA- 20.** Consider installing or constructing fences on a case-by-case basis to meet resource objectives.

**LG-V-MA- 21.** Remove fences that are not needed. Maintain fences to BLM specifications; the amount of fence in an allotment would be appropriate to objectives for livestock grazing and resource management. Modify, remove, or relocate fences contributing to not meeting resource objective, as identified through monitoring.

## 2.4.2. Recreation

### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

#### Goal

No goal stated.

### Objective

**REC-NA-O- 1.** Protect the Salmon Falls Creek Canyon (rim-to-rim) for its natural and scenic values through special designation and management as an SRMA.

### Allocations

**REC-NA-A- 1.** Continue managing the following SRMAs:

- Hagerman-Owsley Bridge SRMA (2,700 acres)
- Oregon Trail SRMA (7,000 acres)
- Bruneau-Jarbidge River SRMA (57,000 acres)
- Jarbidge Forks SRMA (4,000 acres)
- Salmon Falls Creek SRMA (6,000 acres)

Note: These SRMAs were never mapped in the 1987 RMP.

**REC-NA-O- 2.** Designate and manage 5,000 acres of the forks of the Jarbidge River as an SRMA.

**REC-NA-O- 3.** Manage MUA 9 for its recreational and off-road vehicle values and designate it as an SRMA (Map 4).

### Management Actions

**REC-NA-MA- 1.** Develop Recreation Activity Management Plans for the Hagerman-Owsley Bridge, Oregon Trail, Bruneau-Jarbidge River, Jarbidge Forks, and Salmon Falls Creek SRMAs.

**REC-NA-MA- 2.** Consider a variety of means to maintain or improve recreation opportunities.

**REC-NA-MA- 3.** Some areas may be subject to special restrictions to protect resources or eliminate or reduce conflicts among uses.

**REC-NA-MA- 4.** Provide and maintain recreation opportunities and facilities to meet existing or anticipated demand, for public safety, and to protect recreation resources.

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## ***Management Common to All Action Alternatives***

### Goal

**REC-CA-G- 1.** Provide a variety of dispersed and developed recreational opportunities and experiences for visitors and residents while sustaining the recreation resource base and avoiding, minimizing, or compensating for resource impacts.

### Objective

**REC-CA-O- 1.** Provide basic information on recreational opportunities in the Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). Provide access and minimal facilities (e.g., signs, protective fences) as needed to ensure visitor health and safety, reduce user conflict, and protect resources.

### Allocations

See allocations for specific alternatives.

### Management Actions

**REC-CA-MA- 1.** Develop implementation and monitoring plans for SRMAs to address specific needs.

**REC-CA-MA- 2.** Where appropriate, implement management methods to protect riparian resources, special status species, and wildlife habitat while enhancing recreation opportunities. Management methods may include, but not be limited to, limitation of visitor numbers, camping and travel controls, implementation of fees, and scheduling restrictions to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife during important seasonal periods.

**REC-CA-MA- 3.** Recreation activities in riparian areas would follow the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).

**REC-CA-MA- 4.** Dispersed camping would be allowed. Dispersed camping may be closed or limited seasonally or as impacts or environmental conditions warrant.

**REC-CA-MA- 5.** If campground fees are implemented, they would not apply to Federally recognized tribes exercising treaty rights or engaging in traditional cultural practices.

**REC-CA-MA- 6.** SRPs would be issued as a discretionary action as a means to contribute to meeting management objectives, provide opportunities for economic activity, facilitate recreational use of the public lands, control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors. Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

**REC-CA-MA- 7.** All SRPs would contain standard stipulations appropriate for the type of activity and may include additional stipulations necessary to protect lands or resources, reduce user conflicts, or minimize health and safety concerns (SRP Standard Form).

**REC-CA-MA- 8.** There would be no mechanized or motorized events in WSAs while these areas are managed under the IMP.

**REC-CA-MA- 9.** Consider SRPs within ACECs on a case-by-case basis with mitigation for negative impacts to relevant and important values.

**REC-CA-MA- 10.** Include standard stipulations to minimize impacts to bighorn sheep during lambing periods in SRPs for whitewater recreation.

**REC-CA-MA- 11.** Where monitoring determines whitewater use is impairing resources or recreational experience, additional management actions may be taken including, but not limited to:

- Restriction on number of launches per day,
- Implementation of fees for private use,
- Limitations on number of persons per day, or
- Other types of allocation systems.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative I***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**REC-I-O- 1.** Manage 341,800 acres as SRMAs and 1,031,700 acres as an ERMA.

### **Allocations**

**REC-I-A- 1.** Designate the following SRMAs:

- Deadman/Yahoo SRMA (36,000 acres)
- Balanced Rock SRMA (500 acres)
- Little Pilgrim SRMA (300 acres)
- Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA (14,000 acres)
- Jarbidge Forks SRMA (2,000 acres)

- Canyonlands SRMA (149,000 acres)
- Jarbidge Foothills SRMA (135,000 acres)
- Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA (5,000 acres)

See Map 51 for locations.

**REC-I-A- 2.** Lands within the planning area that are not identified as an SRMA would be considered as an ERMA (1,031,700 acres).

### Management Actions

**REC-I-MA- 1.** The Deadman/Yahoo SRMA would consist of four Recreation Management Zones (RMZs) with the following management:

- Manage the Deadman, Pasadena, and Yahoo RMZs to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in off-road all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and motorcycle riding.
- Manage the Rosevear Gulch RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in motorized trail riding opportunities on a series of designated routes.

**REC-I-MA- 2.** Manage the Balanced Rock SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in hiking, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, and non-motorized boating.

**REC-I-MA- 3.** Manage the Little Pilgrim SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in sturgeon fishing and bird hunting.

**REC-I-MA- 4.** Manage the Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in whitewater boating, hiking, fishing, hunting, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, and primitive camping.

**REC-I-MA- 5.** Manage the Jarbidge Forks SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in fishing, rafting, picnicking, camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

**REC-I-MA- 6.** Manage the Canyonlands SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in non-motorized recreation experiences including hunting, fishing, hiking, equestrian activities, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

**REC-I-MA- 7.** Manage the Jarbidge Foothills SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in non-motorized recreation experiences including hunting, mountain biking, hiking, equestrian activities, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

**REC-I-MA- 8.** The Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA would consist of three RMZs with the following management:

- Manage the Antelope Bay RMZ to provide opportunities to engage in hunting, fishing, camping, boating, water sports, and motorized and non-motorized trail riding on a series of designated routes.
- Manage the Cedar Creek RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in fishing, camping, and boating.

- Manage the Lud's Point RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in hunting, fishing, primitive camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

See Appendix M for more information on the management and settings prescribed for each SRMA and the ERMA.

**REC-I-MA- 9.** Give priority for authorization of SRPs for events to applicants proposing to make use of less-crowded weekdays and focus on visitation on sites and areas resilient to repeated use.

**REC-I-MA- 10.** Issue and manage SRPs for a wide variety of uses to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, provide opportunities for private enterprise, manage user-group interaction, and limit the impacts of such uses upon natural and cultural resources, with

increased emphasis on realizing positive economic and community benefits through SRP management.

**REC-I-MA- 11.** Commercial SRPs would not be allowed in the HMA.

**REC-I-MA- 12.** Require organized group permits for groups with 50 or more people.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative II***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**REC-II-O- 1.** Manage 21,300 acres as SRMAs and 1,352,200 acres as an ERMA.

### **Allocations**

**REC-II-A- 1.** Designate the following SRMAs:

- Little Pilgrim SRMA (300 acres)
- Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA (14,000 acres)
- Jarbidge Forks SRMA (2,000 acres)
- Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA (5,000 acres)

See Map 52 for locations.

**REC-II-A- 2.** Lands within the planning area that are not identified as an SRMA would be considered as an ERMA (1,352,200 acres).

### **Management Actions**

**REC-II-MA- 1.** Manage the Little Pilgrim SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in sturgeon fishing and bird hunting.

**REC-II-MA- 2.** Manage the Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in whitewater boating, hiking, fishing, hunting, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, and primitive camping.

**REC-II-MA- 3.** Manage the Jarbidge Forks SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in fishing, rafting, picnicking, camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

**REC-II-MA- 4.** The Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA would consist of three RMZs with the following management:

- Manage the Antelope Bay RMZ to provide opportunities to engage in hunting, fishing, camping, boating, water sports, and motorized and non-motorized trail riding on a series of designated routes.
- Manage the Cedar Creek RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in fishing, camping, and boating.
- Manage the Lud's Point RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in hunting, fishing, primitive camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

See Appendix M for more information on the management and settings prescribed for each SRMA and the ERMA.

**REC-II-MA- 5.** Partner with the State, counties, or local communities to create off-highway vehicle (OHV) parks at Deadman and Yahoo through land tenure adjustment or through a Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1954 (R&PP) lease. OHV parks would be linked by a designated route/trail corridor.

**REC-II-MA- 6.** Give priority for authorization of SRPs for events to applicants proposing to make use of less-crowded weekdays and focus on visitation on sites and areas resilient to repeated use.

**REC-II-MA- 7.** Issue and manage SRPs for a wide variety of uses to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, provide opportunities for private enterprise, manage user-group interaction, and limit the impacts of such uses upon natural and cultural resources, with increased emphasis on realizing positive economic and community benefits through SRP management.

**REC-II-MA- 8.** Require organized group permits for groups with 50 or more people.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative III***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**REC-III-O- 1.** Manage 55,800 acres as SRMAs and 1,317,700 acres as an ERMA.

### **Allocations**

**REC-III-A- 1.** Designate the following SRMAs:

- Deadman/Yahoo SRMA (34,000 acres)
- Balanced Rock SRMA (500 acres)
- Little Pilgrim SRMA (300 acres)
- Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA (14,000 acres)
- Jarbidge Forks SRMA (2,000 acres)
- Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA (5,000 acres)

See Map 53 for locations.

**REC-III-A- 2.** Lands within the planning area that are not identified as an SRMA would be considered as an ERMA (1,317,700 acres).

### **Management Actions**

**REC-III-MA- 1.** The Deadman/Yahoo SRMA would consist of three RMZs with the following management:

- Manage the Deadman and Yahoo RMZs to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in off-road ATV and motorcycle riding.
- Manage the Rosevear Gulch RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in motorized trail riding opportunities on a series of designated routes.

**REC-III-MA- 2.** Manage the Balanced Rock SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in hiking, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, and non-motorized boating.

**REC-III-MA- 3.** Manage the Little Pilgrim SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in sturgeon fishing and bird hunting.

**REC-III-MA- 4.** Manage the Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in whitewater boating, hiking, fishing, hunting, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, and primitive camping.

**REC-III-MA- 5.** Manage the Jarbidge Forks SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in fishing, rafting, picnicking, camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

**REC-III-MA- 6.** The Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA would consist of three RMZs with the following management:

- Manage the Antelope Bay RMZ to provide opportunities to engage in hunting, fishing, camping, boating, water sports, and motorized and non-motorized trail riding on a series of designated routes.
- Manage the Cedar Creek RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in fishing, camping, and boating.
- Manage the Lud's Point RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in hunting, fishing, primitive camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

See Appendix M for more information on the management and settings prescribed for each SRMA and the ERMA.

**REC-III-MA- 7.** Give priority for authorization of SRPs for events to applicants proposing uses occurring outside fire season (October through May), that do not duplicate existing events, utilize facilities off public lands for overnight accommodation of guests, and focus on visitation on sites and areas resilient to repeated use.

**REC-III-MA- 8.** Place increased emphasis in SRPs on mitigating the impacts of recreation uses in order to support conservation of natural and cultural resource values.

**REC-III-MA- 9.** Commercial SRPs would not be allowed in the HMA.

**REC-III-MA- 10.** Require organized group permits for groups with 30 or more people.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)**

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**REC-IV-O- 1.** Manage 204,000 acres as SRMAs and 1,169,570 acres as an ERMA.

### **Allocations**

**REC-IV-A- 1.** Designate the following SRMAs:

- Deadman/Yahoo SRMA (34,000 acres)
- Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA (14,000 acres)
- Jarbidge Forks SRMA (2,000 acres)
- Canyonlands SRMA (149,000 acres)
- Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA (5,000 acres)

See Map 54 for locations.

**REC-IV-A- 2.** Lands within the planning area that are not identified as an SRMA would be considered as an ERMA (1,169,570 acres).

### **Management Actions**

**REC-IV-MA- 1.** The Deadman/Yahoo SRMA would consist of three RMZs with the following management:

- Manage the Deadman and Yahoo RMZs to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in off-road ATV and motorcycle riding.
- Manage the Rosevear Gulch RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in motorized trail riding opportunities on a series of designated routes.

**REC-IV-MA- 2.** Manage the Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in whitewater boating, hiking, fishing, hunting, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, and primitive camping.

**REC-IV-MA- 3.** Manage the Jarbidge Forks SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in fishing, rafting, picnicking, camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

**REC-IV-MA- 4.** Manage the Canyonlands SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in non-motorized recreation experiences including hunting, fishing, hiking, equestrian activities, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

**REC-IV-MA- 5.** The Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA would consist of three RMZs with the following management:

- Manage the Antelope Bay RMZ to provide opportunities to engage in hunting, fishing, camping, boating, water sports, and motorized and non-motorized trail riding on a series of designated routes.
- Manage the Cedar Creek RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in fishing, camping, and boating.
- Manage the Lud's Point RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in hunting, fishing, primitive camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

See Appendix M for more information on the management and settings prescribed for each SRMA and the ERMA.

**REC-IV-MA- 6.** Give priority for authorization of SRPs for events to applicants proposing to make use of less-crowded weekdays, utilize facilities off public lands for overnight accommodation of guests, and focus on visitation on sites and areas resilient to repeated use.

**REC-IV-MA- 7.** Place increased emphasis in SRPs on mitigating the impacts of recreation uses in order to support conservation of natural and cultural resource values.

**REC-IV-MA- 8.** Commercial SRPs would not be allowed in the HMA.

**REC-IV-MA- 9.** Require organized group permits for groups with 30 or more people.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative V***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**REC-V-O- 1.** Manage 19,000 acres as SRMAs and 1,354,500 acres as an ERMA.

### **Allocations**

**REC-V-A- 1.** Designate the following SRMAs:

- Yahoo SRMA (3,000 acres)
- Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA (14,000 acres)
- Jarbidge Forks SRMA (2,000 acres)

See Map 55 for locations.

**REC-V-A- 2.** Lands within the planning area that are not identified as an SRMA would be considered as an ERMA (1,354,500 acres).

### **Management Actions**

**REC-V-MA- 1.** Manage the Yahoo SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in off-road ATV and motorcycle riding.

**REC-V-MA- 2.** Manage the Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in whitewater boating, hiking, fishing, hunting, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, and primitive camping.

**REC-V-MA- 3.** Manage the Jarbidge Forks SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in fishing, rafting, picnicking, camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

See Appendix M for more information on the management and settings prescribed for each SRMA and the ERMA.

**REC-V-MA- 4.** Give priority for authorization of SRPs for events to applicants proposing to make use of less-crowded weekdays, utilize facilities off public lands for overnight accommodation of guests, and focus on visitation on sites and areas resilient to repeated use.

**REC-V-MA- 5.** Place increased emphasis in SRPs on mitigating the impacts of recreation uses in order to support conservation of natural and cultural resource values.

**REC-V-MA- 6.** Commercial SRPs would not be allowed in the HMA.

**REC-V-MA- 7.** Require organized group permits for groups with 20 or more people.

### 2.4.3. Transportation and Travel

#### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

##### Goal

No goal stated.

##### Objective

No objective stated.

##### Allocations

**TR-NA-A- 1.** 1,062,000 acres would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use in MUAs 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16 (Map 4).

**TR-NA-A- 2.** 25,000 acres would be closed to motorized vehicle use in MUAs 10 and 14 (Map 4) including:

- Rim-to-rim in the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons within Bruneau River-Sheep Creek and Jarbidge River WSAs, and
- Salmon Falls Creek ACEC.

Cultural sites identified as special MUAs in the RMP would be closed to motorized vehicle use.

**TR-NA-A- 3.** 70,000 acres in the Bruneau-Sheep Creek and Jarbidge WSAs are limited to inventoried ways as depicted on Map 56. These acres were identified as open in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP; however, they are managed under the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review which states, "Mechanical transport, including all motorized devices as well as trail and mountain bikes may only be allowed on existing ways...that were designated prior to the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)."

**TR-NA-A- 4.** 216,000 acres would be limited to designated routes, including:

- Sand Point ACEC and surrounding paleontological deposits;
- Oregon NHT;
- Bighorn sheep habitat and Dry Lake Beds/Bruneau River and Post Office cultural areas in MUA 11;
- Devil Creek, Juniper Ranch, and Clover Creek cultural areas in MUA 12;
- Devil Creek Complex in MUA 13; and
- Devil Creek and bighorn sheep habitat in MUAs 15 and 16.

See Map 4 for MUA boundaries.

See Map 57 for locations of transportation and travel allocations.

**TR-NA-A- 5.** Crucial mule deer and pronghorn winter range within MUAs 15 and 16 would be limited seasonally for snow vehicles if IDFG determines harassment is occurring (Map 4).

##### Management Actions

**TR-NA-MA- 1.** Avoid constructing any roads within or closely adjacent to crucial wildlife habitat.

**TR-NA-MA- 2.** Roads would avoid riparian zones to the extent practicable.

**TR-NA-MA- 3.** Roads would not be built within 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat.

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## ***Management Common to All Action Alternatives***

### **Goal**

**TR-CA-G- 1.** Manage and provide for motorized, non-motorized, and non-mechanized access that would balance resource protection and use.

### **Objective**

See objectives for specific alternatives.

### **Allocations**

See allocations for specific alternatives.

### **Management Actions**

**TR-CA-MA- 1.** Area designations apply to all off-highway vehicles (OHVs), which include any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding:

- Any nonamphibious registered motorboat;
- Any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes;
- Any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer or otherwise officially approved;
- Vehicles in official use; and
- Any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies (43 CFR 8340.0-5(a)).

Area and route designations also do not apply to vehicles being used by members of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes or the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to access traditional use areas of importance to the tribes or to vehicles being used by members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to exercise their tribally reserved treaty rights.

**TR-CA-MA- 2.** Whenever an authorized officer determines that motorized, non-motorized, or non-mechanized use would cause or is causing considerable adverse effects on resources, the area or trail would be restricted or closed to the type of use causing the adverse effects. Such limitations or closures are not OHV area designations.

**TR-CA-MA- 3.** Minimize construction and maintenance of roads within or adjacent to special status wildlife and fish habitat and big game winter range during important seasonal periods (Appendix H).

**TR-CA-MA- 4.** Continue to recognize valid agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with local highway districts for road maintenance.

**TR-CA-MA- 5.** Complete a Comprehensive Transportation and Travel Management Plan (CTTMP) within 5 years of the signing of the ROD. The CTTMP would be developed through a public process to determine the transportation and travel system for the planning area. The CTTMP would determine the routes and trails to be designated, modified, closed, or rehabilitated as well as the maintenance level, modes of travel, and seasonal and access

restrictions for designated routes. During the CTTMP process, additional data needs and a strategy to collect information will be identified. The NEPA analysis that accompanies the CTTMP would include, at a minimum, cumulative effects assessments of road density and fragmentation of sage-grouse habitat. Decisions made in the CTTMP will be limited to management of BLM roads.

**TR-CA-MA- 6.** Route designation would, at minimum, follow criteria outlined Federal regulations, such as 43 CFR 8342.1, which includes:

- Locating routes to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, air, or other resources of the public lands, and to prevent impairment of wilderness suitability;
- Locating routes to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats; special attention would be given to protect Endangered or Threatened species or their habitats;
- Locating routes to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors;
- Not locating routes in officially designated wilderness areas or primitive areas; locating routes in natural areas only if the authorized officer determines that off-road vehicle use in such locations would not adversely affect their natural, aesthetic, scenic, or other values for which such areas are established.

The authorized officer may add additional criteria in the CTTMP process, consistent with objectives in the RMP.

**TR-CA-MA- 7.** Route designation would also adhere to the following guidelines:

- Designated routes would comply with the guidelines contained in the ARMS (Appendix D).
- Conflict with cultural and paleontological resources would be minimized when designating routes.
- Designated routes may follow or cross the Oregon NHT and National Register of Historic Places-eligible and -listed segments of the Kelton Freight Road and Toana Freight Road in areas where previous disturbance has occurred and after consultation with SHPO.
- Where motorized vehicle use is allowed within the Oregon NHT protective corridor, travel would not degrade the trail.
- Designated routes within suitable and eligible WSR segments must maintain/enhance their ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification until Congress acts.
- Loop routes are preferred to dead end routes.
- Parking areas and turnouts would be considered under the same criteria used for routes.

The authorized officer may add additional guidelines in the CTTMP process, consistent with objectives in the RMP.

**TR-CA-MA- 8.** The considerations used to determine whether a specific route would be designated, modified, or closed as well as the maintenance level, mode of travel, and seasonal and access restrictions for designated routes include, but are not limited to:

- Does the route affect access to areas of cultural or religious concern for Native Americans?
- Is the route compatible with objectives outlined in the RMP?
- What is the route used for? When is it used and by whom?
- Is the route adequate to provide access for all of its intended purposes?
- Does the route provide access to existing rights, private land, or other agency lands (e.g., State, Forest Service, other BLM FOs)?
- Is the route necessary for emergency services?
- Does the route contribute to fire suppression capabilities?
- Does the route pose a threat to public safety?
- Do multiple or parallel routes access the same area? Are they used by different methods of transportation?
- Is the route re-vegetating and no longer receiving motorized use?
- Is the route necessary for authorized commercial activities, including livestock grazing, energy development, and recreation?
- Is the route impacting or does it present a threat to resource values (see questions below)? If so, does its purpose justify impacts or potential threats to resources?
  - Could the route affect areas of cultural or religious concern for Native Americans?
  - Could the route adversely affect sites that may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places?
  - Does the route affect known paleontological sites?
  - Could the route adversely affect Threatened or Endangered species or their habitat?
  - Does the route affect other special status species or their habitat?
  - Does the route have a high potential to encourage harassment or disruption to wildlife?
  - Is the route causing soil erosion?
  - Does the route traverse soils that are easily eroded or highly susceptible to damage?
  - Does the route go through a known infestation of noxious weeds?
  - Does the route have a high potential to encourage harassment or disruption to wild horses?
  - Is the route compatible with the VRM Class for the area?

The authorized officer may adjust these considerations in the CTTMP process, consistent with objectives in the RMP.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative I***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

## Objective

**TR-I-O- 1.** Provide a transportation and travel system that facilitates multiple use, with an emphasis on recreational use, livestock grazing, and minimizing impacts to big game habitats.

## Allocations

**TR-I-A- 1.** Designated areas in the Deadman/Yahoo SRMA would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use (3,600 acres).

**TR-I-A- 2.** Salmon Falls Creek ACEC north and south of Lily Grade crossing, non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics, and the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons rim-to-rim within the WSAs would be closed to motorized vehicle use (57,000 acres).

**TR-I-A- 3.** Travel would be limited to designated ways in the portions of WSAs not closed to motorized vehicle use (72,000 acres). Ways designated in the CTTMP must be identified as inventoried ways on Map 56. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel is limited to inventoried ways as depicted on Map 56.

**TR-I-A- 4.** Travel would be limited to designated routes in the remainder of the planning area (1,241,000 acres). Specific route designations would be made in an implementation-level travel and transportation management planning process following the completion of the RMP. Until route designation occurs, areas limited to designated routes would be managed as limited to existing routes as depicted on Map 56. Map 56 reflects the best GIS data available at the time of this publication; these data were compiled from routes identified on United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps and aerial photos (2004 National Agricultural Imagery Program [NAIP] imagery), supplemented with field data collected on the ground and reviewed by BLM staff. A more thorough review of the data will be performed as part of the CTTMP, which may include additional on-the-ground data collection and verification.

See Map 58 for locations of transportation and travel allocations.

**TR-I-A- 5.** Seasonal restrictions on travel within the HMA would be in place during foaling (March through July); motorized travel would not be allowed on primitive roads during this time.

## Management Actions

**TR-I-MA- 1.** Motorized vehicle restrictions would apply to lessees, BLM permit holders, and ROW holders, but site-specific exceptions to motorized vehicle restrictions could be authorized in the lease, permits, or ROW.

**TR-I-MA- 2.** Other activities in areas limited or closed to motorized travel may be allowed on a case-by-case basis, but would require prior written permission of an authorized officer. These activities may include but not be limited to:

- Motorized cross-country travel for non-BLM government entities on official administrative business (e.g., noxious weed control, surveying, and animal damage control efforts).
- Motorized cross-country travel by entities requiring access to private lands, resources, or legal improvements within or adjacent to closed or limited areas.

**TR-I-MA- 3.** Access and use restrictions may be imposed to reduce risk of wildland fire during fire restrictions, as determined by an

authorized officer; restrictions may include, but not be limited to, closing primitive roads, trails, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use. Travel related to administrative uses and emergency services may continue during fire restrictions.

**TR-I-MA- 4.** Game retrieval using motorized vehicles would be allowed within 300 feet of a designated route, but would not be allowed within areas closed to motorized vehicle use or WSAs.

**TR-I-MA- 5.** Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site would be allowed within 25 feet of designated routes, but would not be allowed within areas closed to motorized vehicle use, riparian areas, or WSAs. Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site may be closed or limited seasonally or as impacts or environmental conditions warrant.

**TR-I-MA- 6.** Identify locations for and install gates and cattleguards along designated routes to minimize conflicts between motorized recreation activities and livestock grazing operations.

**TR-I-MA- 7.** Travel Management Areas (TMAs) contain lands with relatively homogeneous travel and transportation management characteristics and similar resource concerns or issues, as well as an overall focus for travel and transportation management. The priority resource or use emphasis for each TMA depends on the focus of the TMA and other objectives outlined in the RMP. The TMAs and their travel and transportation planning focus would be as follows:

- Snake River TMA (316,000 acres): Focus on balancing the needs for public access with resource objectives.
- Deadman/Yahoo TMA (41,000 acres): Focus on facilitating motorized recreation activities, including open play areas and a designated trail system.
- Devil Creek TMA (667,000 acres): Focus on balancing livestock grazing management needs with habitat restoration activities.
- Canyonlands TMA (213,000 acres): Focus on increasing core habitat size for mule deer and providing opportunities for non-motorized recreation experiences.
- Jarbidge Foothills TMA (137,000 acres): Focus on increasing core habitat size for mule deer and providing opportunities for non-motorized recreation experiences.

See Map 63 for locations of TMAs.

**TR-I-MA- 8.** The authorized officer has the authority to adjust TMA boundaries and their focus, consistent with objectives in the RMP, if necessary to facilitate CTTMP process.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative II***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

## Objective

**TR-II-O- 1.** Provide a transportation and travel system to facilitate multiple use, with an emphasis on commercial use and minimizing impacts on native vegetation.

## Allocations

**TR-II-A- 1.** No areas would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use.

**TR-II-A- 2.** The Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons rim-to-rim within the WSAs would be closed to motorized vehicle use (21,000 acres).

**TR-II-A- 3.** Travel would be limited to designated ways in the portions of WSAs not closed to motorized vehicle use (73,000 acres). Ways designated in the CTTMP must be identified as inventoried ways on Map 56. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel is limited to inventoried ways as depicted on Map 56.

**TR-II-A- 4.** Travel would be limited to designated routes in the remainder of the planning area (1,297,000 acres). Specific route designations would be made in an implementation-level travel and transportation management planning process following the completion of the RMP. Until route designation occurs, areas limited to designated routes would be managed as limited to existing routes as depicted on Map 56. Map 56 reflects the best GIS data available at the time of this publication; these data were compiled from routes identified on USGS topographic maps and aerial photos (2004 NAIP imagery), supplemented with field data collected on the ground and reviewed by BLM staff. A more thorough review of the data will be performed as part of the CTTMP, which may include additional on-the-ground data collection and verification.

See Map 59 for locations of transportation and travel allocations.

## Management Actions

**TR-II-MA- 1.** Motorized vehicle restrictions would apply to lessees, BLM permit holders, and ROW holders, but site-specific exceptions to motorized vehicle restrictions could be authorized in the lease, permits, or ROW.

**TR-II-MA- 2.** Other activities in areas limited or closed to motorized travel may be allowed on a case-by-case basis, but would require prior written permission of an authorized officer. These activities may include but not be limited to:

- Motorized cross-country travel for non-BLM government entities on official administrative business (e.g., noxious weed control, surveying, and animal damage control efforts).
- Motorized cross-country travel by entities requiring access to private lands, resources, or legal improvements within or adjacent to closed or limited areas.

**TR-II-MA- 3.** Game retrieval using motorized vehicles would be allowed off designated routes, but would not be allowed within areas closed to motorized vehicle use or WSAs.

**TR-II-MA- 4.** Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site would be allowed within 100 feet of designated routes, but would not be allowed within areas closed to motorized vehicle use, riparian areas, or WSAs. Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site may be closed or limited seasonally or as impacts or environmental conditions warrant.

**TR-II-MA- 5.** Identify locations for and install gates and cattleguards along designated routes to minimize conflicts between motorized recreation activities and livestock grazing operations.

**TR-II-MA- 6.** TMAs contain lands with relatively homogeneous travel and transportation management characteristics and similar resource concerns or issues, as well as an overall focus for travel and transportation management. The priority resource or use emphasis for each TMA depends on the focus of the TMA and other objectives outlined in the RMP. The TMAs and their travel and transportation planning focus would be as follows:

- Bruneau Desert TMA (1,161,000 acres): Focus on facilitating commercial uses, while mitigating impacts to resources.
- Canyonlands TMA (213,000 acres): Focus on facilitating livestock grazing management, while mitigating impacts to resources.

See Map 64 for locations of TMAs.

**TR-II-MA- 7.** The authorized officer has the authority to adjust TMA boundaries and their focus, consistent with objectives in the RMP, if necessary to facilitate CTTMP process.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative III***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**TR-III-O- 1.** A transportation and travel system would provide for multiple use, with an emphasis on wildland fire prevention and suppression activities.

### **Allocations**

**TR-III-A- 1.** Designated areas in the Deadman/Yahoo SRMA would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use (3,570 acres).

**TR-III-A- 2.** Salmon Falls Creek ACEC north and south of Lily Grade crossing and the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons rim-to-rim within the WSAs would be closed to motorized vehicle use (27,000 acres).

**TR-III-A- 3.** Travel would be limited to designated ways in the portions of WSAs not closed to motorized vehicle use (72,000 acres). Ways designated in the CTTMP must be identified as inventoried ways on Map 56. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel is limited to inventoried ways as depicted on Map 56.

**TR-III-A- 4.** Travel would be limited to designated routes in the remainder of the planning area (1,275,000 acres). Specific route designations would be made in an implementation-level travel and transportation management planning process following the completion of the RMP. Until route designation occurs, areas limited to designated routes would be managed as limited to existing routes as depicted on Map 56. Map 56 reflects the best GIS data available at the time of this publication; these data were compiled from routes identified on USGS topographic maps and aerial photos (2004 NAIP imagery), supplemented with field data collected on the ground and reviewed by BLM staff. A more thorough review of the data will be performed as part of the CTTMP, which may include additional on-the-ground data collection and verification.

See Map 60 for locations of transportation and travel allocations.

**TR-III-A- 5.** Seasonal restrictions on travel within the HMA would be in place during foaling (March through July); motorized travel would not be allowed on primitive roads during this time.

### Management Actions

**TR-III-MA- 1.** Motorized vehicle restrictions would apply to lessees, BLM permit holders, and ROW holders, but site-specific exceptions to motorized vehicle restrictions could be authorized in the lease, permits, or ROW.

**TR-III-MA- 2.** Other activities in areas limited or closed to motorized travel may be allowed on a case-by-case basis, but would require prior written permission of an authorized officer. These activities may include but not be limited to:

- Motorized cross-country travel for non-BLM government entities on official administrative business (e.g., noxious weed control, surveying, and animal damage control efforts).
- Motorized cross-country travel by entities requiring access to private lands, resources, or legal improvements within or adjacent to closed or limited areas.

**TR-III-MA- 3.** Close primitive roads, trails, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use to reduce risk of wildland fire during fire restrictions or when conditions dictate as determined by an authorized officer. Travel related to BLM administrative uses and emergency services may continue during fire restrictions.

**TR-III-MA- 4.** Game retrieval using motorized vehicles would not be allowed off designated routes.

**TR-III-MA- 5.** Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site would be allowed within 25 feet of designated routes, but would not be allowed within areas closed to motorized vehicle use, riparian areas, or WSAs. Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site may be closed or limited seasonally or as impacts or environmental conditions warrant.

**TR-III-MA- 6.** Identify locations for and install gates and cattleguards along designated routes to minimize conflicts between motorized recreation activities and livestock grazing operations and to facilitate fire suppression.

**TR-III-MA- 7.** TMAs contain lands with relatively homogeneous travel and transportation management characteristics and similar resource concerns or issues, as well as an overall focus for travel and transportation management. The priority resource or use emphasis for each TMA depends on the focus of the TMA and other objectives outlined in the RMP. The TMAs and their travel and transportation planning focus would be as follows:

- Snake River TMA (312,000 acres): Focus on improving public access and facilitating fire suppression operations and wildland fire prevention.
- Deadman/Yahoo TMA (34,000 acres): Focus on facilitating motorized recreation activities, including open play areas and a designated trail system.

- Devil Creek TMA (485,000 acres): Focus on improving access and facilitating fire suppression operations and wildland fire prevention.
- West Side TMA (405,000 acres): Focus on improving access and facilitating fire suppression operations and wildland fire prevention.
- Jarbidge Foothills TMA (137,000 acres): Focus on improving access and facilitating fire suppression operations and wildland fire prevention.

See Map 65 for locations of TMAs.

**TR-III-MA- 8.** The authorized officer has the authority to adjust TMA boundaries and their focus, consistent with objectives in the RMP, if necessary to facilitate CTTMP process.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**TR-IV-O- 1.** Provide a transportation and travel system to facilitate multiple use and resource protection with an emphasis on meeting native vegetation and special status species goals.

### **Allocations**

**TR-IV-A- 1.** Designated areas in the Deadman/Yahoo SRMA would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use (3,570 acres).

**TR-IV-A- 2.** Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics and the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons rim-to-rim within the WSAs would be closed to motorized vehicle use (74,000 acres).

**TR-IV-A- 3.** Travel would be limited to designated ways in the portions of WSAs not closed to motorized vehicle use (73,000 acres). Ways designated in the CTTMP must be identified as inventoried ways on Map 56. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel is limited to inventoried ways as depicted on Map 56.

**TR-IV-A- 4.** Travel would be limited to designated routes in the remainder of the planning area (1,223,000 acres). Specific route designations would be made in an implementation-level travel and transportation management planning process following the completion of the RMP. Until route designation occurs, areas limited to designated routes would be managed as limited to existing routes as depicted on Map 56. Map 56 reflects the best GIS data available at the time of this publication; these data were compiled from routes identified on USGS topographic maps and aerial photos (2004 NAIP imagery), supplemented with field data collected on the ground and reviewed by BLM staff. A more thorough review of the data will be performed as part of the CTTMP, which may include additional on-the-ground data collection and verification.

See Map 61 for locations of transportation and travel allocations.

### **Management Actions**

**TR-IV-MA- 1.** Motorized vehicle restrictions would apply to lessees, BLM permit holders, and ROW holders, but site-specific exceptions

to motorized vehicle restrictions could be authorized in the lease, permits, or ROW.

**TR-IV-MA- 2.** Other activities in areas limited or closed to motorized travel may be allowed on a case-by-case basis, but would require prior written permission of an authorized officer. These activities may include but not be limited to:

- Motorized cross-country travel for non-BLM government entities on official administrative business (e.g., noxious weed control, surveying, and animal damage control efforts).
- Motorized cross-country travel by entities requiring access to private lands, resources, or legal improvements within or adjacent to closed or limited areas.

**TR-IV-MA- 3.** Access and use restrictions may be imposed to reduce risk of wildland fire during fire restrictions, as determined by an authorized officer; restrictions may include, but not be limited to, closing primitive roads, trails, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use. Travel related to administrative uses and emergency services may continue during fire restrictions.

**TR-IV-MA- 4.** Game retrieval using motorized vehicles would not be allowed off designated routes.

**TR-IV-MA- 5.** Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site would be allowed within 25 feet of designated routes, but would not be allowed within areas closed to motorized vehicle use, riparian areas, or WSAs. Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site may be closed or limited seasonally or as impacts or environmental conditions warrant.

**TR-IV-MA- 6.** Identify locations for and install gates and cattleguards along designated routes to minimize conflicts between motorized recreation activities and livestock grazing operations.

**TR-IV-MA- 7.** TMAs contain lands with relatively homogeneous travel and transportation management characteristics and similar resource concerns or issues, as well as an overall focus for travel and transportation management. The priority resource or use emphasis for each TMA depends on the focus of the TMA and other objectives outlined in the RMP. The TMAs and their travel and transportation planning focus would be as follows:

- Snake River TMA (323,000 acres): Focus on accommodating restoration while providing for public access.
- Deadman/Yahoo TMA (34,000 acres): Focus on facilitating motorized recreation activities, including open play areas and a designated trail system.
- Devil Creek TMA (666,000 acres): Focus on increasing core habitat size for sage-grouse and big game and accommodating habitat restoration activities, while providing for public access.
- Canyonlands TMA (213,000 acres): Focus on increasing core habitat size for sage-grouse and big game and providing opportunities for non-motorized recreation experiences.
- Jarbidge Foothills TMA (137,000 acres): Focus on increasing core habitat size for sage-grouse and big game and

accommodating habitat restoration activities, while providing for public access.  
See Map 63 for locations of TMAs.

**TR-IV-MA- 8.** The authorized officer has the authority to adjust TMA boundaries and their focus, consistent with objectives in the RMP, if necessary to facilitate CTTMP process.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative V**

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**TR-V-O- 1.** Provide a transportation and travel system to facilitate multiple use and resource protection with an emphasis on meeting native vegetation and special status species goals.

### **Allocations**

**TR-V-A- 1.** Designated areas in the Yahoo SRMA would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use (700 acres).

**TR-V-A- 2.** WSAs, including inventoried ways shown on Map 56, and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics would be closed to motorized vehicle use (147,000 acres).

**TR-V-A- 3.** Travel would be limited to designated routes in the remainder of the planning (1,226,000 acres). Specific route designations would be made in an implementation-level travel and transportation management planning process following the completion of the RMP. Until route designation occurs, areas limited to designated routes would be managed as limited to existing routes as depicted on Map 56. Map 56 reflects the best GIS data available at the time of this publication; these data were compiled from routes identified on USGS topographic maps and aerial photos (2004 NAIP imagery), supplemented with field data collected on the ground and reviewed by BLM staff. A more thorough review of the data will be performed as part of the CTTMP, which may include additional on-the-ground data collection and verification.

See Map 62 for locations of transportation and travel allocations.

### **Management Actions**

**TR-V-MA- 1.** Motorized vehicle restrictions apply to lessees, BLM permit holders, and ROW holders, with no exceptions.

**TR-V-MA- 2.** Other activities in areas limited or closed to motorized travel may be allowed on a case-by-case basis, but would require prior written permission of an authorized officer. These activities may include but not be limited to:

- Motorized cross-country travel for non-BLM government entities on official administrative business (e.g., noxious weed control, surveying, and animal damage control efforts).
- Motorized cross-country travel by entities requiring access to private lands, resources, or legal improvements within or adjacent to closed or limited areas.

**TR-V-MA- 3.** Access and use restrictions may be imposed to reduce risk of wildland fire during fire restrictions, as determined by an authorized officer; restrictions may include, but not be limited to, closing primitive roads, trails, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use. Travel related to administrative uses and emergency services may continue during fire restrictions.

**TR-V-MA- 4.** Game retrieval using motorized vehicles would not be allowed off designated routes.

**TR-V-MA- 5.** Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site would be allowed within 25 feet of designated routes, but would not be allowed within areas closed to motorized vehicle use, riparian areas, or WSAs. Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site may be closed or limited seasonally or as impacts or environmental conditions warrant.

**TR-V-MA- 6.** Identify locations for and install gates and cattleguards along designated routes to minimize conflicts between motorized recreation activities and livestock grazing operations.

**TR-V-MA- 7.** TMAs contain lands with relatively homogeneous travel and transportation management characteristics and similar resource concerns or issues, as well as an overall focus for travel and transportation management. The priority resource or use emphasis for each TMA depends on the focus of the TMA and other objectives outlined in the RMP. The TMAs and their travel and transportation planning focus would be as follows:

- Snake River TMA (343,000 acres): Focus on accommodating habitat restoration activities.
- Yahoo TMA (3,000 acres): Focus on facilitating motorized recreation activities, including open play areas and a designated trail system.
- Devil Creek TMA (485,000 acres): Focus on increasing core habitat size for sage-grouse and other special status species and accommodating habitat restoration activities.
- West Side TMA (405,000 acres): Focus on increasing core habitat size for sage-grouse and other special status species and accommodating habitat restoration activities.
- Jarbidge Foothills TMA (137,000 acres): Focus on increasing core habitat size for sage-grouse and other special status species and accommodating habitat restoration activities.

See Map 66 for locations of TMAs.

**TR-V-MA- 8.** The authorized officer has the authority to adjust TMA boundaries and their focus, consistent with objectives in the RMP, if necessary to facilitate CTTMP process.

## 2.4.4. Land Use Authorizations

### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

#### Goal

No goal stated.

**Objective**

No objective stated.

**Allocations**

**LA-NA-A- 1.** The following areas would be utility avoidance/restricted areas (110,000 acres):

- Paleontological sites at Glenns Ferry and Pasadena Valley (surface, underground);
  - Sand Point ACEC (surface, underground);
  - Dove Springs;
  - 96 paleontological sites;
  - All rutted segments of Oregon Trail (overhead, surface, underground);
  - Recommended suitable wilderness area;
  - Bruneau/Jarbidge River ACEC (overhead, surface, underground);
  - 121 miles of WSR area;
  - Portions of 24,080 acres of the Dry Lakes/Bruneau River Complex and Post Office Cultural areas (surface, underground);
  - Portions of 4,480 acres of three cultural resource complexes at Juniper Ranch, Clover Creek, and Devil Creek (surface, underground);
  - Salmon Falls Creek Canyon (overhead, surface, underground).
- Utility corridors would avoid riparian areas to the extent possible.

See Map 68 for locations of utility avoidance/restricted areas.

**Management Actions**

**LA-NA-MA- 1.** Generally, public lands may be considered for the installation of public utilities, except where expressly closed by law or regulation. ROWs would be considered except where specifically identified in the RMP for avoidance.

**LA-NA-MA- 2.** Restrict future communication site needs to existing sites as much as possible.

**LA-NA-MA- 3.** Consider new communication sites if there is a demonstrated need and the resource conflicts are low or can be mitigated.

**LA-NA-MA- 4.** Restrict wind energy development from wildlife habitat where adverse effects could not be mitigated.

**LA-NA-MA- 5.** Consider alternative methods such as ROWs and cooperative agreements for meeting the withdrawal/classification objectives.

**LA-NA-MA- 6.** Withdrawal/classification modifications and extensions must provide for maximum possible multiple uses, with particular emphasis upon mineral exploration and development. When withdrawals are revoked, the lands continue to be in the retention category.

**LA-NA-MA- 7.** New withdrawals proposed will be handled on a case-by-case basis in accordance with Section 204 of FLPMA, with full public participation.

**LA-NA-MA- 8.** Land use permits for irrigated agricultural use of public land would be used sparingly and be restricted to resolve situations where other alternatives prove to be impractical, such as:

- Small areas of public land isolated between a farmed field and a canal, ditch or road; and
- Renewal for an circular pivot already authorized by a land use permit until the land is removed from agricultural production and rehabilitated or until the land is transferred from public ownership.
- In cases where a pivot must cross public land, the lands are to remain unfarmed and a land use permit would be issued only for the crossing pivot.

**LA-NA-MA- 9.** Treat soil erosion that occurs on public lands as a result of excess irrigation flows from private agricultural lands a trespass in order to stop the erosion and to rehabilitate the damage to public land.

**LA-NA-MA- 10.** Prevent agricultural trespass, including irrigation lines in the Sand Point ACEC.

**LA-NA-MA- 11.** Consider airport leases only when a definite need has been shown, supported by a specific development and management plan, and a showing of financial capability to carry out the project.

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### ***Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives***

#### **Goal**

See goals in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

See objectives for specific alternatives.

#### **Allocations**

**LA-C-A- 1.** BLM would review all withdrawals on and classifications of public lands to eliminate all unnecessary withdrawals and classifications. Reviews would consider:

- For what purpose were the lands withdrawn?
- Is that purpose still being served?
- Are the lands suitable for return to the public domain?

#### **Management Actions**

**LA-C-MA- 1.** Implement the Programmatic Policies and Best Management Practices in the Wind Energy Development Program (Appendix N).

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### ***Management Common to All Action Alternatives***

#### **Goal**

**LA-CA-G- 1.** Public needs for land use authorizations would be met with consideration for other resource values

**Objective**

See objectives for specific alternatives.

**Allocations**

**LA-CA-A- 1.** Applications for solar energy developments would be considered on a case-by-case basis; as of 2009, the planning area lacks potential for commercial solar energy development due to current technology.

**LA-CA-A- 2.** Retain existing withdrawals, with the option of a Section 24 restoration for power site classifications and power site reserves if needed, as provided for in the Federal Power Act of 1920.

**Management Actions**

**LA-CA-MA- 1.** Place new ROWs for pipelines and overhead lines within ROW corridors where practical; other locations would be considered on a case-by-case basis in areas not identified for ROW avoidance or exclusion, consistent with allocations listed above.

**LA-CA-MA- 2.** New ROWs would be located in disturbance corridors where practical.

**LA-CA-MA- 3.** New ROWs would follow the guidance in the ARMS (Appendix D).

**LA-CA-MA- 4.** New ROWs would meet VRM class objectives.

**LA-CA-MA- 5.** Co-locate new communication sites with existing sites where practical; communication sites present in 2009 are located at:

- Yahoo Creek,
- Lower Salmon Falls,
- Signal Butte,
- American Towers,
- Frog Hollow,
- Castleford Butte, and
- Black Butte.

See Map 67. Other locations would be considered on a case-by-case basis, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

**LA-CA-MA- 6.** BLM management activities and authorized uses on lands with existing withdrawals would be consistent with the purposes of the withdrawal. Proposed BLM management activities and authorized uses that are not consistent with the purposes of the withdrawal would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the proposal can be modified or whether the withdrawal is still necessary.

**LA-CA-MA- 7.** Land use permits for pivot crossings may be allowed, in accordance with policy and regulations. In cases where a pivot crosses public land, the lands are to remain unfarmed and unirrigated.

**LA-CA-MA- 8.** Consider airport leases on a case-by-case basis.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative I***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**LA-I-O- 1.** Provide for the development of renewable energy resources, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, communication sites and other uses with consideration for resource objectives.

### **Allocations**

**LA-I-A- 1.** The following areas would be avoidance areas for ROWs (896,000 acres); ROWs would be allowed in these areas only if the avoidance stipulations are met and if the area is not identified for ROW exclusion:

- Areas within USAF MOAs (852,000 acres): structures must be lower than 100 feet above ground level
- Oregon NHT protective corridor (11,000 acres): new surface or overhead ROWs would follow existing ROW or disturbance corridors; underground ROWs would be allowed with mitigation for disturbance within the protective corridor
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors (32,000 acres): ROWs must maintain/enhance the river segment's ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics (35,000 acres): ROWs must not impact naturalness, opportunities for solitude, or opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation in these areas
- Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs (88,000 acres): new ROWs would be restricted to ROW corridors and locations of existing ROWs

Several ROW avoidance areas overlap; where this occurs, all avoidance stipulations must be met. In addition, some ROW avoidance areas overlap with ROW exclusion areas; where this occurs, the more restrictive exclusion management applies. See Map 69 for locations of ROW avoidance areas.

**LA-I-A- 2.** The following areas would be exclusion areas for ROWs (95,000 acres); they would not be available for ROWs under any conditions:

- Sand Point ACEC
- WSAs

See Map 74 for locations of ROW exclusion areas.

**LA-I-A- 3.** Designate the following ROW corridors for utilities (e.g., transmission and phone lines, oil/gas pipelines):

- Pilgrim Gulch
- Shoestring
- Saylor Creek
- Balanced Rock
- Jarbidge

See Map 77 for locations of ROW corridors.

**LA-I-A- 4.** New communication sites could be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

**LA-I-A- 5.** Wind farms could be considered in areas with annual or non-native vegetation communities, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas. Map 79

displays areas meeting these criteria in 2009; the map can be updated as vegetation conditions change on the ground.

**LA-I-A- 6.** ROWs for roads could be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance, outside ROW exclusion areas, and consistent with the *Transportation and Travel* section.

### Management Actions

**LA-I-MA- 1.** ROW construction and maintenance activities should avoid disturbing special status species and mule deer during important seasonal periods, unless the disturbance can be mitigated (Appendix H).

**LA-I-MA- 2.** Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines 1 to 3 miles away from active sage-grouse leks if it can be documented the structure would not conflict with the lek. If this cannot be documented, structures must be at least 3 miles away from active sage-grouse leks.

**LA-I-MA- 3.** Do not locate new communication sites in special status species habitat if the project would negatively affect special status species or their habitat, unless those impacts can be mitigated.

**LA-I-MA- 4.** Restrict wind energy site testing and monitoring and wind energy development from occupied habitat for special status plants and animals, and cultural resources where their direct and indirect adverse effects cannot be mitigated.

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## Management Specific to Alternative II

### Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Objective

**LA-II-O- 1.** Provide for the development of renewable energy resources, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, communication sites and other uses with consideration for resource objectives.

### Allocations

**LA-II-A- 1.** The following areas would be avoidance areas for ROWs (878,000 acres); ROWs would be allowed in these areas only if the avoidance stipulations are met and if the area is not identified for ROW exclusion:

- Areas within USAF MOAs (852,000 acres): structures must be lower than 100 feet above ground level
- Oregon NHT protective corridor (11,000 acres): surface, overhead; and underground ROWs would be allowed with mitigation for disturbance within the protective corridor
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors (32,000 acres): ROWs must maintain/enhance the river segment's ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification

Several ROW avoidance areas overlap; where this occurs, all avoidance stipulations must be met. In addition, some ROW avoidance areas overlap with ROW exclusion areas; where this occurs, the more restrictive exclusion management applies. See Map 70 for locations of ROW avoidance areas.

**LA-II-A- 2.** The following areas would be exclusion areas for ROW (94,000 acres); they would not be available for ROWs under any conditions:

- WSAs

See Map 75 for locations of ROW exclusion areas.

**LA-II-A- 3.** Designate the following ROW corridors for utilities (e.g., transmission and phone lines, oil/gas pipelines):

- Pilgrim Gulch
- Shoestring
- Saylor Creek
- Balanced Rock
- Jarbidge
- China Mountain

See Map 77 for locations of ROW corridors.

**LA-II-A- 4.** New communication sites can be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

**LA-II-A- 5.** Wind farms can be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas (Map 80).

**LA-II-A- 6.** ROWs for roads could be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance, outside ROW exclusion areas, and consistent with the *Transportation and Travel* section.

### **Management Actions**

**LA-II-MA- 1.** ROW construction and maintenance activities should avoid disturbing special status species during important seasonal periods, unless the disturbance can be mitigated (Appendix H).

**LA-II-MA- 2.** Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines more than 1 mile from active sage-grouse leks.

**LA-II-MA- 3.** Design new communication sites to mitigate impacts to special status species and their habitats where practical.

**LA-II-MA- 4.** Restrict wind turbines and meteorological towers from occupied habitat for Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, and Candidate species where their direct adverse effects cannot be mitigated.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative III***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Objective**

**LA-III-O- 1.** Provide for the development of renewable energy resources, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, communication sites and other uses with consideration for resource objectives and wildland fire prevention and suppression objectives.

**Allocations**

**LA-III-A- 1.** The following areas would be avoidance areas for ROWs (880,000 acres); ROWs would be allowed in these areas only if the avoidance stipulations are met and if the area is not identified for ROW exclusion:

- Areas within USAF MOAs (852,000 acres): structures must be lower than 100 feet above ground level
- Oregon NHT protective corridor (11,000 acres): new surface or overhead ROWs would follow existing ROW or disturbance corridors; underground ROWs would be allowed with mitigation for disturbance within the protective corridor
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors (32,000 acres): ROWs must maintain/enhance the river segment's ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification
- Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (57,000 acres): no new overhead ROWs would be allowed
- Salmon Falls Creek ACEC (2,700 acres): new ROWs would be restricted to ROW corridors and locations of existing ROWs

Several ROW avoidance areas overlap; where this occurs, all avoidance stipulations must be met. In addition, some ROW avoidance areas overlap with ROW exclusion areas; where this occurs, the more restrictive exclusion management applies. See Map 71 for locations of ROW avoidance areas.

**LA-III-A- 2.** The following areas would be exclusion areas for ROW (95,000 acres); they would not be available for ROWs under any conditions:

- Sand Point ACEC
- WSAs

See Map 74 for locations of ROW exclusion areas.

**LA-III-A- 3.** Designate the following ROW corridors for utilities (e.g., transmission and phone lines, oil/gas pipelines):

- Pilgrim Gulch
- Shoestring
- Saylor Creek
- Balanced Rock
- Jarbidge

See Map 77 for locations of ROW corridors.

**LA-III-A- 4.** New communication sites can be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

**LA-III-A- 5.** Wind farms can be considered in areas with annual or non-native vegetation communities, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas. Map 81 displays areas meeting these criteria in 2009; the map can be updated as vegetation conditions change on the ground.

**LA-III-A- 6.** ROWs for roads could be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance, outside ROW exclusion areas, and consistent with the *Transportation and Travel* section.

### Management Actions

**LA-III-MA- 1.** ROW construction and maintenance activities should avoid disturbing special status species during important seasonal periods, unless the disturbance can be mitigated (Appendix H).

**LA-III-MA- 2.** Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines more than 3 miles from active sage-grouse leks.

**LA-III-MA- 3.** Design new communication sites to mitigate impacts to special status species and their habitats where practical.

**LA-III-MA- 4.** Restrict wind energy site testing and monitoring and wind energy development from occupied habitat for special status plants and animals, and cultural resources where their direct and indirect adverse effects cannot be mitigated.

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## Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

### Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Objective

**LA-IV-O- 1.** Provide for the development of renewable energy resources, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, communication sites and other uses with consideration for resource objectives.

### Allocations

**LA-IV-A- 1.** The following areas would be avoidance areas for ROWs (896,000 acres); ROWs would be allowed in these areas only if the avoidance stipulations are met and if the area is not identified for ROW exclusion:

- Areas within USAF MOAs (852,000 acres): structures must be lower than 100 feet above ground level
- Oregon NHT protective corridor (11,000 acres): new surface or overhead ROWs would follow existing ROW or disturbance corridors; underground ROWs would be allowed with mitigation for disturbance within the protective corridor
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors (32,000 acres): ROWs must maintain/enhance the river segment's ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification
- Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (123,000 acres): new ROWs would be restricted to ROW corridors and locations of existing ROWs

Several ROW avoidance areas overlap; where this occurs, all avoidance stipulations must be met. In addition, some ROW avoidance areas overlap with ROW exclusion areas; where this occurs, the more restrictive exclusion management applies. See Map 72 for locations of ROW avoidance areas.

**LA-IV-A- 2.** The following areas would be exclusion areas for ROW (148,000 acres); they would not be available for ROWs under any conditions:

- Sand Point ACEC
  - WSAs
  - Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics
- See Map 76 for locations of ROW exclusion areas.

**LA-IV-A- 3.** Designate the following ROW corridors for utilities (e.g., transmission and phone lines, oil/gas pipelines):

- Pilgrim Gulch

- Shoestring
- Saylor Creek
- Balanced Rock
- Jarbidge

See Map 77 for locations of ROW corridors.

**LA-IV-A- 4.** New communication sites can be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

**LA-IV-A- 5.** Wind farms can be considered in areas with annual or non-native perennial communities, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas. Map 82 displays areas meeting these criteria in 2009; the map can be updated as vegetation conditions change on the ground.

**LA-IV-A- 6.** ROWs for roads could be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance, outside ROW exclusion areas, and consistent with the *Transportation and Travel* section.

### Management Actions

**LA-IV-MA- 1.** ROW construction and maintenance activities should avoid disturbing special status species during important seasonal periods, unless the disturbance can be mitigated (Appendix H).

**LA-IV-MA- 2.** Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines more than 5 miles from active sage-grouse leks.

**LA-IV-MA- 3.** Do not locate new communication sites in special status species habitat if the project would negatively affect special status species or their habitat, unless those impacts can be mitigated.

**LA-IV-MA- 4.** Restrict wind energy site testing and monitoring and wind energy development from occupied and suitable habitat for special status species, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources where their direct and indirect adverse effects cannot be mitigated.

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## Management Specific to Alternative V

### Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Objective

**LA-V-O- 1.** Provide for the development of renewable energy resources, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, communication sites and other uses with consideration for resource objectives.

### Allocations

**LA-V-A- 1.** The following areas would be avoidance areas for ROWs (1,229,000 acres); ROWs would be allowed in these areas only if the avoidance stipulations are met and if the area is not identified for ROW exclusion:

- Areas within USAF MOAs (852,000 acres): structures must be lower than 100 feet above ground level
- Oregon NHT protective corridor (11,000 acres): new surface or overhead ROWs would follow existing ROW or disturbance

corridors; underground ROWs would be allowed with mitigation for disturbance within the protective corridor

- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors (32,000 acres): ROWs must maintain/enhance the river segment's ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification
- Sagebrush Sea ACEC (958,000 acres): new ROWs would be restricted to ROW corridors and locations of existing ROWs

Several ROW avoidance areas overlap; where this occurs, all avoidance stipulations must be met. In addition, some ROW avoidance areas overlap with ROW exclusion areas; where this occurs, the more restrictive exclusion management applies. See Map 73 for locations of ROW avoidance areas.

**LA-V-A- 2.** The following areas would be exclusion areas for ROW (148,000 acres); they would not be available for ROWs under any conditions:

- Sand Point ACEC
  - WSAs
  - Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics
- See Map 76 for locations of ROW exclusion areas.

**LA-V-A- 3.** Designate the following ROW corridors for utilities (e.g., transmission and phone lines, oil/gas pipelines):

- Pilgrim Gulch
- Shoestring
- Balanced Rock
- Jarbidge

See Map 77 for locations of ROW corridors.

**LA-V-A- 4.** New communication sites can be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

**LA-V-A- 5.** Wind farms can be considered in areas with annual or non-native perennial vegetation, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas. Map 83 displays areas meeting these criteria in 2009; the map can be updated as vegetation conditions change on the ground.

**LA-V-A- 6.** ROWs for roads could be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance, outside ROW exclusion areas, and consistent with the *Transportation and Travel* section.

## Management Actions

**LA-V-MA- 1.** ROW construction and maintenance activities should avoid disturbing special status species during important seasonal periods, unless the disturbance can be mitigated (Appendix H).

**LA-V-MA- 2.** Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines more than 5 miles from active sage-grouse leks.

**LA-V-MA- 3.** Do not locate new communication sites in special status species habitat if the project would negatively affect special status species or their habitat.

**LA-V-MA- 4.** Restrict wind energy site testing and monitoring and wind energy development from occupied and suitable habitat for special status species, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources where their direct and indirect adverse effects cannot be mitigated.

## 2.4.5. Land Tenure

### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

#### Goal

No goal stated.

#### Objective

**LT-NA-O- 1.** Retain public lands in Federal ownership to be managed by BLM according to the principles of multiple use and sustained yield, except those lands specifically identified in the plan or amendment as transfer areas.

#### Allocations

**LT-NA-A- 1.** Consider for transfer from federal ownership:

- 540 acres of public land through sale (T1; MUAs 4, 6, 7, 12, and 13),
- 1,600 acres through sale or exchange (T2; MUAs 4, 6, 7, 15, and 16), and
- 2,820 acres through exchange (T3; MUAs 7, 11, and 12).
- See Map 4 for MUA boundaries.

**LT-NA-A- 2.** Retain 1,301,550 acres of public lands across all MUAs, including all lands in the Bruneau Known Geothermal Resource Area and all subsurface ownership in MUA 15 (Map 4).

**LT-NA-A- 3.** Make available 66,990 acres of land for potential Desert Land Entry Act of 1877 (DLE) /Carey Act of 1894 (CA) development (T4; MUAs 4, 6, and 7).

See Map 84 for locations of Land Tenure Zones T1, T2, T3, and T4.

**LT-NA-A- 4.** Close 1,306,510 acres to agricultural entry in MUAs 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 (Map 4).

**LT-NA-A- 5.** Public lands that are to be retained in federal ownership may be considered for R&PP leases, private exchanges and state exchanges following amendment procedures.

#### Management Actions

##### *Acquisition*

**LT-NA-MA- 1.** Lands may be acquired by BLM as authorized by law, but only within retention areas. Lands to be acquired through exchange or purchase would be done to benefit one or more of the resource programs including, but not limited to cultural, paleontological, recreation, wildlife, and soils.

**LT-NA-MA- 2.** Continue an ongoing program of identifying and obtaining BLM access across non-bureau lands where needed to accomplish BLM objectives.

##### *Transfer*

**LT-NA-MA- 3.** Transfer of public land within a transfer area may be accomplished by any means authorized by law.

**LT-NA-MA- 4.** Lands that are mineral in character areas, WSAs, or designated wilderness areas would not be identified as transfer areas.

**LT-NA-MA- 5.** In agricultural development areas, maintain control of all lands necessary to prevent erosion resulting from irrigation and farming practices. These might include, but would not be limited to vegetation strips, slopes, drainage ways, and flood plains.

**LT-NA-MA- 6.** Manage transfer areas until transfer of title occurs. Management actions would be taken as necessary to meet resource or user needs. Public investments in transfer areas would be kept to a minimum.

**LT-NA-MA- 7.** When withdrawals are revoked, the lands continue to be in a retention category.

**LT-NA-MA- 8.** All disposals of public lands must be consistent with the planning requirements of FLPMA and must also be evaluated through the environmental assessment process as required by NEPA.

**LT-NA-MA- 9.** Consider the need to provide protection for existing rights, access, and future anticipated needs in all disposal actions. This protection would be provided for through the issuance of rights-of-way to existing users or reservations to the Federal government in areas of anticipated needs.

**LT-NA-MA- 10.** Design special water runoff stipulations on transferred lands in MUA 6 to protect public lands adjacent to and down slope of transfer lands (Map 4).

### ***Exchange***

**LT-NA-MA- 11.** Before an exchange can be completed, the BLM must determine that the public interest would be well served by making the exchange.

**LT-NA-MA- 12.** Full consideration for exchange would be given to improve Federal land management and the needs of State and local publics through an evaluation of the needs for lands for economic development, community expansion, recreation areas or opportunities, food, fiber, minerals, and wildlife.

**LT-NA-MA- 13.** Any lands delineated for transfer in the exchange only category (T3) but not needed for the exchange would be retained in federal ownership.

**LT-NA-MA- 14.** Exchanges would be allowed within crucial wildlife habitat only if the wildlife value of the offered lands meets or exceeds the wildlife value of the selected lands. Crucial wildlife habitat will not be sold.

### ***Desert Land Entry and Carey Acts (DLE/CA)***

**LT-NA-MA- 15.** Consideration for allowing the use of public lands for agricultural development under DLE/CA generally fall into the following four steps:

- Lands must be identified for disposal through the land use planning process.
- Lands must be desert in character and physically suited for agricultural development by irrigation. The following criteria are used to determine the suitability classification of potential agricultural lands:
  - If there is 60% or more Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Class I, II, or III soils in a 40-acre parcel, the parcel may be classified suitable for agriculture development. If there is more than 40% SCS Class IV or poorer soils in each 40-acre parcel, the entire parcel is unsuitable for classification.
  - Cropland in Capability Classes II through V (particularly subclass "e") that has an average annual erosion rate of more than three times that at which soil forms (4 to 5 tons per acre per year on the average for deep soils, lower for shallower soils) would be found unsuitable for agricultural development.
  - Any public lands containing known archaeological, paleontological, or historical values determined to be unique or possibly significant would be found unsuitable for disposal for agricultural development pending further analysis.
  - Any public lands where rare, Endangered, Threatened, or Sensitive species of plants or animals are known to live (or nest) would be found unsuitable for disposal for agricultural development, unless mitigation is possible.
  - Certain tracts of land identified for community needs such as landfills, gravel pits, sewage plants, schools, etc., would be found unsuitable for disposal for agriculture.
  - Certain tracts of land identified as valuable for wildlife habitat would be found unsuitable for disposal for agricultural development.
  - Public land that does not qualify for agricultural use or disposal under DLE/CA because of other public purpose would be found unsuitable for disposal under these laws. Those lands that became fragmented as a result of a DLE/CA action and not needed for other public purposes may be considered for disposal through sale or exchange.
  - Certain tracts of land identified as having agricultural limitations based on slope and/or flood plain management would be found unsuitable for agricultural development.
- An economic analysis of lands considered for agricultural development must show a high likelihood that the lands can be farmed at a profit over a long term.
- Applicants for agricultural development must show a legal right to appropriate water including a permit to drill a well if part of the operation. Applications for agricultural development that would contribute to the mining of groundwater would not be allowed. The Idaho Supreme Court Decision #13794 regarding use of Snake River water above Swan Falls Dam for agricultural development would be resolved before proceeding with the allowance to enter the land.
- The entryman for agricultural development must show compliance with cultivation, fund expenditure, irrigation system development, and publication requirements, and payment of required fees to obtain patent to the land.

**LT-NA-MA- 16.** Under CA development, the Bureau's primary concerns are retention vs. disposal determination and physical suitability of the land. Application processing and feasibility study evaluations are the responsibility of the State of Idaho.

**LT-NA-MA- 17.** Continue to work closely with IDWR under terms of a cooperative agreement to process DLE/CA applications.

**LT-NA-MA- 18.** Public lands under DLE/CA applications that are relinquished would generally revert to a retention category and would not be made available for further application for agricultural purposes. Some relinquished lands may be identified for possible transfer via exchange only.

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## ***Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives***

### **Goal**

See goals in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

See objectives in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Allocations**

See objectives specific to each alternative and in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Management Actions**

**LT-C-MA- 1.** Sales of public lands can be made upon consideration of the following criteria:

- The parcel, because of its location or other characteristics, is difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands, and is not suitable for management by another Federal department or agency; or
- The parcel was acquired for a specific purpose and is no longer required for that or any other Federal purpose; or
- Disposal of the parcel will serve important public objectives, including but not limited to, expansion of communities and economic development which cannot be achieved prudently or feasibly on land other than public land and which outweigh other public objectives and values. These include, but are not limited to, wildlife, grazing, recreation, and scenic values which would be served by maintaining such parcel in Federal ownership.

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## ***Management Common to All Action Alternatives***

### **Goal**

**LT-CA-G- 1.** Manage land tenure to provide for public ownership of lands with high resource and multiple use values and to improve management efficiency.

### **Objective**

**LT-CA-O- 1.** Improve BLM's ability to manage the land base and resource values, and help meet resource objectives through land tenure adjustments.

### **Allocations**

**LT-CA-A- 1.** No new DLE/CA applications would be accepted for lands within the planning area.

### **Management Actions**

**LT-CA-MA- 1.** Each land tenure adjustment proposal would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and evaluated to see if it meets

the intent of FLPMA, the guidelines for the relevant land tenure zones, and the priorities for retention, disposal, and acquisition. Before approval, land tenure adjustment proposals would be evaluated through the environmental analysis process as required by NEPA.

**LT-CA-MA- 2.** Land tenure adjustments with tribes, Federal and State agencies, or State and local governments would receive priority over land tenure adjustments with private individuals or businesses.

**LT-CA-MA- 3.** Initiate tribal consultation early in the process for any land tenure adjustments.

**LT-CA-MA- 4.** In general, lands with the following characteristics would be retained in Federal ownership:

- Those lands specifically identified by the tribes as having special importance related to treaty and/or traditional uses/values;
- Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, and Candidate species habitat;
- National Register eligible and listed properties; and
- Wildlife Tracts.

These lands could be disposed of if the transaction helped achieve resource objectives; see the *Cultural Resources* section for additional guidance for disposal of lands containing National Register properties or other important cultural resources. Lands acquired under Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) must be retained.

**LT-CA-MA- 5.** BLM's acquisition priorities (not in priority order) would include:

- Land identified by Shoshone-Paiute Tribes or Shoshone-Bannock Tribes;
- Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, or Candidate species habitat;
- BLM Type 2 Sensitive species habitat;
- Lands within special designations;
- Big game winter range;
- Riparian areas;
- Lands containing known archaeological, paleontological, or historical values determined to be unique or of traditional or scientific importance;
- Lands that would provide public access to public lands, including but not limited to river access;
- Lands that would help consolidate public land;
- Lands that would help improve livestock grazing management; and
- Lands in Zones 1 and 2.

**LT-CA-MA- 6.** Vegetation treatments, construction of new range infrastructure, and other public land improvements in areas involved in a land tenure transaction would be kept to a minimum.

**LT-CA-MA- 7.** Withdrawals on lands being considered for disposal must be revoked prior to disposal.

**LT-CA-MA- 8.** Disposal of public lands would be subject to all valid existing rights, including existing rights-of-way. Existing public access through those lands may be retained if necessary for BLM management or for accommodating uses.

**LT-CA-MA- 9.** Transactions within RCAs must follow the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).

**LT-CA-MA- 10.** Access across non-BLM lands would be identified and obtained where needed to accomplish BLM objectives, including access to the Bruneau and Snake Rivers and Wildlife Tracts, through easements or acquisitions.

**LT-CA-MA- 11.** Future access needs and priorities would be coordinated with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Idaho and Nevada state agencies, and local governments to ensure resource values are evaluated along with public needs.

**LT-CA-MA- 12.** BLM would seek to reduce or eliminate the split mineral estate whenever the opportunity arises.

**LT-CA-MA- 13.** DLE/CA applications submitted prior to 2009 (Case numbers IDD-7401, IDI-7402, IDI-27888, and IDI-27889) would be processed within 10 years of the signing of the ROD, and those lands meeting the criteria of the Acts would be disposed.

**LT-CA-MA- 14.** Manage newly acquired lands and lands that have been returned to BLM management through revocation of withdrawals in accordance with RMP management for adjacent lands.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative I***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Allocations**

**LT-I-A- 1.** Zone 1 consists of lands for retention that are not available for disposal (1,109,000 acres). Zone 1 lands include the following:

- WSAs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs;
- The Bruneau-Jarbidge, Lower Bruneau Canyon, and Sand Point ACECs;
- Saylor Creek HMA;
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics; and
- Other consolidated public lands.

**LT-I-A- 2.** Zone 2 consists of lands for consolidation within the planning area (244,000 acres); these can be exchanged for other lands within Zones 1 and 2 or offered as R&PP leases. Zone 2 lands include the following:

- Selected lands near Indian Cove, Hammett, Glens Ferry, and King Hill;

- Selected lands in the northeast corner of the planning area;
- Selected lands in the Jarbidge Foothills;
- Selected lands between Clover Creek and Cedar Creek Reservoir; and
- Selected lands near the Jarbidge River in Nevada.

**LT-I-A- 3.** Zone 3 consists of lands for sale, exchange for lands within Zones 1 and 2 or lands outside the planning area, or R&PP lease (20,000 acres). Zone 3 lands include:

- Selected lands near Hammett, Glenns Ferry, King Hill, and Roseworth.

See Map 85 for locations of Land Tenure Zones 1, 2, and 3.

**LT-I-A- 4.** 80 acres of public lands within Zone 3, identified for disposal prior to July 25, 2000, would continue to be available for disposal under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act of 2000 (FLTFA; Appendix O). Proceeds from the sale or exchange of these public lands may be used to purchase additional public lands, as provided for in FLTFA.

**LT-I-A- 5.** R&PP leases to State and local governments and non-profit organizations would be considered on a case-by-case basis on lands in Zones 2 and 3.

### Management Actions

See management actions in *Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

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## Management Specific to Alternative II

### Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Allocations

**LT-II-A- 1.** Zone 1 consists of lands for retention that are not available for disposal (953,000 acres). Zone 1 lands include the following:

- WSAs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs;
- Saylor Creek Herd Area; and
- Other consolidated public lands.

**LT-II-A- 2.** Zone 2 consists of lands for consolidation within the planning area (374,000 acres); these can be exchanged for other lands within Zones 1 and 2 or offered as R&PP leases. Zone 2 lands include the following:

- Selected lands near Indian Cove and Hammett,
- Selected lands in the northeast corner of the planning area,
- Selected lands in the Jarbidge Foothills,
- Selected lands between Clover Creek and Cedar Creek Reservoir,

- Selected lands near the Jarbidge River in Nevada, and
- Lands adjacent to private lands not in Zone 3.

**LT-II-A- 3.** Zone 3 consists of lands for sale, exchange for lands within Zones 1 and 2 or lands outside the planning area, or R&PP lease (46,000 acres). Zone 3 lands include:

- Selected lands near Hammett, Glens Ferry, King Hill, and Roseworth; and
- Selected lands between Castleford and Hagerman.

See Map 86 for locations of Land Tenure Zones 1, 2, and 3.

**LT-II-A- 4.** 339 acres of public lands within Zone 3, identified for disposal prior to July 25, 2000, would continue to be available for disposal under FLTFA (Appendix O). Proceeds from the sale or exchange of these public lands may be used to purchase additional public lands, as provided for in FLTFA.

**LT-II-A- 5.** R&PP leases to State and local governments and non-profit organizations would be considered on a case-by-case basis on lands in Zones 2 and 3.

### Management Actions

See management actions in *Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

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## Management Specific to Alternative III

### Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Allocations

**LT-III-A- 1.** Zone 1 consists of lands for retention that are not available for disposal (1,109,000 acres). Zone 1 lands include the following:

- WSAs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs;
- Bruneau-Jarbidge and Sand Point ACECs;
- Saylor Creek HMA; and
- Other consolidated public lands.

**LT-III-A- 2.** Zone 2 consists of lands for consolidation within the planning area (244,000 acres); these can be exchanged for other lands within Zones 1 and 2 or offered as R&PP leases. Zone 2 lands include the following:

- Selected lands near Indian Cove, Hammett, Glens Ferry, and King Hill;
- Selected lands in the northeast corner of the planning area;
- Selected lands in the Jarbidge Foothills;
- Selected lands between Clover Creek and Cedar Creek Reservoir; and
- Selected lands near the Jarbidge River in Nevada.

**LT-III-A- 3.** Zone 3 consists of lands for sale, exchange for lands within Zones 1 and 2 or lands outside the planning area, or R&PP lease (20,000 acres). Zone 3 lands include:

- Selected lands near Hammett, Glenns Ferry, King Hill, and Roseworth.

See Map 87 for locations of Land Tenure Zones 1, 2, and 3.

**LT-III-A- 4.** 80 acres of public lands within Zone 3, identified for disposal prior to July 25, 2000, would continue to be available for disposal under FLTFA (Appendix O). Proceeds from the sale or exchange of these public lands may be used to purchase additional public lands, as provided for in FLTFA.

**LT-III-A- 5.** R&PP leases to State and local governments and non-profit organizations would be considered on a case-by-case basis on lands in Zones 2 and 3.

### Management Actions

See management actions in *Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

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## Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

### Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Allocations

**LT-IV-A- 1.** Zone 1 consists of lands for retention that are not available for disposal (1,129,000 acres). Zone 1 lands include the following:

- WSAs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs;
- Bruneau-Jarbidge, Inside Desert, Lower Bruneau Canyon, and Sand Point ACECs;
- Saylor Creek HMA;
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics; and
- Other consolidated public lands.

**LT-IV-A- 2.** Zone 2 consists of lands for consolidation within the planning area (229,000 acres); these can be exchanged for other lands within Zones 1 and 2 or offered as R&PP leases. Zone 2 lands include the following:

- Selected lands near Glenns Ferry and Roseworth,
- Selected lands in the northeast corner of the planning area,
- Selected lands in the Jarbidge Foothills, and
- Selected lands between Clover Creek and Cedar Creek Reservoir.

**LT-IV-A- 3.** Zone 3 consists of lands for sale, exchange for lands within Zones 1 and 2 or lands outside the planning area, or R&PP lease (16,000 acres). Zone 3 lands include:

- Selected lands near Hammett, Glenns Ferry, and King Hill.

See Map 88 for locations of Land Tenure Zones 1, 2, and 3.

**LT-IV-A- 4.** 39 acres of public lands within Zone 3, identified for disposal prior to July 25, 2000, would continue to be available for disposal under FLTFA (Appendix O). Proceeds from the sale or exchange of these public lands may be used to purchase additional public lands, as provided for in FLTFA.

**LT-IV-A- 5.** R&PP leases to State and local governments and non-profit organizations would be considered on a case-by-case basis on lands in Zones 2 and 3.

### Management Actions

See management actions in *Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

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## Management Specific to Alternative V

### Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Allocations

**LT-V-A- 1.** Zone 1 consists of lands for retention that are not available for disposal (1,279,000 acres). Zone 1 lands include the following:

- WSAs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs;
- Sand Point, Lower Bruneau Canyon, and Sagebrush Sea ACECs;
- Saylor Creek HMA;
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics; and
- Other consolidated public lands.

**LT-V-A- 2.** Zone 2 consists of lands for consolidation within the planning area (95,000 acres); these can be exchanged for other lands within zones 1 and 2 or offered as R&PP leases. Zone 2 lands include:

- Selected lands near Hammett, Glenns Ferry, and King Hill; and
- Selected lands in the northeast corner of the planning area.

**LT-V-A- 3.** Zone 3 consists of lands for sale, exchange for lands within Zones 1 and 2 or lands outside the planning area, or R&PP lease. No lands are identified for inclusion in Zone 3.

See Map 89 for locations of Land Tenure Zones 1, 2, and 3.

**LT-V-A- 4.** R&PP leases to State and local governments and non-profit organizations would be considered on a case-by-case basis on lands in Zone 2.

### Management Actions

See management actions in *Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

## 2.4.6. Minerals

### 2.4.6.1. Leasable Minerals

#### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

##### Goal

No goal stated.

##### Objective

**LE-NA-O- 1.** Make 1,307,000 acres of the area available for leasable mineral exploration and development across all MUAs.

##### Allocations

**LE-NA-A- 1.** Generally, the public lands may be considered for energy and minerals leasing and sale.

**LE-NA-A- 2.** 1,302,525 acres would be open to leasing in MUAs 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 (Map 4).

**LE-NA-A- 3.** Crucial wildlife habitats shown below would be open to mineral leasing with No Surface Occupancy (NSO) during the following time periods:

- December through April in mule deer winter range;
- December through April in pronghorn winter range;
- May through June in pronghorn fawning range;
- December through mid February in sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse winter range;
- Mid February through June in sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse breeding grounds;
- April through June in within 2 miles of leks in sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse nesting and brood rearing habitat;
- December through March in bald eagle and peregrine falcon winter habitat;
- February through June within 0.75 miles of golden eagle nests;
- Mid March through June within 0.75 miles of ferruginous hawk, prairie falcon, and long-billed curlew nests;
- Mid March through June within 0.25 miles of white-faced ibis and Western burrowing owl nests; and
- Mid April through August within 0.75 miles of osprey nests.

**LE-NA-A- 4.** The following 284,000 acres in MUAs 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 would be open to mineral leasing with NSO year round:

- Oregon Trail;
- Paleontological sites and cultural resource complexes;
- Sand Point ACEC;
- Power site in MUA 9;
- WSAs;

- Bruneau, Jarbidge, Arch, and Salmon Falls Canyons;
- Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA;
- Bighorn sheep habitat; and
- Within 500 feet of reservoirs, ponds, lakes, streams, wetlands, marshes, and riparian areas.

**LE-NA-A- 5.** In addition, cultural sites identified as special MUAs in the RMP and areas within 1 mile of bald eagle and peregrine falcon nests, within essential nesting habitat for other birds of prey, and within 0.5 miles of heron rookeries would also be open to mineral leasing with no surface occupancy year round.

**LE-NA-A- 6.** 104,097 acres are closed to leasables in MUAs 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, and 16.

### Management Actions

**LE-NA-MA- 1.** Approval of an application for lease or sale of energy and minerals is subject to an environmental analysis and may include stipulations to protect other resources.

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## Management Common to All Action Alternatives

### Goal

**LE-CA-G- 1.** Provide leasable mineral development opportunities where they are compatible with other resources.

### Objective

See objectives for specific alternatives.

### Allocations

**LE-CA-A- 1.** WSAs would be closed to mineral leasing.

Additional allocations for leasable minerals are found in management specific to each alternative.

### Management Actions

**LE-CA-MA- 1.** The terms and conditions of the standard lease form (Form 3100-11, Offer to Lease and Lease for Oil and Gas) or future versions of the form would apply to all mineral leases.

**LE-CA-MA- 2.** The following stipulations for Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) Section 7 Consultation and Cultural Resource Protection would be used unless new stipulations are directed by BLM policy:

- *ESA Section 7 Consultation Stipulation* – The lease area may now or hereafter contain plants, animals, or their habitats determined to be Threatened, Endangered or other special status species. BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further its conservation and management objective to avoid BLM-approved activity that would contribute to a need to list such a species or their habitat. BLM may require modifications to or disapprove proposed activity that is likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a proposed or listed Threatened or Endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat. BLM would not approve any ground-disturbing activity that may affect

any such species or critical habitat until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the ESA, including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation.

- *Cultural Resource Protection Stipulation* – This lease may be found to contain historic properties and/or resources protected under NHPA, American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Executive Order 13007, or other statutes and executive orders. The BLM would not approve any ground-disturbing activities that may affect any such properties or resources until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the NHPA and other authorities. The BLM may require modification to exploration or development proposals to protect such properties, or disapprove any activity that is likely to result in adverse effects that cannot be successfully avoided, minimized, or mitigated.

**LE-CA-MA- 3.** Exceptions, waivers, and modifications may not be made for the following lease stipulations:

- Controlled Surface Use Stipulation for Special Status Species Habitat: ESA Section 7 Consultation
- Controlled Surface Use Stipulation for Cultural Resources: Cultural Resource Protection Stipulation

**LE-CA-MA- 4.** Site-specific resource condition objectives, lease stipulations, conditions of approval, and actions to achieve those objectives would be identified on a case-by-case basis.

**LE-CA-MA- 5.** Mineral leasing and development decisions also apply to geophysical exploration.

**LE-CA-MA- 6.** Exploration and development of non-energy leasable minerals would follow standard stipulations outlined above; additional stipulations would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative I***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**LE-I-O- 1.** Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of leasable minerals where compatible with resource objectives.

### **Allocations**

**LE-I-A- 1.** The majority of the planning area would be open to mineral leasing, subject to laws, regulations, and formal orders; the terms and conditions of the standard lease form; and stipulations for ESA Section 7 Consultation and Cultural Resource Protection. Areas that would be subject to additional moderate or major constraints specific to Alternative I are as follows:

- *Moderate constraints:* Big game winter range (December through March), key sage-grouse habitat (mid February through mid June), and RCAs in bull trout (August through November) and redband trout (May through June) spawning habitat would be open to mineral leasing with seasonal restrictions. RCAs would be open to mineral leasing, consistent with guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).

- *Major constraints:* The Oregon NHT protective corridor and the Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors would be open to mineral leasing with NSO.

**LE-I-A- 2.** Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs; non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics; and the Lower Bruneau Canyon, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Middle Snake, Salmon Falls Creek, and Sand Point ACECs would be closed to mineral leasing.

See Map 92 for locations of leasable mineral allocations.

**LE-I-A- 3.** Areas open or closed to exploration and development of non-energy leasable minerals would follow allocations outlined above.

### Management Actions

**LE-I-MA- 1.** Exceptions, waivers, or modifications may be made for lease stipulations as described below. Public review is required for exceptions, waivers, or modifications to stipulations that involve an issue of major concern to the public; documentation requirements would follow those outlined in 43 CFR 3101.1-4.

- *NSO Stipulation for Oregon NHT Protective Corridor (13,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy is not allowed within the Oregon NHT protective corridor.
  - *Exception:* After coordination with SHPO, the authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the integrity of the trail.
  - *Waiver:* The authorized officer may grant a waiver if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would only impact non-contributing trail segments.
  - *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *NSO Stipulation for Kelton and Toana Freight Roads (20,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy would not be allowed within the Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors.
  - *Exception:* After coordination with SHPO, the authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the integrity of the trails.
  - *Waiver:* The authorized officer may grant a waiver if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would only impact non-contributing trail segments.
  - *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *Seasonal Restriction Stipulation for Big Game Winter Range (536,000 acres), Key Habitat for Sage-Grouse (264,000 acres), and Redband Trout Spawning Habitat (7,000 acres)* – No surface use would be allowed (e.g., exploration, construction, and drilling) within big game winter range from December through March, key sage-grouse habitat from mid February through mid June, or redband trout spawning habitat from May through June.

- *Exception:* The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not affect the species or habitat during the critical season. An exception may also be granted if the proponent, BLM, and state wildlife agencies negotiate compensation or mitigation that would offset the anticipated impact to the species or habitat.
- *Waiver:* The stipulation may be waived if after discussion with state wildlife agencies it is determined the described lands are incapable of serving the long-term requirements of the species and these areas no longer warrant consideration of habitat.
- *Modification:* The authorized officer may modify the size and shape of the area under seasonal restrictions if an environmental analysis indicates the actual habitat suitability for the species is different. Time periods may be modified based on studies documenting local periods of actual use.
- *Seasonal Restriction Stipulation for Bull Trout Spawning Habitat (900 acres)* – No surface use would be allowed (e.g., exploration, construction, and drilling) within RCAs in bull trout spawning habitat from August through November.
  - *Exception:* The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not affect the species or habitat during the critical season. An exception may also be granted if the proponent, BLM, FWS, and state wildlife agencies negotiate compensation or mitigation that would offset the anticipated impact to the species or habitat.
  - *Waiver:* The stipulation may be waived if after consulting with FWS and discussion with state wildlife agencies it is determined the described lands are incapable of serving the long-term requirements of the species and these areas no longer warrant consideration of habitat.
  - *Modification:* The authorized officer may modify the size and shape of the area under seasonal restrictions if an environmental analysis indicates the actual habitat suitability for the species is different. Time periods may be modified based on studies documenting local periods of actual use.
- *Controlled Surface Use Stipulation for Riparian Areas and Wetlands (53,000 acres)* – Surface use within RCAs must be consistent with the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D). Exceptions, waivers, and modifications may not be made.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative II***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

## Objective

**LE-II-O- 1.** Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of leasable minerals where compatible with resource objectives.

## Allocations

**LE-II-A- 1.** The majority of the planning area would be open to mineral leasing, subject to laws, regulations, and formal orders; the terms and conditions of the standard lease form; and stipulations for ESA Section 7 Consultation and Cultural Resource Protection. Areas that would be subject to additional moderate or major constraints specific to Alternative II are as follows:

- *Moderate constraints:* RCAs would be open to mineral leasing, consistent with guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).
- *Major constraints:* The Oregon NHT protective corridor and eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs would be open to mineral leasing with NSO.

See Map 93 for locations of leasable mineral allocations.

**LE-II-A- 2.** Areas open or closed to exploration and development of non-energy leasable minerals would follow allocations outlined above.

## Management Actions

**LE-II-MA- 1.** Exceptions, waivers, or modifications may be made for lease stipulations as described below. Public review is required for exceptions, waivers, or modifications to stipulations that involve an issue of major concern to the public; documentation requirements would follow those outlined in 43 CFR 3101.1-4.

- *NSO Stipulation for Oregon NHT Protective Corridor (14,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy is not allowed within the Oregon NHT protective corridor.
  - *Exception:* After coordination with SHPO, the authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the integrity of the trail.
  - *Waiver:* The authorized officer may grant a waiver if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would only impact non-contributing trail segments.
  - *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *NSO Stipulation for Eligible, Suitable, and Designated WSRs (15,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy would not be allowed within the corridors of eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs.
  - *Exception:* The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the area's ORVs or its free-flowing nature.
  - *Waiver:* This stipulation may be waived if the environmental analysis finds a portion of the area does not contain the ORVs for which it was designated.
  - *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *Controlled Surface Use Stipulation for Riparian Areas and Wetlands (58,000 acres)* – Surface use within RCAs must be consistent with the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D). Exceptions, waivers, and modifications may not be made.

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## Management Specific to Alternative III

### Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Objective

**LE-III-O- 1.** Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of leasable minerals where compatible with resource and wildland fire prevention and suppression objectives.

### Allocations

**LE-III-A- 1.** The majority of the planning area would be open to mineral leasing, subject to laws, regulations, and formal orders; and the terms and conditions of the standard lease form. However, exploration and development activities would not be allowed during fire restrictions. Areas that would be subject to additional major constraints specific to Alternative III are as follows:

- *Moderate constraints:* RCAs would be open to mineral leasing, consistent with guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).
- *Major constraints:* The Oregon NHT protective corridor and eligible, suitable, designated WSRs would be open to mineral leasing with no surface occupancy.

**LE-III-A- 2.** The Bruneau-Jarbidge and Sand Point ACECs would be closed to mineral leasing.

See Map 93 for locations of leasable mineral allocations.

**LE-III-A- 3.** Areas open or closed to exploration and development of non-energy leasable minerals would follow allocations outlined above.

### Management Actions

**LE-III-MA- 1.** Exceptions, waivers, or modifications may be made for lease stipulations as described below. Public review is required for exceptions, waivers, or modifications to stipulations that involve an issue of major concern to the public; documentation requirements would follow those outlined in 43 CFR 3101.1-4.

- *NSO Stipulation for Oregon NHT Protective Corridor (14,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy is not allowed within the Oregon NHT protective corridor.
  - *Exception:* After coordination with SHPO, the authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the integrity of the trail.
  - *Waiver:* The authorized officer may grant a waiver if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would only impact non-contributing trail segments.
  - *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *NSO Stipulation for eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs (14,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy would not be allowed within the corridors of eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs.
  - *Exception:* The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the area's ORVs or its free-flowing nature.

- *Waiver*: This stipulation may be waived if the environmental analysis finds a portion of the area does not contain the ORVs for which it was designated.
- *Modification*: This stipulation may not be modified.
- *Controlled Surface Use Stipulation for Riparian Areas and Wetlands (58,000 acres)* – Surface use within RCAs must be consistent with the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D). Exceptions, waivers, and modifications may not be made.

**LE-III-MA- 2.** The authorized office may restrict surface use (exploration, construction, and drilling) during fire restrictions.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)**

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**LE-IV-O- 1.** Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of leasable minerals where compatible with resource objectives.

### **Allocations**

**LE-IV-A- 1.** The majority of the planning area would be open to mineral leasing, subject to laws, regulations, and formal orders; the terms and conditions of the standard lease form; and stipulations for ESA Section 7 Consultation and Cultural Resource Protection. Areas that would be subject to additional moderate or major constraints specific Alternative IV are as follows:

- *Moderate constraints*: Big game winter range (December through March), key sage-grouse habitat (mid February through mid June), and RCAs in bull trout (August through November) and redband trout (May through June) spawning habitat would be open to mineral leasing with seasonal restrictions. RCAs would be open to mineral leasing, consistent with guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).
- *Major constraints*: The Oregon NHT protective corridor and the Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors would be open to mineral leasing with NSO.

**LE-IV-A- 2.** Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs; the Inside Desert, Lower Bruneau Canyon, Bruneau-Jarbidge, and Sand Point ACECs; and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics would be closed to mineral leasing.

See Maps 94 and 95 for locations of leasable mineral allocations.

**LE-IV-A- 3.** Areas open or closed to exploration and development of non-energy leasable minerals would follow allocations outlined above.

### **Management Actions**

**LE-IV-MA- 1.** Exceptions, waivers, or modifications may be made for lease stipulations as described below. Public review is required for exceptions, waivers, or modifications to stipulations that involve an issue of major concern to the public; documentation requirements would follow those outlined in 43 CFR 3101.1-4.

- *NSO Stipulation for Oregon NHT Protective Corridor (13,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy is not allowed within the Oregon NHT protective corridor.

- *Exception:* After coordination with SHPO, the authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the integrity of the trail.
- *Waiver:* The authorized officer may grant a waiver if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would only impact non-contributing trail segments.
- *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *NSO Stipulation for Kelton and Toana Freight Roads (20,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy would not be allowed within the Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors.
  - *Exception:* After coordination with SHPO, the authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the integrity of the trails.
  - *Waiver:* The authorized officer may grant a waiver if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would only impact non-contributing trail segments.
  - *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *Seasonal Restriction Stipulation for Big Game Winter Range (496,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 509,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative), Key Sage-Grouse Habitat (234,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 248,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative), and Redband Trout Spawning Habitat (6,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 7,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative)* – No surface use would be allowed (e.g., exploration, construction, and drilling) within big game winter range from December through March, key sage-grouse habitat from mid February through mid June, or RCAs in redband trout spawning habitat from May through June.
  - *Exception:* The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not affect the species or habitat during the critical season. An exception may also be granted if the proponent, BLM, and state wildlife agencies negotiate compensation or mitigation that would offset the anticipated impact to the species or habitat.
  - *Waiver:* The stipulation may be waived if after discussions with state wildlife agencies it is determined the described lands are incapable of serving the long-term requirements of the species and these areas no longer warrant consideration of habitat.
  - *Modification:* The authorized officer may modify the size and shape of the area under seasonal restrictions if an environmental analysis indicates the actual habitat suitability for the species is different. Time periods may be modified based on studies documental local periods of actual use.
- *Seasonal Restriction Stipulation for Bull Trout Spawning Habitat (700 acres)* – No surface use would be allowed (e.g., exploration, construction, and drilling) within RCAs in bull trout spawning habitat from August through November.
  - *Exception:* The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed

or conditioned would not affect the species or habitat during the critical season. An exception may also be granted if the proponent, BLM, FWS, and state wildlife agencies negotiate compensation or mitigation that would offset the anticipated impact to the species or habitat.

- *Waiver*: The stipulation may be waived if after consulting with FWS and discussions with state wildlife agencies it is determined the described lands are incapable of serving the long-term requirements of the species and these areas no longer warrant consideration of habitat.
- *Modification*: The authorized officer may modify the size and shape of the area under seasonal restrictions if an environmental analysis indicates the actual habitat suitability for the species is different. Time periods may be modified based on studies documenting local periods of actual use. Controlled Surface Use Stipulation for Riparian Areas and Wetlands (52,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 53,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative) – Surface use within RCAs must be consistent with the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D). Exceptions, waivers, and modifications may not be made.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative V***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**LE-V-O- 1.** Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of leasable minerals where compatible with resource objectives.

### **Allocations**

**LE-V-A- 1.** The majority of the planning area would be open to mineral leasing, subject to laws, regulations, and formal orders; the terms and conditions of the standard lease form; and stipulations for ESA Section 7 Consultation and Cultural Resource Protection. Areas that would be subject to additional moderate or major constraints specific to Alternative V are as follows:

- *Moderate constraints*: Key sage-grouse habitat (mid February through mid June), and RCAs in bull trout (August through November) and redband trout (May through June) spawning habitat would be open to mineral leasing with seasonal restrictions (Appendix H). RCAs would be open to mineral leasing, consistent with guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).
- *Major constraints*: The Oregon NHT protective corridor and the Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors would be open to mineral leasing with NSO.

**LE-V-A- 2.** Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs; the Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Sand Point ACECs; and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics would be closed to mineral leasing.

See Map 96 for locations of leasable mineral allocations.

**LE-V-A- 3.** Areas open or closed to exploration and development of non-energy leasable minerals would follow allocations outlined above.

## Management Actions

**LE-V-MA- 1.** Exceptions, waivers, or modifications may be made for lease stipulations as described below. Public review is required for exceptions, waivers, or modifications to stipulations that involve an issue of major concern to the public; documentation requirements would follow those outlined in 43 CFR 3101.1-4.

- *NSO Stipulation for Oregon NHT Protective Corridor (13,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy is not allowed within the Oregon NHT protective corridor.
  - *Exception:* After coordination with SHPO, the authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the integrity of the trail.
  - *Waiver:* The authorized officer may grant a waiver if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would only impact non-contributing trail segments.
  - *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *NSO Stipulation for Toana and Kelton Roads (20,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy would not be allowed within the Kelton and Toana Freight Road corridors.
  - *Exception:* After coordination with SHPO, the authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the integrity of the trails.
  - *Waiver:* The authorized officer may grant a waiver if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would only impact non-contributing trail segments.
  - *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *Seasonal Restriction Stipulation for Key Sage-Grouse Habitat (255,000 acres) and Redband Trout Spawning Habitat (7,000 acres)* – No surface use is allowed (e.g., exploration, construction, and drilling) within key sage-grouse habitat from mid February through mid June, or RCAs in redband trout spawning habitat from May through June.
  - *Exception:* The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not affect the species or habitat during the critical season. An exception may also be granted if the proponent, BLM, FWS, and state wildlife agencies negotiate compensation or mitigation that would offset the anticipated impact to the species or habitat.
  - *Waiver:* The stipulation may be waived if after discussions with state wildlife agencies it is determined the described lands are incapable of serving the long-term requirements of the species and these areas no longer warrant consideration of habitat.
  - *Modification:* The authorized officer may modify the size and shape of the area under seasonal restrictions if an environmental analysis indicates the actual habitat suitability for the species is different. Time periods may be modified based on studies documenting local periods of actual use.
- *Seasonal Restriction Stipulation for Bull Trout Spawning Habitat (900 acres)* – No surface use would be allowed (e.g.,

exploration, construction, and drilling) within RCAs in bull trout spawning habitat from August through November.

- *Exception:* The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not affect the species or habitat during the critical season. An exception may also be granted if the proponent, BLM, FWS, and state wildlife agencies negotiate compensation or mitigation that would offset the anticipated impact to the species or habitat.
- *Waiver:* The stipulation may be waived if after consulting with FWS and state wildlife agencies it is determined the described lands are incapable of serving the long-term requirements of the species and these areas no longer warrant consideration of habitat.
- *Modification:* The authorized officer may modify the size and shape of the area under seasonal restrictions if an environmental analysis indicates the actual habitat suitability for the species is different. Time periods may be modified based on studies documenting local periods of actual use.
- *Controlled Surface Use Stipulation for Riparian Areas and Wetlands (53,000 acres)* – Surface use within RCAs must be consistent with the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D). Exceptions, waivers, and modifications may not be made.

## 2.4.6.2. Salable Minerals

### ***Management Specific to the No Action Alternative***

#### **Goal**

No goal stated.

#### **Objective**

**SA-NA-O- 1.** Manage 697 acres in MUAs 4, 6, 7, and 12 for material use sites.

#### **Allocations**

**SA-NA-A- 1.** Manage areas for material use sites as follows:

- 65 acres in MUA 4
- 28 acres in MUA 6
- 24 sites containing 524 acres in MUA 7
- 80 acres in MUA 12

#### **Management Actions**

**SA-NA-MA- 1.** New sites may be set up if it is determined that an existing site will not meet the applicant's needs and site impacts can be sufficiently mitigated.

### ***Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives***

#### **Goal**

See goals in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

See objectives for specific alternatives.

#### **Allocations**

See allocations for specific alternatives.

**Management Actions**

**SA-C-MA- 1.** The general policy shall be to promote the use of existing sites for mineral disposals.

**SA-C-MA- 2.** Exploration for new sites would be the responsibility of the applicant. Exploration would be allowed where appropriate under a letter of authorization from the authorized officer.

**Management Common to All Action Alternatives****Goal**

**SA-CA-G- 1.** Provide salable mineral development opportunities where they are compatible with other resources.

**Objective**

See objectives for specific alternatives.

**Allocations**

See allocations for specific alternatives.

**Management Actions**

**SA-CA-MA- 1.** If activities related to salable mineral development cannot avoid special status species or their habitats, permits would include mitigation for any adverse effects on special status species and their habitats.

**SA-CA-MA- 2.** RCAs would be open to salable mineral development consistent with the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).

**SA-CA-MA- 3.** All mineral material sites would be reclaimed in accordance with resource objectives for the adjacent area as specified in the permit.

**SA-CA-MA- 4.** Terms and Conditions for commercial salable mineral development include but may not be limited to:

- Crushing and blasting may be restricted during important time periods for Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, or Candidate species (Type 1 BLM Sensitive; Appendix H).
- No ground disturbance on sites with important cultural and paleontological resources.
- Any operation with ground disturbance would be responsible for control of noxious weeds and invasive plants.
- Topsoil would be stockpiled separate from overburden to facilitate reclamation.
- Disturbed areas would be recontoured to as near a natural landform as possible or to a slope no greater than 3:1.
- Seeding, mulching, and drainage may be required in accordance with site-specific requirements.
- A reclamation bond may be required before any authorized ground disturbance; the reclamation bond would be revisited every 2 years.
- Incremental interim reclamation would be required.
- Containment for hazardous materials would be required.
- Dust abatement would be required adjacent to private residences.

- During construction and use, runoff water should be diverted onto areas with vegetation capable of filtering runoff, or pass through settling basins.

**SA-CA-MA- 5.** Stipulations for community pits would be developed on a site-specific basis. Stipulations could include the following:

- Topsoil should be stock piled and placed back onto the pit upon completion of excavation.
- The pit area shall be fenced or the work slopes shall be leveled to a 2-to-1 slope at the end of each day.
- The permittee is responsible for all suppression costs resulting from any fires caused by the proposed action.
- When American antiquities or other objects of historic or scientific interest including, but not limited to, historic or prehistoric ruins, vertebrate fossils, or artifacts are discovered, the item(s) will be left intact and immediately brought to the attention of the authorized officer.
- The area shall be maintained free of trash and refuse during operations and at termination of the permit.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative I**

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

**SA-I-O- 1.** Provide salable minerals needed for community and economic purposes and facilitate their reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound development where available and compatible with resource objectives.

### **Allocations**

**SA-I-A- 1.** The majority of the planning area would be open to salable mineral development (1,308,000 acres), subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations, except for the following areas which are closed to salable mineral development (187,000 acres):

- WSAs;
  - Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs;
  - The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
  - The Kelton and Toana Freight Roads;
  - Bruneau-Jarbidge, Lower Bruneau Canyon, Salmon Falls Creek, and Sand Point ACECs;
  - Playas (300-foot buffer); and
  - Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics.
- See Map 97 for locations of salable mineral allocations.

### **Management Actions**

**SA-I-MA- 1.** New salable mineral development or expansion of existing developments would not be allowed within the Middle Snake ACEC.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative II**

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Objective**

**SA-II-O- 1.** Provide salable minerals needed for community and economic purposes and facilitate their reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound development where available and compatible with resource objectives.

**Allocations**

**SA-II-A- 1.** The majority of the planning area would be open to salable mineral development (1,401,000 acres), subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations, except for the following areas which are closed to salable mineral development (94,000 acres):

- WSAs.

See Map 98 for locations of salable mineral allocations.

**Management Actions**

**SA-II-MA- 1.** New sites may be set up if it is determined that an existing site will not meet the applicant's needs and site impacts can be sufficiently mitigated.

**Management Specific to Alternative III****Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Objective**

**SA-III-O- 1.** Provide salable minerals needed for community and economic purposes and facilitate their reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound development where available and compatible with resource and wildland fire prevention and suppression objectives.

**Allocations**

**SA-III-A- 1.** The majority of the planning area would be open to salable mineral development (1,351,000 acres), subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations, except for the following areas which are closed to salable mineral development (144,000 acres):

- WSAs;
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
- The Kelton and Toana Freight Roads;
- Sand Point, Bruneau-Jarbidge, and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs; and
- Playas (300-ft buffer)

See Map 99 for locations of salable mineral allocations.

**Management Actions**

**SA-III-MA- 1.** New sites may be set up if it is determined that an existing site will not meet the applicant's needs and site impacts can be sufficiently mitigated.

**Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)****Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Objective

**SA-IV-O- 1.** Provide salable minerals needed for community and economic purposes and facilitate their reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound development where available and compatible with resource objectives.

### Allocations

**SA-IV-A- 1.** The majority of the planning area would be open to salable mineral development (1,220,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 1,252,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative), subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations, except for the following areas which are closed to salable mineral development (275,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 243,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative):

- WSAs;
  - Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs;
  - The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
  - The Kelton and Toana Freight Roads;
  - Bruneau-Jarbidge, Inside Desert, Lower Bruneau Canyon, and Sand Point ACECs;
  - Playas (300-foot buffer); and
  - Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics.
- See Map 100 for locations of salable mineral allocations.

### Management Actions

**SA-IV-MA- 1.** New sites may be set up if it is determined that an existing site will not meet the applicant's needs and site impacts can be sufficiently mitigated.

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## Management Specific to Alternative V

### Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### Objective

**SA-V-O- 1.** Provide salable minerals needed for community and economic purposes and facilitate their reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound development where available and compatible with resource objectives.

### Allocations

**SA-V-A- 1.** The majority of the planning area would be open to salable mineral development (1,297,000 acres), subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations, except for the following areas which are closed to salable mineral development (198,000 acres):

- WSAs;
  - Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs;
  - The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
  - The Kelton and Toana Freight Roads,
  - Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Sand Point ACECs;
  - Playas (300-foot buffer); and
  - Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics.
- See Map 101 for locations of salable mineral allocations.

### Management Actions

**SA-V-MA- 1.** New sites may be set up if it is determined that an existing site will not meet the applicant's needs and site impacts can be sufficiently mitigated.

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### 2.4.6.3. Locatable Minerals

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#### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

##### Goal

No goal stated.

##### Objective

**LO-NA-O- 1.** Make 1,395,000 acres of the area available for locatable minerals across all MUAs.

##### Allocations

**LO-NA-A- 1.** Generally, the public lands would be available for mineral exploration and development, subject to applicable regulations and Federal and State laws. Areas within the planning area would be available for exploration and development of locatable minerals except where specifically restricted or excluded. The public lands would be available for location of mining claims unless withdrawn.

**LO-NA-A- 2.** Recommend more than 217,943 acres for withdrawal from locatable entry in MUAs 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16.

Areas include:

- Sand Point and Bruneau-Jarbidge ACECs;
- Oregon Trail;
- Paleontological sites and cultural resource complexes;
- Dove Springs;
- Deans Site;
- Designated wilderness;
- Bruneau, Jarbidge, and Salmon Falls Canyons; and
- Bighorn sheep habitat.

Recommendations by BLM for withdrawal are subject to final consideration by the Secretary of the Interior.

##### Management Action

**LO-NA-MA- 1.** Give special consideration for the mitigation of mining-related activities in riparian areas (i.e., tailing deposits, holding ponds, chemical dumps).

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#### *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*

##### Goal

**LO-CA-G- 1.** Locatable mineral development would not cause unnecessary and undue degradation of resources.

##### Objective

**LO-CA-O- 1.** Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of locatable minerals.

##### Allocations

See allocations specific to each alternative.

##### Management Actions

**LO-CA-MA- 1.** Determine whether locatable mineral plans of operation cause unnecessary and undue degradation to resources, including habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species, on a case-by-case basis and identify stipulations or mitigation measures as appropriate.

**LO-CA-MA- 2.** Activities related to locatable mineral development negatively affecting riparian areas would be mitigated according to direction in the ARMS (Appendix D).

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## **Management Specific to Alternative I**

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Allocations**

**LO-I-A- 1.** The planning area would be available for location of mining claims unless withdrawn.

**LO-I-A- 2.** Recommend the following areas for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development (117,000 acres):

- Bruneau-Jarbidge, Middle Snake, Salmon Falls Creek, and Sand Point ACECs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor; and
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs.

See Map 102 for locations of areas recommended for withdrawal. Recommendations by BLM for withdrawal are subject to final consideration by the Secretary of the Interior.

### **Management Actions**

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative II**

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Allocations**

**LO-II-A- 1.** The planning area would be available for location of mining claims unless withdrawn.

**LO-II-A- 2.** Recommend the following areas for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development (46,000 acres):

- The Oregon NHT protective corridor and
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs.

See Map 103 for locations of areas recommended for withdrawal. Recommendations by BLM for withdrawal are subject to final consideration by the Secretary of the Interior.

### **Management Actions**

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

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### **Management Specific to Alternative III**

#### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Allocations**

**LO-III-A- 1.** The planning area would be available for location of mining claims unless withdrawn.

**LO-III-A- 2.** Recommend the following areas for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development (92,000 acres):

- Bruneau-Jarbidge, Salmon Falls Creek, and Sand Point ACECs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor; and
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs.

See Map 104 for locations of areas recommended for withdrawal. Recommendations by BLM for withdrawal are subject to final consideration by the Secretary of the Interior.

#### **Management Actions**

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

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### **Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)**

#### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Allocations**

**LO-IV-A- 1.** The planning area would be available for location of mining claims unless withdrawn.

**LO-IV-A- 2.** Recommend the following areas for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development (148,000 acres):

- Bruneau-Jarbidge and Sand Point ACECs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor; and
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs.

See Map 105 for locations of areas recommended for withdrawal. Recommendations by BLM for withdrawal are subject to final consideration by the Secretary of the Interior.

#### **Management Actions**

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

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### **Management Specific to Alternative V**

#### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

## Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

## Allocations

**LO-V-A- 1.** The planning area would be available for location of mining claims unless withdrawn.

**LO-V-A- 2.** Recommend the following areas for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development (53,000 acres):

- Middle Snake and Sand Point ACECs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor; and
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs.

See Map 106 for locations of areas recommended for withdrawal. Recommendations by BLM for withdrawal are subject to final consideration by the Secretary of the Interior.

## Management Actions

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

## 2.5. SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

This section describes management specific to areas with special designations. Unless otherwise specified in the following sections, management described elsewhere in Chapter 2 applies to these areas as well.

### 2.5.1. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

#### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

##### Goal

No goal stated.

##### Objective

**Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC**  
**ACEC-NA-O- 1.** Protect the cultural values of the Dry Lake/Bruneau River Complex and Arch Canyon and the scenic and recreation values of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers through special designation and management.

**ACEC-NA-O- 2.** Protect and enhance the Arch Canyon area and bighorn sheep habitat in the West Fork of the Bruneau River and the Jarbidge River system to a good ecological condition class and protect and maintain the cultural, geologic, scenic, and natural values present in the area.

##### Allocation

**Bruneau Jarbidge ACEC**  
**ACEC-NA-A- 1.** Manage 85,000 acres of public land as the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (Map 107).

##### Management Actions

**Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC**  
**ACEC-NA-MA- 1.** The management priority for the canyons is for bighorn sheep and other wildlife. Where necessary to prevent livestock access to canyons, livestock management measures (i.e., salting or fencing) will be implemented.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 2.** Activities or developments that would impair the scenic quality would not be allowed. The area would be managed as VRM Class I or II with the canyon system as the Key Observation Point.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 3.** Livestock water sources would not be developed within 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat within the ACEC unless adverse effects can be mitigated.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 4.** No conversions from cattle to sheep will be allowed in allotments containing bighorn sheep habitat, unless a satisfactory separation can be maintained by fences or topographic features.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 5.** The area would be recommended for withdrawal from the 1872 mining laws.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 6.** No surface occupancy would be allowed for oil and gas and geothermal exploration or development within the habitat area.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 7.** Retain public lands within bighorn sheep habitat within the ACEC, unless a proposed exchange would result in the acquisition of higher quality habitat.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 8.** The ACEC would be a utility avoidance area for overhead, surface, and underground developments. Retain the utility corridor near Murphy Hot Springs in the ACEC.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 9.** Maintain a low level of human disturbance in bighorn sheep habitat by not constructing or upgrading any roads that would lead to or encourage human disturbance in bighorn sheep habitat.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 10.** Motorized vehicle use within the ACEC would be allowed only on designated roads and trails.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 11.** The protection of Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive plant species would be given priority over livestock and recreation use.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 12.** Existing primitive recreation uses of the river canyon complex are compatible uses.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 13.** OHV use, livestock use, utility corridor use, mineral development, and hydro development are uses that need to be analyzed on a case-by-case basis to determine compatibility.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 14.** Permit no adverse habitat alteration of bighorn sheep or potential bighorn sheep habitats.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 15.** Develop a Multiple Use Management Plan for the ACEC.

## Objective

### **Salmon Falls Creek ACEC**

**ACEC-NA-O- 3.** Protect the Salmon Falls Creek Canyon (rim-to-rim) for its natural and scenic values through special designation and management.

## Allocations

### **Salmon Falls Creek ACEC**

**ACEC-NA-A- 2.** Manage 2,700 acres of public land as the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC (Map 107).

## Management Actions

### **Salmon Falls Creek ACEC**

**ACEC-NA-MA- 16.** No surface occupancy would be allowed for leasable minerals within the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 17.** The ACEC would be closed to salable minerals.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 18.** Manage the ACEC as VRM Class II.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 19.** The ACEC would be a ROW avoidance area (overhead, surface, and underground).

**ACEC-NA-MA- 20.** Close the ACEC to agricultural entry.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 21.** Close the ACEC to all motorized vehicles.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 22.** The ACEC would be closed to livestock grazing.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 23.** Restrict any mechanized fire suppression equipment from the canyon within the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 24.** Develop a Recreation Activity Management Plan for the ACEC.

**Objective****Sand Point ACEC**

**ACEC-NA-O- 4.** Protect and manage the Sand Point Paleontologic Area. Protect its paleontological and cultural resources from destruction and loss, protect the geologic features present, and ensure that its scenic and wildlife values are maintained.

**Allocations****Sand Point ACEC**

**ACEC-NA-A- 3.** Manage 810 acres of public land as the Sand Point ACEC (Map 107).

**Management Actions****Sand Point ACEC**

**ACEC-NA-MA- 25.** Manage the paleontological resources within the ACEC in accordance with the 1988 Sand Point Natural History Management Plan.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 26.** Prevent agricultural trespass, including irrigation lines. Prevent water erosion on the site and ensure that vegetative cover is maintained to minimize wind erosion. Prevent sediment discharge from entering the Snake River.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 27.** Mitigate erosion from irrigated agricultural lands onto adjacent public lands that could erode Sand Point paleontological deposits.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 28.** No surface-disturbing activities on the site would be allowed unless they are directly related to studies or research on the cultural, paleontological, or geological resources present or, unless they can be mitigated in such a way as to maximize the information gained on the cultural, paleontological and/or geological resource impacted in the Sand Point ACEC.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 29.** Any surface disturbance allowed in the Sand Point ACEC would be mitigated to blend with the topography and visual aspects of the site so as to be substantially unnoticeable. If this is not economically or practically feasible, the surface disturbance would not be allowed.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 30.** Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral location exploration and development and all types of land disposals.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 31.** The ACEC would be open to mineral leasing with NSO.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 32.** The ACEC would be a utility avoidance area for surface and underground development.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 33.** Obtain an easement, through the private lands that the access road traverses, to ensure access to the Sand Point ACEC.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 34.** Motorized vehicle use within the Sand Point ACEC would be limited to designated routes.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 35.** No new buildings would be allowed unless the structure is directly related to the preservation or interpretation of the site.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 36.** Any development on the tableland above the rim that would cause erosion on the site would be incompatible with the

purposes of this ACEC. The lands involved with this ACEC and already declared as suitable for CA development will be considered as unsuitable and lands involved would be retained in public ownership.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 37.** Existing uses of the site for hunting and fishing are compatible uses. The use of the site for paleontological materials collection by professionals is also compatible.

**ACEC-NA-MA- 38.** Motorized vehicle use off existing roads is incompatible.

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### ***Management Common to All Action Alternatives***

#### **Goal**

**ACEC-CA-G- 1.** ACECs will be managed to protect the important biological, cultural, scenic, and historic resources that meet the criteria for relevance and importance.

#### **Objectives**

See objectives for specific alternatives.

#### **Allocations**

See allocations specific to each alternative.

#### **Management Actions**

See management actions specific to each alternative.

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### ***Management Specific to Alternative I***

#### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

***Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC***  
**ACEC-I-O- 1.** Manage the lands within the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC to protect their fish, wildlife, botanical, scenic, and cultural resource values.

#### **Allocation**

***Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC***  
**ACEC-I-A- 1.** Manage 85,000 acres of public land as the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (Map 108).

#### **Management Actions**

***Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC***  
**ACEC-I-MA- 1.** All actions within the portions of the ACEC that are also within WSAs must be consistent with the IMP and with allocations and management actions made for WSAs.

**ACEC-I-MA- 2.** Areas within the ACEC with concentrated recreational and livestock grazing use would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication. Use of domestic sheep or goats to reduce noxious weeds would not be allowed within the ACEC to eliminate potential contact with bighorn sheep.

**ACEC-I-MA- 3.** The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

**ACEC-I-MA- 4.** MIST would be used to suppress wildland fires within the ACEC. Fire lines would be rehabilitated to help stabilize soils.

**ACEC-I-MA- 5.** Manage the portion of the Jarbidge ROW corridor within the ACEC as VRM Class III; manage the remainder of the ACEC as VRM Class I.

**ACEC-I-MA- 6.** Adjust livestock grazing so livestock seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in those pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat (Appendix H).

**ACEC-I-MA- 7.** Placing salt or other supplements would be prohibited within the ACEC to reduce livestock use of bighorn sheep habitat.

**ACEC-I-MA- 8.** Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity. Protective measures may include, but not be limited to, implementing a permit system for the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers in coordination with the Bruneau FO, requiring the use of certified weed-free forage and straw, and designating camping areas outside the ACEC.

**ACEC-I-MA- 9.** Consider SRPs within the ACEC on a case-by-case basis with mitigation for negative impacts to relevant and important values.

**ACEC-I-MA- 10.** Motorized vehicle use within the ACEC would be limited to designated routes. To avoid disturbing bighorn sheep during wintering and lambing periods or to protect other relevant and important values, seasonal closures of specific designated routes may be considered during the CTTMP.

**ACEC-I-MA- 11.** Continue to maintain the low level of human disturbance in bighorn sheep habitat by not constructing new roads or substantially improving other routes in the ACEC. Some designated routes within the ACEC, including the road to Indian Hot Springs, could have spot surface treatments to reduce resource damage due to road braiding and to improve public safety.

**ACEC-I-MA- 12.** The ACEC would be a ROW avoidance area; new ROWs would be restricted to ROW corridors and locations of existing ROWs.

**ACEC-I-MA- 13.** Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1; where practical, acquire private and/or State inholdings. The ACEC designation and management would apply to lands acquired within the ACEC boundary.

**ACEC-I-MA- 14.** The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

**ACEC-I-MA- 15.** The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

**ACEC-I-MA- 16.** Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

### Objective

#### **Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC**

**ACEC-I-O- 2.** Manage the lands within the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC to protect their aquatic and botanical resources.

### Allocation

#### **Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC**

**ACEC-I-A- 2.** Manage 1,100 acres of public lands as the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC (Map 108).

### Management Actions

#### **Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC**

**ACEC-I-MA- 17.** All actions within the ACEC must be consistent with the IMP and with allocations and management actions made for WSAs, unless the WSA is released by Congress.

**ACEC-I-MA- 18.** Restore native upland and riparian plant communities within the ACEC to improve habitat for special status species.

**ACEC-I-MA- 19.** The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication.

**ACEC-I-MA- 20.** The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

**ACEC-I-MA- 21.** The ACEC's VRM Class would follow WSA guidelines. In the event the WSA is released, manage the ACEC as VRM Class III.

**ACEC-I-MA- 22.** The ACEC would be available for livestock grazing and new infrastructure as long as they are compatible with recovery of the area, including protecting seed production of special status plants and reducing impacts to their pollinators.

**ACEC-I-MA- 23.** Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1.

**ACEC-I-MA- 24.** The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

**ACEC-I-MA- 25.** The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

### Objective

#### **Middle Snake ACEC**

**ACEC-I-O- 3.** Manage the lands within the Middle Snake ACEC to protect their fish and botanical values.

### Allocation

#### **Middle Snake ACEC**

**ACEC-I-A- 3.** Manage 7,500 acres of public lands as the Middle Snake ACEC (Map 108).

### Management Actions

#### **Middle Snake ACEC**

**ACEC-I-MA- 26.** Restore habitat for special status plants within the ACEC. Maintain existing high-quality special status plant habitat.

**ACEC-I-MA- 27.** Where habitat is suitable, transplant or seed special status plants within the ACEC.

**ACEC-I-MA- 28.** The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed

management techniques for control, containment, and where practical eradication. Special conditions would apply in habitat occupied by special status plant species.

**ACEC-I-MA- 29.** The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

**ACEC-I-MA- 30.** Mitigate the effects of surface-disturbing activities in the ACEC, such as recreation and transportation.

**ACEC-I-MA- 31.** Implement use restrictions within the ACEC in areas with slopes greater than 20%, or in areas where soils are rated severe or very severe for wind erosion or high for water erosion.

**ACEC-I-MA- 32.** Manage the ACEC as VRM Class III.

**ACEC-I-MA- 33.** The Asquena pasture within the ACEC would be available for livestock grazing; the remainder of the ACEC would not be available for livestock grazing.

**ACEC-I-MA- 34.** Livestock trailing through the ACEC would be allowed in the designated trailing corridor, but livestock would not be allowed to remain in the ACEC overnight.

**ACEC-I-MA- 35.** Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity. Protective measures may include, but not be limited to, improving access routes to recreational sites along the Snake River, installing barriers to protect relevant and important values, and implementing measures to address water quality and public health concerns.

**ACEC-I-MA- 36.** BLM-managed lands within the ACEC can be exchanged for non-BLM-managed lands, consistent with the *Land Tenure* section, in order to obtain lands with relevant and important values or to improve management. Where practical, acquire private and/or State inholdings. The ACEC designation and management would apply to lands acquired within the ACEC boundary.

**ACEC-I-MA- 37.** The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

**ACEC-I-MA- 38.** The ACEC would be closed to new salable mineral development and expansion of existing developments.

**ACEC-I-MA- 39.** Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

## Objective

**Salmon Falls Creek ACEC**  
**ACEC-I-O- 4.** Manage the lands within the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC to protect their scenic, fish, and botanical values.

## Allocation

**Salmon Falls Creek ACEC**  
**ACEC-I-A- 4.** Manage 2,700 acres of public land as the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC (Map 108).

## Management Actions

### ***Salmon Falls Creek ACEC***

**ACEC-I-MA- 40.** All actions within the portion of the ACEC that is also a WSA must be consistent with the IMP and with allocations and management actions made for WSAs.

**ACEC-I-MA- 41.** Restore vegetation within the riparian area to benefit redband trout habitat (e.g., increasing shade in the riparian zone).

**ACEC-I-MA- 42.** Use native species for any vegetation treatments within the ACEC, including for ES&BAR.

**ACEC-I-MA- 43.** The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical eradication.

**ACEC-I-MA- 44.** The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

**ACEC-I-MA- 45.** MIST would be used to suppress wildland fires within the ACEC.

**ACEC-I-MA- 46.** Manage the portion of the Jarbidge ROW corridor within the ACEC as VRM Class III; manage the remainder of the ACEC as VRM Class I.

**ACEC-I-MA- 47.** The ACEC would remain closed to livestock grazing.

**ACEC-I-MA- 48.** Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity.

**ACEC-I-MA- 49.** The ACEC north and south of Lily Grade crossing would remain closed to motorized vehicle use.

**ACEC-I-MA- 50.** The ACEC would remain a ROW avoidance area; new ROWs would be restricted to the Jarbidge ROW corridor and locations of existing ROWs.

**ACEC-I-MA- 51.** Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1.

**ACEC-I-MA- 52.** The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

**ACEC-I-MA- 53.** The ACEC would remain closed to salable mineral development.

**ACEC-I-MA- 54.** Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

**Objective****Sand Point ACEC**

**ACEC-I-O- 5.** Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC to protect their historic, cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.

**Allocation****Sand Point ACEC**

**ACEC-I-A- 5.** Manage 950 acres of public land as the Sand Point ACEC (Map 108).

**Management Actions****Sand Point ACEC**

**ACEC-I-MA- 55.** Manage paleontological resources within the ACEC in accordance with the 1988 Sand Point Natural History Management Plan. Modify the 1988 plan to encompass the Morgan property extension and to be in conformance with the revised RMP.

**ACEC-I-MA- 56.** The ACEC would be closed to fossil collecting except under permit for scientific research.

**ACEC-I-MA- 57.** Limit BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses that may contribute to wind or water erosion in the ACEC.

**ACEC-I-MA- 58.** Work cooperatively with adjacent land owners to reduce or eliminate run-off from the agricultural fields that erode soils within the ACEC.

**ACEC-I-MA- 59.** No surface-disturbing activities would be allowed in the ACEC unless they are directly related to research on the ACEC's cultural, paleontological, or geological resources or they can be mitigated.

**ACEC-I-MA- 60.** MIST would be used to suppress wildland fires within the ACEC to protect the paleontological resources. The authorized officer may allow the use of bull dozers to construct control lines within the ACEC on a case-by-case basis. However, dozer lines would be rehabilitated to minimize erosion.

**ACEC-I-MA- 61.** Manage the ACEC as VRM Class III, except within the Oregon NHT protective corridor, which would be managed as VRM Class II.

**ACEC-I-MA- 62.** The ACEC would be available for livestock grazing.

**ACEC-I-MA- 63.** New range infrastructure may be considered if it does not impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC. Any infrastructure would be located so that it does not increase or encourage livestock trailing across fossil-bearing areas, cultural resource sites, or Oregon NHT ruts.

**ACEC-I-MA- 64.** Salt or other livestock supplements would not be placed within 0.25 miles of fossil-bearing areas or cultural resource sites. Locations off limits to salt or other livestock supplements would be made known to the livestock permittees.

**ACEC-I-MA- 65.** Motorized vehicle use within the ACEC would be limited to designated routes.

**ACEC-I-MA- 66.** Consider upgrading the Wilson Grade Road if there is increased need for access for fire suppression activities or research.

**ACEC-I-MA- 67.** Structures directly related to the preservation or interpretation of the site may be allowed (e.g., kiosks, protective barriers).

**ACEC-I-MA- 68.** The ACEC would be a ROW exclusion area.

**ACEC-I-MA- 69.** Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1.

**ACEC-I-MA- 70.** The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

**ACEC-I-MA- 71.** The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

**ACEC-I-MA- 72.** Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

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### ***Management Specific to Alternative II***

#### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

No objective stated.

#### **Allocation**

**ACEC-II-A- 1.** No ACECs would be designated.

#### **Management Actions**

No management actions stated.

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### ***Management Specific to Alternative III***

#### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

***Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC***  
**ACEC-III-O- 1.** Manage the lands within the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC to protect their cultural, scenic, fish, wildlife, and botanical values.

#### **Allocation**

***Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC***  
**ACEC-III-A- 1.** Manage 57,000 acres of public land as the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (Map 109).

#### **Management Actions**

***Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC***  
**ACEC-III-MA- 1.** All actions within the portions of the ACEC that are also within WSAs must be consistent with the IMP and with allocations and management actions made for WSAs.

**ACEC-III-MA- 2.** The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication. Use of domestic sheep or goats to reduce noxious weeds would not be allowed within the ACEC to eliminate potential contact with bighorn sheep.

**ACEC-III-MA- 3.** The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

**ACEC-III-MA- 4.** Manage the ACEC as VRM Class I

**ACEC-III-MA- 5.** Placing salt or other supplements within the ACEC would be prohibited to reduce livestock use of bighorn sheep habitat and protect winter range.

**ACEC-III-MA- 6.** Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity. Protective measures may include, but not be limited to, implementing a permit system for the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers in coordination with the Bruneau FO, requiring the use of certified weed-free forage and straw, and designating camping areas outside the ACEC.

**ACEC-III-MA- 7.** SRPs within the ACEC would be considered on a case-by-case basis with mitigation for negative impacts to relevant and important values.

**ACEC-III-MA- 8.** Motorized vehicle use within the ACEC would be limited to designated routes. To avoid disturbing bighorn sheep during wintering and lambing periods or to protect other relevant and important values, seasonal closures of specific designated routes may be considered during the CTTMP.

**ACEC-III-MA- 9.** Some designated routes within and adjoining the ACEC, including the road to Indian Hot Springs, could be improved to reduce resource damage due to road braiding, improve public safety, and facilitate visitor traffic.

**ACEC-III-MA- 10.** The ACEC would be a ROW avoidance area; no overhead authorizations would be allowed.

**ACEC-III-MA- 11.** Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1; where practical, acquire private inholdings. The ACEC designation and management would apply to lands acquired within the ACEC boundary.

**ACEC-III-MA- 12.** The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

**ACEC-III-MA- 13.** The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

**ACEC-III-MA- 14.** Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

## Objective

### **Salmon Falls Creek ACEC**

**ACEC-III-O- 2.** Manage the lands within the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC to protect their scenic, fish, and botanical values.

## Allocation

### **Salmon Falls Creek ACEC**

**ACEC-III-A- 2.** Manage 2,700 acres of public land as the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC (Map 109).

## Management Actions

### ***Salmon Falls Creek ACEC***

**ACEC-III-MA- 15.** All actions within the portion of the ACEC that is also a WSA must be consistent with the IMP and with allocations and management actions made for WSAs.

**ACEC-III-MA- 16.** Restore vegetation within the riparian area to benefit redband trout habitat (e.g., increasing shade in the riparian zone).

**ACEC-III-MA- 17.** Use native species for any vegetation treatments within the ACEC, including for ES&BAR.

**ACEC-III-MA- 18.** The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical eradication.

**ACEC-III-MA- 19.** The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

**ACEC-III-MA- 20.** MIST would be used to suppress wildland fires within the ACEC.

**ACEC-III-MA- 21.** Manage the portion of the Jarbidge ROW corridor within the ACEC as VRM Class III; manage the remainder of the ACEC as VRM Class I.

**ACEC-III-MA- 22.** The ACEC would remain closed to livestock grazing.

**ACEC-III-MA- 23.** Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity.

**ACEC-III-MA- 24.** The ACEC north and south of Lily Grade crossing would remain closed to motorized vehicle use.

**ACEC-III-MA- 25.** The ACEC would remain a ROW avoidance area; new ROWs would be restricted to the Jarbidge ROW corridor and locations of existing ROWs.

**ACEC-III-MA- 26.** Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1.

**ACEC-III-MA- 27.** The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

**ACEC-III-MA- 28.** The ACEC would remain closed to salable mineral development.

**ACEC-III-MA- 29.** Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

**Objective****Sand Point ACEC**

**ACEC-III-O- 3.** Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC to protect their historic, cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.

**Allocation****Sand Point ACEC**

**ACEC-III-A- 3.** Manage 950 acres of public land as the Sand Point ACEC (Map 109).

**Management Actions****Sand Point ACEC**

**ACEC-III-MA- 30.** Manage paleontological resources within the ACEC in accordance with the 1988 Sand Point Natural History Management Plan. Modify the 1988 plan to encompass the Morgan property extension and to be in conformance with the revised RMP.

**ACEC-III-MA- 31.** The ACEC would be closed to fossil collecting except under permit for scientific research.

**ACEC-III-MA- 32.** Limit BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses that may contribute to water or wind erosion in the ACEC.

**ACEC-III-MA- 33.** Work cooperatively with adjacent land owners to reduce or eliminate run-off from the agricultural fields that erode soils within the ACEC.

**ACEC-III-MA- 34.** No surface-disturbing activities would be allowed in the ACEC unless they are directly related to research on the ACEC's cultural, paleontological, or geological resources or they can be mitigated.

**ACEC-III-MA- 35.** MIST would be used to suppress wildland fires within the ACEC to protect the paleontological resources. The authorized officer may allow the use of bull dozers to construct control lines within the ACEC on a case-by-case basis. However, dozer lines would be rehabilitated to minimize erosion.

**ACEC-III-MA- 36.** Manage the ACEC as VRM Class III, except within the Oregon NHT protective corridor, which would be managed as VRM Class II.

**ACEC-III-MA- 37.** The ACEC would be available for livestock grazing.

**ACEC-III-MA- 38.** New range infrastructure may be considered if it does not impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC. Any infrastructure would be located so that it does not increase or encourage livestock trailing across fossil-bearing areas, cultural resource sites, or Oregon NHT ruts.

**ACEC-III-MA- 39.** Salt or other livestock supplements would not be placed within 0.25 miles of fossil-bearing areas or cultural resource sites. Locations off limits to salt or other livestock supplements would be made known to the livestock permittees.

**ACEC-III-MA- 40.** Motorized vehicle use within the ACEC would be limited to designated routes.

**ACEC-III-MA- 41.** Consider upgrading the Wilson Grade Road if there is increased need for access for fire suppression activities or research.

**ACEC-III-MA- 42.** Structures directly related to the preservation or interpretation of the site may be allowed (e.g., kiosks, protective barriers).

**ACEC-III-MA- 43.** The ACEC would be a ROW exclusion area.

**ACEC-III-MA- 44.** Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1.

**ACEC-III-MA- 45.** The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

**ACEC-III-MA- 46.** The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

**ACEC-III-MA- 47.** Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

***Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC***  
**ACEC-IV-O- 1.** Manage the lands within the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC to protect their cultural, scenic, fish, and botanical values.

### **Allocation**

***Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC***  
**ACEC-IV-A- 1.** Manage 123,000 acres of public land as the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (Map 110).

### **Management Actions**

***Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC***  
**ACEC-IV-MA- 1.** Restore playas occupied by Davis peppergrass to improve natural hydrologic function and habitat on a case-by-case basis. Restoration activities may include filling pit reservoirs, stabilizing erosion areas, and planting native species with similar pollinators.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 2.** Monitor juniper encroachment into the riparian area, and consider juniper treatments to improve bull trout habitat.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 3.** Areas within the ACEC with concentrated recreational and livestock grazing use would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication. Special stipulations would apply for noxious weed and invasive plants treatments in Davis peppergrass habitat. Use of domestic sheep or goats to reduce noxious weeds would not be allowed within the ACEC to eliminate potential contact with bighorn sheep.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 4.** The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 5.** MIST would be used to suppress wildland fires within the ACEC. Fire lines would be rehabilitated to help stabilize soils.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 6.** Manage the portion of the Jarbidge ROW corridor within the ACEC as VRM Class III; manage the remainder of the ACEC as VRM Class I.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 7.** Adjust livestock grazing so livestock seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in those pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat (Appendix H).

**ACEC-IV-MA- 8.** Adjust livestock seasons of use or stocking rates on a pasture-specific basis to minimize conflicts with bull trout spawning (late August through early November) and Davis peppergrass during flowering and when playas are most likely to contain water (December through June).

**ACEC-IV-MA- 9.** Range infrastructure would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for retention, modification, or removal. New infrastructure would be allowed to the extent that it protects bull trout habitat, cultural resources, or botanical values. Prohibit placing of salt or other supplements within the ACEC to reduce livestock use of bighorn sheep habitat and protect big game winter range.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 10.** Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity. Protective measures may include, but not be limited to, implementing a permit system for the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers in coordination with the Bruneau FO, requiring the use of certified weed-free forage and straw, and designating camping areas outside the ACEC.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 11.** Consider SRPs within the ACEC on a case-by-case basis with mitigation for negative impacts to relevant and important values.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 12.** Motorized vehicle use within the ACEC would be limited to designated routes. To avoid disturbing bighorn sheep during wintering and lambing periods or to protect other relevant and important values, seasonal closures of specific designated routes may be considered during the CTTMP.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 13.** Continue to maintain the low level of human disturbance in bighorn sheep habitat by not constructing new roads or substantially improving other routes in the ACEC. Some designated routes within the ACEC, including the road to Indian Hot Springs, could have spot surface treatments to reduce resource damage due to road braiding and to improve public safety.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 14.** The ACEC would be a ROW avoidance area; new ROWs would be restricted to ROW corridors and locations of existing ROWs.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 15.** Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1; where practical, acquire private and/or State in holdings. The

ACEC designation and management would apply to lands acquired within the ACEC boundary.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 16.** The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 17.** The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 18.** Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

## Objective

### ***Inside Desert ACEC***

**ACEC-IV-O- 2.** Manage the lands within the Inside Desert ACEC to protect their botanical values.

## Allocations

### ***Inside Desert ACEC***

#### Alternative IV-A

**ACEC-IV-A- 2.** Manage 73,000 acres of public land as the Inside Desert ACEC (Map 110).

#### Alternative IV-B (the Preferred Alternative)

**ACEC-IV-A- 3.** Manage 41,000 acres of public land as the Inside Desert ACEC (Map 110).

## Management Actions

### ***Inside Desert ACEC***

**ACEC-IV-MA- 19.** Restore slickspot peppergrass habitat by planting native shrubs, grasses, and forbs to improve ecological function and increase pollinators.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 20.** Seed only native species, with emphasis on plants with similar pollinators.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 21.** Where practical, vegetation treatments, including drill seeding, would avoid concentrations of slickspots.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 22.** The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 23.** The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 24.** Staging areas for fire suppression and rehabilitation activities would be located outside the ACEC.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 25.** Manage the ACEC as VRM Class III.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 26.** The ACEC would not be available for livestock grazing.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 27.** Remove troughs, fences, or other infrastructure within the ACEC.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 28.** Camping would not be allowed within the ACEC.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 29.** Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1; where practical, acquire State inholdings. The ACEC

designation and management would apply to lands acquired within the ACEC boundary.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 30.** The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 31.** The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

## Objectives

### **Jarbidge Foothills ACEC**

#### Alternative IV-A

**ACEC-IV-O- 3.** Manage the lands within the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC to protect their cultural, fish, wildlife, and botanical values.

## Allocations

### **Jarbidge Foothills ACEC**

#### Alternative IV-A

**ACEC-IV-A- 4.** Manage 136,000 acres of public land as the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC (Map 110).

## Management Actions

### **Jarbidge Foothills ACEC**

#### Alternative IV-A

**ACEC-IV-MA- 32.** Improving, expanding, connecting, and restoring native plant communities would be a high priority within the ACEC.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 33.** Restore mountain shrub habitat for sage-grouse.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 34.** Restore habitat for Columbia spotted frogs (spotted frogs) in Rocky Canyon, Timber Canyon, Shack, and Bear Creeks.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 35.** Restore redband trout habitat and reduce habitat fragmentation in redband trout occupied watersheds.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 36.** The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 37.** The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 38.** Manage the majority of the ACEC as VRM Class III, where not otherwise designated as VRM Class I or II (see the *Visual Resources* section).

**ACEC-IV-MA- 39.** Livestock seasons of use or stocking rates would be adjusted within the ACEC to minimize conflicts with redband trout, sage-grouse wintering, breeding, and nesting periods (Appendix H); and restoration projects.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 40.** Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity. Protective measures may include but not be limited to

designating camping areas within the ACEC; requiring the use of certified weed-free forage and straw; and installing protective barriers to protect relevant and important values.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 41.** Routes would be designated through the CTTMP to increase core habitat size for sage-grouse.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 42.** BLM-managed lands within the ACEC can be exchanged for non-BLM-managed lands within the ACEC, consistent with the *Land Tenure* section; where practical, acquire private and/or State in holdings. The ACEC designation and management would apply to lands acquired within the ACEC boundary.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 43.** The ACEC would be available for salable mineral development; where practical, use existing mineral pits and minimize new salable mineral developments within ACEC. Seasonal closures that restrict use or activities at the pits during important seasonal periods for fish and wildlife may be included when existing salable mineral permits are reauthorized and in new permits.

## Objective

### **Jarbidge Foothills ACEC** Alternative IV-B (the Preferred Alternative)

**ACEC-IV-O- 4.** Manage the lands within the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC to protect their cultural, wildlife, and botanical values.

## Allocations

### Alternative IV-B (the Preferred Alternative)

**ACEC-IV-A- 5.** Manage 66,000 acres of public lands as the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC (Map 110).

## Management Actions

### **Jarbidge Foothills ACEC**

#### Alternative IV-B (the Preferred Alternative)

**ACEC-IV-MA- 44.** Improving, expanding, connecting, and restoring native plant communities would be a high priority within the ACEC.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 45.** Restore mountain shrub habitat for sage-grouse.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 46.** The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 47.** The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 48.** Manage the majority of the ACEC as VRM Class III, where not otherwise designated as VRM Class I or II (see the *Visual Resources* section).

**ACEC-IV-MA- 49.** Livestock seasons of use or stocking rates would be adjusted within the ACEC to minimize conflicts with sage-grouse wintering, breeding, and nesting periods (Appendix H); and restoration projects.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 50.** Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity. Protective measures may include but not be limited to designating camping areas within the ACEC; requiring the use of certified weed-free forage and straw; and installing protective barriers to protect relevant and important values.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 51.** Routes would be designated through the CTTMP to increase core habitat size for sage-grouse.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 52.** BLM-managed lands within the ACEC can be exchanged for non-BLM-managed lands, consistent with the *Land Tenure* section; where practical, acquire private and/or State in holdings. The ACEC designation and management would apply to lands acquired within the ACEC boundary.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 53.** The ACEC would be available for salable mineral development; where practical, use existing mineral pits and minimize new salable mineral developments within ACEC. Seasonal closures that restrict use or activities at the pits during important seasonal periods for sage-grouse may be included when existing salable mineral permits are reauthorized and in new permits.

## Objective

### **Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC**

**ACEC-IV-O- 5.** Manage the lands within the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC to protect their fish and botanical resources.

## Allocations

### **Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC**

**ACEC-IV-A- 6.** Manage 1,100 acres of public land as the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC (Map 110).

## Management Actions

### **Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC**

**ACEC-IV-MA- 54.** All actions within the ACEC must be consistent with the IMP and with allocations and management actions made for WSAs, unless the WSA is released by Congress.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 55.** Restore native upland and riparian plant communities within the ACEC to improve habitat for special status species.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 56.** The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 57.** The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 58.** The ACEC's VRM Class would follow WSA guidelines. In the event the WSA is released, manage the ACEC as VRM Class III.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 59.** The ACEC would be available for livestock grazing and new infrastructure as long as they are compatible with

recovery of the area, including protecting seed production of special status plants and reducing impacts to their pollinators.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 60.** Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 61.** The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 62.** The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

## Objective

### ***Sand Point ACEC***

**ACEC-IV-O- 6.** Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC to protect their historic, cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.

## Allocation

### ***Sand Point ACEC***

**ACEC-IV-A- 7.** Manage 950 acres of public land as the Sand Point ACEC (Map 110).

## Management Actions

### ***Sand Point ACEC***

**ACEC-IV-MA- 63.** Manage paleontological resources within the ACEC in accordance with the 1988 Sand Point Natural History Management Plan. Modify the 1988 plan to encompass the Morgan property extension and to be in conformance with the revised RMP.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 64.** The ACEC would be closed to fossil collecting except under permit for scientific research.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 65.** Limit BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses that may contribute to wind or water erosion in the ACEC.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 66.** Work cooperatively with adjacent land owners to reduce or eliminate run-off from the agricultural fields that erode soils within the ACEC.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 67.** No surface-disturbing activities would be allowed in the ACEC unless they are directly related to research on the ACEC's cultural, paleontological, or geological resources or unless they can be mitigated.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 68.** MIST would be used to suppress wildland fires within the ACEC to protect the paleontological resources. The authorized officer may allow the use of bull dozers to construct control lines within the ACEC on a case-by-case basis. However, dozer lines would be rehabilitated to minimize erosion.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 69.** Manage the ACEC as VRM Class III, except within the Oregon NHT protective corridor.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 70.** The ACEC would be available for livestock grazing.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 71.** New range infrastructure may be considered if it does not impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC. Any infrastructure would be located so that it does not increase or encourage livestock trailing across fossil-bearing areas, cultural resource sites, or Oregon NHT ruts.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 72.** Salt or other livestock supplements would not be placed within 0.25 miles of fossil-bearing areas or cultural resource sites. Locations off limits to salt or other livestock supplements would be made known to the livestock permittees.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 73.** Motorized vehicle use within the ACEC would be limited to designated routes.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 74.** Consider upgrading the Wilson Grade Road if there is increased need for access for fire suppression activities or research.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 75.** Structures directly related to the preservation or interpretation of the site may be allowed (e.g., kiosks, protective barriers).

**ACEC-IV-MA- 76.** The ACEC would be a ROW exclusion area.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 77.** Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 78.** The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 79.** The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

**ACEC-IV-MA- 80.** Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

## ***Management Specific to Alternative V***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

#### ***Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC***

**ACEC-V-O- 1.** Manage the lands within the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC to protect their fish and botanical values.

### **Allocation**

#### ***Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC***

**ACEC-V-A- 1.** Manage 1,100 acres of public lands as the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC (Map 111).

### **Management Actions**

#### ***Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC***

**ACEC-V-MA- 1.** All actions within the ACEC must be consistent with the IMP and with allocations and management actions made for WSAs, unless the WSA is released by Congress.

**ACEC-V-MA- 2.** Restore native upland and riparian plant communities within the ACEC to improve habitat for special status species.

**ACEC-V-MA- 3.** The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication.

**ACEC-V-MA- 4.** The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

**ACEC-V-MA- 5.** The ACEC's VRM Class would follow WSA guidelines. In the event the WSA is released, manage the ACEC as VRM Class III.

**ACEC-V-MA- 6.** The ACEC would not be available for livestock grazing.

**ACEC-V-MA- 7.** Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1.

**ACEC-V-MA- 8.** The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

**ACEC-V-MA- 9.** The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

## Objective

### ***Middle Snake ACEC***

**ACEC-V-O- 2.** Manage the lands within the Middle Snake ACEC to protect their fish and botanical values.

## Allocation

### ***Middle Snake ACEC***

**ACEC-V-A- 2.** Manage 7,500 acres of public lands as the Middle Snake ACEC (Map 111).

## Management Actions

### ***Middle Snake ACEC***

**ACEC-V-MA- 10.** Restore habitat for special status plants within the ACEC. Maintain existing high-quality special status plant habitat.

**ACEC-V-MA- 11.** Where habitat is suitable, transplant or seed special status plants within the ACEC.

**ACEC-V-MA- 12.** The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication. Special conditions would apply in habitat occupied by special status plant species.

**ACEC-V-MA- 13.** The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

**ACEC-V-MA- 14.** Mitigate the effects of surface-disturbing activities in the ACEC, such as recreation and transportation.

**ACEC-V-MA- 15.** Implement use restrictions within the ACEC in areas with slopes greater than 20%, or in areas where soils are rated severe or very severe for wind erosion or high for water erosion.

**ACEC-V-MA- 16.** Manage the ACEC as VRM Class III.

**ACEC-V-MA- 17.** The ACEC would not be available for livestock grazing.

**ACEC-V-MA- 18.** Livestock trailing through the ACEC would be allowed in the designated trailing corridor, but livestock would not be allowed to remain in the ACEC overnight.

**ACEC-V-MA- 19.** Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity. Protective measures may include, but not be

limited to, improving access routes to recreational sites along the Snake River, installing barriers to protect relevant and important values, and implementing measures to address water quality and public health concerns.

**ACEC-V-MA- 20.** The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

**ACEC-V-MA- 21.** BLM-managed lands within the ACEC can be exchanged for non-BLM-managed lands, consistent with the *Land Tenure* section, in order to obtain lands with relevant and important values or to improve management. Where practical, acquire private or State inholdings. The ACEC designation and management would apply to lands acquired within the ACEC boundary.

**ACEC-V-MA- 22.** The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

**ACEC-V-MA- 23.** Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

### Objective

#### **Sagebrush Sea ACEC**

**ACEC-V-O- 3.** Manage the lands within the Sagebrush Sea ACEC to protect their cultural, fish, wildlife, and botanical values.

### Allocations

#### **Sagebrush Sea ACEC**

**ACEC-V-A- 3.** Manage 958,000 acres of public land as the Sagebrush Sea ACEC (Map 111).

### Management Actions

#### **Sagebrush Sea ACEC**

**ACEC-V-MA- 24.** All actions within the portions of the ACEC that are also within WSAs must be consistent with the IMP and with allocations and management actions made for WSAs.

**ACEC-V-MA- 25.** Improving, expanding, connecting, and restoring native plant communities through active and passive treatments for fuels, noxious weeds, invasive plants, and non-native perennial plant communities would be a high priority within the ACEC.

**ACEC-V-MA- 26.** Implement management actions that improve riparian condition and reduce habitat fragmentation in redband trout occupied streams.

**ACEC-V-MA- 27.** Within 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat, use of domestic sheep or goats to reduce noxious weeds would not be allowed to eliminate potential contact of domestic sheep or goats with bighorn sheep.

**ACEC-V-MA- 28.** Treatments would include only native plants. Special stipulations would apply for treatments in occupied slickspot and Davis peppergrass habitats, such as establishing buffer areas and not allowing aerial spraying in occupied habitat.

**ACEC-V-MA- 29.** Restore playas occupied by Davis peppergrass to improve natural hydrologic function and habitat on a case-by-case basis. Restoration activities may include filling pit reservoirs, stabilizing erosion areas, and planting native species with similar pollinators.

**ACEC-V-MA- 30.** BLM management activities and authorized uses would result in no net loss of native vegetation; this restriction would not apply to fire suppression activities.

**ACEC-V-MA- 31.** Manage the majority of the ACEC as VRM Class III, where not otherwise designated VRM Class I or II (see the *Visual Resources* section).

**ACEC-V-MA- 32.** The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

**ACEC-V-MA- 33.** Livestock grazing would be at reduced utilization levels.

**ACEC-V-MA- 34.** Livestock seasons of use or stocking rates would be adjusted within the ACEC on a pasture-specific basis to minimize conflicts with bighorn sheep lambing and sage-grouse breeding and nesting periods (Appendix H) and the active growing period of native grasses.

**ACEC-V-MA- 35.** Reduce livestock infrastructure and associated routes to amounts appropriate to ACEC objectives and the levels of livestock grazing within the ACEC. Livestock water troughs, corrals, or other related livestock facilities in reference areas within the Sagebrush ACEC would be removed. Pipelines would remain in the ground to minimize disturbance.

**ACEC-V-MA- 36.** Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity. Protective measures may include but not be limited to designating camping areas within the ACEC; requiring the use of certified weed-free forage and straw; and installing protective barriers to protect relevant and important values.

**ACEC-V-MA- 37.** Routes would be designated through the CTTMP to increase core habitat size for sage-grouse.

**ACEC-V-MA- 38.** The ACEC would be a ROW avoidance area; new ROWs would be restricted to ROW corridors and locations of existing ROWs.

**ACEC-V-MA- 39.** Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1; where practical, private and/or State inholdings would be acquired. Lands acquired within the ACEC would become part of the ACEC.

**ACEC-V-MA- 40.** The ACEC would be available for salable mineral development. Where practical, use existing mineral pits and minimize new salable mineral developments within the ACEC. Seasonal closures that restrict use or activities at the pits during important seasonal periods for fish and wildlife may be included when existing salable mineral permits are reauthorized and in new permits.

**Objective****Sand Point ACEC**

**ACEC-V-O- 4.** Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC to protect their historic, cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.

**Allocation****Sand Point ACEC**

**ACEC-V-A- 4.** Manage 950 acres of public land as the Sand Point ACEC (Map 111).

**Management Actions****Sand Point ACEC**

**ACEC-V-MA- 41.** Manage paleontological resources within the ACEC in accordance with the 1988 Sand Point Natural History Management Plan. Modify the 1988 plan to encompass the Morgan property extension and to be in conformance with the revised RMP.

**ACEC-V-MA- 42.** The ACEC would be closed to fossil collecting except under permit for scientific research.

**ACEC-V-MA- 43.** Limit BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses that may contribute to wind or water erosion in the ACEC.

**ACEC-V-MA- 44.** Work cooperatively with adjacent land owners to reduce or eliminate run-off from the agricultural fields that erode soils within the ACEC.

**ACEC-V-MA- 45.** No surface-disturbing activities would be allowed unless they are directly related to studies or research on the cultural, paleontological, or geological resources present or unless they can be mitigated.

**ACEC-V-MA- 46.** MIST would be used to suppress wildland fires within the ACEC to protect the paleontological resources. The authorized officer may allow the use of bull dozers to construct control lines within the ACEC on a case-by-case basis. However, dozer lines would be rehabilitated to minimize erosion.

**ACEC-V-MA- 47.** Manage the ACEC as VRM Class III, except within the Oregon NHT protective corridor, which would be managed as VRM Class II.

**ACEC-V-MA- 48.** The ACEC would not be available for livestock grazing.

**ACEC-V-MA- 49.** Motorized vehicle use within the ACEC would be limited to designated routes.

**ACEC-V-MA- 50.** Consider upgrading the Wilson Grade Road if there is increased need for access for fire suppression activities or research.

**ACEC-V-MA- 51.** Structures directly related to the preservation or interpretation of the site may be allowed (e.g., kiosks, protective barriers).

**ACEC-V-MA- 52.** The ACEC would be a ROW exclusion area.

**ACEC-V-MA- 53.** Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1.

**ACEC-V-MA- 54.** The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

**ACEC-V-MA- 55.** The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

**ACEC-V-MA- 56.** Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

## 2.5.2. National Historic Trails (NHTs)

### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

#### Goal

No goal stated.

#### Objective

**NHT-NA-O- 1.** Protect and manage the Oregon NHT to preserve all remaining ruts and trail features; develop an interpretive marker program, signing, and facilities to serve trail users; and nominate to the National Register.

#### Management Actions

**NHT-NA-MA- 1.** Manage the Oregon NHT in accordance with guidelines established in the National Park Service Plan and in accordance with provisions of PL 90-543 and PL 95-625.

**NHT-NA-MA- 2.** Develop a cultural plan for the Oregon Trail.

**NHT-NA-MA- 3.** Develop a Recreation Activity Management Plan for the Oregon Trail.

**NHT-NA-MA- 4.** Manage the Oregon Trail protective corridor as VRM Class I.

### *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*

#### Goal

**NHT-CA-G- 1.** The Oregon NHT corridor would be managed to preserve and protect the historic, scenic, and recreational values associated with the trail.

#### Objective

**NHT-CA-O- 1.** Protect, preserve, and provide opportunities to experience the historic, scenic, and recreational values of the Oregon NHT.

#### Management Actions

**NHT-CA-MA- 1.** Update BLM's 1984 Oregon Trail Management Plan and ensure consistency with the National Park Service's 1999 Oregon NHT Comprehensive Management and Use Plan.

**NHT-CA-MA- 2.** Until the 1984 plan is updated and unless otherwise directed in this document, continue to manage the Trail in accordance with the 1984 plan and in cooperation with the National Park Service.

**NHT-CA-MA- 3.** The protective corridor of the Oregon NHT includes 1/4 mile on either side of the trail or the visual horizon, whichever is less.

**NHT-CA-MA- 4.** Manage the Oregon NHT protective corridor as an avoidance area for surface-disturbing activities, including but not limited to:

- Placement of salting, supplemental feeding, watering, and holding facilities for livestock;
- Staging areas for recreational activities and events; and
- Staging areas for fire suppression and rehabilitation activities.

**NHT-CA-MA- 5.** If use of a designated route within the Oregon NHT protective corridor is degrading the trail, the route would be modified or closed.

**NHT-CA-MA- 6.** Manage the Oregon NHT protective corridor as VRM Class II; the foreground of the trail (1.25 miles on either side beyond the protective corridor) as well as the existing ROW corridors would be managed according to the *Visual Resources* section.

**NHT-CA-MA- 7.** Design and implement restoration projects to mitigate the effects of natural and human-caused disturbances within the Oregon NHT protective corridor.

**NHT-CA-MA- 8.** Lands within the Oregon NHT protective corridor are not available for disposal; non-BLM lands within the corridor are a high priority for acquisition.

**NHT-CA-MA- 9.** Recommend the Oregon NHT protective corridor for withdrawal from mineral entry.

**NHT-CA-MA- 10.** The Oregon NHT protective corridor is open to leasable mineral exploration and development with NSO.

**NHT-CA-MA- 11.** The Oregon NHT protective corridor is closed to new salable mineral development. Existing salable mineral developments could be renewed but the footprint could not be expanded.

**NHT-CA-MA- 12.** Proposed land use actions that could affect the Oregon NHT or the protective corridor would be analyzed to identify mitigation needs and ensure compliance with management objectives.

**NHT-CA-MA- 13.** Developments such as roads, trails, pipelines, and power lines may be allowed to cross the Oregon NHT in areas where previous disturbance has occurred and after consultation with SHPO.

**NHT-CA-MA- 14.** Surface-disturbing equipment, such as bulldozers and road graders, cannot be used on the Oregon NHT or within the protective corridor without management approval, unless to protect life or property.

**NHT-CA-MA- 15.** Use techniques that minimize surface disturbance within the Oregon NHT protective corridor during seeding projects (emergency stabilization, burned area rehabilitation, fuels treatments, or restoration). Trail remnants would not be disturbed during seeding operations.

**NHT-CA-MA- 16.** Minimize or prevent human-caused damage to Oregon NHT, including vandalism, unauthorized surface collection of artifacts, and unintentional disturbances, through educational and interpretive outreach programs.

**NHT-CA-MA- 17.** Install and maintain signs identifying the routes of the Oregon NHT.

### 2.5.3. Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs)

#### ***Management Specific to the No Action Alternative***

##### **Goal and Objective**

**WSR-NA-G- 1.** Protect the scenic and recreational values of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers through special designation and management.

##### **Objective**

See *Goal and Objective*.

##### **Allocations**

See allocations in *Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives*.

##### **Management Actions**

**WSR-NA-MA- 1.** The Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers would be managed as components of the National Wild and Scenic River System until Congress acts.

**WSR-NA-MA- 2.** Recommend the rim-to-rim corridor surrounding the suitable segments of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers for withdrawal from mineral entry.

**WSR-NA-MA- 3.** Create a utility avoidance area for 121 miles of suitable WSR segments.

#### ***Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives***

##### **Goal**

See goals in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

##### **Objective**

See objectives in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

##### **Allocations**

**WSR-C-A- 1.** Segments recommended suitable for inclusion in the WSR system include:

- The Bruneau River from Blackrock Crossing to Hot Creek, and
- The Jarbidge River from the Jarbidge Forks to Bruneau River confluence.

**WSR-C-A- 2.** Segments eligible for inclusion in the WSR system include:

- Salmon Falls Creek from the Nevada border to Salmon Falls Reservoir and from Salmon Falls Dam to Balanced Rock Park;
- The Three Island, King Hill, and Hagerman reaches of the Snake River;
- Jarbidge River from the FO boundary to the Jarbidge Forks;
- Jarbidge River, East Fork from the FO boundary to Murphy Hot Springs and from Murphy Hot Springs to the Jarbidge Forks;
- Cougar Point Creek from the FO boundary to Jarbidge River, East Fork confluence; and
- Rocky Canyon Creek from its headwaters to Salmon Falls Creek, North Fork confluence.

**Management Actions**

See management specific to each alternative and in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Management Common to All Action Alternatives****Goal and Objective**

**WSR-CA-G- 1.** Maintain or enhance the ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification of designated, suitable, and eligible WSR segments.

**Objective**

See *Goal and Objective*.

**Allocations**

See allocations in *Management Common to the No Action Alternative and All Action Alternatives*.

**Management Actions**

**WSR-CA-MA- 1.** Manage the designated segments of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers to maintain or enhance their ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and classification.

**WSR-CA-MA- 2.** Manage the suitable segments of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers to maintain or enhance their ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification until Congress acts.

**WSR-CA-MA- 3.** Protect or enhance the qualifying values of eligible segments pending a subsequent suitability determination or designation decision by Congress: their free-flowing characteristics cannot be modified, their ORVs and water quality are to be maintained or enhanced, and their tentative classification is to be maintained.

**WSR-CA-MA- 4.** Conduct suitability study and make suitability determinations on eligible segments entirely within the planning area within five years; coordinate suitability studies on segments forming the boundary with other FOs with those offices.

**WSR-CA-MA- 5.** Recommend designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors for withdrawal from mineral entry.

**WSR-CA-MA- 6.** Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be a ROW avoidance area; however, the existing utility corridor south of Murphy Hot Springs on Jarbidge River, East Fork and Jarbidge River would be retained. New ROWs within designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors must maintain/enhance the river segment's ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification.

**WSR-CA-MA- 7.** If, through legislation, Congress decides not to designate a suitable segment as part of the Wild and Scenic River System, the protective management outlined in this section would no longer apply and these segments would be managed according to direction in other sections of the RMP

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative I***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Allocations**

See allocations in *Management Common to the No Action Alternative and All Action Alternatives*.

### **Management Actions**

**WSR-I-MA- 1.** Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be closed to salable mineral development.

**WSR-I-MA- 2.** Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be closed to mineral leasing.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative II***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Allocations**

See allocations in *Management Common to the No Action Alternative and All Action Alternatives*.

### **Management Actions**

**WSR-II-MA- 1.** Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be open to salable mineral development.

**WSR-II-MA- 2.** Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be open to mineral leasing with no surface occupancy.

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## ***Management Specific to Alternative III***

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Allocations**

See allocations in *Management Common to the No Action Alternative and All Action Alternatives*.

### **Management Actions**

**WSR-III-MA- 1.** Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be closed to salable mineral development.

**WSR-III-MA- 2.** Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be open to mineral leasing with NSO.

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**Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)****Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Allocations**

See allocations in *Management Common to the No Action Alternative and All Action Alternatives*.

**Management Actions**

**WSR-IV-MA- 1.** Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be closed to salable mineral development.

**WSR-IV-MA- 2.** Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be closed to mineral leasing.

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**Management Specific to Alternative V****Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

**Allocations**

See allocations in *Management Common to the No Action Alternative and All Action Alternatives*.

**Management Actions**

**WSR-V-MA- 1.** Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be closed to salable mineral development.

**WSR-V-MA- 2.** Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be closed to mineral leasing.

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**2.5.4. Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)**

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**Management Specific to the No Action Alternative****Goal and Objective**

**WSA-NA-G- 1.** Manage 19,360 acres for wilderness in the planning area.

**Objective**

See *Goal and Objective*.

**Allocations**

See allocations in *Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives*.

**Management Actions**

**WSA-NA-MA- 1.** Manage the Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA, Jarbidge River WSA, and the Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA under the provisions of the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendations.

**WSA-NA-MA- 2.** Areas designated as wilderness by Congress would be managed in accordance with BLM wilderness management policy. Specific management provisions would be formulated in a

wilderness management plan developed for each area following designation.

**WSA-NA-MA- 3.** Areas determined by Congress to be nonsuitable for wilderness designation would be managed for other purposes. The tentative management scheme developed during the planning process would be given final consideration following Congressional action on the President's suitability recommendations. The following development is recommended in the Bruneau-Sheep Creek WSA and the Jarbidge River WSA if Congress does not designate these areas as wilderness:

- 14,600 acres of prescribed burning and drill seeding or interseeding specifically for wildlife,
- 1,500 acres of brush control and seeding,
- 4.3 miles of pasture fence,
- 1 spring development,
- 2 reservoir developments, and
- 1.4 miles of pipeline.

**WSA-NA-MA- 4.** Modify fences to allow for pronghorn and mule deer passage in areas where wildlife needs are not being met.

**WSA-NA-MA- 5.** Adjust livestock season of use, if necessary, to resolve any conflicts on mule deer, pronghorn and bighorn sheep ranges. These adjustments would entail the reduction in spring or fall livestock grazing use or excluding grazing use from a specific period(s) of a grazing year. Season of use changes would be made after monitoring is completed, and along with other needed grazing use adjustments, or when activity plans are completed. Priority would be given to resolving conflicts on crucial wildlife habitat areas in poor ecological condition.

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## ***Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives***

### **Goal**

See goals in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

See objectives in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Allocations**

**WSA-C-A- 1.** The Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA rim-to-rim and the Jarbidge River WSA rim-to-rim are recommended as suitable for wilderness.

**WSA-C-A- 2.** The plateaus within the Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA and Jarbidge River WSA, as well as the entire Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA are recommended nonsuitable for wilderness.

### **Management Actions**

See management actions in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*, *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*, and management specific to each alternative.

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## **Management Common to All Action Alternatives**

### **Goal and Objective**

**WSA-CA-G- 1.** Manage the Jarbidge River WSA, Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA, and Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA according to the IMP until designated as wilderness or released by Congress.

### **Objective**

See *Goal and Objective*.

### **Allocations**

See allocations in *Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives*.

### **Management Actions**

**WSA-CA-MA- 1.** Manage the Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA (64,000 acres), Jarbidge River WSA (28,000 acres), and Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA (2,000 acres) to preserve their wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and continue to manage them in that manner until Congress either designates the lands as wilderness or releases them for other uses.

**WSA-CA-MA- 2.** Manage any designated wilderness according to the IMP until a Wilderness Management Plan is developed.

**WSA-CA-MA- 3.** Continue to manage released lands within ACEC, WSR, or SRMA boundaries according to management specified for the ACEC, WSR, or SRMA.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative I**

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Allocations**

See allocations in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Management Action**

**WSA-I-MA- 1.** If any lands within WSAs are released by Congress from wilderness study, manage the released lands in accordance with the associated legislation. If not otherwise directed by legislation, they would not be managed for their wilderness characteristics, but instead would be managed according to direction for adjacent non-wilderness lands.

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## **Management Specific to Alternative II**

### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Allocations**

See allocations in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

### **Management Action**

**WSA-II-MA- 1.** If any lands within WSAs are released by Congress from wilderness study, manage the released lands in accordance with the associated legislation. If not otherwise directed by

legislation, they would not be managed for their wilderness characteristics, but instead would be managed according to direction for adjacent non-wilderness lands.

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### **Management Specific to Alternative III**

#### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Allocations**

See allocations in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Management Action**

**WSA-III-MA- 1.** If any lands within WSAs are released by Congress from wilderness study, manage the released lands in accordance with the associated legislation. If not otherwise directed by legislation, they would not be managed for their wilderness characteristics, but instead would be managed according to direction for adjacent non-wilderness lands.

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### **Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)**

#### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Allocations**

See allocations in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Management Action**

**WSA-IV-MA- 1.** If any lands within WSAs are released by Congress from wilderness study, manage the released lands in accordance with the associated legislation. If not otherwise directed by legislation, they would be managed for their wilderness characteristics according to the direction in the *Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics* section.

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### **Management Specific to Alternative V**

#### **Goal**

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Objective**

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Allocations**

See allocations in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

#### **Management Action**

**WSA-V-MA- 1.** If any lands within WSAs are released by Congress from wilderness study, manage the released lands in accordance with the associated legislation. If not otherwise directed by legislation, they would be managed for their wilderness characteristics according to the direction in the *Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics* section.

## 2.6. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FEATURES

### 2.6.1. Social and Economic Conditions

#### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

##### Goal

No goal stated.

##### Objective

No objective stated.

##### Management Actions

**SE-NA-MA- 1.** BLM will ensure 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.

#### *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*

##### Goal

**SE-CA-G- 1.** Management of the resources and uses of public lands would provide social and economic benefits to residents, businesses, visitors, and future generations.

##### Objective

**SE-CA-O- 1.** Provide opportunities for economic and social benefit while maintaining natural and cultural resource values.

##### Management Actions

**SE-CA-MA- 1.** Planning for BLM management activities and authorized uses would consider whether the activity or action could be designed to support the social, economic, and environmental health and sustainability of affected communities of place.

**SE-CA-MA- 2.** Consider proposals from communities of place and interest that contribute to their social, economic, and environmental health and sustainability.

### 2.6.2. Hazardous Materials

#### *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative*

##### Goal

No goal stated.

##### Objective

No objective stated.

##### Management Actions

No management actions stated.

#### *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*

##### Goal

**HM-CA-G- 1.** Ensure hazardous materials concerns on public lands remain a high priority.

##### Objective

**HM-CA-O- 1.** Mitigate issues related to hazardous materials.

##### Management Actions

**HM-CA-MA- 1.** Storage, treatment, or disposal of hazardous waste on public lands would not be allowed or permitted.

**HM-CA-MA- 2.** Use law enforcement and public outreach to discourage the disposal of hazardous waste on public lands.

**HM-CA-MA- 3.** Hazardous materials related to active mining is regulated by the Mining Safety and Health Administration (PL 91-173, Federal Mine Safety & Health Act of 1977); otherwise, storage and use of hazardous materials on public lands would not be allowed without BLM authorization.

**HM-CA-MA- 4.** Responses to hazardous materials incidents and sites will be as outlined and approved by the contingency plans for hazardous materials incidents (e.g., 2005 *Idaho BLM Contingency Plan for Hazardous Materials Incidents* and 2001 *Lower Snake River District Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan*).

**HM-CA-MA- 5.** Identify and mitigate unauthorized dumping sites and hazardous materials spills in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local regulations.

**HM-CA-MA- 6.** Develop interagency agreements with local law enforcement agencies to facilitate the enforcement of illegal dumping and hazardous material laws.

**HM-CA-MA- 7.** Coordinate with local government agencies during hazardous materials prevention and response activities.

### 2.6.3. Interpretation, Outreach, and Environmental Education

#### ***Management Specific to the No Action Alternative***

##### **Goal**

No goal stated.

##### **Objective**

No objective stated.

##### **Management Actions**

No management actions stated.

#### ***Management Common to All Action Alternatives***

##### **Goal and Objective**

**IOE-CA-G- 1.** Working with partners, provide interpretation, outreach, and environmental education to highlight the natural, cultural, and historic features of the planning area and to further resource protection and public safety.

##### **Objective**

See *Goal and Objective*.

##### **Management Actions**

**IOE-CA-MA- 1.** Focus education, interpretation, and outreach on resources and activities occurring within the planning area.

**IOE-CA-MA- 2.** Partner with the tribes and Federal, State, and local agencies to educate the public on resource protection through activities such as education tours, kiosks at major entrances to the planning area, interpretive signs at OHV staging areas, information on the identification, control, and prevention of noxious weeds and invasive plants, and programs such as Tread Lightly!® and Leave No Trace®.

**IOE-CA-MA- 3.** Create displays highlighting natural, cultural, and historic features of the planning area for use at area fairs, schools, public lands day, and other events.

**IOE-CA-MA- 4.** Participate in events that educate youth about natural resources.

**IOE-CA-MA- 5.** Minimize or prevent human-caused damage to public land resources, including vandalism, illegal dumping, and unauthorized surface collection of fossils and artifacts, through educational and interpretive outreach programs.

**IOE-CA-MA- 6.** Foster the public's understanding of the role of fire in the ecosystem and the hazards associated with living in the WUI, and wildland fire prevention and suppression activities through methods such as:

- Tracting door to door,
- Using mass media,
- Providing outreach to local groups,
- Developing interpretive signs and kiosks, and
- Participating in the County Wildfire Protection Plan.

**IOE-CA-MA- 7.** Provide interpretation and education on special designations such as the Oregon NHT, WSAs, WSRs, and ACECs.

**IOE-CA-MA- 8.** Provide education and outreach on resource protection for recreational users.

## **2.7. MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF RMP DECISIONS**

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The regulations in 43 CFR 1610.4-9 require that land use plans establish intervals and standards for monitoring, based on the sensitivity of the resource decisions. Land use plan monitoring is the process of tracking the implementation of land use plan decisions (implementation monitoring) and collecting data/information necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of land use plan decisions (effectiveness monitoring). Appendix P describes the process to be used for monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of RMP decisions; other monitoring BLM conducts for other purposes are not described in this section.

## 2.8. SUMMARY TABLES

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### 2.8.1. Summary Comparison of Alternatives

Table 2- 5 provides a summary of the primary differences between the six alternatives; differences between the two sub-alternatives of Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative) are described only where they occur. In general, only those resources and uses that have been identified as being a planning issue or are related to a planning issue have differences between the action alternatives.

Differences between the wording of goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions in the main text of Chapter 2 and the wording in the summary table should not be construed to confine or redefine management contained within alternatives. Some wording was modified to be more concise in the summary table. Sections are summarized in the order in which they appear in Chapter 2.

**Table 2- 5. Summary Comparison of Alternatives**

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<b>Tribal Rights and Interests (TI)</b>					
<p><i>No goal stated.</i></p>	<p><i>Goal TI-CA-G- 1. Manage public lands to protect resources and values associated with Native American treaty rights.</i></p> <p><i>Goal TI-CA-G- 2. Manage natural and cultural resources of importance to the tribes in a manner that respects tribal beliefs, traditions, and values.</i></p>				
<b>Resources – Air and Atmospheric Values (AAV)</b>					
<p><i>No goal stated.</i></p> <p><i>No objective stated.</i></p>	<p><i>Goal AAV-CA-G-1. Ensure BLM management activities and authorized uses contribute to maintaining the quality of the planning area's air resources.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective AAV-CA-O-1. Maintain the quality of air resources and limit impacts to air quality to meet NAAQS and DEQ air quality standards.</li> </ul>				
<b>Resources – Geologic Features (GE)</b>					
<p><i>No goal stated.</i></p> <p><i>No objective stated.</i></p>	<p><i>Goal GE-CA-G- 1. Manage unique geologic features for their tribal, scientific, recreational, and educational use.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective GE-CA-O- 1. Protect unique geologic features and provide opportunities for their use and enjoyment.</li> </ul>				
<b>Resources – Soil Resources (SR)</b>					
<p><i>No goal stated.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective SR-NA-O- 1. Manage soils to maintain productivity and to minimize erosion.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Goal SR-CA-G- 1. Maintain or enhance biological and physical functions and stability of soils.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective SR-CA-O- 1. Manage resources and uses to maintain or enhance biological and physical functions and stability of soils.</li> </ul>				
<b>Resources – Water Resources (WR)</b>					
<p><i>No goal stated.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective WR-NA-O- 1. Maintain or improve water quality in accordance with State and Federal standards.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Goal WR-CA-G- 1. Maintain or improve the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of water resources.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective WR-CA-O- 1. Make progress towards meeting State and Federal water quality standards.</li> </ul>				

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V																																																																						
<b>Resources – Vegetation Communities – Upland Vegetation (UV)</b>																																																																											
<i>No goal stated.</i>	<i>Goal UV-CA-G- 1. Manage upland vegetation communities to promote soil stability, water infiltration, nutrient cycling, and energy flow; provide habitat for sage-grouse and other sagebrush steppe obligates; and provide for multiple use.</i>																																																																										
	<i>Goal UV-I-G- 1. Manage vegetation to enhance and sustain existing and historic uses and to improve big game winter range and habitat for sage-grouse.</i>	<i>Goal UV-II-G- 1. Manage vegetation to increase commercial uses while maintaining native plant communities and habitat for sage-grouse.</i>	<i>Goal UV-III-G- 1. Manage vegetation to reduce fire size and intensity while maintaining habitat for sage-grouse.</i>	<i>Goal UV-IV-G- 1. Manage vegetation to restore the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function and reduce fragmentation of habitat for sage-grouse and other native species.</i>	<i>Goal UV-V-G- 1. Manage vegetation to move toward historic vegetation communities by sustaining, improving, or increasing native plant communities that provide habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.</i>																																																																						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective UV-NA-O- 1. Improve lands in poor ecological condition across the planning area. Improve lands in Salmon Falls Creek Canyon through natural plant succession and removal of livestock. Maintain lands that are in good and excellent ecological condition in the Bruneau-Sheep Creek and Jarbidge WSAs.</li> <li>Objective UV-NA-O- 2. Maintain non-native perennial communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective UV-I-O- 1. Manage vegetation in VMA A to achieve the VSG acres below:</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VSG</th> <th>Acres</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Annual</td> <td>50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Perennial</td> <td>97,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Understory</td> <td>5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Grassland</td> <td>32,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Shrubland</td> <td>32,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unvegetated Areas</td> <td>2,500</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VSG	Acres	Annual	50,000	Non-Native Perennial	97,500	Non-Native Understory	5,000	Native Grassland	32,500	Native Shrubland	32,500	Unvegetated Areas	2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective UV-II-O- 1. Manage vegetation in VMA A to achieve the VSG acres below:</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VSG</th> <th>Acres</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Annual</td> <td>30,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Perennial</td> <td>140,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Understory</td> <td>5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Grassland</td> <td>25,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Shrubland</td> <td>17,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unvegetated Areas</td> <td>2,500</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VSG	Acres	Annual	30,000	Non-Native Perennial	140,000	Non-Native Understory	5,000	Native Grassland	25,000	Native Shrubland	17,500	Unvegetated Areas	2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective UV-III-O- 1. Manage vegetation in VMA A to achieve the VSG acres below:</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VSG</th> <th>Acres</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Annual</td> <td>37,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Perennial</td> <td>130,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Understory</td> <td>5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Grassland</td> <td>25,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Shrubland</td> <td>17,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unvegetated Areas</td> <td>5,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VSG	Acres	Annual	37,500	Non-Native Perennial	130,000	Non-Native Understory	5,000	Native Grassland	25,000	Native Shrubland	17,500	Unvegetated Areas	5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective UV-IV-O- 1. Manage vegetation in VMA A to achieve the VSG acres below:</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VSG</th> <th>Acres</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Annual</td> <td>30,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Perennial</td> <td>87,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Understory</td> <td>5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Grassland</td> <td>12,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Shrubland</td> <td>82,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unvegetated Areas</td> <td>2,500</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VSG	Acres	Annual	30,000	Non-Native Perennial	87,500	Non-Native Understory	5,000	Native Grassland	12,500	Native Shrubland	82,500	Unvegetated Areas	2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective UV-V-O- 1. Manage vegetation in VMA A to achieve the VSG acres below:</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VSG</th> <th>Acres</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Annual</td> <td>55,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Perennial</td> <td>72,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Native Understory</td> <td>30,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Grassland</td> <td>25,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Shrubland</td> <td>35,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unvegetated Areas</td> <td>2,500</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VSG	Acres	Annual	55,000	Non-Native Perennial	72,500	Non-Native Understory	30,000	Native Grassland	25,000	Native Shrubland	35,000	Unvegetated Areas	2,500
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<p>Maintain non-native perennial communities for livestock on 349,000 acres throughout the planning area.</p> <p>Implement seeding treatments for livestock on 11,000 acres in the Jarbidge Foothills and Diamond A Desert.</p> <p>Implement brush control and seeding treatments for livestock on 13,000 acres in the middle third of the planning area.</p> <p>Implement brush control treatments for livestock on 32,000 acres, primarily in the southern half of the planning area.</p> <p>Implement interseeding or reseeding treatments for wildlife on 9,000 acres, primarily in the southern half of the planning area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective UV-I-O- 2. 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<p>The priority for vegetation treatments would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas with unacceptable soil loss.</li> <li>Areas where grazing is at levels below preference.</li> <li>Areas where excessive annual vegetation is causing management problems or economic burdens.</li> <li>Areas where unacceptable wildlife habitat condition exists.</li> <li>Area for overall multiple use</li> </ul>	<p>Focus restoration treatments on habitat for sage-grouse, other special status species, and mule deer.</p> <p>The priority for vegetation treatments would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treatments in VMA C to improve habitat for mule deer and sage-grouse.</li> <li>Treatments in VMA A to move toward perennial vegetation.</li> </ul>	<p>Focus restoration treatments on habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.</p> <p>The priority for vegetation treatments would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treatments in VMA A to increase perennial forage for livestock.</li> <li>Treatments in VMA B to increase forage for livestock.</li> </ul>	<p>Focus vegetation treatments on protecting or restoring habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.</p> <p>The priority for vegetation treatments would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treatments in VMA A to help lengthen the fire return interval.</li> <li>Treatments in VMA D to protect native shrubland communities.</li> </ul>	<p>Focus restoration treatments on habitat for sage-grouse, other special status species, mule deer, and pronghorn.</p> <p>The priority for vegetation treatments would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treatments in VMA D to improve sage-grouse habitat.</li> <li>Treatments in VMA C to reconnect and expand habitat for sage-grouse.</li> </ul>	<p>Focus restoration treatments on habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.</p> <p>The priority for vegetation treatments would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treatments in VMA A to move toward native perennial vegetation.</li> <li>Treatments in VMA C to reconnect and expand habitat for sage-grouse.</li> </ul>																																																																						

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
improvement using seed mixtures for both wildlife and livestock.					
Targeted grazing and prescribed fire could be used as tools for vegetation treatments. Chemical control of sagebrush would not be allowed.	Targeted grazing could be used as a tool for vegetation treatments. Prescribed fire would not be allowed.	Targeted grazing could be used as a tool for vegetation treatments. Prescribed fire would not be allowed in native grassland or native shrubland communities.	Targeted grazing and prescribed fire could be used as tools for vegetation treatments.	Same as Alternative III.	Removal of grazing and prescribed fire could be used as tools for vegetation treatments. Targeted grazing would not be allowed. Chemical treatments could only be used after other methods have been exhausted.
Upland vegetation treatments <b>may use native species, including cultivars of native species, and non-native species</b>  Projects to improve ecological condition to benefit wildlife or livestock will use seed mixtures that are normally found in that ecological zone.	Upland vegetation treatments <b>may use native species, including cultivars of native species, and non-native species.</b>  Native species would be used when practical, with special emphasis on species of importance to the tribes.	<b>Non-native species</b> would be primarily used in upland vegetation treatments.  <b>Fire-tolerant species would also be used,</b> primarily in annual communities.	<b>Fire-tolerant and fire-resistant species would have high priority</b> for upland vegetation treatments.  Treatments <b>may also use other native species, including cultivars of native species, and non-native species.</b>	Same as Alternative I.	Upland vegetation treatments <b>may use only native species or cultivars of native species.</b>
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Create <b>75</b> ungrazed reference areas ( <b>12,000 acres</b> ) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities.	Create <b>52</b> ungrazed reference areas ( <b>2,000 acres</b> ) in native grassland and native shrubland communities, as well as non-native perennial communities that have burned multiple times in the last 20 years.	Create <b>75</b> ungrazed reference areas ( <b>3,000 acres</b> ) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities.	Same as Alternative I.	Create <b>40</b> ungrazed reference areas ( <b>193,000 acres</b> ) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities.
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Implement drought management guidelines during periods of drought to maintain or achieve long-term resource productivity (Appendix F).				
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Rest vegetation treatment areas from uses, including but not limited to livestock and wild horse grazing and recreational use, until treatment objectives are met and are predicted to be sustainable. This guideline would not apply to uses that do not conflict with the treatment objectives.				

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V					
<b>Resources – Vegetation Communities – Riparian Areas and Wetlands (RI)</b>										
<i>No goal stated.</i>	<i>Goal RI-CA-G- 1. Provide healthy, functioning watersheds, riparian areas, and associated aquatic habitats.</i>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective RI-NA-O- 1. Maintain 1987 condition of riparian habitat in the northern half of the planning area, as well as the Diamond A Desert. Improve <b>44 miles</b> of riparian habitat in the remainder of the planning area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective RI-I-O- 1. Maintain <b>85 miles</b> of Priority 3 streams at PFC. Improve <b>60 miles</b> of Priority 1 streams to achieve PFC. Improve the remaining <b>17 miles</b> of Priority 1 streams and <b>63 miles</b> of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective RI-II-O- 1. Maintain <b>85 miles</b> of Priority 3 streams at PFC. Improve <b>77 miles</b> of Priority 1 streams and <b>63 miles</b> of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective RI-III-O- 1. Maintain <b>85 miles</b> of Priority 3 streams at PFC. Improve <b>77 miles</b> of Priority 1 streams and <b>21 miles</b> of Priority 2 streams to achieve PFC. Improve the remaining <b>42 miles</b> of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective RI-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative III.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective RI-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative III.</li> </ul>					
<p>Use a <b>100- to 300-foot</b> riparian buffer zone to protect riparian vegetation, fisheries, and water quality. Within the riparian buffer zone activities such as new road construction, use of herbicides and pesticides, and gravel extraction would be limited. Some activities would be excluded within <b>500 feet</b> of riparian areas.</p>	<p>Create Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) around riparian areas and wetlands that contain special status species or their habitat to protect riparian vegetation, fisheries, and water quality. RCA widths would be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Category 1 – Fish-bearing streams: approximately <b>300 feet</b> from the edge of the stream</li> <li>Category 2 – Permanently flowing non-fish-bearing streams: approximately <b>150 feet</b> from the edge of the stream</li> <li>Category 3 – Ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands greater than 1 acre: approximately <b>150 feet</b> from the edge of the wetland, pond, or lake</li> <li>Category 4 – Seasonally flowing or intermittent streams, wetlands less than 1 acre, landslides, and landslide-prone areas: approximately <b>50 feet</b> from the edge of the stream, wetland, or landslide-prone area</li> </ul> <p>Implement the Aquatic and Riparian Management Strategy (ARMS; Appendix D) to achieve riparian management objectives in RCAs and other riparian areas and wetlands. Use adaptive management as outlined in the ARMS to reduce impacts on riparian areas and wetlands from uses and activities.</p>									
<p>Riparian and wetland habitat would have a high priority for protection and improvement in accordance with national policy. Manage watersheds to maintain or improve stream channel stability and overall watershed conditions.</p>	<p>Riparian management priorities would include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priority 1 streams – Streams rated as FAR or FAR-DN (77 miles); management emphasis for Priority 1 streams would be on restoration.</li> <li>Priority 2 streams – Streams rated as FAR-UP or NF (63 miles); management emphasis for Priority 2 streams would be on restoration.</li> <li>Priority 3 streams – Streams rated at PFC (85 miles); management emphasis for Priority 3 streams would be on maintaining proper function.</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Stream reaches with <b>game fish or habitat suitable for game fish</b> would be a high priority for restoration.</td> <td><b>Fish-bearing stream reaches, including reaches containing game and non-game fish</b>, would be a high priority for restoration.</td> <td><b>Stream reaches/riparian areas with the potential to serve as fire breaks</b> would be a high priority for restoration.</td> <td>Stream reaches containing <b>special status species or their habitat</b> would be a high priority for restoration.</td> <td>Stream reaches containing <b>special status species or their habitat</b> would be a high priority for restoration.</td> </tr> </table>					Stream reaches with <b>game fish or habitat suitable for game fish</b> would be a high priority for restoration.	<b>Fish-bearing stream reaches, including reaches containing game and non-game fish</b> , would be a high priority for restoration.	<b>Stream reaches/riparian areas with the potential to serve as fire breaks</b> would be a high priority for restoration.	Stream reaches containing <b>special status species or their habitat</b> would be a high priority for restoration.	Stream reaches containing <b>special status species or their habitat</b> would be a high priority for restoration.
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No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Create <b>10</b> ungrazed riparian reference areas ( <b>3,000 acres</b> ).	Create <b>10</b> ungrazed riparian reference areas ( <b>1,000 acres</b> ).	Same as Alternative II.	Same as Alternative I.	Create <b>6</b> ungrazed riparian reference areas ( <b>23,000 acres</b> ).
<b>Resources – Fish and Wildlife – Fish (FI)</b>					
<p><i>No goal stated.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FI-NA-O- 1. Maintain 1987 condition of fish habitat in MUAs 7 and 13; improve 39 miles of fisheries habitat in MUAs 10, 11, 12, and 15.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Goal FI-I-G- 1. Manage public lands to promote diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitats for fish.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FI-I-O- 1. Maintain or improve streams so 70% of the miles of fish-bearing streams are properly functioning for fish. The remaining 30% of fish-bearing streams would be moving toward properly functioning for fish in the life of the plan.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Goal FI-II-G- 1. Manage public lands to maintain or improve habitat for fish.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FI-II-O- 1. Maintain or improve all fish-bearing streams so they remain or are moving toward properly functioning for fish in the life of the plan.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Goal FI-III-G- 1. Manage public lands to maintain habitat for fish while reducing wildland fire size and intensity.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FI-III-O- 1. Same as Alternative II.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Goal FI-IV-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FI-IV-O- 1. Maintain or improve streams so 70% of the miles of fish-bearing streams and their perennial tributaries are properly functioning for fish. The remaining 30% of miles of fish-bearing streams and their perennial tributaries are moving toward properly functioning for fish in the life of the plan.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Goal FI-V-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FI-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative IV.</li> </ul>
<b>Resources – Fish and Wildlife – Wildlife (WI)</b>					
<p><i>No goal stated.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WI-NA-O- 1. Maintain present levels of upland game nesting and cover habitat in the northern third of the planning area and in the Bruneau-Sheep Creek and Jarbidge River WSAs.</li> <li>Objective WI-NA-O- 2. Manage the cheatgrass study area for curlews.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Goal WI-I-G- 1. Manage public lands to promote diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitats for wildlife.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WI-I-O- 1. Maintain or improve habitat for big game species by managing uses and activities and actively restoring annual, non-native perennial, and native</li> </ul>	<p><b>Goal WI-II-G- 1. Manage public lands to maintain or improve habitat for wildlife.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WI-II-O- 1. Maintain or improve wildlife habitat in native communities while promoting commercial uses throughout the planning area.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Goal WI-III-G- 1. Manage public lands to maintain habitat for wildlife while reducing wildland fire size and intensity.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WI-III-O- 1. Maintain wildlife habitat in native communities while reducing wildland fire size and intensity throughout the planning area.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Goal WI-IV-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WI-IV-O- 1. Maintain or improve wildlife habitat by managing uses and activities and actively restoring annual, non-native perennial, and native communities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Goal WI-V-G- 1. Same as Alternative I</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WI-V-O- 1. Maintain or improve wildlife habitat by managing uses and activities and actively restoring annual and non-native perennial communities toward</li> </ul>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WI-NA-O-3. Manage wildlife habitat to provide a diversity of vegetation and habitats.</li> <li>Objective WI-NA-O- 4. Manage big game habitat to support 7,360 winter mule deer, 2,565 mule deer year-round, 1,932 pronghorn; and 364 bighorn sheep.</li> </ul>	communities.				historic vegetation communities.
Priority for habitat management would be given to habitat for <b>Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, Candidate, and other BLM Sensitive species.</b>	<b>Mule deer and special status species, including bighorn sheep and sage-grouse,</b> have the highest priority for habitat management; secondary priorities are <b>pronghorn, chukar, and pheasant.</b>	<b>Sage-grouse and other special status species</b> are priority species for habitat management.	Same as Alternative II.	<b>Sage-grouse, other special status species, mule deer, and pronghorn</b> are priority species for habitat management.	Same as Alternative II.
<b>Resources – Special Status Species (SS)</b>					
<i>No goal stated.</i>	<b><i>Goal SS-CA-G- 1. Manage public lands to contribute to the conservation and recovery of sage-grouse and other special status species.</i></b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective SS-NA-O- 1. Protect and enhance Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive species habitats in order to maintain or enhance populations within the planning area. Enhance, restore and/or maintain habitat conditions and availability for special status species and prevent all avoidable loss of habitat.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective SS-I-O- 1. Maintain or improve the quality and quantity of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species by managing public land activities to sustain or benefit those species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective SS-II-O- 1. Maintain or improve the quality of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species by managing public land activities to sustain or benefit those species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective SS-III-O- 1. Same as Alternative II.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective SS-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective SS-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<p>Maintain present areas for sage-grouse nesting habitat in the East Devil area, and improve sage-grouse nesting in the Bruneau-Sheep Creek and Jarbidge River WSAs.</p> <p>Where applicable, <i>Guidelines for Habitat Protection in Sage Grouse Range</i> (1973), <i>Sage Grouse Management Practices</i> (Western States Sage Grouse Committee, 1982), and <i>Habitat Requirements and Management Recommendations for Sage Grouse</i> (Call, 1979) would be followed.</p>	<p>Follow conservation plans, agreements, and strategies for special status species.</p> <p>Implement management actions described in the <i>Upland Vegetation</i> section to maintain or improve habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.</p> <p>Maintain or improve the habitat for special status species by protecting and restoring their habitat, controlling noxious weeds and invasive plants, and minimizing direct habitat disturbance.</p> <p>BLM guidelines for sage-grouse habitat management would be used (e.g., 2006 <i>Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho</i>, Owyhee County and Jarbidge Local Working Group Sage-grouse Plans). Sage-grouse would be used as an umbrella species for other special status sagebrush-obligate species.</p> <p>Manage native shrubland communities in a landscape context to ensure that the seasonal habitat needs of sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate species are met across the planning area, where site conditions are suitable.</p>				
<p>Maintain a separation of use between cattle and bighorn sheep by not developing livestock water sources within 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat unless adverse impacts can be mitigated.</p>	<p>Management in bighorn sheep habitat includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removing troughs within 1 mile of canyon rims</li> <li>• Removing fences and corrals within 1 mile of canyon rims, except boundary fences</li> <li>• Locating new troughs, reservoirs, permanent fences, and corrals at least 1 mile from canyon rims</li> </ul>	<p>Management in bighorn sheep habitat includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping existing troughs and reservoirs</li> <li>• Keeping existing fences and corrals</li> <li>• Locating new troughs, reservoirs, permanent fences, and corrals within bighorn sheep habitat if they do not conflict with bighorn sheep</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative II.</p>	<p>Management in bighorn sheep habitat includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removing troughs and reservoirs within 1 mile of habitat</li> <li>• Removing fences and corrals within 1 mile habitat, except boundary fences</li> <li>• Locating new troughs, reservoirs, permanent fences, and corrals at least 1 mile from habitat.</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative IV.</p>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Protect the aquatic habitat of Sensitive and Candidate species in the Snake River below Lower Salmon Falls Dam.	Implement the ARMS and other management actions in the <i>Riparian Areas and Wetlands</i> section to maintain or improve habitat for special status fish and aquatic invertebrates and other special status species dependent on riparian areas and wetlands.  Identify and implement specific habitat improvement projects in redband trout habitat to reduce habitat fragmentation and promote their long-term recovery.  Identify and implement specific habitat improvement projects for bull trout as identified in <i>the Draft Recovery Plan for the Jarbidge River Distinct Population Segment of Bull Trout</i> (FWS, 2004).				
<b>Resources – Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants (NW)</b>					
<i>No goal stated.</i>	<b>Goal NW-CA-G- 1. Manage public lands to prevent, eliminate, or control noxious weeds and invasive plants.</b>				
<i>No objective stated.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective NW-I-O- 1. Reduce the number of acres containing noxious weeds <b>by at least 10%</b>; reduce the number of noxious weed species present.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective NW-II-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective NW-III-O- 1. Manage uses and treat noxious weeds such that there is <b>no net increase</b> in the number of acres containing noxious weeds; reduce the number of noxious weed species present.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective NW-IV-O- 1. Reduce the number of acres containing noxious weeds <b>by at least 50%</b>; reduce the number of noxious weed species present.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective NW-V-O- 1. Reduce the number of acres containing noxious weeds <b>by at least 20%</b>; reduce the number of noxious weed species present.</li> </ul>
<i>No objective stated.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective NW-I-O- 2. Reduce cover of invasive plants in native communities to <b>&lt;5%</b>; reduce cover of invasive plants in non-native perennial and non-native understory communities to <b>&lt;10%</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective NW-II-O- 2. Reduce cover of invasive plants in native communities to <b>&lt;10%</b>; reduce cover of invasive plants in non-native perennial and non-native understory communities to <b>&lt;15%</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective NW-III-O- 2. Reduce cover of invasive plants in native communities to <b>&lt;5%</b>; reduce cover of invasive plants in non-native perennial and non-native understory communities to <b>&lt;5%</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective NW-IV-O- 2. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective NW-V-O- 2. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>
<b>Resources – Wildland Fire Ecology and Management – Wildland Fire Management (WFM)</b>					
<i>No goal stated.</i>	<b>Goal WFM-CA-G- 1. Fire management strategies would result in firefighter and public safety and protection of property and natural and cultural resources, while considering suppression and rehabilitation costs.</b>				

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<i>No objective stated.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WFM-I-O- 1. Strive to reduce average wildland fire size and number of human-caused fire starts within WUI.</li> <li>Objective WFM-I-O- 2. Reduce acres burned in vegetation types outside WUI where more wildland fires have burned than desired/historic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WFM-II-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.</li> <li>Objective WFM-II-O- 2. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WFM-III-O- 1. Strive to reduce average wildland fire size, number of human-caused fire starts, and number of acres burned within and outside WUI throughout the planning area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WFM-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.</li> <li>Objective WFM-IV-O- 2. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WFM-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.</li> <li>Objective WFM-V-O- 2. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>
Manage the entire planning area (1,374,000 acres) for full suppression.	Critical Suppression Areas would include <b>481,000 acres</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WUI</li> <li>Bruneau-Jarbidge, Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs</li> <li>Key sage-grouse habitat</li> </ul>	Critical Suppression Areas would include <b>172,000 acres</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WUI</li> </ul>	Critical Suppression Areas would include <b>469,000 acres</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WUI</li> <li>Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs</li> <li>Key sage-grouse habitat</li> </ul>	Critical Suppression Areas would include <b>594,000 acres</b> in Alternative IV-A and <b>555,000 acres</b> in Alternative IV-B: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WUI</li> <li>Bruneau-Jarbidge, Inside Desert, Jarbidge Foothills, and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs</li> <li>Key sage-grouse habitat</li> </ul>	Critical Suppression Areas would include <b>1,067,000 acres</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WUI</li> <li>Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Sagebrush Sea ACECs</li> <li>Key sage-grouse habitat</li> </ul>
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Improve water availability for fire suppression <b>in high recreational use areas</b> , in accordance with Idaho and Nevada State Law regarding the appropriation and use of water.	Improve water availability for fire suppression <b>in native plant communities and WUI</b> , in accordance with Idaho State Law regarding the appropriation and use of water.	Improve water availability for fire suppression <b>throughout the planning area</b> , in accordance with Idaho State Law regarding the appropriation and use of water.	Same as Alternative III.	<b>Maintain water availability for fire suppression at 2009 levels.</b>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Consistent with other resource objectives, implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities.	Consistent with resource use objectives, implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities.	Implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.
<i>No similar management action.</i>	<i>No similar management action.</i>	<i>No similar management action.</i>	Authorized uses may be limited or prohibited to reduce risk of wildland fire.	Same as Alternative III.	Same as Alternative III.
<b>Resources – Wildland Fire Ecology and Management – FRCC, Fuels, and Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation (FFE)</b>					
<i>No goal stated.</i>	<b>Goal FFE-CA-G- 1. Reduce fire hazard to WUI.</b>				
<i>No goal stated.</i>	<b>Goal FFE-I-G- 1. Manage vegetation communities outside WUI to maintain or restore their fire regimes and mosaic of successional classes to within their historic range.</b>	<b>Goal FFE-II-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.</b>	<b>Goal FFE-III-G- 1. Manage vegetation communities to lengthen the fire return interval.</b>	<b>Goal FFE-IV-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.</b>	<b>Goal FFE-V-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.</b>
<b>Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC)</b>					
<i>No objective stated.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FFE-CA-O- 1. Manage plant communities within WUI to reduce Relative Risk Rating as identified in the 2007 <i>Idaho Interagency Assessment of Wildland Fire Risk to Communities</i>.</li> </ul>				
<i>No objective stated.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FFE-I-O- 1. Manage plant communities outside WUI to move toward FRCC 1.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FFE-II-O- 1. Manage native plant communities outside WUI, excluding Sandberg/non-native areas, to move toward FRCC 1 .Manage non-native plant communities and Sandberg/non-native areas for commodity use, which may not be toward FRCC 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FFE-III-O- 1. Manage native plant communities outside WUI to move toward FRCC 1. Manage non-native plant communities to reduce wildland fire size and intensity, which may not be toward FRCC 1.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FFE-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FFE-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<b>Fuels Treatments</b>					
<i>No objective stated.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FFE-I-O- 2. Implement fuels treatments to protect Critical Suppression Areas; limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire; and maintain or improve vegetation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FFE-II-O- 2. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FFE-III-O- 2. Implement fuels treatments to protect Critical Suppression Areas and limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FFE-IV-O- 2. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FFE-V-O- 2. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads with consideration for other resource and resource use objectives.	Same as Alternative I.	Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads as appropriate to reduce wildland fire size and intensity.	Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads with consideration for other resource objectives.	Same as Alternative IV.
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on areas with high and high/moderate Relative Risk Ratings <b>in the northern portion of the planning area.</b>	Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on areas with high, high/moderate, and moderate Relative Risk Ratings <b>in the northern portion of the planning area and near Roseworth.</b>	Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on areas with high, high/moderate, and moderate Relative Risk Ratings <b>in the northern portion of the planning area and near Roseworth and Three Creek.</b>	Same as Alternative I.	Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on areas with high Relative Risk Ratings <b>in the northern portion of the planning area.</b>
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Outside SRMAs, fuel breaks would follow disturbance corridors or would protect restoration and ES&BAR treatments; fuel breaks for SRMAs could be used to protect adjacent areas, protect facilities, and protect high-use areas.	Fuel breaks would focus on protecting commercial facilities; fuel breaks would also be placed in non-native communities to protect native communities.	Fuel breaks would focus on strategic locations to disrupt the continuity of fuels and to protect structures and important resources such as habitat for sage-grouse and slickspot peppergrass.	Fuel breaks would follow disturbance corridors or would protect restoration or ES&BAR treatments.	Fuel breaks would only follow designated roads and designated primitive roads.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<i>No similar management action.</i>	<i>No similar management action.</i>	Landscape-scale fuels reduction would occur primarily through increased allocation of vegetation for permitted livestock grazing and through increased livestock grazing utilization.	Landscape-scale fuels reduction would occur primarily through increased allocation of annual and non-native perennial vegetation for permitted livestock grazing and through increased livestock grazing utilization in annual and non-native perennial communities.	<i>No similar management action.</i>	<i>No similar management action.</i>
<b>Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation (ES&amp;BAR)</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FFE-NA-O-1. Rehabilitate public lands affected by wildland fires to accomplish multiple use objectives and designed to reduce fire size.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FFE-I-O-3. Rehabilitate and stabilize areas to help stabilize soils, promote natural recovery, and establish pre-fire or historic vegetation communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FFE-II-O-3. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FFE-III-O-3. Rehabilitate and stabilize areas to help stabilize soils, promote natural recovery, and establish fire-tolerant vegetation communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FFE-IV-O-3. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective FFE-V-O-3. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>
<i>No similar management action.</i>	<p>Rest burned areas from uses, including but not limited to livestock and wild horse grazing and recreational use, until ES&amp;BAR objectives are met and are predicted to be sustainable or if the treatment is determined to be unsuccessful. This guideline would not apply to uses that do not conflict with the treatment objectives.</p> <p>Use seed mixes that would help stabilize soils and achieve objectives in the <i>Upland Vegetation, Riparian Areas and Wetlands, Fish and Wildlife, and Special Status Species</i> sections.</p>				
Consider using temporary fences on a case-by-case basis.	Consider using temporary fences on a case-by-case basis. Temporary fences may only be considered when there are at least 2,000 unburned acres in the pasture.	Same as the No Action Alternative.	Same as Alternative II.	Consider using temporary fences on a case-by-case basis; however, <b>temporary fences would not be allowed in pastures with native plant communities.</b> Temporary fences may only be considered when there are at least 2,000 unburned acres in the pasture.	<b>Temporary fences would not be used.</b> Livestock grazing would be pulled back to pasture fences.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<b>Resources – Wild Horses (WH)</b>					
<p><i>Goal WH-NA-G- 1. A viable, healthy population of wild horses will be maintained in accordance with Federal law.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WH-NA-O- 2. Provide forage to support a herd of <b>50</b> wild horses.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Goal WH-I-G- 1. The Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA would be managed for a thriving natural ecological balance.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WH-I-O- 2. Manage a <b>reproducing herd of 100 to 200</b> wild horses.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Goal WH-II-G- 1. The Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Area would be managed for commercial uses.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WH-II-O- 2. Manage the Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Area as an <b>unpopulated</b> herd area.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Goal WH-III-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WH-III-O- 2. Manage a <b>reproducing herd of 200 to 600</b> wild horses.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Goal WH-IV-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WH-IV-O- 2. Manage a <b>non-reproducing herd of up to 200</b> wild horses.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Goal WH-V-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WH-V-O- 2. Manage a <b>non-reproducing herd of up to 500</b> wild horses.</li> </ul>
<b>Resources – Paleontological Resources (PR)</b>					
<p><i>No goal stated.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective PR-NA-O- 1. Protect and manage paleontological sites in major paleontological areas in the northern portion of the planning area.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Goal PR-CA-G- 1. Identify, manage, and protect paleontological resources for scientific research, educational purposes, and public use.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective PR-CA-O- 1. Identify, manage, and protect important paleontological sites.</li> </ul>				
<b>Resources – Cultural Resources (CR)</b>					
<p><i>No goal stated.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective CR-NA-O- 1. Protect the cultural values of significant cultural resource complexes through special designation and management.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Goal CR-CA-G- 1. Identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources and ensure they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective CR-CA-O- 1. Manage and protect cultural resources according to their potential traditional, scientific, conservation, public, or experimental value.</li> </ul> <p><i>Goal CR-CA-G- 2. Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration or potential conflict with other resource uses by ensuring all authorizations for land use and resource use complies with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, Section 106.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective CR-CA-O- 2. Strive to limit the adverse effects of BLM decisions on important cultural resources.</li> </ul>				
<b>Resources – Visual Resources (VR)</b>					
<p><i>No goal stated.</i></p>	<p><i>Goal VR-CA-G- 1. Maintain visual resource characteristics and values of public lands according to VRM classes.</i></p>				

No Action Alternative		Alternative I		Alternative II		Alternative III		Alternative IV		Alternative V	
VRM Class	Acres	VRM Class	Acres	VRM Class	Acres	VRM Class	Acres	VRM Class	Acres	VRM Class	Acres
I	129,000	I	130,000	I	103,000	I	102,800	I	128,000	I	103,000
II	112,000	II	181,000	II	11,000	II	11,000	II	70,000	II	269,000
III	292,000	III	119,000	III	19,000	III	336,000	III	(IV-A) 366,000	III	649,000
IV	841,000	IV	944,000	IV	1,240,000	IV	924,000	IV	(IV-B) 334,000	IV	353,000
									(IV-A) 810,000		
									(IV-B) 842,000		
<b>Resources – Non-Wilderness Study Area Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (WC)</b>											
<i>No goal stated.</i>		<i>Goal WC-CA-G- 1. Maintain wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands as appropriate, considering manageability and the context of competing resource demands.</i>									
<i>No objective stated.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WC-I-O- 1. Manage non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in the western portion of the planning area (<b>39,000 acres</b>) for their undeveloped character and to provide opportunities for primitive recreational activities and solitude.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WC-II-O- 1. Non-WSA lands would not be managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WC-III-O- 1. Same as Alternative II.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WC-IV-O- 1. Manage non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (<b>53,000 acres</b>) for their undeveloped character and to provide opportunities for primitive recreational activities and solitude.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective WC-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative IV.</li> </ul>					
<b>Resource Uses – Livestock Grazing (LG)</b>											
<b>Forage and Grazing Management Practices</b>											
<i>No goal stated.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LG-NA-O- 1. Design and establish grazing management practices to meet fisheries, riparian, and water quality needs.</li> </ul>	<i>Goal LG-I-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to enhance and sustain existing and historic uses and to improve habitat for big game and sage-grouse.</i>	<i>Goal LG-II-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to maintain or improve the condition of forage resources while maintaining native plant communities and habitat for sage-grouse.</i>	<i>Goal LG-III-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to reduce wildland fire size and intensity while maintaining habitat for sage-grouse.</i>	<i>Goal LG-IV-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to support restoration of the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function and to reduce fragmentation of habitat for sage-grouse and other native species.</i>	<i>Goal LG-V-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to move vegetation toward historic plant communities that provide habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.</i>				

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LG-NA-O- 2. Establish livestock grazing systems and practices that recognize the physiological requirements of forbs and shrubs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LG-I-O- 1. In native plant communities excluding Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to help maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance, focusing on plant reproductive and physiological needs.</li> <li>Objective LG-I-O- 2. In non-native perennial communities including Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to maintain and improve perennial plant species diversity and abundance, taking into account sage-grouse and big game habitat needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LG-II-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul> <p>Objective LG-II-O- 2. In non-native perennial communities including Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to sustain the perennial forage base and allow for other commercial uses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LG-III-O- 1. In native plant communities including the Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to help maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance, focusing on plant reproductive and physiological needs.</li> </ul> <p>Objective LG-III-O- 2. Manage livestock grazing to reduce fuels in non-native perennial communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LG-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative III.</li> </ul> <p>Objective LG-IV-O- 2. In non-native perennial communities, manage livestock grazing to achieve restoration objectives outlined in the <i>Upland Vegetation</i> section.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LG-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative III.</li> </ul> <p>Objective LG-V-O- 2. In non-native perennial communities, manage livestock grazing to maintain and improve shrub cover for sage-grouse.</p>
<p><i>No similar objective.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LG-CA-O- 1. Manage livestock grazing in annual communities to achieve objectives in the <i>Upland Vegetation</i> and <i>Wildland Fire Ecology and Management</i> sections.</li> </ul>				
<p>Allocate <b>1,414,000 acres</b> as available for livestock grazing and <b>51,000 acres</b> as not available for livestock grazing.</p>	<p>Allocate <b>1,381,000 acres</b> as available for livestock grazing and <b>84,000 acres</b> as not available for livestock grazing.</p>	<p>Allocate <b>1,406,000 acres</b> as available for livestock grazing and <b>59,000 acres</b> as not available for livestock grazing.</p>	<p>Allocate <b>1,404,000 acres</b> as available for livestock grazing and <b>61,000 acres</b> as not available for livestock grazing.</p>	<p>Allocate <b>1,320,000 acres</b> in Alternative IV-A and <b>1,352,000 acres</b> in Alt IV-B as available for livestock grazing and <b>145,000 acres</b> in Alternative IV-A and <b>113,000 acres</b> in Alternative IV-B as not available for livestock grazing.</p>	<p>Allocate <b>1,156,000 acres</b> as available for livestock grazing and <b>309,000 acres</b> as not available for livestock grazing.</p>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<p>All areas not available to livestock grazing in this alternative are common to all alternatives.</p>	<p>Areas not available to livestock grazing in addition to those common to all alternatives include portions of the Middle Snake ACEC, Wildlife Tracts, reference areas, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use.</p>	<p>Areas not available to livestock grazing in addition to those common to all alternatives include Wildlife Tracts and reference areas.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative II.</p>	<p>Areas not available to livestock grazing in addition to those common to all alternatives include bull trout streams, the Inside Desert ACEC, Wildlife Tracts, and reference areas.</p>	<p>Areas not available to livestock grazing in addition to those common to all alternatives include bull trout and redband trout streams; the Middle Snake, Sand Point, and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs; the Browns Bench/China Mountain area, Wildlife Tracts, and reference areas.</p>
<p>Continue allocating approximately 200,000 AUMs for livestock.</p> <p>As the plan is implemented, between 160,000 and 260,000 AUMs could be issued for livestock depending on implementation of treatments described in the <i>Upland Vegetation</i> section.</p>	<p>Allocate vegetation production to livestock as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>25-35%</b> of native perennial grass production</li> <li>• <b>30-40%</b> of non-native perennial grass production</li> <li>• <b>20-30%</b> of annual grass production</li> <li>• <b>8-11%</b> of shrub and forb production</li> </ul>	<p>Allocate vegetation production to livestock as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>40-50%</b> of native perennial grass production</li> <li>• <b>50-60%</b> of non-native perennial grass production</li> <li>• <b>70-80%</b> of annual grass production</li> <li>• <b>12-16%</b> of shrub and forb production</li> </ul>	<p>Allocate vegetation production to livestock as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>35-45%</b> of native perennial grass production</li> <li>• <b>40-50%</b> of non-native perennial grass production</li> <li>• <b>40-50%</b> of annual grass production</li> <li>• <b>11-14%</b> of shrub and forb production</li> </ul>	<p>Allocate vegetation production to livestock as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>15-25%</b> of native perennial grass production</li> <li>• <b>20-30%</b> of non-native perennial grass production</li> <li>• <b>0%</b> of annual grass production</li> <li>• <b>0%</b> of shrub and forb production</li> </ul>	<p>Allocate vegetation production to livestock as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>10-20%</b> of native perennial grass production</li> <li>• <b>10-20%</b> of non-native perennial grass production</li> <li>• <b>0%</b> of annual grass production</li> <li>• <b>0%</b> of shrub and forb production</li> </ul>
<p>Develop grazing systems to maintain condition in MUA 4. Develop grazing management systems on fair condition range in MUA 11 to improve to good or better condition. Additional grazing systems would be implemented elsewhere.</p>	<p>Implement adaptive management using grazing use indicators to meet resource and special designation area objectives as feasible and following BLM policy</p> <p>Grazing permit renewal following the ROD would follow the process outlined in Appendix L. Allotment-specific decisions for livestock grazing management, including grazing use indicators and grazing use criteria, and adjustments to an allotment’s Selective Management Category would be made at that time.</p> <p>Implement drought management guidelines during periods of drought to maintain or achieve long-term resource productivity (Appendix F).</p> <p>Manage livestock grazing to follow BLM guidelines for managing sage-grouse habitat (e.g., 2006 <i>Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-Grouse in Idaho</i>, Owyhee County and Jarbidge Local Working Group Sage-grouse Plans).</p>				

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<p>Livestock season of use would be adjusted in MUAs 10, 15, and 16, if necessary, to resolve any conflicts on mule deer, pronghorn and bighorn sheep ranges. These adjustments would entail the reduction in spring or fall livestock grazing use from a specific period(s) of a grazing year.</p>	<p>Livestock grazing may be allowed in big game winter range in native shrubland communities during the winter.</p> <p>Adjust livestock grazing in the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC so seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat.</p>	<p>No date restrictions on livestock grazing in winter range would be made.</p>	<p>Livestock grazing may be allowed in big game winter range in native shrubland communities during the winter.</p> <p>Adjust livestock grazing south of Sheep Creek so seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat.</p>	<p>Livestock grazing may be allowed in big game winter range in native shrubland communities during the winter.</p> <p>Adjust livestock grazing so seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat.</p>	<p>Livestock grazing would not be allowed in big game winter range during the winter.</p> <p>Adjust livestock grazing so seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat.</p>
<p>TNR would be allowed.</p>	<p>TNR would be allowed except in pastures containing WSA, the riparian pasture in the Sand Point ACEC, pastures with &gt;50% big game winter range, or pastures with &gt;50% native communities.</p>	<p>TNR would be allowed except in pastures containing areas within a WSA boundary.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative I.</p>	<p>TNR would be allowed except in pastures containing WSA, the riparian pasture in the Sand Point ACEC, pastures with &gt;50% big game winter range, or pastures with &gt;25% native communities.</p>	<p>TNR would not be issued.</p>
<b>Range Infrastructure</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LG-NA-O- 3. Design range infrastructure to achieve objectives in the <i>Vegetation Communities, Fish and Wildlife, and Livestock Grazing</i> objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LG-I-O- 3. Manage range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments, consistent with resource objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LG-II-O- 3. Manage range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LG-III-O- 3. Manage range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments and support fire suppression efforts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LG-IV-O- 3. Manage range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments and support resource objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LG-V-O- 3. Same as Alternative IV.</li> </ul>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Install or construct new infrastructure as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 161 miles of pipelines</li> <li>• 3 reservoirs, wells, or springs</li> <li>• 26 miles of fences</li> </ul>	Consider installing or constructing new range infrastructure on a case-by-case basis where they would <b>help meet resource objectives</b> .	Consider installing or constructing new range infrastructure on a case-by-case basis <b>to promote livestock distribution or meet resource objectives</b> .	Consider installing or constructing new range infrastructure on a case-by-case basis where they would <b>help meet resource objectives or to aid in fire suppression</b> .	Same as Alternative I.	Consider installing or constructing new range infrastructure on a case-by-case basis where they would help meet resource objectives. <b>New pipelines and spring developments would not be authorized.</b>
Design new spring developments and modify selected existing spring developments to protect wetted areas.	Minimize disturbance at developed springs by using existing routes for access, redesigning the spring development, or limiting maintenance or reconstruction activities to areas disturbed during previous construction or to areas outside the wetland. Modify selected existing spring developments to improve wetland areas by protecting the spring source and ensuring adequate water to support spring hydrology and associated riparian vegetation. New spring developments must avoid or minimize ground disturbance, protect the spring source, and ensure adequate water to maintain the wetland. Other mitigation may be required to minimize impacts to cultural and natural resources and tribal rights, interests, and values.				
<b>Resource Uses – Recreation (REC)</b>					
<i>No goal stated.</i>	<i>Goal REC-CA-G- 1. Provide a variety of dispersed and developed recreational opportunities and experiences for visitors and residents while sustaining the recreation resource base and avoiding, minimizing, or compensating for resource impacts.</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective REC-NA-O- 1. Protect the Salmon Falls Creek Canyon (rim-to-rim) for its natural and scenic values through special designation and management as an SRMA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective REC-I-O- 1. Manage <b>341,800 acres</b> as SRMAs and <b>1,031,700 acres</b> as an Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective REC-II-O- 1. Manage <b>21,300 acres</b> as SRMAs and <b>1,352,200 acres</b> as an ERMA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective REC-III-O- 1. Manage <b>55,800 acres</b> as SRMAs and <b>1,317,700 acres</b> as an ERMA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective REC-IV-O- 1. Manage <b>204,000 acres</b> as SRMAs and <b>1,169,570 acres</b> as an ERMA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective REC-V-O- 1. Manage <b>19,000 acres</b> as SRMAs and <b>1,354,5000 acres</b> as an ERMA.</li> </ul>
Continue managing the Hagerman-Owsley Bridge (Yahoo) SRMA ( <b>2,700 acres</b> ).	The Deadman/Yahoo SRMA ( <b>36,000 acres</b> ) would consist of four Recreation Management Zones (RMZs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deadman (<b>13,000 acres</b>), Pasadena (<b>2,000 acres</b>), and Yahoo (<b>3,000 acres</b>) RMZs: off-road ATV and motorcycle riding.</li> <li>• Rosevear Gulch RMZ</li> </ul>	<i>No similar management action.</i>	The Deadman/Yahoo SRMA ( <b>34,000 acres</b> ) would consist of three RMZs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deadman (<b>13,000 acres</b>) and Yahoo (<b>3,000 acres</b>) RMZs: off-road ATV and motorcycle riding.</li> <li>• Rosevear Gulch RMZ (<b>18,000 acres</b>): motorized trail riding</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative III.	Manage the Yahoo SRMA ( <b>3,000 acres</b> ) for off-road ATV and motorcycle riding.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
	(18,000 acres): motorized trail riding opportunities on a series of designated routes.		opportunities on a series of designated routes.		
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Manage the Balanced Rock SRMA (500 acres) for visitors hiking, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, and non-motorized boating.	<i>No similar management action.</i>	Same as Alternative I.	<i>No similar management action.</i>	<i>No similar management action.</i>
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Manage the Little Pilgrim SRMA (300 acres) for sturgeon fishing and bird hunting.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	<i>No similar management action.</i>	<i>No similar management action.</i>
Continue managing the Bruneau-Jarbidge River SRMA (57,000 acres).	Manage the Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA (14,000 acres) for whitewater boating and primitive camping.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.
Continue managing the Jarbidge Forks SRMA (4,000 acres).	Manage the Jarbidge Forks SRMA (2,000 acres) for fishing, rafting, picnicking, camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Manage the Canyonlands SRMA (149,000 acres) for non-motorized recreation experiences.	<i>No similar management action.</i>	<i>No similar management action.</i>	Same as Alternative I.	<i>No similar management action.</i>
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Manage the Jarbidge Foothills SRMA (135,000 acres) for non-motorized recreation experiences.	<i>No similar management action.</i>	<i>No similar management action.</i>	<i>No similar management action.</i>	<i>No similar management action.</i>
<i>No similar management action.</i>	The Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA (5,000 acres) would consist of three RMZs: • Antelope Bay RMZ	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	<i>No similar management action.</i>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
	<p>(2,000 acres): hunting, fishing, camping, boating, water sports, and trail riding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cedar Creek RMZ (1,000 acres): fishing, camping, and boating.</li> <li>• Lud’s Point RMZ (2,000 acres): hunting, fishing, primitive camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.</li> </ul>				
<p>Continue managing the Oregon Trail SRMA (7,000 acres) and Salmon Falls Creek SRMA (6,000 acres).</p>	<p><i>No similar management action.</i></p> <p><i>The Oregon Trail is managed as a National Historic Trail.</i></p> <p><i>Salmon Falls Creek is managed as a Wilderness Study Area and, in Alternatives I and III, as an ACEC as well.</i></p>				
<b>Resource Uses – Transportation and Travel (TR)</b>					
<p><i>No goal stated.</i></p>	<p><b><i>Goal TR-CA-G- 1. Manage and provide for motorized, non-motorized, and non-mechanized access that would balance resource protection and use.</i></b></p>				
<p><i>No objective stated.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective TR-I-O- 1. Provide a transportation and travel system that facilitates multiple use, with an <b>emphasis on recreational use, livestock grazing, and minimizing impacts to big game habitats.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective TR-II-O- 1. Provide a transportation and travel system to facilitate multiple use, with an <b>emphasis on commercial use and minimizing impacts on native vegetation.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective TR-III-O- 1. A transportation and travel system would provide for multiple use, with an <b>emphasis on wildland fire prevention and suppression activities.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective TR-IV-O- 1. Provide a transportation and travel system to facilitate multiple use and resource protection with an <b>emphasis on meeting native vegetation and special status species goals.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective TR-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative IV.</li> </ul>
<p>The majority of the planning area (1,062,000 acres) would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use.</p>	<p>Designated areas in the Deadman/Yahoo SRMA would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use (3,600 acres).</p>	<p><b>No areas would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use.</b></p>	<p>Designated areas in the Deadman/Yahoo SRMA would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use (3,570 acres).</p>	<p>Same as Alternative III.</p>	<p>Designated areas in the Yahoo SRMA would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use (700 acres).</p>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Salmon Falls Creek ACEC and the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons ( <b>25,000 acres</b> ) would be closed to motorized vehicle use.	Salmon Falls Creek ACEC north and south of Lily Grade crossing, non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics, and the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons would be closed to motorized vehicle use ( <b>57,000 acres</b> ).	The Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons would be closed to motorized vehicle use ( <b>21,000 acres</b> ).	Salmon Falls Creek ACEC north and south of Lily Grade crossing and the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons would be closed to motorized vehicle use ( <b>27,000 acres</b> ).	Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics and the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons would be closed to motorized vehicle use ( <b>74,000 acres</b> ).	WSAs, <b>including inventoried ways</b> , and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics would be closed to motorized vehicle use ( <b>147,000 acres</b> ).
Portions of WSAs not closed to motorized vehicle use ( <b>70,000 acres</b> ) would be limited to inventoried ways.	Portions of WSAs not closed to motorized vehicle use ( <b>72,000 acres</b> ) would be limited to designated ways. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel is limited to inventoried ways.	Portions of WSAs not closed to motorized vehicle use ( <b>73,000 acres</b> ) would be limited to designated ways. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel is limited to inventoried ways.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative II.	<i>No similar management action.</i>
Sand Point ACEC, the Oregon NHT, bighorn sheep habitat, and cultural resource complexes ( <b>216,000 acres</b> ) would be limited to designated routes.	Travel in the remainder of the planning area ( <b>1,241,000 acres</b> ) would be limited to designated routes. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel would be limited to existing routes.	Travel in the remainder of the planning area ( <b>1,297,000 acres</b> ) would be limited to designated routes. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel would be limited to existing routes.	Travel in the remainder of the planning area ( <b>1,275,000 acres</b> ) would be limited to designated routes. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel would be limited to existing routes.	Travel in the remainder of the planning area ( <b>1,223,000 acres</b> ) would be limited to designated routes. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel would be limited to existing routes.	Travel in the remainder of the planning ( <b>1,226,000 acres</b> ) would be limited to designated routes. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel would be limited to existing routes.
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Complete a Comprehensive Transportation and Travel Management Plan (CTTMP) within 5 years of the signing of the Record of Decision. The CTTMP would be developed through a public process to determine the transportation and travel system for the planning area. The CTTMP would determine the routes and trails to be designated, modified, or closed as well as the maintenance level, modes of travel, and seasonal and access restrictions for designated routes. During the CTTMP process, additional data needs and a strategy to collect information will be identified.				
<i>No similar management action.</i>	The focus for transportation and travel planning would be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance needs for access with resource objectives on <b>316,000 acres</b></li> <li>• Facilitate motorized recreation on <b>41,000 acres</b></li> <li>• Balance livestock</li> </ul>	The focus for transportation and travel planning would be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate commercial uses while mitigating resource impacts on <b>1,161,000 acres</b></li> <li>• Facilitate livestock grazing management while mitigating resource impacts on</li> </ul>	The focus for transportation and travel planning would be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve access and facilitate fire suppression and prevention on <b>1,339,000 acres</b></li> <li>• Facilitate motorized recreation on <b>34,000 acres</b></li> </ul>	The focus for transportation and travel planning would be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accommodate restoration activities while providing access on <b>322,666 acres</b></li> <li>• Facilitate motorized recreation on <b>34,000 acres</b></li> <li>• Increase core habitat</li> </ul>	The focus for transportation and travel planning would be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accommodate restoration activities on <b>343,000 acres</b></li> <li>• Facilitate motorized recreation on <b>3,000 acres</b></li> <li>• Increase core habitat size for sage-grouse</li> </ul>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
	grazing management with habitat restoration on <b>667,000 acres</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase core habitat size for mule deer and provide for non-motorized recreation on <b>350,000 acres</b></li> </ul>	<b>213,000 acres</b>		size for sage-grouse and big game and accommodate restoration activities while providing access on <b>804,000 acres</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase core habitat size for sage-grouse and big game and provide for non-motorized recreation on <b>213,000 acres</b></li> </ul>	and other special status species and accommodate restoration activities on <b>1,027,000 acres</b>
<b>Resource Uses – Land Use Authorizations (LA)</b>					
<i>No goal stated.</i>	<b>Goal LA-CA-G- 1. Public needs for land use authorizations would be met with consideration for other resource values.</b>				
<i>No objective stated.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LA-I-O- 1. Provide for the development of renewable energy resources, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, communication sites and other uses with consideration for resource objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LA-II-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LA-III-O- 1. Provide for the development of renewable energy resources, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, communication sites and other uses with consideration for resource objectives and wildland fire prevention and suppression objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LA-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LA-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>
The following areas would be utility avoidance/ restricted areas ( <b>110,000 acres</b> ): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paleontological sites at Glenns Ferry and Pasadena Valley</li> <li>Cultural resource</li> </ul>	The following areas would be ROW avoidance areas ( <b>896,000 acres</b> ): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas within USAF MOAs</li> <li>Oregon NHT protective corridor</li> <li>Eligible, suitable, and</li> </ul>	The following areas would be ROW avoidance areas ( <b>878,000 acres</b> ): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas within USAF MOAs</li> <li>Oregon NHT protective corridor</li> <li>Eligible, suitable, and</li> </ul>	The following areas would be ROW avoidance areas ( <b>880,000 acres</b> ): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas within USAF MOAs</li> <li>Oregon NHT protective corridor</li> <li>Eligible, suitable, and</li> </ul>	The following areas would be ROW avoidance areas ( <b>896,000 acres</b> ): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas within USAF MOAs</li> <li>Oregon NHT protective corridor</li> <li>Eligible, suitable, and</li> </ul>	The following areas would be ROW avoidance areas ( <b>1,229,000 acres</b> ): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas within USAF MOAs</li> <li>Oregon NHT protective corridor</li> <li>Eligible, suitable, and</li> </ul>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<p>complexes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dove Springs</li> <li>• All rutted segments of Oregon Trail</li> <li>• Recommended suitable wilderness area</li> <li>• Bruneau-Jarbidge and Sand Point ACECs</li> <li>• Suitable WSR corridors</li> <li>• Salmon Falls Creek Canyon.</li> </ul>	<p>designated WSR corridors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics</li> <li>• Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs</li> </ul>	<p>designated WSR corridors</p>	<p>designated WSR corridors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs</li> </ul>	<p>designated WSR corridors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC</li> </ul>	<p>designated WSR corridors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sagebrush Sea ACEC</li> </ul>
<p><i>No similar management action.</i></p>	<p>The following areas would be ROW exclusion areas (<b>95,000 acres</b>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sand Point ACEC</li> <li>• WSAs</li> </ul>	<p>The following areas would be ROW exclusion areas (<b>94,000 acres</b>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WSAs</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative I.</p>	<p>The following areas would be ROW exclusion areas (<b>148,000 acres</b>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sand Point ACEC</li> <li>• WSAs</li> <li>• Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative IV.</p>
<p><i>No similar management action.</i></p>	<p>Designate the Pilgrim Gulch, Shoestring, Saylor Creek, Balanced Rock, and Jarbidge ROW corridors.</p>	<p>Designate the Pilgrim Gulch, Shoestring, Saylor Creek, Balanced Rock, Jarbidge, and China Mountain ROW corridors.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative I.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative I.</p>	<p>Designate the Pilgrim Gulch, Shoestring, Balanced Rock, and Jarbidge ROW corridors.</p>
<p>Implement the Programmatic Policies and Best Management Practices in the Wind Energy Development Program (Appendix N).</p>					
<p><i>No similar management action.</i></p>	<p>Wind farms could be considered in areas with annual or non-native vegetation communities, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.</p>	<p>Wind farms can be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative I.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative I.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative I.</p>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Restrict wind energy development from wildlife habitat where adverse effects could not be mitigated.	Restrict wind energy site testing and monitoring and wind energy development from occupied habitat for special status plants and animals, and cultural resources where their direct and indirect adverse effects cannot be mitigated.	Restrict wind turbines and meteorological towers from occupied habitat for Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, and Candidate species where their direct adverse effects cannot be mitigated.	Same as Alternative I.	Restrict wind energy site testing and monitoring and wind energy development from occupied and suitable habitat for special status species, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources where their direct and indirect adverse effects cannot be mitigated.	Same as Alternative IV.
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines <b>1 to 3 miles</b> away from active sage-grouse leks if the structure would not conflict with the lek. If this cannot be documented, structures must be >3 miles away.	Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines <b>&gt;1 mile</b> from active sage-grouse leks.	Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines <b>&gt;3 miles</b> from active sage-grouse leks.	Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines <b>&gt;5 miles</b> from active sage-grouse leks.	Same as Alternative IV.
<b>Resource Uses – Land Tenure (LT)</b>					
<p><i>No goal stated.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LT-NA-O- 1. Retain public lands in Federal ownership, except those lands specifically identified in the plan or amendment as transfer areas.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Goal LT-CA-G- 1. Manage land tenure to provide for public ownership of lands with high resource and multiple use values and to improve management efficiency.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LT-CA-O- 1. Improve BLM's ability to manage the land base and resource values, and help meet resource objectives through land tenure adjustments.</li> </ul>				
<p><i>Specific parcels were identified for disposal. Acres are crosswalked to Zones 1, 2, and 3 for comparison.</i></p>	<p>Lands available for disposal through land tenure adjustment would follow a three-zone system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zone 1: Lands zoned for retention that would not be available for disposal.</li> <li>Zone 2: Lands zoned for consolidation in the planning area that can be exchanged for other lands in Zones 1 and 2 or offered as R&amp;PP leases.</li> <li>Zone 3: Lands zoned for sale, exchange for lands in Zones 1 or 2 or lands outside the planning area, or R&amp;PP leases.</li> </ul>				

No Action Alternative		Alternative I		Alternative II		Alternative III		Alternative IV		Alternative V	
Zone	Acres	Zone	Acres	Zone	Acres	Zone	Acres	Zone	Acres	Zone	Acres
1	1,302,000	1	1,109,000	1	953,000	1	1,109,000	1	1,129,000	1	1,279,000
2	3,000	2	244,000	2	374,000	2	244,000	2	229,000	2	95,000
3	2,000	3	20,000	3	46,000	3	20,000	3	16,000	3	0
<b>Resource Uses – Minerals – Leasable Minerals (LE)</b>											
<i>No goal stated.</i>		<b>Goal LE-CA-G- 1 Provide leasable mineral development opportunities where they are compatible with other resources.</b>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LE-NA-O- 1. Make 1,306,844 acres of the area available for leasable mineral exploration and development across all MUAs.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LE-I-O- 1. Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of leasable minerals where compatible with resource objectives.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LE-II-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LE-III-O- 1. Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of leasable minerals where compatible with resource and wildland fire prevention and suppression objectives.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LE-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LE-V-O- 11. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>	
		All mineral leases would be subject to laws, regulations, and formal orders, the terms and conditions of the standard lease form; and stipulations for ESA Section 7 Consultation and Cultural Resource Protection; allocations below outline what, if any, additional constraints would apply.									
Allocate <b>1,303,000 acres</b> as open to mineral leasing.		Allocate <b>670,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing with no additional constraints.		Allocate <b>1,355,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing with no additional constraints.		Allocate <b>1,355,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing with no additional constraints.		Allocate <b>634,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate in Alternative IV-A and <b>648,000 acres</b> in Alternative IV-B as open to mineral leasing with no additional constraints.		Allocate <b>1,034,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing with no additional constraints	
Allocate the following areas as open to mineral leasing, subject to moderate constraints: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seasonal restrictions in big game winter range, pronghorn fawning range, key sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse habitats, raptor winter and nesting</li> </ul>		Allocate <b>633,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to moderate constraints: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seasonal restrictions in big game winter range, key sage-grouse habitat, and bull trout and redband trout habitat</li> </ul>		Allocate <b>17,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to moderate constraints: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Controlled surface use restriction in RCAs</li> </ul>		Allocate <b>17,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to moderate constraints: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Controlled surface use restriction in RCAs</li> </ul>		Allocate <b>586,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate in Alternative IV-A and <b>604,000 acres</b> in Alternative IV-B as open to mineral leasing, subject to moderate constraints: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seasonal restrictions in big game winter range, key sage-grouse habitat, and bull trout</li> </ul>		Allocate <b>264,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to moderate constraints: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seasonal restrictions in key sage-grouse habitat and bull trout and redband trout habitat</li> <li>Controlled surface use</li> </ul>	

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Controlled surface use restriction in RCAs</li> </ul>			and redband trout habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Controlled surface use restriction in RCAs</li> </ul>	restriction in RCAs
Allocate <b>284,000 acres</b> as open to mineral leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oregon Trail</li> <li>Sand Point ACEC and other paleontological sites and cultural resource complexes</li> <li>WSAs, Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA, and bighorn sheep habitat</li> <li>Bruneau, Jarbidge, Arch, and Salmon Falls Canyons</li> <li>Within 500 feet of riparian areas</li> </ul>	Allocate <b>32,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Oregon NHT protective corridor</li> <li>The Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors</li> </ul>	Allocate <b>29,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Oregon NHT protective corridor</li> <li>Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs</li> </ul>	Allocate <b>28,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Oregon NHT protective corridor</li> <li>Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs</li> </ul>	Allocate <b>32,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate in Alternative IV-A and <b>32,000 acres</b> in Alternative IV-B as open to mineral leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Oregon NHT protective corridor</li> <li>The Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors</li> </ul>	Allocate <b>32,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Oregon NHT protective corridor</li> <li>The Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors</li> </ul>
Allocate <b>104,000 acres</b> as closed to mineral leasing.	Allocate <b>160,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as closed to mineral leasing in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WSAs</li> <li>Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs</li> <li>Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics</li> <li>Lower Bruneau Canyon, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Middle Snake, Salmon Falls Creek, and Sand Point</li> </ul>	Allocate <b>94,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as closed to mineral leasing in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WSAs</li> </ul>	Allocate <b>96,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as closed to mineral leasing in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WSAs</li> <li>Bruneau-Jarbidge and Sand Point ACECs</li> </ul>	Allocate <b>243,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate in Alternative IV-A and <b>211,000 acres</b> in Alternative IV-B as closed to mineral leasing in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WSAs</li> <li>Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs; the Inside Desert</li> <li>Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics</li> <li>Lower Bruneau</li> </ul>	Allocate <b>165,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as closed to mineral leasing in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WSAs</li> <li>Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs</li> <li>Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics</li> <li>Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Sand Point ACECs</li> </ul>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
	ACECs			Canyon, Bruneau-Jarbidge, and Sand Point ACECs	
<b>Resource Uses – Minerals – Salable Minerals (SA)</b>					
<i>No goal stated.</i>	<b>Goal SA-CA-G- 1. Provide salable mineral development opportunities where they are compatible with other resources.</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective SA-NA-O- 1. Manage 697 acres in MUAs 4, 6, 7, and 12 for material use sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective SA-I-O- 1. Provide salable minerals needed for community and economic purposes and facilitate their reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound development where available and compatible with resource objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective SA-II-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective SA-III-O- 1. Provide salable minerals needed for community and economic purposes and facilitate their reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound development where available and compatible with resource and wildland fire prevention and suppression objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective SA-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective SA-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.</li> </ul>
Allocate <b>697 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as open to salable mineral development.	Allocate <b>1,308,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as open to salable mineral development, subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations.	Allocate <b>1,401,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as open to salable mineral development, subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations.	Allocate <b>1,351,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as open to salable mineral development, subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations.	Allocate <b>1,220,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate in Alternative IV-A, <b>1,252,000 acres</b> in Alternative IV-B as open to salable mineral development, subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations.	Allocate <b>1,297,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as open to salable mineral development, subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations.
<i>No similar management action.</i>	Allocate <b>187,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as closed to salable mineral development.	Allocate <b>94,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as closed to salable mineral development.	Allocate <b>144,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as closed to salable mineral development.	Allocate <b>275,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate in Alternative IV-A, <b>243,000 acres</b> in Alternative IV-B as closed to salable mineral development.	Allocate <b>198,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate as closed to salable mineral development.
<b>Resource Uses – Minerals – Locatable Minerals (LO)</b>					
<i>No goal stated.</i>	<b>Goal LO-CA-G- 1. Locatable mineral development would not cause unnecessary and undue degradation of resources.</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LO-NA-O- 1.</li> </ul>					

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<p>Make <b>1,395,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate available for locatable minerals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective LO-CA-O- 1. Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of locatable minerals.</li> </ul>				
<p>The planning area would be available for location of mining claims unless withdrawn.</p>					
<p>Recommend <b>218,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate for withdrawal from mineral entry.</p>	<p>Recommend <b>117,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate for withdrawal from mineral entry.</p>	<p>Recommend <b>46,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate for withdrawal from mineral entry.</p>	<p>Recommend <b>92,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate for withdrawal from mineral entry.</p>	<p>Recommend <b>148,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate for withdrawal from mineral entry.</p>	<p>Recommend <b>53,000 acres</b> of Federal mineral estate for withdrawal from mineral entry.</p>
<p><b>Special Designations – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)</b></p>					
<p><i>No goal stated.</i></p>	<p><b>Goal ACEC-CA-G- 1. ACECs will be managed to protect the important biological, cultural, scenic, and historic resources that meet the criteria for relevance and importance.</b></p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective ACEC-NA-O- 1. Protect the cultural and scenic values of the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (<b>85,000 acres</b>).</li> <li>Objective ACEC-NA-O- 2. Protect and enhance the Arch Canyon area, bighorn sheep habitat, and the Jarbidge River system and protect and maintain the cultural, geologic, scenic, and natural values present in the area.</li> <li>Objective ACEC-NA-O- 3. Protect the Salmon Falls Creek Canyon (<b>2,700 acres</b>) for its natural and scenic values through ACEC designation and management.</li> <li>Objective ACEC-NA-O- 4. Manage the Sand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective ACEC-I-O- 1. Manage the lands within the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC to protect their fish, wildlife, botanical, scenic, and cultural resource values (<b>85,000 acres</b>).</li> <li>Objective ACEC-I-O- 2. Manage the lands within the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC (<b>1,100 acres</b>) to protect their aquatic and botanical resources.</li> <li>Objective ACEC-I-O- 3. Manage the lands within the Middle Snake ACEC (<b>7,500 acres</b>) to protect their fish and botanical values.</li> <li>Objective ACEC-I-O- 4. Manage the lands within the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC (<b>2,700 acres</b>) to</li> </ul>	<p><i>No similar objectives.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective ACEC-III-O- 1. Manage the lands within the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC to protect their cultural, scenic, fish, wildlife, and botanical values (<b>57,000 acres</b>).</li> <li>Objective ACEC-III-O- 2. Manage the lands within the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC (<b>2,700 acres</b>) to protect their scenic, fish, and botanical values.</li> <li>Objective ACEC-III-O- 3. Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC (<b>950 acres</b>) to protect their historic, cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective ACEC-IV-O- 1. Manage the lands within the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC to protect their cultural, scenic, fish, and botanical values (<b>123,000 acres</b>).</li> <li>Objective ACEC-IV-O- 2. Manage the lands within the Inside Desert ACEC (Alternative IV-A: <b>73,000 acres</b>; Alternative IV-B: <b>41,000 acres</b>) to protect their botanical values.</li> <li>Objective ACEC-IV-O- 3. Manage the lands within the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC (Alt IV-A: <b>136,000 acres</b>) to protect their cultural, fish, wildlife, and botanical values.</li> <li>Objective ACEC-IV-O-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective ACEC-V-O- 1. Manage the lands within the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC (<b>1,100 acres</b>) to protect their aquatic and botanical resources.</li> <li>Objective ACEC-V-O- 2. Manage the lands within the Middle Snake ACEC (<b>7,500 acres</b>) to protect their fish and botanical values.</li> <li>Objective ACEC-V-O- 3. Manage the lands within the Sagebrush Sea ACEC (<b>958,000 acres</b>) to protect their cultural, fish, wildlife, and botanical values.</li> <li>Objective ACEC-V-O- 4. Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC (<b>950 acres</b>) to protect their historic,</li> </ul>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<p>Point ACEC (810 acres) to protect its paleontological and cultural resources, protect the geologic features present, and ensure that its scenic and wildlife values are maintained.</p>	<p>protect their scenic, fish, and botanical values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective ACEC-I-O- 5. Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC (950 acres) to protect their historic, cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.</li> </ul>			<p>4. Manage the lands within the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC (Alternative IV-B: 66,000 acres) to protect their cultural, wildlife, and botanical values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective ACEC-IV-O- 5. Manage the lands within the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC (1,100 acres) to protect their aquatic and botanical resources.</li> <li>Objective ACEC-IV-O- 6. Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC (950 acres) to protect their historic, cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.</li> </ul>	<p>cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.</p>
<b>Special Designations – National Historic Trails (NHT)</b>					
<p><i>Goal NHT-NA-O- 1. Protect and manage the Oregon NHT to preserve all remaining ruts and trail features; develop an interpretive marker program, signing, and facilities to serve trail users; and nominate to the National Register.</i></p>	<p><i>Goal NHT-CA-G- 1. The Oregon NHT corridor would be managed to preserve and protect the historic, scenic, and recreational values associated with the trail.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective NHT-CA-O- 1. Protect, preserve, and provide opportunities to experience the historic, scenic, and recreational values of the Oregon NHT.</li> </ul>				
<b>Special Designations – Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR)</b>					
<p><i>Goal WSR-NA-G- 1. Protect the scenic and recreational values of the Bruneau and Jarbidge</i></p>	<p><i>Goal WSR-CA-G- 1. Maintain or enhance the ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification of designated, suitable, and eligible WSR segments.</i></p>				

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<i>Rivers through special designation and management.</i>					
<b>Special Designations – Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)</b>					
<b>Goal WSA-NA-G- 1</b> <i>Manage 19,360 acres for wilderness in the planning area.</i>	<b>Goal WSA-CA-G- 1.</b> <i>Manage the Jarbidge River WSA, Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA, and Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA according to the IMP until designated as wilderness or released by Congress.</i>				
Areas determined by Congress to be nonsuitable for wilderness designation would be managed for other purposes	If not otherwise directed by legislation, lands released from wilderness study would not be managed for their wilderness characteristics, but instead would be managed according to direction for adjacent non-wilderness lands.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	If not otherwise directed by legislation, lands released from wilderness study would be managed for their wilderness characteristics according to the direction in the <i>Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics</i> section.	Same as Alternative IV.
<b>Social and Economic Features – Social and Economic Conditions (SE)</b>					
<i>No goal stated. No similar objective.</i>	<b>Goal SE-CA-G- 1.</b> <i>Management of the resources and uses of public lands would provide social and economic benefits to residents, businesses, visitors, and future generations.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective SE-CA-O- 1. Provide opportunities for economic and social benefit while maintaining natural and cultural resource values.</li> </ul>				
<b>Social and Economic Features – Hazardous Materials (HM)</b>					
<i>No goal stated. No objective stated.</i>	<b>Goal HM-CA-G- 1.</b> <i>Ensure hazardous materials concerns on public lands remain a high priority.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective HM-CA-O- 1. Mitigate issues related to hazardous materials.</li> </ul>				
<b>Social and Economic Features – Interpretation, Outreach, and Environmental Education (IOE)</b>					
<i>No goal stated.</i>	<b>Goal IOE-CA-G- 1.</b> <i>Working with partners, provide interpretation, outreach, and environmental education to highlight the natural, cultural, and historic features of the planning area and to further resource protection and public safety.</i>				

## **2.8.2. Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences**

Table 2- 6 provides a summary of the impacts on the human and natural environment in terms of the consequences that are proposed to occur from implementing the alternatives presented in Chapter 2; differences between the two sub-alternatives of Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative) are described only where they occur. The effects of the various management actions in each alternative are discussed in detail in the environmental consequences section presented in Chapter 4.

Differences between the wording of environmental consequences in the main text of Chapter 4 and the wording in the summary table should not be construed to confine or redefine the analysis of impacts. Wording was modified to be more concise in the summary table. Sections are summarized in the order in which they appear in Chapter 4.

**Table 2- 6. Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences**

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<b>Impacts to Tribal Rights and Interests</b>					
<p>The No Action Alternative would result in the second most impacts to tribal rights and interests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highest impact to the natural resource base used by the tribes</li> <li>Second highest impact to the physical integrity of cultural resources</li> <li>Second highest risk to the future exercise of treaty rights and tribal interests from potential disposal of public land</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative I would result in the third fewest impacts to tribal rights and interests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second lowest impact to the natural resource base used by the tribes</li> <li>Third lowest impact to the physical integrity of cultural resources</li> <li>Third lowest risk to the future exercise of treaty rights and tribal interests from potential disposal of public land</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative II would result in more impacts to tribal rights and interests than any of the alternatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highest impact to the natural resource base used by the tribes</li> <li>Highest impact on the physical integrity of cultural resources</li> <li>Highest risk to the future exercise of treaty rights and tribal interests from potential disposal of public land</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative III would result in the third most impacts to tribal rights and interests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second highest impact to the natural resource base used by the tribes</li> <li>Third highest impact to the physical integrity of cultural resources</li> <li>Third lowest risk to the future exercise of treaty rights and tribal interests from potential disposal of public land</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative IV would result in the second fewest impacts to tribal rights and interests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lowest impact to the natural resource base used by the tribes</li> <li>Second lowest impact to the physical integrity of cultural resources</li> <li>Second lowest risk to the future exercise of treaty rights and tribal interests from potential disposal of public land</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative V would result in fewer impacts to tribal rights and interests than any of the alternatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lowest impact to the natural resource base used by the tribes</li> <li>Lowest impact to the physical integrity of cultural resources</li> <li>Lowest risk to the future exercise of treaty rights and tribal interests from potential disposal of public land</li> </ul>
<b>Impacts to Air and Atmospheric Values</b>					
<b>Impacts to Air Quality</b>					
<p>The No Action Alternative would have the highest impact to air quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintains the current frequency of large fires</li> <li>Maintains current levels of cross-country motorized vehicle use</li> <li>No emissions of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> expected from the use of prescribed fire</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative I would have the least impact to air quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decreases frequency of large fire</li> <li>Reduces acres open to cross-country motorized vehicle use</li> <li>No emissions of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> expected from the use of prescribed fire</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative II would have the second highest impact to air quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintains the current frequency of large fires</li> <li>Eliminates acres open to cross-country motorized vehicle use</li> <li>Approximately 2,000 tons of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and 2,000 tons of PM<sub>10</sub> produced by prescribed fires over the life of the plan</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative III would have the third highest impact to air quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decreases frequency of large fires</li> <li>Reduces acres open to cross-country motorized vehicle use</li> <li>Creates and maintains unvegetated fuel breaks</li> <li>Approximately 2,000 tons of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and 2,000 tons of PM<sub>10</sub> produced by prescribed fires over the life of the plan</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative IV would have the second lowest impact to air quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Largest decrease in frequency of large fires</li> <li>Reduces acres open to cross-country motorized vehicle use</li> <li>Approximately 3,000 tons of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and 4,000 tons of PM<sub>10</sub> produced by prescribed fires over the life of the plan</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative V would have the third lowest impact to air quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decreases frequency of large fires</li> <li>Reduces acres open to cross-country motorized vehicle use</li> <li>Approximately 700 tons of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and 1,000 tons of PM<sub>10</sub> produced by prescribed fires over the life of the plan</li> </ul>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<b>Impacts to Climate Change</b>					
<b>Emissions of CH<sub>4</sub> in Tg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents per year through enteric fermentation are displayed below:</b>					
0.03-0.05 Tg per year	0.04-0.06 Tg per year	0.08-0.10 Tg per year	0.06-0.08 Tg per year	0.02-0.03 Tg per year	0.01-0.02 Tg per year
<b>Impacts to Geologic Features</b>					
The No Action Alternative ranks fifth for maintaining geologic features, due to availability to salable mineral development and lack of management to maintain naturalness in areas with geologic features.	Alternative I ranks third for maintaining geologic features, due to leasable and salable mineral closures, recommendations for withdrawal from mineral entry, and complementary management for ACECs and naturalness in areas with geologic features.	Alternative II ranks last for maintaining geologic features, due to availability for leasable, salable, and locatable mineral development and lack of complementary management for ACECs or naturalness in areas with geologic features.	Alternative III ranks fourth for maintaining geologic features, due to availability for leasable, salable, and locatable mineral development but presence of complementary management through ACEC designations in areas with geologic features.	Alternative IV ranks first for maintaining geologic features, due to leasable and salable mineral closures, recommendations for withdrawal from mineral entry, and highest amount of complementary management for ACECs and naturalness in areas with geologic features.	Alternative V ranks second for maintaining geologic features, due to leasable and salable mineral closures, a smaller area recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry than Alternative IV, and complementary management for ACECs and naturalness in areas with geologic features.
<b>Impacts to Soil Resources</b>					
The No Action Alternative would do the least to reduce impacts to soil resources.	Alternative I ranks fourth for reducing impacts to soil resources.	Alternative II ranks sixth for reducing impacts to soil resources.	Alternative III ranks fifth for reducing impacts to soil resources.	Alternative IV-A would do the most to reduce impacts to soil resources. Alternative IV-B rates second due to the smaller geographic area affected.	Alternative V ranks third for reducing impacts to soil resources.
The No Action Alternative lacks specific actions that would be incorporated as design features, stipulations, or closures to manage for soils, and particularly soils with higher hazard ratings for water and wind erosion.	Management actions tend to moderate impacts to soil resources while allowing for multiple uses. Alternative I would tend to maintain current conditions with some potential for improvement on soil resource conditions over the long term.	Higher livestock grazing allocations and amounts of livestock facilities would tend to reduce cover and would compact soils in facility locations. Impacts associated with roads would tend to increase erosion potential; density of roads would increase the proportion of soils compacted by use.	While less fire on the landscape would reduce impacts to soils, Alternative III would increase short- and long-term impacts from roads, fire suppression facilities, creation and maintenance of fuel breaks and fire-resistant plant communities, and use of livestock grazing to reduce fuels.	Both sub-alternatives would reduce soil impacts through upland vegetation treatments to restore native shrubland communities, fire management priorities that protect existing and restored native shrubland communities, reductions in livestock grazing allocations and facilities, and limits on other uses.	The more passive approach to vegetation treatments would reduce short-term impacts to soils, but long-term effects related to restoration of upland vegetation communities and soil function would cover a smaller geographic area than Alternatives IV-A and IV-B.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<b>Impacts to Water Resources</b>					
The No Action Alternative would result in the fewest miles of water quality impaired stream achieving State water quality standards. The No Action Alternative would have the highest risk to water resources and longest recovery time of degraded watershed conditions.	Alternative I is the third most likely to attain riparian objectives and State water quality standards in the life of the plan.	Alternative II is the fifth most likely to attain State water quality standards in the life of the plan. Alternative II would have the most resource uses and fewest miles at PFC.	Alternative III is the fourth most likely to attain riparian objectives and State water quality standards in the life of the plan. The attainment of the riparian objectives is less likely due to the increased resource uses in addition to the enhanced wildland fire suppression infrastructure.	Alternative IV has greatest potential to achieve State water quality standards of all alternatives. Active restoration is more likely to facilitate the achievement of State water quality standards within the life of the plan than passive restoration.	Alternative V would be the second most likely to attain riparian objectives and State water quality standards in the life of the plan. Passive restoration would have fewer short-term impacts and longer timeframes to meet riparian objectives and State water quality standards.
The No Action Alternative has no objectives to maintain or improve PFC.	PFC objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 145 miles at PFC</li> <li>• 80 miles toward PFC</li> </ul>	PFC objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 85 miles at PFC</li> <li>• 140 miles toward PFC</li> </ul>	PFC objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 183 miles at PFC</li> <li>• 42 miles toward PFC</li> </ul>	PFC objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 183 miles at PFC</li> <li>• 42 miles toward PFC</li> </ul>	PFC objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 183 miles at PFC</li> <li>• 42 miles toward PFC</li> </ul>
The ARMS does not apply.	The ARMS applies and would mitigate impacts from authorized and allowed uses.				
<b>Impacts to Upland Vegetation</b>					
<b>Acres of VSGs in the planning area following vegetation treatments are displayed below:</b>					
Annual 112,000	Annual 75,000	Annual 47,000	Annual 53,000	Annual 112,000	Annual 81,000
Non-Native Perennial 431,000	Non-Native Perennial 299,000	Non-Native Perennial 448,000	Non-Native Perennial 415,000	Non-Native Perennial 431,000	Non-Native Perennial 152,000
Non-Native Understory 7,000	Non-Native Understory 40,000	Non-Native Understory 34,000	Non-Native Understory 64,000	Non-Native Understory 7,000	Non-Native Understory 257,000
Native Grassland 424,000	Native Grassland 211,000	Native Grassland 424,000	Native Grassland 230,000	Native Grassland 424,000	Native Grassland 245,000
Native Shrubland 367,000	Native Shrubland 715,000	Native Shrubland 388,000	Native Shrubland 568,000	Native Shrubland 367,000	Native Shrubland 605,000
<b>Acres of seral stages in the planning area following vegetation treatments are displayed below:</b>					
Early 424,000	Early 213,000	Early 426,000	Early 232,000	Early 152,000	Early 247,000
Mid 91,000	Mid 437,000	Mid 110,000	Mid 295,000	Mid 581,000	Mid 327,000
Late 264,000	Late 264,000	Late 264,000	Late 259,000	Late 264,000	Late 264,000
Uncharacteristic 549,000	Uncharacteristic 414,000	Uncharacteristic 528,000	Uncharacteristic 532,000	Uncharacteristic 331,000	Uncharacteristic 490,000

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<p>The No Action Alternative would increase the relative proportion of acreage occupied by non-native perennial communities while maintaining proportions of annual, native grassland, and native shrubland communities and reducing proportions of non-native understory communities.</p>	<p>Alternative I would create a landscape with greater species diversity and structural complexity compared to the No Action Alternative and Alternatives II and III. This diversity would promote improved landscape functions over 67% of the planning area, including water and nutrient cycling and soil stabilization.</p>	<p>Alternative II would create a relatively homogeneous landscape dominated by early-seral and uncharacteristic vegetation in VMAs A, B, and C. Limited species and structural diversity in areas dominated by non-native perennial vegetation would decrease water and nutrient cycling compared to shrubland communities.</p>	<p>Alternative III would create a landscape with more species diversity and structural complexity than would be created under either the No Action Alternative or Alternative II. Native communities, particularly shrublands, would be less continuous than in Alternatives I, IV, or V.</p>	<p>Alternative IV would create a landscape dominated by native communities with a variety of seral stages and the lowest proportion of uncharacteristic vegetation of all the alternatives. This would improve landscape, including water and nutrient cycling and soil stabilization.</p>	<p>Alternative V would create a landscape with large patches of native communities in a variety of seral stages interspersed with non-native perennial and non-native understory communities. This would improve landscape functions, including water and nutrient cycling and soil stabilization.</p>
<p>The lack of prioritization for wildland fire suppression would perpetuate the current trend of native shrubland loss.</p>	<p>Overall fire management priorities would promote protection of existing and restored native shrubland communities; however, suppression priorities would likely result in continued loss of native shrublands.</p>	<p>Overall fire management priorities would promote protection of native grassland and non-native perennial communities with no prioritization for shrubland communities. Continued loss of native shrublands is likely.</p>	<p>Overall fire management priorities would promote protection of native shrubland, as well as native grassland and non-native perennial communities and would reduce the potential for loss for existing shrubland patches.</p>	<p>Overall fire management priorities would promote the protection of existing and restored native shrubland communities. Suppression priorities would not be adequate to retain all native communities; however, native grasslands would be relatively resilient if burned.</p>	<p>Overall fire management priorities would promote protection of existing and restored native shrubland communities. In VMAs B, C, and D, opportunities would be limited for post wildland fire treatments; therefore, Alternative V would require more use of prescribed fire in these VMAs as part of vegetation treatments.</p>
<p>Livestock management actions would promote uniform use of perennial grass and dominance by non-native perennial and short-stature, early- and mid-seral grasses.</p>	<p>Livestock management actions would result in moderate, uniform use that would tend to reduce structural complexity for perennial herbaceous plants.</p>	<p>Livestock management actions would promote uniform use of perennial grass and long-term dominance by non-native perennial and short-stature, early- and mid-seral grasses.</p>	<p>Livestock management actions would result in moderate, uniform use that would tend to reduce structural complexity for perennial herbaceous plants.</p>	<p>Livestock management actions coupled with vegetation treatments would result in greater structural complexity for both woody and herbaceous vegetation compared to the No Action Alternative and Alternatives I, II, and III.</p>	<p>Livestock management actions coupled with vegetation treatments would result in the greatest potential for species diversity and structural complexity and the highest potential for landscape stability compared to all other alternatives.</p>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Designation of 77% of the planning area as open to cross-country motorized vehicle use would result in continued creation of unplanned routes, fragmentation of plant communities, and introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants.	While cross-country motorized vehicle use and route density would decrease compared to the No Action Alternative, disturbance associated with fuel breaks and livestock management would be similar to the No Action Alternative or slightly increased. This would result in localized degradation of plant communities that could expand.	While cross-country motorized vehicle use would decrease compared to the No Action Alternative, increased allocations for livestock grazing as well as travel associated with commodity use would increase the amount of disturbed areas. This would result in localized degradation of plant communities and would increase the potential for expansion.	While cross-country motorized vehicle use would decrease, route density would remain similar to the No Action Alternative. Disturbance associated with fuel breaks and livestock management would be greater compared to the No Action Alternative and Alternatives I, IV, and V. This would result in localized degradation of plant communities.	Cross-country motorized vehicle use, route density, disturbance associated with fuel breaks and livestock management would be reduced compared to the No Action Alternative and Alternatives I, II, and III. This would reduce the potential for localized degradation of plant communities and expansion of disturbed areas.	Cross-country motorized vehicle use, route density, disturbance associated with fuel breaks and livestock management would be the least of all alternatives. This would reduce the potential for localized degradation of plant communities and expansion of disturbed areas.
<b>Impacts to Riparian Areas and Wetlands</b>					
The No Action Alternative has no objectives to maintain or improve PFC.	PFC objectives include: • 145 miles at PFC • 80 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 85 miles at PFC • 140 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 183 miles at PFC • 42 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 183 miles at PFC • 42 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 183 miles at PFC • 42 miles toward PFC
The ARMS does not apply.	The ARMS applies and would mitigate impacts from authorized and allowed uses.				
The No Action Alternative would result in the greatest potential to reduce habitat condition and PFC ratings of all alternatives and is the least likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan.	Alternative I is the third most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan.	Alternative II is the fifth most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives and would result in the fewest miles of riparian area at PFC within the life of the plan.	Alternative III is the fourth most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan. The attainment of the riparian objectives is less likely due to the increased resource uses in addition to the enhanced wildland fire suppression infrastructure.	Alternative IV is most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan. Alternative IV would have fewer areas available for authorized uses and less wildland fire infrastructure. Active restoration is more likely to achieve restoration objectives and in a shorter timeframe than passive restoration.	Alternative V is the second most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan. Alternative V would have the fewest areas available for land uses of all alternatives. Passive restoration would have fewer short-term impacts, but longer timeframes for riparian objectives to be met.
<b>Impacts to Fish</b>					
Impacts to fish would be the same as described for special status fish and aquatic invertebrates and riparian areas and wetlands.					

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<b>Impacts to Wildlife</b>					
<p>The No Action Alternative would restore little habitat for wildlife in the sagebrush steppe and other guilds, but would maintain the second highest amount of habitat for grassland guild wildlife.</p>	<p>Alternative I would restore 300,000 acres of habitat for wildlife in the sagebrush steppe and other guilds and would have the third largest reduction in the amount of habitat for grassland guild wildlife.</p>	<p>Alternative II would restore no habitat for wildlife in the sagebrush steppe and other guilds, but would maintain the largest amount of habitat for grassland guild wildlife.</p>	<p>Alternative III would restore 185,000 acres of habitat for wildlife in the sagebrush steppe and other guilds and would maintain the third highest amount of habitat for grassland guild wildlife.</p>	<p>Alternative IV would restore 410,000 acres habitat for wildlife in the sagebrush steppe and other guilds and would have the largest reduction in the amount of habitat for grassland guild wildlife.</p>	<p>Alternative V would restore 409,000 acres of habitat for wildlife in the sagebrush steppe and other guilds and would have the second largest reduction in the amount of habitat for grassland guild wildlife.</p>
<p>The No Action Alternative would provide the third highest amount of residual cover for wildlife, as it would make the fewest acres unavailable for livestock grazing and allocate the third lowest amount of vegetation for livestock.</p>	<p>Alternative I would provide the third lowest amount of residual cover for wildlife, as it would make the fourth smallest acreage unavailable for livestock grazing and allocate the third highest amount of vegetation for livestock.</p>	<p>Alternative II would provide the least residual cover for wildlife, as it would make the second smallest acreage unavailable for to livestock grazing and allocate the highest amount of vegetation for livestock.</p>	<p>Alternative III would provide the second lowest amount of residual cover for wildlife, as it would make the third smallest acreage unavailable for livestock grazing and allocate the second highest amount of vegetation for livestock.</p>	<p>Alternative IV would provide the second highest amount of residual cover for wildlife, as it would make the second largest acreage unavailable for livestock grazing and allocate the second lowest amount of vegetation for livestock.</p>	<p>Alternative V would provide the most residual cover for wildlife, as it would make the largest acreage unavailable for livestock grazing and allocate the lowest amount of vegetation for livestock.</p>
<p>The No Action Alternative would decrease habitat patch size the most of all alternatives, due to the highest increase in new routes and infrastructure.</p>	<p>Alternative I would have the third lowest impact to habitat patch size. This alternative would have the third lowest amount of new roads and infrastructure, which partially offsets gains in habitat patch size due to restoration. New infrastructure would be encouraged to be located in existing disturbance areas.</p>	<p>Alternative II would have the second largest decrease in habitat patch size due to having the second largest amount of infrastructure and allowing new roads and new infrastructure to be constructed in areas that are currently undisturbed.</p>	<p>Alternative III would have the third largest decrease in habitat patch size due to having the third highest amount of new roads and other infrastructure, as well as the construction of unvegetated fuel breaks. These impacts would be partially offset by locating new infrastructure in existing disturbance areas.</p>	<p>Alternative IV would have the second lowest impact to habitat patch size. While the amount of habitat restoration would generally increase patch size, these gains would be offset by having more new roads and infrastructure than Alternative V.</p>	<p>Alternative V would have the lowest impact to habitat patch size of all the alternatives, due to restoration of habitat combined with the lowest amount of new roads and infrastructure. New infrastructure would be encouraged to be located in existing disturbance areas.</p>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<b>Impacts to Special Status Species</b>					
<i>Impacts to Special Status Fish and Aquatic Invertebrates</i>					
The No Action Alternative would result in the least improvement in habitat and PFC ratings of all alternatives and is the least likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan.	Alternative I is the third most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan.	Alternative II is the fifth most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan. Increased commercial uses, combined with fewer miles achieving PFC and habitat condition objectives, would result in the most miles of special status aquatic species habitat in a reduced condition.	Alternative III is fourth most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan. The attainment of the riparian and habitat condition objectives is less likely due to the increased resource uses, in addition to the enhanced wildland fire suppression infrastructure.	Alternative IV is the most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan. Active restoration is more likely to achieve restoration objectives and in a shorter timeframe than passive restoration.	Alternative V is the second most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan. Passive restoration would have fewer short-term impacts, but longer timeframes for habitat and riparian objectives to be met.
The No Action Alternative has no objectives to maintain or improve PFC.	PFC objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 145 miles at PFC</li> <li>• 80 miles toward PFC</li> </ul>	PFC objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 85 miles at PFC</li> <li>• 140 miles toward PFC</li> </ul>	PFC objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 183 miles at PFC</li> <li>• 42 miles toward PFC</li> </ul>	PFC objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 183 miles at PFC</li> <li>• 42 miles toward PFC</li> </ul>	PFC objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 183 miles at PFC</li> <li>• 42 miles toward PFC</li> </ul>
The ARMS does not apply.	The ARMS applies and would mitigate impacts from authorized and allowed uses.				
<i>Impacts to Special Status Wildlife</i>					
The No Action Alternative allows little restoration of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	Alternative I would restore third highest amount of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	Alternative II would restore the smallest amount of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	Alternative III would restore third smallest amount of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	Alternative IV would restore the highest amount of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	Alternative V would restore second highest amount of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.
This alternative would provide the third highest amount of residual cover for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	This alternative would provide the third lowest amount of residual cover for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	This alternative would provide the least residual cover for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates	This alternative would provide the second lowest amount of residual cover for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	This alternative would provide the second highest amount of residual cover for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	This alternative would provide the most residual cover for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.
The No Action Alternative is expected to result in the most new roads and infrastructure in habitat for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	Alternative I is expected to result in the third lowest amount of new roads and infrastructure in habitat for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	Alternative II is expected to result in second highest amount of new roads and infrastructure in habitat for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	Alternative III is expected to result in the third highest amount of new roads and infrastructure in sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	Alternative IV is expected to result in the second lowest amount of new roads and infrastructure in sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates	Alternative V is expected to result in the least new roads and infrastructure in sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<p>The No Action Alternative would restore the smallest amount of habitat for spotted frogs and other special status riparian guild wildlife.</p>	<p>Alternative I would restore the second highest amount of habitat for spotted frogs and other special status riparian guild wildlife.</p>	<p>Same as the No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>Alternative III would restore highest amount of habitat for spotted frogs and other special status riparian guild wildlife.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative III.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative III.</p>
<b>Impacts to Special Status Plants</b>					
<p>The No Action Alternative ranks sixth for management of special status plants and their habitats as it would do little to restore potential habitat.</p>	<p>Alternative I ranks fourth for management of special status plants, due primarily to intermediate levels of habitat restoration and management that would reduce fire-related impacts to special status plants and their habitats and prevent impacts due to travel.</p>	<p>Alternative II would do the least to manage for special status plants and their habitats, due to low levels of habitat restoration combined with the highest amount and intensity of livestock use and impacts due to route densities. Critical fire suppression priorities would do little to protect special status plants and their habitats.</p>	<p>Alternative III ranks fifth for management of special status plants and their habitats due primarily to relatively high levels of habitat fragmentation from actions intended to reduce large wildland fires. Vegetated and unvegetated fuel breaks, combined with increased fire suppression infrastructure, would break up contiguous blocks of special status plant habitats. Critical fire suppression priorities do not fully protect occupied and potential habitats for special status plants.</p>	<p>Alternative IV ranks first in maintaining existing special status plant populations and maintaining or increasing occupied and potential habitats due primarily to actions that actively restore habitats. Management is included in Alternative IV to reduce fire-related impacts to special status plants and their habitats and to prevent impacts due to travel.</p>	<p>Alternative V ranks second for management of special status plants, due primarily to the passive restoration and noxious and invasive weed treatments, reducing acreage and increasing the time required for restoration. Alternative V provided the greatest amount of active management to reduce fire-related impacts to special status plants and to prevent impacts due to travel. However, allowing for more uses could result in indirect impacts to special status plants.</p>
<p>The No Action Alternative contains low levels of management for protection of existing special status plant populations. This includes indirect impacts from special management in the Bruneau-Jarbidge River ACEC.</p>	<p>ACEC management for special status plants and their habitats would only occur along the Bruneau, Jarbidge, Middle Snake, and Salmon Falls Creek drainages; populations in the interior of the planning area would not have elevated levels of management.</p>	<p>Under Alternative II there would be no ACEC designations and, therefore, no special management for special status plants and their habitats.</p>	<p>ACEC designations would only manage special status plants and habitats along the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers, in an area 2/3 the size under Alternative I; populations of special status plants throughout most of the planning area would not have elevated levels of management.</p>	<p>ACEC designations under Alternative IV-A would provide management for special status plants and their habitats throughout the planning area. Alternative IV-B was rated third due to reduced acreages for special management associated with ACECs.</p>	<p>ACEC designations under Alternative V would provide management for special status plants on the most acreage of all the alternatives, and, thus, for the most special status plants and their habitats.</p>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<b>Impacts to Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants</b>					
<p>The No Action Alternative ranks sixth in reducing potential for the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants.</p>	<p>Alternative I ranks fourth for reducing the potential for introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants.</p>	<p>Alternative II would do the least to reduce the potential for introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants.</p>	<p>Alternative III ranks fifth for reducing the potential for introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants.</p>	<p>Alternative IV-A does the most to reduce the potential for introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants. Alternative IV-B rates second due to the smaller geographic area affected.</p>	<p>Alternative V ranks third for reducing potential for introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants.</p>
<p>The No Action Alternative would do little to change current trends for noxious weeds and invasive plants through vegetation treatments, wildland fire management, travel management, or land use authorizations.</p>	<p>Management actions tend to reduce disturbance to vegetation and soil resources while allowing for multiple uses. Alternative I would tend to maintain current conditions with some potential for reduction of introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants over the long-term.</p>	<p>Higher livestock grazing allocations as well as increased amounts of livestock facilities would tend to reduce vegetation cover and disrupt soils in facility locations. Impacts associated with density of roads would increase potential for introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants.</p>	<p>While less fire on the landscape would reduce potential for noxious weed and invasive plant introduction and spread, the alternative would increase short- and long-term impacts resulting from roads, fire suppression facilities, creation and maintenance of fire breaks, and use of livestock grazing to reduce fuels.</p>	<p>Both sub-alternatives would reduce long-term potential for noxious weed and invasive plant introduction and spread through upland vegetation treatments to restore native shrubland communities, fire management priorities that protect native shrubland communities, reductions in livestock grazing allocations and facilities, and limits on other uses.</p>	<p>The more passive approach to vegetation treatments would reduce short-term impacts to existing vegetation and soils, long-term effects related to restoration of upland vegetation communities would cover a smaller geographic area compared to Alternatives IV-A and IV-B.</p>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<b>Impacts to Wildland Fire Ecology and Management – Wildland Fire Management</b>					
<p>The number of human-caused fires in the No Action Alternative would remain static or increase due to the combined impacts from land use authorizations, transportation and travel, and recreation actions and the lack of prevention actions.</p>	<p>The number of human-caused fires would decrease overall. The suppression actions in Alternative I would be second best at decreasing the number of human-caused fires. This effect would be augmented by travel management actions, but offset by recreation and land use authorizations management actions.</p>	<p>The number of human-caused fires would decrease overall. The suppression actions in Alternative II would be best at reducing the number of human-caused fires. This effect would be augmented by recreation management actions, but offset by travel and land use authorizations management actions.</p>	<p>The number of human-caused fires would increase overall. Even though the suppression actions in Alternative III would be best at reducing the number of human-caused fires, this effect would be offset by transportation and travel, recreation, and land use authorizations management actions.</p>	<p>The number of human-caused fires could increase at a slower rate than every alternative except for Alternative V. Even though the suppression actions in Alternative IV reduce the number of human-caused fires the least of all the alternatives, this effect would be offset by transportation and travel, recreation, and land use authorizations management actions.</p>	<p>The number of human-caused fires would increase at the slowest rate of all the alternatives. The suppression actions in Alternative V would be second best at reducing the number of human-caused fires. This effect would be augmented transportation and travel, recreation, and land use authorizations management actions.</p>
<p>In the short term, the trend toward large fires would continue. Few suppression actions are identified to reduce fire size, and no treatments would move vegetation toward fuels with a lower rate of spread.</p>	<p>In the short term, fire size would decrease through suppression actions, although to a lesser degree than Alternatives II and III. This would be offset by treatments on only 3% of the planning area moving vegetation toward fuels with a lower rate of spread.</p>	<p>In the short term, fire size would decrease through suppression and livestock grazing actions. This would be augmented by treatments on 5% of the planning area moving vegetation toward fuels with a lower rate of spread.</p>	<p>In the short term, fire size would decrease through suppression actions and livestock grazing actions. This would be augmented by treatments on 6% of the planning area moving vegetation toward fuels with a lower rate of spread.</p>	<p>In the short term, fire size would continue to increase until FRCC is improved, due to suppression actions reducing fire size least of all the alternatives and reduced levels of livestock grazing. This would be offset by treatments on 5% of the planning area moving vegetation toward fuels with a lower rate of spread.</p>	<p>In the short term, fire size would continue to increase until FRCC is improved. Even though suppression actions would decrease fire size, this would be offset by substantially reduced levels of livestock grazing and treatments on only 3% of the planning area moving vegetation toward fuels with a lower rate of spread.</p>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Over the long term, fire size would continue an upward trend. Vegetation treatments would not improve FRCC, with no increase in acres similar to S-Class reference conditions as compared to the baseline; livestock grazing management may inhibit improvement in FRCC. No treatments are identified for WUI.	Over the long term, fire size would decrease due to moderate improvement in FRCC. Vegetation treatments would improve FRCC on 300,000 acres; livestock grazing management is least likely to either inhibit or heighten improvement in FRCC. Approximately 4,000 acres of fuels treatments in WUI would be implemented.	Over the long term, with no change to FRCC, fire size would return to an upward trend. Vegetation treatments and livestock grazing would play the least role in improving FRCC with no increase in acres similar to S-Class reference conditions as compared to the baseline. Among the alternatives, Approximately 5,000 acres of fuels treatments in WUI would be implemented.	Over the long term, fire size would continue an upward trend, although to a lesser degree than the No Action Alternative and Alternative II due to marginal improvement in FRCC. Vegetation treatments would improve FRCC on 180,000 acres; livestock grazing management would further inhibit improvement in FRCC over the long term. Approximately 6,000 acres of fuels treatments in WUI would be implemented.	Over the long term, fire size would decrease due to major improvement in FRCC. Vegetation treatments would improve FRCC on 373,000 acres; livestock grazing management would heighten improvement of FRCC. Approximately 4,000 acres of fuels treatments in WUI would be implemented; improvements in overall FRCC would also benefit WUI by reducing fire size in the long term.	Over the long term, fire size would decrease due to minor improvement in FRCC. Vegetation treatments would improve FRCC on 210,000 acres; livestock grazing management would heighten improvement of FRCC. Approximately 3,000 acres of fuels treatments in WUI would be implemented.
<b>FRCC by Vegetation Type by VMA Following Full Implementation of the Plan (All Vegetation Types Currently as Shown under the No Action Alternative)</b>					
<b>VMA A:</b>	<b>VMA A:</b>	<b>VMA A:</b>	<b>VMA A:</b>	<b>VMA A:</b>	<b>VMA A:</b>
Wy. sagebrush steppe 3	Wy. sagebrush steppe 3	Wy. sagebrush steppe 3	Wy. sagebrush steppe 3	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 3
<b>VMA B:</b>	<b>VMA B:</b>	<b>VMA B:</b>	<b>VMA B:</b>	<b>VMA B:</b>	<b>VMA B:</b>
Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2
<b>VMA C:</b>	<b>VMA C:</b>	<b>VMA C:</b>	<b>VMA C:</b>	<b>VMA C:</b>	<b>VMA C:</b>
Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1
Basin big sagebrush 3	Basin big sagebrush 2	Basin big sagebrush 3	Basin big sagebrush 2	Basin big sagebrush 1	Basin big sagebrush 2
Black/low sagebrush 3	Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 3	Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 2
<b>VMA D:</b>	<b>VMA D:</b>	<b>VMA D:</b>	<b>VMA D:</b>	<b>VMA D:</b>	<b>VMA D:</b>
Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1
Basin big sagebrush 3	Basin big sagebrush 1	Basin big sagebrush 3	Basin big sagebrush 2	Basin big sagebrush 1	Basin big sagebrush 1
Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 1	Black/low sagebrush 2
Mtn big sagebrush 2	Mtn big sagebrush 2	Mtn big sagebrush 2	Mtn big sagebrush 1	Mtn big sagebrush 1	Mtn big sagebrush 2
<b>Impacts to Wild Horses</b>					
The number of wild horses in the HMA would be reduced to and maintained at 50.	A reproducing herd of 100 to 200 wild horses would be maintained.	Wild horses in the HMA would be gathered, and the HMA would be unpopulated.	A reproducing herd of 200 to 600 horses would be established and maintained.	Wild horses would be gathered and replaced by a non-reproducing herd up to 200.	Wild horses would be gathered and replaced by a non-reproducing herd up to 500.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<p>The No Action Alternative would have the most impact to wild horses, as it would result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The most difficulty in maintaining the genetic diversity of the herd</li> <li>• The least improvement in forage and water availability and stability</li> <li>• The most disruption to wild horses due to conflict with human activity and infrastructure</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative I would have the third highest impact to wild horses, as it would result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some difficulty in maintaining the genetic diversity of the herd</li> <li>• Improvement in forage and water availability</li> <li>• The smallest reduction in disruption to wild horses, due to conflict with livestock grazing and vegetation treatments</li> </ul>	<p>Reducing the wild horse herd to zero would have the highest short-term effects on wild horses during the process of gathering and relocating wild horses. In the long term, genetic diversity of the herd, forage and water availability, and disruption to wild horses would no longer be an issue.</p>	<p>Alternative III would have the second lowest impact to wild horses, as it would result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The least difficulty in maintaining the genetic diversity of herd</li> <li>• Improvement in forage availability</li> <li>• Improvement to water systems to increase reliability and supply of water</li> <li>• Reduced disruption to wild horses, due to fewer conflicts with motorized recreation, removal of fences in the HMA, and the fewest vegetation treatments of the action alternatives, even though conflicts with livestock grazing would remain high</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative IV would have the least impact to wild horses, as it would result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No impacts to the genetic diversity of the herd</li> <li>• Improvement in forage availability</li> <li>• Potential difficulty in improving water availability due to reduced need for livestock water in the HMA</li> <li>• Highest overall reduction in disruption to wild horses, due to reductions in human activity and uses and realignment of fences in the HMA, even though conflicts with vegetation treatments may be high</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative V would have the second highest impact to wild horses, as it would result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No impacts to the genetic diversity of the herd</li> <li>• Less improvement in forage availability than Alternatives I, III, and IV, offset partially by the reduced allocation of vegetation for livestock</li> <li>• No increase in water availability due to the reduced need for livestock water in the HMA and new pipelines being prohibited.</li> <li>• Highest overall reduction in disruption to wild horses, due to reductions in human activity and uses</li> </ul>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<b>Impacts to Paleontological Resources</b>					
<p>The No Action Alternative would have the second highest potential to affect the integrity of paleontological resources, as there would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The second most PFY Class 5 acres vulnerable to impacts from mineral, utility, and wind energy development and the most acres vulnerable to transportation-related impacts</li> <li>• More Class 5 acres retained in Federal ownership</li> <li>• Some special management for maintaining the integrity of paleontological resources</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative I would have the lowest potential to affect the integrity of paleontological resources, similar to Alternatives III, IV, and V, as there would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fewer Class 5 acres vulnerable to impacts from transportation and mineral, utility, and wind energy development</li> <li>• More Class 5 acres retained in Federal ownership</li> <li>• More special management for maintaining the integrity of paleontological resources</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative II would have the highest potential to affect the integrity of paleontological resources, as there would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The most Class 5 acres vulnerable to impacts from mineral, utility, and wind energy development, even though impacts from transportation would be lowest</li> <li>• Fewer Class 5 acres retained in Federal ownership</li> <li>• No special management for maintaining the integrity of paleontological resources</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative I.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative I.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative I.</p>
<b>Impacts to Cultural Resources</b>					
<p>The No Action Alternative would result in the second highest level of impacts to the integrity and setting of cultural resources.</p>	<p>Alternative I would result in the third lowest level of impacts to the integrity and setting of cultural resources.</p>	<p>Alternative II would result in the highest level of impacts to the integrity and setting of cultural resources.</p>	<p>Alternative III would result in the third highest level of impacts to the integrity and setting of cultural resources.</p>	<p>Alternative IV would result in the second lowest level of impacts to the integrity and setting of cultural resources.</p>	<p>Alternative V would result in the lowest level of impacts to the integrity and setting of cultural resources.</p>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<b>Impacts to Visual Resources</b>					
The No Action Alternative would support retaining the existing visual character of 94% of Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) Class I lands and 19% of VRI Class II lands.	Alternative I would support retaining the existing visual character of 99% of VRI Class I lands and 65% of VRI Class II lands.	Alternative II would support retaining the existing visual character of 97% of VRI Class I lands and 4% of VRI Class II lands.	Same as Alternative II.	Alternative IV would support retaining the existing visual character of 99.8% of VRI Class I lands and 80% of VRI Class II lands.	Same as Alternative IV.
<b>Acres of Visual Resource Inventory Class I and II Lands whose Visual Character would be Retained</b>					
<u>VRI I 97,000 acres</u> <u>VRI II 11,000 acres</u>	<u>VRI I 102,000 acres</u> <u>VRI II 38,000 acres</u>	<u>VRI I 100,000 acres</u> <u>VRI II 2,000 acres</u>	<u>VRI I 100,000 acres</u> <u>VRI II 2,000 acres</u>	<u>VRI I 103,000 acres</u> <u>VRI II 47,000 acres</u>	<u>VRI I 103,000 acres</u> <u>VRI II 57,000 acres</u>
<b>Impacts to Non-Wilderness Study Area Lands with Wilderness Characteristics</b>					
The No Action Alternative ranks fifth for management that maintains wilderness characteristics on non-WSA lands, as there would be no specific management for these values and few or no restrictions on land use authorizations or mineral development in these areas; management for visual resources would maintain some wilderness characteristics.	Alternative I ranks third for management that maintains wilderness characteristics on non-WSA lands, as there would be no specific management for some areas inventoried to contain these values, which have few mineral development and land use authorization restrictions, contributing to a decline in wilderness character.	Alternative II ranks sixth for management that maintains wilderness characteristics on non-WSA lands, as there would be no specific management for these values and few or no restrictions on land use authorizations or mineral development in these areas.	Alternative III ranks fourth for management that maintains wilderness characteristics on non-WSA lands, as there would be no specific management for these values, few or no restrictions on mineral development, but some restrictions on wind energy and utility development in these areas.	Alternative IV ranks first for management that maintains wilderness characteristics on non-WSA lands, as it would manage for all inventoried wilderness characteristics on non-WSA lands with minimal decreases in wilderness characteristics from other uses.	Alternative V ranks second for management that maintains wilderness characteristics on non-WSA lands, as it would manage for all inventoried wilderness characteristics on non-WSA lands but make more of these areas available for locatable mineral development than Alternative IV.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<b>Impacts to Livestock Grazing</b>					
<b>Forage Available for Livestock at Initial and Full Implementation of the Plan Based on Areas Available for Livestock Grazing, Vegetation Allocation and Treatments, and 2006 Vegetation Production Data (for Comparison Purposes Only)</b>					
<i>Initial implementation:</i> 200,000 AUMs  <i>Full implementation:</i> 160,000-260,000AUMs	<i>Initial implementation:</i> 194,000-267,000 AUMs  <i>Full implementation<sup>3</sup>:</i> 196,000-269,000 AUMs	<i>Initial implementation:</i> 352,000-427,000 AUMs  <i>Full implementation:</i> 394,000-479,000 AUMs	<i>Initial implementation:</i> 279,000-352,000 AUMs  <i>Full implementation:</i> 302,000-382,000 AUMs	<b>Alternative IV-A:</b> <i>Initial implementation:</i> 100,000-156,000 AUMs <i>Full implementation:</i> 89,000-141,000 AUMs  <b>Alternative IV-B:</b> <i>Initial implementation:</i> 103,000-161,000 AUMs <i>Full implementation:</i> 92,000-145,000 AUMs	<i>Initial implementation:</i> 50,000-100,000 AUMs  <i>Full implementation:</i> 49,000-98,000 AUMs
The No Action alternative has a low level of limitation on infrastructure for livestock management.	Alternative I provides a moderate level of limitation on infrastructure for livestock management.	Same as the No Action Alternative.	Same as the No Action Alternative.	Alternative IV provides a high level of limitation on infrastructure for livestock management.	Alternative V provides the highest level of limitation on infrastructure for livestock management.
The level of effort required to minimize conflicts with livestock grazing would be low with regard to resources and high with regard to other uses.	The level of effort required to minimize conflicts with livestock grazing would be low with regard to resources and other uses.	Same as the No Action Alternative.	A moderate amount of effort would be required to minimize conflicts with livestock grazing with regard to resources and other uses.	Same as Alternative III.	The level of effort required to minimize conflicts with livestock grazing would be high with regard to resources and low with regard to other uses.
<b>Impacts to Recreation</b>					
Areas with focused recreation management would not change (77,000 acres). However, managing the SRMAs without clearly established boundaries does not address the existing or anticipated increase in demand of the recreational resources.	The SRMAs proposed in Alternative I would provide the broadest range of activity type among all alternatives, maintaining or enhancing existing opportunities. Areas with focused recreation management would increase to 342,000 acres.	The SRMAs proposed in Alternative II would maintain or enhance some existing opportunities, while minimizing conflict with resource uses. Areas with focused recreation management would decrease to 21,000 acres.	The SRMAs proposed in Alternative III would maintain or enhance existing opportunities. Areas with focused recreation management would decrease to 56,000 acres.	The SRMAs proposed in Alternative IV would maintain or enhance existing opportunities. Areas with focused recreation management would increase to 205,000 acres.	The SRMAs proposed in Alternative V would maintain some existing opportunities. Areas with focused recreation management would decrease to 19,000 acres.

<sup>3</sup> For all action alternatives, reflects the impact of vegetation treatments on forage availability.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
The type, number, and setting of motorized recreation opportunities would be maintained.	The type, number, and setting of motorized recreation opportunities would be enhanced.	The type, number, and setting of motorized recreation opportunities would be limited.	The type, number, and setting of motorized recreation opportunities would be enhanced.	The type, number, and setting of motorized recreation opportunities would be enhanced.	The type, number, and setting of motorized recreation opportunities would be limited.
The type, number, and setting of non-motorized recreation opportunities would be limited.	The type, number, and setting of non-motorized recreation opportunities would be enhanced.	The type, number, and setting of non-motorized recreation opportunities would be limited.	The type, number, and setting of non-motorized recreation opportunities would be maintained.	The type, number, and setting of non-motorized recreation opportunities would be enhanced.	The type, number, and setting of non-motorized recreation opportunities would be maintained.
<b>Impacts to Transportation and Travel</b>					
Travel management would be the least restrictive.	Travel management would be the third most restrictive but would continue to provide access within the majority of the planning area.	Travel management would be the second least restrictive.	Travel management would be the third least restrictive.	Travel management would be the second most restrictive but would continue to provide access within the majority of the planning area.	Travel management would be the most restrictive but would continue to provide access within the majority of the planning area; areas within WSAs currently accessible on inventoried ways would no longer be accessible through motorized modes of travel.
Route density is expected to increase as a result of the number of acres open to cross-country motorized vehicle use and available for ROW development.	Route density is expected to decrease overall; 49% of the planning area is expected to remain at the same route density, and 48% is expected to experience a decrease in route density.	Route density is expected to increase overall; 15% of the planning area is expected to remain at the same route density, and 85% is expected to experience an increase in route density.	Route density is expected to remain mostly unchanged; 98% of the planning area is expected to remain at the same route density, and 2% is expected to experience an increase in route density.	Route density is expected to decrease overall; 2% of the planning area is expected to experience an increase in route density, and 98% is expected to experience a decrease in route density.	Route density is expected to decrease overall; 1% of the planning area is expected to experience an increase in route density, and 99% is expected to experience a decrease in route density.
<b>Impacts to Land Use Authorizations</b>					
<b>Availability of Public Lands for ROW Developments (Acres)</b>					
Open 1,263,000 Avoidance 0 Exclusion 110,000	Open 476,000 Avoidance 803,000 Exclusion 95,000	Open 493,000 Avoidance 786,000 Exclusion 94,000	Open 493,000 Avoidance 786,000 Exclusion 95,000	Open 457,000 Avoidance 768,000 Exclusion 148,000	Open 144,000 Avoidance 1,082,000 Exclusion 148,000
98% of the high-interest area for utility development would be available for development.	92% of the high-interest area for utility development would be available for development.	100% of the high-interest area for utility development would be available for development.	92% of the high-interest area for utility development would be available for development.	91% of the high-interest area for utility development would be available for development.	77% of the high-interest area for utility development would be available for development.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
67% of lands within 2 miles of areas rated Fair or higher for wind resources would be available for utility-scale development.	26% of lands within 2 miles of areas rated Fair or higher for wind resources would be available for utility-scale development.	69% of lands within 2 miles of areas rated Fair or higher for wind resources would be available for utility-scale development.	26% of lands within 2 miles of areas rated Fair or higher for wind resources would be available for utility-scale development.	25% of lands within 2 miles of areas rated Fair or higher for wind resources would be available for utility-scale development.	18% of lands within 2 miles of areas rated Fair or higher for wind resources would be available for utility-scale development.
<b>Impacts to Land Tenure</b>					
<b>Availability of Public Lands for Various Land Tenure Transactions (Acres)</b>					
Sale 2,000	Sale 20,000	Sale 46,000	Sale 20,000	Sale 16,000	Sale 0
Exchange 4,000	Exchange 264,000	Exchange 420,000	Exchange 264,000	Exchange 245,000	Exchange 95,000
DLE/CA 67,000	DLE/CA 960				
R&PP 1,368,000	R&PP 264,000	R&PP 420,000	R&PP 264,000	R&PP 245,000	R&PP 95,000
<b>Impacts to Leasable Minerals</b>					
<b>Availability of Federal Mineral Estate for Mineral Leasing (Acres)</b>					
(118,000 acres are already closed to mineral leasing by statute or public land order [PLO]. These acres are included in figures below.)					
Open 540,000	Open 322,000	Open 705,000	Open 705,000	<i>Alternative IV-A</i> Open 76,000	Open 96,000
Open with Constraint 869,000	Open with Constraint 1,013,000	Open with Constraint 696,000	Open with Constraint 694,000	Open with Constraint 1,176,000	Open with Constraint 1,234,000
Closed 204,000	Closed 278,000	Closed 212,000	Closed 213,000	Closed 360,000	Closed 283,000
				<i>Alternative IV-B</i> Open 76,000	
				Open with Constraint 1,208,000	
				Closed 328,000	
<b>Availability of Federal Mineral Estate in Potential Oil and Gas Areas for Mineral Leasing (Acres)</b>					
Open 169,000	Open 80,000	Open 159,000	Open 159,000	Open 53,000	Open 57,000
Open with Constraint 189,000	Open with Constraint 285,000	Open with Constraint 217,000	Open with Constraint 216,000	Open with Constraint 300,000	Open with Constraint 290,000
Closed 22,000	Closed 15,000	Closed 4,000	Closed 5,000	Closed 27,000	Closed 34,000
<b>Availability of Federal Mineral Estate in Potential Geothermal Areas for Mineral Leasing (Acres)</b>					
Open 260,000	Open 165,000	Open 179,000	Open 179,000	Open 65,000	Open 65,000
Open with Constraint 152,000	Open with Constraint 256,000	Open with Constraint 253,000	Open with Constraint 252,000	Open with Constraint 363,000	Open with Constraint 363,000
Closed 124,000	Closed 115,000	Closed 104,000	Closed 105,000	Closed 108,000	Closed 108,000
In the next 20 years under the reasonably foreseeable development scenarios, approximately 90 acres would be developed for oil and gas and 200 acres for geothermal resources.					

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<b>Impacts to Salable Minerals</b>					
<b>Availability of Federal Mineral Estate for Salable Mineral Development due to Minerals Actions (Acres)</b> (118,000 acres are already closed to salable mineral development by statute or PLO. These acres are included in figures below.)					
Open 600 Open with Constraint 1,494,000 Closed 118,000	Open 512,000 Open with Constraint 795,000 Closed 306,000	Open 669,000 Open with Constraint 731,000 Closed 212,000	Open 655,000 Open with Constraint 695,000 Closed 262,000	<i>Alternative IV-A</i> Open 97,000 Open with Constraint 1,122,000 Closed 394,000  <i>Alternative IV-B</i> Open 97,000 Open with Constraint 1,154,000 Closed 362,000	Open 97,000 Open with Constraint 1,199,000 Closed 316,000
<b>Impacts to Locatable Minerals</b>					
<b>Availability of Federal Mineral Estate for Locatable Mineral Development, Assuming Recommendations for Withdrawal are Implemented (Acres)</b> (118,000 acres are already withdrawn from mineral entry by statute or PLO. These acres are included in figures below.)					
Open 1,000,000 Open with Constraint 277,000 Closed 336,000	Open 463,000 Open with Constraint 914,000 Closed 235,000	Open 525,000 Open with Constraint 924,000 Closed 164,000	Open 525,000 Open with Constraint 878,000 Closed 210,000	Open 97,000 Open with Constraint 1,250,000 Closed 266,000	Open 97,000 Open with Constraint 1,345,000 Closed 170,000
<b>Impacts to Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</b>					
The No Action Alternative would have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 ACECs designated</li> <li>89,000 acres under ACEC management</li> <li>23% of lands with relevant and important values under special management through ACEC designation</li> </ul>	Alternative I would have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 ACECs designated</li> <li>97,000 acres under ACEC management</li> <li>25% of lands with relevant and important values under special management through ACEC designation</li> </ul>	Alternative II would have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0 ACECs designated</li> <li>0 acres under ACEC management</li> <li>0% of lands with relevant and important values under special management through ACEC designation</li> </ul>	Alternative III would have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 ACECs designated</li> <li>61,000 acres under ACEC management</li> <li>14% of lands with relevant and important values under special management through ACEC designation</li> </ul>	Alternative IV would have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 ACECs designated</li> <li>335,000 acres (Alternative IV-A) and 232,000 acres (Alternative IV-B) under ACEC management</li> <li>61% (Alternative IV-A) and 46% (Alternative IV-B) of lands with relevant and important values under special management through ACEC designation</li> </ul>	Alternative V would have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 ACECs designated</li> <li>968,000 acres under ACEC management</li> <li>83% of lands with relevant and important values under special management through ACEC designation</li> </ul>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<b>Impacts to National Historic Trails</b>					
<p>The No Action Alternative ranks fifth for maintaining or improving the physical, visual, or acoustic setting of the Oregon NHT, due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No priority for treatments of upland vegetation and noxious weeds and invasive plants</li> <li>Designation of nearly 60% of the visual foreground as VRM Class IV</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative I ranks second for maintaining or improving the physical, visual, or acoustic setting of the Oregon NHT, due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatments</li> <li>Designation of 96% of the visual foreground as VRM Class III</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative II ranks last for maintaining or improving the physical, visual, or acoustic setting of the Oregon NHT, due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No priority for treatments of upland vegetation and noxious weeds and invasive plants</li> <li>Designation of 96% of the visual foreground as VRM Class IV and the highest amount of foreground available for wind development</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative III ranks fourth for maintaining or improving the physical, visual, or acoustic setting of the Oregon NHT, due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatments, but not for upland vegetation treatments</li> <li>Designation of 96% of the visual foreground as VRM Class III to reduce changes to the visual setting</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative IV ranks third for maintaining or improving the physical, visual, or acoustic setting of the Oregon NHT.</p> <p>This alternative is essentially identical to Alternative III, with slightly less protective corridor acres available for grazing, thus avoiding changes to the physical settings of the trail from this use.</p>	<p>Alternative V ranks first for maintaining or improving the physical, visual, or acoustic setting of the Oregon NHT.</p> <p>This alternative is essentially identical to Alternative I, with slightly less land available for utility corridor authorizations and the fewest corridor acres available for grazing, minimizing impacts to trail resources from this use.</p>
<b>Impacts to Wild and Scenic Rivers</b>					
<p>The No Action Alternative ranks second for management to maintain existing ORVs and tentative classification. Decreases to these values would be due to visual resource management for study rivers with scenic ORVs and leasable and locatable mineral development potential in study river corridors.</p>	<p>Alternative I ranks first for management to maintain existing ORVs and tentative classification. Impacts from management proposed in this alternative are essentially identical to Alternatives III, IV, and V.</p>	<p>Alternative II ranks last for management to maintain existing ORVs and tentative classification. Decreases to these values would be due to study river lands being available for salable mineral development and no complementary management from overlapping ACECs.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative I.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative I.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative I.</p>
<b>Impacts to Wilderness Study Areas</b>					
<p>Because WSAs would continue to be managed under the IMP, wilderness characteristics in WSAs would continue to be maintained or enhanced.</p>					

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Wilderness characteristics on released WSA lands would have the second lowest potential of being indirectly maintained under the No Action Alternative.	Wilderness characteristics on released WSA lands would have the second highest potential of being indirectly maintained under Alternative I.	Wilderness characteristics on released WSA lands would have the lowest potential of being indirectly maintained under Alternative II.	Wilderness characteristics on released WSA lands would have the third lowest potential of being indirectly maintained under Alternative III.	Wilderness characteristics on released WSA lands would have the highest potential of being directly and indirectly maintained under Alternative IV.	Same as Alternative IV.
<b>Impacts to Social Conditions</b>					
<p>The No Action Alternative would have negligible effects on quality of life of planning area stakeholder groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rancher stakeholder group would have negligible effects to quality of life.</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative I would result in a minor increase in quality of life of planning area stakeholder groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rancher stakeholder group would have negligible effects to quality of life.</li> <li>The dispersed recreationist stakeholder group would have a minor increase in quality of life.</li> <li>The hunters and fishermen stakeholder group would have a moderate increase in quality of life.</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative II would result in a negligible to minor increase in quality of life of planning area stakeholder groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rancher stakeholder group would have a moderate to major increase in quality of life.</li> <li>The dispersed recreationist stakeholder group would have a minor decrease in quality of life.</li> <li>The hunters and fishermen stakeholder group would have a minor increase in quality of life.</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative III would result in a minor increase in quality of life of planning area stakeholder groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rancher stakeholder group would have a minor to moderate increase in quality of life.</li> <li>The dispersed recreationist stakeholder group would have a minor increase in quality of life.</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative IV would result in negligible impacts to quality of life of planning area stakeholder groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rancher stakeholder group would have a negligible to minor decrease in quality of life.</li> <li>The dispersed recreationist stakeholder group would have a minor increase in quality of life.</li> <li>The hunters and fishermen stakeholder group would have a minor increase in quality of life.</li> <li>The Type 1 Activist stakeholder group would have a major increase in quality of life.</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative V would result in negligible impacts to quality of life of planning area stakeholder groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rancher stakeholder group would have a minor decrease in quality of life.</li> <li>The Type 1 Activist stakeholder group would have a major increase in quality of life.</li> </ul>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
<b>Impacts to Economic Conditions</b>					
<p>Economic impacts at initial implementation of the plan would be negligible, as there would be no changes in the Cattle Ranching and Farming Sector baseline output, employment, or income.</p>	<p>Economic impacts at initial implementation would be negligible to minor positive. Changes in the Cattle Ranching and Farming Sector baseline output and employment would range from a &lt;1% decrease to a 1% increase, while changes in income would range from a &lt;1% decrease to a 3% increase.</p>	<p>Economic impacts at initial implementation would be minor to moderate positive. The Cattle Ranching and Farming Sector baseline output would increase between 3% and 5%, employment would increase between 4% and 6%, and income would increase between 6% and 9%.</p>	<p>Economic impacts at initial implementation would be minor positive. The Cattle Ranching and Farming Sector baseline output would increase between 2% and 3%, employment would increase between 2% and 4%, and income would increase between 3% and 6%.</p>	<p>Economic impacts at initial implementation would be minor negative. The Cattle Ranching and Farming Sector baseline output would decrease between 1% and 2%, employment would decrease between 1% and 3%, and income would decrease between 2% and 5%.</p>	<p>Economic impacts at initial implementation would be minor to moderate negative. The Cattle Ranching and Farming Sector baseline output would decrease between 2% and 3%, employment would decrease between 3% and 4%, and income would decrease between 5% and 7%.</p>
<p>Economic impacts at full implementation would range from minor negative to minor positive. Changes in baseline output would range from a 1% decrease to a 1% increase, changes in employment would range from a 1% decrease to a 2% increase, and changes in income would range from a 2% decrease to a 3% increase.</p>	<p>Economic impacts at full implementation would continue to be negligible to minor positive, as AUM levels are not projected to change substantially with full implementation of the plan (1% increase from initial values).</p>	<p>Economic impacts at full implementation would be moderate positive. Baseline output would increase between 4% and 6%, employment would increase between 5% and 7%, and income would increase between 8% and 11%.</p>	<p>Economic impacts at full implementation would be minor to moderate positive. Baseline output would increase between 2% and 4%, employment would increase between 3% and 5%, and income would increase between 4% and 7%.</p>	<p>Economic impacts at full implementation would continue to be minor negative. Even though projected AUM levels would decrease, baseline output would still decrease between 1% and 2%, employment would still decrease between 1% and 3%, and income would decrease between 3% and 5%.</p>	<p>Economic impacts at full implementation would continue to be minor to moderate negative, as AUM levels are not projected to change substantially with full implementation of the plan (1% decrease from initial values).</p>

## 2.9. WORKS CITED

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