

Special Recreation Permit for Commercial Outfitting In Game Management Unit 11

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT



Cottonwood Field Office, Idaho

Cottonwood Field Office
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It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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Special Recreation Permit for Outfitter Hunting in Unit 11

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Cottonwood Field Office (CFO), is processing a special recreation permit (SRP) application from Barker Trophy Hunts for commercial outfitting in part of Game Management Unit (GMU) 11. This portion of GMU 11 is located in the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area (CMWMA), which is cooperatively managed with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). The activities identified in the application include hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography, and backpacking trips. The affected lands are located in Nez Perce Counties Idaho (see Map 1). This environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other relevant Federal laws and regulations, to determine potential environmental consequences from this proposed action.

1.1 Background

From June 1991 until August 2012, the BLM permitted one temporary commercial outfitting permit in GMU 11. On Aug 15, 2012, the BLM reissued the permit on a temporary basis and redefined the hunt area boundary.

The Idaho Outfitter and Guide Licensing Board (IOGLB) issued a commercial area description that allows the licensed outfitter to operate in that area description providing the outfitter also gets a permit from the land managing agency of those lands and/or private land owners. The BLM did not previously have a defined commercial area boundary on BLM lands for the current permittee. Therefore we consulted with the IDFG to develop a temporary permitted commercial area, and issued a temporary permit until the BLM completes processing the SRP application.

The BLM has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the IDFG that defines the coordination and management of the lands located in the CMWMA. There is also a MOU that establishes a formal process for any new or amended commercial license and permits for outfitter business opportunities in Idaho. This process is completed jointly with the IOGLB. This MOU provides procedures and guidance for coordination and cooperation among the parties on issues involving the administration and operation of outfitters and guides on National Forest System lands and BLM public lands (federal lands) within the State of Idaho. The objective of this MOU is to establish an administrative framework for the purpose of coordinating respective permit and license procedures between the Forest Service, the BLM, and the IOGLB and address issues of concern.

1.2 Purpose and Need

The Cottonwood Field Office has received a special recreation permit (SRP) application for commercial outfitting including hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography, and backpacking trips in game management unit (GMU) 11 on

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approximately 25,182 acres managed by the BLM, for a ten-year period. Title 43 CFR, Subpart 2930 – Special Recreation Permits, other than on developed recreation sites, requires all commercial use to be issued through a SRP. An outfitter must be permitted by the land management agency before any commercial outfitting activities occur on public lands.

The purpose of the proposed action is to comply with 43 CFR § 2931.3 and § 2932.26 by only issuing special recreation permit which:

- (a) Conform to applicable laws and the Cottonwood Resource Management Plan,
- (b) Ensure public safety,
- (c) Do not result in conflicts with other uses,
- (d) Protect resources,
- (e) Serve the public interest; and

(f) Such other information that the BLM finds appropriate (in this case: meets BLM obligations and requirements outlined in the IDFG MOU).

1.3 Conformance with the Land Use Plan

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) requires an action under consideration be in conformance with the applicable BLM land use plan.

The applicable RMP for the proposed action is the Record of Decision and Approved Cottonwood Resource Management Plan (RMP), approved on December 21, 2009 (BLM, 2009). The proposed action is in compliance with this RMP, and is consistent with the following decisions from the RMP.

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Table 1: Cottonwood RMP Conformance

Resource or Use	Citation from 2009 Approved Cottonwood RMP	EA Section
<p>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)</p>	<p>Lower Salmon ACEC (page 53): Objective AR-1.9 Protect and conserve scenic values, cultural resources, special status species, important wildlife habitats, and other ecological resources by designating Lower Salmon River ACEC (13,855 acres).</p> <p>Captain John Creek (page 51): Objective AR-1.3 Protect and conserve canyon grasslands, riparian habitats, forest/shrub habitats, functional ecosystems, and special status fish, wildlife, and plant species by designating the Captain John Creek ACEC/RNA (1,320 acres)</p> <p>Wapshilla Ridge (page 50): Objective AR-1.1—Protect and conserve canyon grasslands and other ecological resources by designating Wapshilla Ridge as an ACEC/RNA (401 acres)</p>	<p>3.2.1</p>
<p>Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs)</p>	<p>Craig Mountain SRMA (page 43): Objective RC-1.2 – Provide intensive recreation management in SRMAs, Special Recreation Management Areas</p> <p>Action RC-1.2.5 – Designate part of the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area as an SRMA (25,133 acres).</p> <p>Recreation Niche: Manage the Craig Mountain SRMA as an undeveloped recreation tourism market to provide opportunities for local residents and visitors to pursue land based activities in a natural setting with an emphasis on big game hunting, hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking. Maintain existing access routes that promote remote backcountry recreation experience.</p> <p>Action RC-1.2.5.1—Issue commercial recreation permits for the Craig Mountain SRMA only with the concurrence of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.</p> <p>Whenever considering special recreation permits for new or modified activities related to hunting or fishing, BLM will consult with IDFG regarding the need, resource capacity and allocation to the industry.</p>	<p>3.2.2</p>

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Resource or Use	Citation from 2009 Approved Cottonwood RMP	EA Section
Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs Continued)	<p>Salmon River Scenic SRMA (page 41): Action RC-1.2.1-- Designate and manage Salmon River Scenic SRMA (14,004 acres) as a destination recreation-tourism market.</p> <p>Action RC-1.2.1.1—Coordinate issuance of commercial permits with the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board.</p> <p>Whenever considering special recreation permits for new or modified activities related to hunting or fishing, BLM will consult with IDFG regarding the need, resource capacity and allocation to the industry.</p>	3.2.2
Recreation	<p>Goal RC-1—Manage public lands and waters to provide a broad spectrum of recreation experiences and benefits. Emphasize resource-based river recreation. Ensure that developed facilities and sites are appropriate for the resource setting, well maintained, safe, secure, and accessible. Provide high value recreation opportunities and receive a fair return for commercial and specialized recreation use. (Page 41).</p>	3.2.4
Cultural Resources	<p>If in the next table (due to ‘no affect’ being explained by Dave), then you can also eliminate this row. A statement similar to the one for tribal consultation (with reference to the chapter 4 disclosure) could be made. I don’t believe any of the subsequent sections rise will require references to support RMP conformance in this table.</p>	3.2.5
Special Status Wildlife and Plants	<p>Action WS-1.1.2—Before authorizing new federal actions within areas providing suitable habitat for federally listed, proposed or candidate species, determine if direct, indirect or cumulative impacts could occur as a result of BLM discretionary actions (page 25).</p> <p>Action WS-1.5.3-For each new project, compile, develop and implement appropriate species and/or habitat-specific BMPs to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on sensitive species and their habitats. Compile and develop CFO programmatic-level activity BMPs for sensitive species that may be used as needed for ongoing projects or for new project development (page 26).</p> <p>Objective SP-1.1—Manage federally listed, proposed and candidate plants and their habitat to contribute to recovery and delisting (page 31).</p>	3.2.7

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Resource or Use	Citation from 2009 Approved Cottonwood RMP	EA Section
Wildlife (WS)	<p>Action WS-1.8.3—The BLM recognizes Idaho Department of Fish and Game statutory mandate to preserve, protect, perpetuate and manage wildlife and fish in the state of Idaho. (Page 28).</p> <p>Action WS-1.10.2—Coordinate with the State of Idaho, including the Department of Fish and Game and other appropriate state agencies, the Nez Perce Tribe, US Forest Service and other appropriate federal agencies, grazing lessees, and partners on population and habitat management of bighorn sheep (page 29).</p>	3.2.9

2 ALTERNATIVES

This chapter describes the Proposed Action and No Action alternative. It also describes alternatives that BLM considered but eliminated from further analysis in this EA.

2.1 Proposed Action

The BLM would issue a SRP to Barker Trophy Hunts for commercial outfitting including hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography, and backpacking trips on 25,182 acres of public land managed by the BLM in GMU 11 for a ten-year period. The permit would annually allow:

- guided hunts for approximately 25 hunters
- mountain bike tours for 5 clients
- guided day hikes for 5 clients
- photography tours for 5 clients
- backpacking trips for 5 clients

The SRP would not authorize permanent/long-term hunt camps on BLM managed land. The SRP would allow temporary spike camps which are small overnight backpack type camps.

2.1.1 Stipulations

The outfitter would have to comply with the stipulations listed in Appendix 1. These stipulations are subject to modification each year depending on new regulations, issues and or any resource concerns.

2.1.2 Monitoring

The BLM would conduct random compliance checks for approved activities that include: hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography, and backpacking trips SRP's. The BLM would also randomly conduct audits of the permit and fees to ensure accuracy and proper administration of the SRP. The permittee would be responsible for keeping all

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records and required paperwork and fees up to date according to the stipulations at Appendix 1.

2.2 No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the BLM would deny the SRP application. No commercial outfitting would be authorized on BLM lands within GMU11.

2.3 Alternatives Eliminated from Further Analysis

The BLM considered allowing commercial outfitting including: hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography, and backpacking trips on parts of BLM lands in GMU 13. This alternative was dropped from further consideration based upon public scoping comments. The BLM determine that this would be technically and economically unfeasible, because most of the BLM managed lands in GMU 13 are surrounded by private lands, and lack public access (see Map 6).

The BLM also considered an alternative that would include permitting on other BLM lands in GMU 11 but this would not accomplish the purpose and need because it would not be consistent with the IDFG current permitted commercial area within the CMWMA.

3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVES

This chapter characterizes the resources and uses that have the potential to be affected by the proposed action, followed by a comparative analysis of the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the alternatives. Direct effects are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place. Indirect effects are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Cumulative impacts result from the incremental impacts of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

3.1 Scope of Analysis

Map 2 shows the parcels and landownership for GMU 11 along with landownership acreages. Map 3 shows the proposed commercial area boundary for commercial activities in GMU 11. Map 4 shows the BLM boundary for ACECs and proposed Wild & Scenic Rivers. Map 5 shows the BLM boundary for the SRMAs.

Scoping for preparation of this EA included publishing information on the internet and sending letters (dated January 23, 2009) requesting comments from various interest groups, the public, 118 owners of property adjacent to BLM lands located in GMUs 11 and 13, 27 state and federal agencies and professional organizations, and 67 commercial outfitters. During public scoping for this proposed action the BLM received comments which identified the issues listed below. Following each issue statement is a brief description of how the issue is addressed in the proposed action or analysis, or why the issue does not apply.

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- Current and future potential trespass on private property from commercial hunting. Stipulations require the permittee to know where their guides and clients are at all times to ensure that they are not trespassing on private lands or outside of the operating area on BLM lands.
- Safety concerns from hunting next to adjacent private property including homes, cabins and other facilities. Stipulations require the permittee to ensure that clients are shooting in safe directions.
- Potential conflicts with grazing leases and permittees. There are no current grazing leases in the proposed commercial use area.
- The potential for the spread of noxious weeds. Stipulations require use of certified “weed-free” feed for all livestock and all motorized vehicles must be cleaned before use on BLM grounds to prevent weed transport. Noxious weed related effects were also considered in the analysis of the vegetation issue (see below).
- Concerns about off-road motorized vehicle use. Motorized vehicle use would only be authorized on designated roads and trails and no cross-country motorized travel would be authorized on BLM lands. Effects of this use were considered in analysis of various other issues that the BLM identified, such as areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs) and special status wildlife (see below).
- Too much public hunting pressure on public lands. The proposed action would allow one commercial outfitter for the proposed commercial use area in GMU 11. IDFG regulates the number of big game license for GMU 11 so the same numbers of license are issued regardless of commercial or non-commercial use.
- Potential conflicts among commercial outfitters from over-lapping areas for commercial hunting. Neither IOGLB nor the BLM authorizes overlapping of commercial hunting areas for the same big game species.

The BLM refined some of these issues and identified others for analysis. Table 2 below summarizes the issues analyzed in this section that would be affected by the proposed action, with reference to the subsections that address impacts.

Table 2: Issues and Analysis Area

Section	ELEMENT/ RESOURCE/USE	Issue Statement(s)	Analysis Area
3.2.1	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Salmon River • Captain John Creek • Wapshilla Ridge 	How would commercial hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography, and backpacking trips affect BLM ACEC lands and associated high value resources in GMU 11?	ACEC lands located within the proposed hunt area boundary

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Section	ELEMENT/ RESOURCE/USE	Issue Statement(s)	Analysis Area
3.2.2	Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Salmon River Scenic SRMA • Craig Mountain SRMA 	How would commercial hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography, and backpacking trips affect BLM SRMA land in GMU 11?	SRMA lands located within the proposed hunt area boundary
3.2.3	Wild and Scenic Rivers	How would commercial hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography, and backpacking trips affect BLM proposed Wild and Scenic Rivers lands in GMU 11?	Proposed Wild and Scenic Rivers located within proposed hunt area boundary
3.2.4	Recreation	How would commercial hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography, and backpacking trips affect BLM lands not designated as SRMA's in GMU 11?	Recreation lands located within the proposed hunt area boundary
3.2.5	Cultural Resources	How would commercial hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography, and backpacking trips affect cultural resource on BLM lands in GMU 11?	Cultural Resources located within the proposed hunt area boundary
3.2.6	Vegetation - Riparian and Upland Habitats	How would commercial hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography, and backpacking trips affect vegetation - riparian and upland habitats on BLM lands in GMU 11?	Vegetation - riparian and upland habitats located within the proposed hunt area boundary
3.2.7	Special Status Wildlife and Plants	How would commercial hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography, and backpacking trips affect special status wildlife and plants on BLM lands in GMU 11?	Special status wildlife and plant resources located within the proposed hunt area boundary
3.2.8	Fisheries, Aquatic Habitat, and Special Status Species	How would commercial hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography, and backpacking trips affect fisheries, aquatic habitat, and special status species on BLM lands in GMU 11?	Fisheries, aquatic habitat, and special status species located within watersheds occurring in the proposed hunt area boundary
3.2.9	Wildlife and Habitat	How would commercial hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography, and backpacking trips affect wildlife and habitat on BLM lands in GMU 11?	Wildlife and habitat resources located within the proposed hunt area boundary

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3.1.2 Related Past, Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

Human caused and natural events have had varying levels of impacts on the resource values associated with BLM managed lands located within GMU 11. Past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions of the BLM and others that are pertinent to the analysis of cumulative effects include: public and commercial recreational use and activities, vegetation/timber harvest activities, wild fires, invasive plant control actions, special status plant, wildlife, and fish conservation and restoration actions, livestock grazing, mining, road construction, road use and maintenance, dispersed recreation, developed recreation sites, and rural development of lands for subdivisions, homes, and ranching.

Historically, big game hunting is a popular recreational activity on BLM lands located within GMU 11 along with day hikes, mountain bike use, sightseeing, All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) use, camping, photography, and backpacking trips. Controlled hunt tags are required by the State of Idaho to hunt mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep in GMU 11. These controlled hunt tags are very popular and highly sought after. The IDFG issues general hunt tags for hunting of white tailed deer, black bear, and mountain lion in GMU 11. It is anticipated access to the BLM, IDFG, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) managed lands and private lands in GMU 11 will remain popular and continue to provide high value recreational opportunities.

3.1.3 Assumptions

Hunting Related Activities

- Season of occurrence for hunting is currently August 30th to December 31. The permittee is also out scouting all times of the year.
- The group size and number of groups for hunting is approximately 4-8 clients with 5-6 guides and 3 camp helpers (camps are located on IDL or IDFG lands). Approximately 4 groups per year. Sometimes the permittee will have 1-2 hunts where it is just 1 client and 2-3 guides as it varies each year. It should be noted that clients may be together in camp, but not all of them would ever be together in the field, they go to different spots each day.
- Type of hunting will include rifle, shotgun, black powder and bow.
- Types of vehicles used will be approximately 3-4 full sized pickups. The permittee would occasionally use ATVs/UTVs. On occasion a mobile camp trailer would be used by outfitter or clients at camp. Horses and mules are sometimes used in remote areas to provide access and packing out of game, which would also include use of vehicles and horse trailers. Majority of the time the permittee would park vehicle and hike to a remote hunt area. Use of approximately 2-3 temporary spike camps will occur each season, on non-BLM lands. Such use depends on need to provide improved access to remote hunt areas for the clients and specific number and location would vary year to year.

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Day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography, and backpacking trips

- Season of occurrence is April through November.
- The group size and number of groups is approximately 3-6 clients and 1-2 guides. Approximately 3 groups per year are anticipated.
- Types of vehicles used are approximately 1-2 full size pickups for the transportation of guides and clients. No ATV/UTV's are used and 3-4 bicycles are used.
- Usually most of the trips are day hikes/trips. On occasion they might set up 2 temporary spike camps per season on non-BLM lands.

3.2 Affected Environment and Effects of the Alternatives

The affected environment and degree to which resources/uses may be affected by the proposed activities are discussed in the following subsections. Each subsection includes discussion of the:

- (1) Affected Environment (current condition) of the resource or use
- (2) Effects (direct and indirect) of the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives, and cumulative effects.

3.2.1 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

Affected Environment

The analysis area includes three different designated ACEC's (see Map 4) including: Lower Salmon River, Captain John Creek, and Wapshilla Ridge.

The purpose for the Lower Salmon River ACEC is to protect and conserve scenic values, cultural resources, special status fish, wildlife and plant species, important wildlife habitats, and other ecological resources. This ACEC is 13,855 acres in size.

The purpose for the Captain John Creek ACEC is to protect and conserve canyon grasslands, riparian habitats, forest/shrub habitats, functional ecosystems, and special status fish, wildlife, and plant species. This ACEC is 1,320 acres in size.

The purpose of the Wapshilla ACEC is to protect and conserve canyon grasslands, special status plants and wildlife, and other ecological resources. This ACEC is 401 acres in size.

No known impacts have occurred to the ACECs' resource values in the past from the current permitted commercial SRP.

The three ACEC's included within the analysis area are being managed to protect different natural resources identified above. The primary issue is how commercial hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography and backpacking trips would affect high value resources and achievement of objectives of the ACEC's.

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Proposed Action

The proposed action would occur in the following three ACEC's: Captain John Creek, Lower Salmon River and Wapshilla Ridge, which occur in the proposed commercial area of GMU 11. Hunting is a seasonal activity (see Section 3.1.3 Assumptions) and there would be no permanent hunting camps established in these areas and minimal resource impacts would be expected to occur from motorized vehicle use of existing designated open roads, hunting, and other hunting outfitter related activities. Hunting related activities, such as hiking around, may result in no measurable or appreciable effects to wildlife. Such effects would be very low because of short duration of hunt periods and other hunting related human disturbances such as motorized use, hiking, and other associated activities. The regulated commercial harvest of big game species would have no long term adverse impacts on the resource values identified for the ACECs.

Day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography, and backpacking trips are seasonal activities (see Section 3.1.3 Assumptions) and would have no measurable or appreciable effects and such uses would primarily involve non-motorized use by a few people (2-8) over short time periods of one to six hours per day and would occur several times during a year. Mountain bike tours would be restricted to designated open roads and trails. The potential impact would be considered short term potential disturbance to special status wildlife species and not have any long term adverse impacts to the high value ACEC resources. Use of existing open roads by motorized vehicles or bikes would result in no measurable or appreciable effects to soils and vegetation. As needed, if future unanticipated impacts occur, the BLM would add stipulations to any existing or future commercial SRP to protect the resources. The proposed action will have no measurable or appreciable direct or indirect effect on ACEC's, primarily from human disturbance or displacement of special status wildlife in the short term and no measurable adverse effects to ACEC's upland, riparian, or aquatic habitats is expected to occur. Increase human use (see Section 3.1.3 Assumptions) would be expected to be typically short duration (one hour to six hours) by 2 to 8 individuals, which may occur several times during the year. Exception to duration may occur if temporary spike camp located within ACEC.

No Action Alternative

The CFO would deny the SRP application and there would be no impacts to the ACECs.

Cumulative Impacts

Since the alternatives would have no appreciable effect on ACEC values, they would not contribute to cumulative effects.

3.2.2 Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA's)

Affected Environment

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The BLM does not have any firm estimates for use/visitors in this area, but at the same time has not received any complaints about problems in the area from commercial use. The analysis area includes two different SRMA's (see Map 5): Craig Mountain, and Lower River Scenic SRMA's.

The RMP specifies that the BLM manage the Craig Mountain SRMA as an undeveloped recreation-tourism market to provide opportunities for local residents and visitors to pursue land based activities in a natural setting with an emphasis on big game hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Existing access routes are to be maintained at a level that promotes a remote, backcountry recreation experience. The BLM coordinates issuance of commercial permits with the IOGLB. Whenever considering SRP's for new or modified activities related to hunting or fishing, BLM consults with IDFG regarding the need, resource capacity and allocation to the industry. This SMRA is 25,133 acres in size.

The RMP specifies that the Salmon River Scenic SRMA is to be managed with an emphasis on overnight, non-motorized river floating (summer) and motorized /non-motorized anadromous fishing (spring/fall) experiences in a largely undeveloped, rugged, remote river canyon setting. Whenever considering SRP's for new or modified activities related to hunting or fishing, BLM will consult with IDFG regarding the need, resource capacity and allocation to the industry. This SMRA is 14,004 acres in size.

No known impacts are currently occurring from the current temporary issued SRP for commercial hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography and backpacking trips outfitter in GMU 11. The primary issue is how commercial activities would affect future management and objectives of the SRMA's within the affected proposed areas.

Proposed Action

There would be no permanent hunting camps established in these areas and minimal resource impacts would likely be caused from hiking over the land, an activity which is currently taking place within the SRMA's by the public. One SRP would be issued for a ten-year period. Additional stipulations may be added to any existing or future SRP to prevent potential impacts to resources that might occur from this SRP. Short term increases of commercial recreational activities by a few people are expected to have no measurable or appreciable effects on SRMAs recreational values (see Section 3.1.3 Assumptions). The potential effects of the SRP on the recreational values would be more people using the area for the described activities, but the activities have been occurring under an SRP in the past with no additional adverse effects.

No Action Alternative

The Cottonwood Field Office would deny the SRP application and there would be no impacts to the SRMA.

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Cumulative Impacts

Since the alternatives would have no appreciable effect on SRMA values, they would not contribute to cumulative effects.

3.2.3 Wild & Scenic Rivers (WSR)

Affected Environment

The 112-mile segment of the Lower Salmon River, from Long Tom Bar to the confluence of the Snake River, was designated a study river in 1968. The river was studied, was found eligible and suitable, and was recommended to Congress for inclusion in the National Wild & Scenic River System as Recreational (59 miles Long Tom Bar to Hammer Creek) and Scenic (53 miles Hammer Creek to the Snake River Confluence). Congress has deliberated the issue of designation numerous times but has yet to act. The outstanding remarkable values (ORV's) for these river segments are scenic, recreational, fisheries/water quality and cultural/historic values.

Portions of GMU 11 occur within sections of the Salmon River segment recommended for inclusion in the National Wild & Scenic River System (see map 4). To the extent possible under existing legal authorities (e.g., FLPMA, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and Archaeological Resources Protection Act), the BLM's policy goal for eligible and suitable rivers is to manage their free-flowing condition, water quality, tentative classification, and any outstandingly remarkable values to assure a decision on suitability can be made for eligible rivers; or in the case of suitable rivers, until Congress designates the river or releases it for other uses. To that end, the BLM has broad discretionary authority, on a case-by-case basis through project-level decision making and the NEPA processes, not to impact river values or make decisions that might lead to a determination of ineligibility or nonsuitability (BLM 2012).

Proposed Action

There would be no impacts to this river segment from Hammer Creek to the Snake River which includes the following ORV's scenic, fisheries/water quality and cultural/historic, identified for the eligible and suitable National Wild and Scenic River System Scenic segment (53 miles Hammer Creek to the Snake River Confluence) which occurs within a portion of the proposed permitted hunt area. The proposed commercial activities are land based recreation. The other river segment from Long Tom Bar to Hammer Creek is outside the analyzed area.

No Action Alternative

There would be no impacts to the proposed Wild & Scenic ORVs.

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Cumulative Impacts

There are no effects to Wild and Scenic Rivers or recommended segments from the proposed and no action alternatives, therefore the alternatives would not contribute to cumulative impacts.

3.2.4 Recreation

Affected Environment

The Craig Mountain SRMA is currently managed as an undeveloped recreation-tourism market to provide opportunities for local residents and visitors to pursue land based activities in a natural setting with an emphasis on big game hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. The Salmon River Scenic SRMA is to be managed with an emphasis on overnight, non-motorized river floating (summer) and motorized /non-motorized anadromous fishing (spring/fall) experiences in a largely undeveloped, rugged, remote river canyon setting. The BLM does not currently have data for how much use occurs in the area other than the approximate 25 commercial clients each year. The primary issue is how proposed commercial hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography and backpacking trips would affect other recreational users doing similar activities in the area. No known impacts are currently occurring from the temporary SRP issued for commercial activities in GMU 11. The general public uses the area for hunting, hiking, and motorized use on open designated roads and the BLM has received no complaints about the current SRP commercial activities.

Proposed Action

There would be no impacts to recreational use or SRMA values.

No Action Alternative

There would be no impacts to recreational use or SRMA values.

Cumulative Impacts

There are no effects to recreational use or SRMA values from the proposed and no action alternatives, therefore the alternatives would not contribute to cumulative impacts.

3.2.5 Cultural Resources

Affected Environment

Historic properties within the analysis area are found in a variety of forms which include open lithic sites that consist of a scatter of flaked stone material(s) to historic era resources characterized by wooden or stone cabins used as residence for ranching,

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farming, or mining and related features such as lode mines as well as hydraulic mining cut banks, ditches, tailing piles, or adits.

These diverse groups of sites represent the last 12,000 years of history for this region. The historic properties along the Lower Salmon River are listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Lower Salmon River Archeological District. Historic properties along the Snake River downriver from the confluence of the Snake and Salmon Rivers are listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Nez Perce Snake River Archeological District.

Significant cultural resources contributed to the development and designation of the Lower Salmon River ACEC that also lends special management consideration to this area. BLM lands within one quarter mile of the Lower Salmon River from Hammer Creek to the confluence with the Snake River are designated as part of the Lower Salmon ACEC (Federal Register, Vol. 54, No. 12, January 19, 1989). The purpose for this special management status is to maintain and protect the high value resources of regional and national significance. These resource values include cultural and historical values, important terrestrial and aquatic habitats, recreational opportunities, and scenic quality.

Proposed Action

Stipulations require permittee must not disturb archeological and historic values, including, but not limited to: petroglyphs, ruins, historic buildings and artifacts. The number of people involved with the commercial hunting activity as well as day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography, and backpacking trips (see Section 3.1.3 Assumptions) would result in no measurable or appreciable impacts to historic properties.

No Action Alternative

There would be no impacts to cultural or historic resources.

Cumulative Impacts

There are no effects to cultural or historic resources from the proposed and no action alternatives, therefore the alternatives would not contribute to cumulative impacts.

3.2.6 Vegetation – Riparian and Upland Habitats

Affected Environment

The analysis area for vegetation (riparian and upland habitats) includes the commercial area proposed for commercial hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography and backpacking trips that occur in GMU 11 (see Section 3.1.1 Assumptions). Within the SRP area an estimated 2-4 percent is riparian and remainder (96-98%) is uplands comprised of primarily of canyon grasslands, forested, and shrub areas (BLM 2002a, BLM 2002b). Vegetation types are diverse and represent a range of seral stages which

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are primarily influenced by soils, aspect, elevation, topography, wildfires; and associated land uses including roads, timber harvest, trails, and recreation.

Upland Vegetation

Common vegetation types includes canyon grasslands; patterned grassland and timbered sites, with bluebunch wheatgrass/Idaho fescue on south and west aspects and Douglas-fir sites on north and east aspects; meadows; and mixed conifer types at higher elevations (BLM 2002a, BLM2002b).

The canyon grasslands that are in poor or fair ecological condition have been infested with invasive species, and are at risk for increased infestations. Common invasive species include yellow starthistle, Dalmatian toadflax, rush skeletonweed, cheatgrass, and goatweed. Good and excellent condition grasslands are dominated primarily with native bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue habitat types (BLM 2002a, BLM 2002b).

Floodplain, Riparian, and Wetlands

Riparian and wetland vegetation occurs along the water courses within the analysis area, which includes perennial and intermittent streams, rivers, ponds, and springs/seeps. Riparian areas along the Snake and Salmon Rivers are primarily associated with the area between mean high and mean low water. Some wider river bottom and floodplain areas may have larger riparian habitats. Common riparian vegetation includes coyote willow, riverbank sage, scouring rush, poison ivy, hackberry, and common burdock or cocklebur.

Tributary streams often have narrow riparian zones and are often confined by the steep side slopes. The lower elevation riparian areas are dominated by white alder, black hawthorn, and water birch, with occasional ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and black cottonwood. Common understory species include mockorange, serviceberry, blue elderberry, coyote willow, redosier dogwood, poison ivy, oceanspray, and grasses/forbs. At the mid- to upper-elevation areas, Douglas-fir and grand fir are more common in the overstories of the riparian areas. Common understory species include mockorange, black hawthorn, oceanspray, blue elderberry, gooseberry, rose, chokecherry, Rocky Mountain maple, redosier dogwood, alder, will, and grasses/sedges/forbs. The higher elevation areas may have grand fir, Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir. Meadow areas may be dominated with sedges, grasses, forbs, willow, and alder.

The majority (estimated at 95%) of riparian/wetland habitats occurring on BLM lands are in proper functioning condition and in fair to good ecological condition. A few localized areas are in poor ecological condition. These areas are primarily in lower gradient stream bottoms. Primary land uses that have had varying levels of impact on riparian habitats include past and present livestock grazing, roads, timber harvest, mining, trails, and recreation. Currently, no livestock grazing leases are authorized within the proposed commercial use area. A few large recent wildfires have resulted in degradation of some riparian habitats.

Proposed Action

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Within GMU 11, a total of 25,182 acres of BLM lands would be potentially available for commercial hunting, day hikes, mountain bike tours, photography, and backpacking trips. Motorized vehicle use would only be authorized on designated open roads and trails and no cross-country motorized travel would be authorized on BLM lands. Any authorized SRP would have stipulations to avoid or minimize any adverse effects to upland and riparian/wetland vegetation and stipulations to minimize potential for infestations of invasive species.

Overall, 25 commercial hunters per year would result in a small increase to commercial hunting and associated outfitter/hunting related use would be expected to occur from this action on BLM lands (see Section 3.1.3 Assumptions). No measurable or appreciable effects to soils, vegetation, and riparian/wetland areas would occur under the proposed action. Cross-country hiking and horse use would occur and disturbances to soil and vegetation would be minor or discountable. Overall, with the exception of a few localized areas, existing upland and riparian/wetland vegetation conditions trends and conditions would be expected to continue. This is supported by the fact that past commercial uses did not result in any known problem areas to upland or riparian habitats on BLM lands.

No Action Alternative

There would be no impacts to upland and riparian/wetland vegetation and no potential for adverse soil or vegetation impacts.

Cumulative Impacts

There would be no measurable effects to vegetation from the proposed and no action alternatives, therefore the alternatives would not contribute to cumulative impacts.

3.2.7 Special Status Wildlife and Plants

Affected Environment

Threatened and Endangered Species (ESA-Listed)

Wildlife: Within the analysis area for GMU 11, no known occurrences exist for the Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed threatened Canada lynx and Northern Idaho ground squirrel. The analysis area also does not occur in a Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU) and the area does not provide suitable habitat for the Canada lynx and Northern Idaho ground squirrel. Because the project area does not provide suitable habitat for the above species and no documentation of occurrence exists for these species within the analysis area; no adverse effects are expected to occur to the species and a “*no effect*” determination has been made for the above species and this document contains no additional discussion of these species.

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Plants: The ESA-listed threatened plant species Spalding’s catchfly occurs within the analysis area for GMU 11. This species occurs in open bunchgrass grasslands in the interior Pacific Northwest. It usually occurs in grasslands with a minor shrub component and occasionally on grassland sites with scattered conifers. In Idaho, this species occurs on Palouse Prairie and northern Camas Prairie remnants, as well as in mesic canyon grassland communities. The largest population of Spalding’s catchfly in Idaho occurs on BLM lands within the CMWMA (GMU 11).

Suitable habitat exists for the ESA-listed threatened plant species MacFarlane’s four-o’clock within the analysis area; however, no known documentation of occurrence exists for this species. MacFarlane’s four o’clock is found in river canyon grassland habitats. These sites are dry and generally open with scattered shrubs. Plants can be found on all aspects, but plants often occur on southeast to western aspects.

Candidate Species

The yellow-billed cuckoo, wolverine, and whitebark pine are federal candidate species which occur in the Cottonwood Planning Area. Yellow-billed cuckoos prefer riparian areas with dense stands of cottonwood and willow. The wolverine’s preferred habitats include forested areas with minimal human intrusions at higher elevations provide preferred habitats. Wolverines prefer areas with late spring persistent snow for den sites. Preferred habitat for whitebark pine is high elevation alpine areas. No recent observations for yellow-billed cuckoo or wolverine have been documented within GMU 11. The analysis area provides only suboptimal habitat potential for these species. GMU 11 does not provide suitable alpine habitats for whitebark pine. Project implementation is not expected to result in adverse effects to yellow-billed cuckoo, wolverine, whitebark pine; or preferred habitats a “no effect” determination is concluded. There is no further discussion on these species in this document.

BLM Sensitive Species

BLM sensitive species occupy a variety of habitats, from streams/rivers, riparian habitats, canyon grasslands, and shrub/timbered areas. The following table identifies species which could potentially occur within the analysis area.

Table 3: BLM Sensitive Species that Occur or May Potentially Occur on BLM Lands in GMU 11.

Terrestrial Wildlife & Birds	Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles and Invertebrates	Plants
Fringed myotis	Pacific lamprey	Tolmie’s onion
Townsend’s big eared bat	Westslope cutthroat trout	Jessica’s aster
Bald eagle	Redband trout	Green-band mariposa lily
Peregrine falcon	Common gartersnake	Broad-fruit mariposa lily
Northern goshawk	Western toad	Idaho hawksbeard
Prairie falcon	Columbia River tiger beetle	Chatterbox orchid
Flammulated owl	Marbled disc	Palouse goldenweed
Lewis woodpecker	Shortface lanx	Hazel’s prickly phlox

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Terrestrial Wildlife & Birds	Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles and Invertebrates	Plants
White-headed woodpecker	Columbia pebblesnail	Spacious monkey-flower
Williamson's sapsucker	Whorled mountainsnail	Hall's orthotrichum
Mountain quail	Boulder Pile Mountainsnail	Goldenback fern
Olive-sided flycatcher	Lava Rock Mountainsnail	Douglas' clover
Hammond's flycatcher		Plumed clover
Willow flycatcher		Western ladies-tresses
Calliope hummingbird		Asotin milkvetch
Brewer's sparrow		Lemhi milkvetch
Gray wolf		Marsh willowherb
		Salmon River biscuitroot
		Stalk-leaved monkeyflower
		Snowball cactus

Refer to Appendix 2, which identifies BLM sensitive species which occur or potentially could occur within the analysis area and a description of preferred habitats which may be used by the species.

Proposed Action

Within GMU 11, only 25,182 acres of BLM lands would be available to hunt. Primary potential for effects are attributed to effects to BLM sensitive species preferred and/or occupied habitats (see Appendix 2), effects to critical habitat niches for wildlife (e.g., nest sites), disturbance or displacement of wildlife species, or direct/indirect soil or vegetation effects to plant species.

Motorized vehicle use would only be authorized on designated open roads and trails and no cross-country motorized travel would be authorized on BLM lands. Because SRP issuance would be subject to existing policy, rules, and regulations, any authorized SRP would have stipulations to avoid or minimize any adverse effects to BLM species and suitable habitats (see Appendix 1).

Overall, a small amount of increased commercial hunting and associated commercial outfitting including hunting, day hike, backpacking, mountain bike tours and photography related uses (commercial recreational uses) would be expected to occur from these activities occurring on BLM lands (see Section 3.1.3 Assumptions). The primary potential to impact BLM sensitive species would occur from authorized recreational uses that disturb or displace BLM sensitive wildlife species or potential impacts to preferred habitats (e.g., vegetation or soil disturbance). However, overall such habitat impacts effects to BLM sensitive plants would result in no measurable or appreciable effect with the SRP stipulations. Increased commercial recreational use would result in minor or localized potential for soil or vegetation disturbance, however, with restrictions regarding off-road vehicle use and use of camp sites on BLM lands, no measurable or appreciable adverse impacts to preferred sensitive species upland and riparian/wetland habitats is expected.

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Increased recreational use that would occur from implementation of the proposed action would have no measurable or appreciable potential to affect preferred habitats for BLM sensitive species, primarily because motorized use and bike use would only occur on designated open roads and no cross-country travel would occur. Hiking or horse use could occur off-roads and trails. Overall, BLM sensitive species population levels and trends, and habitat conditions and trends would be expected to continue for the analysis area.

Overall no measurable or appreciable effects to BLM sensitive species habitats would be expected to occur from increased recreational use (see Section 3.1.3 Assumptions) do have the potential to disturb or displace BLM sensitive species in the short term. Displaced species may use adjacent suitable habitats. Overall, because dispersed commercial recreational uses would occur over a variety of habitats and different time periods, a conservative determination of “*may impact individuals or habitats, but will not likely lead to a trend toward federal listing*” is concluded for the BLM sensitive wildlife species identified in Appendix 2, Tables 1 – 3. However, it is recognized that annually the majority of species identified in Appendix 2, Tables 1 -3 would probably have “*no impact*” to the species or preferred habitats.

As discussed above, no measurable or appreciable effects are expected to occur to soils and vegetation from the various commercial recreational activities with the SRP stipulations, primarily because vehicle uses and mountain bikes would only be authorized to use designated open roads and cross country hiking and horse use would have low potential to impact ESA-listed or BLM sensitive plants. Primary effects would be from concentrated use areas, such as access routes or spike camps. With the exception of an occasional spike camp, no primary camps sites are authorized on BLM lands. No measurable or appreciable effects would be expected and would be considered short term if they occurred.

Known populations of ESA-listed plants would have existing protective measures in place to prevent adverse impacts; however, BLM sensitive plants are more wide spread and may have some potential effects to unknown populations. A “*no effect*” determination is concluded for ESA-listed plants and a “*no impact*” determination is concluded for BLM sensitive plants. However, on rare occasion a “*may impact individuals or habitats, but will not likely lead to a trend toward federal listing*” may occur to an unknown BLM sensitive plants from dispersed off-road commercial recreational activities (e.g., horse use, backpacking, spike camp).

No Action Alternative

There would be no impacts to sensitive species and preferred habitats or adverse disturbance or displacement of wildlife or habitat impacts occurring on BLM lands.

Cumulative Impacts

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There are no appreciable effects to sensitive species or their habitats from the proposed and no action alternatives, therefore the alternatives would not contribute to cumulative impacts.

3.2.8 Fisheries, Aquatic Habitat, and Special Status Species

Affected Environment

The analysis area for aquatic habitat and special status species includes the Lower Snake River subbasin and Lower Salmon River subbasin and tributary watersheds that occur within the proposed designated commercial outfitting use area in GMU 11. The Snake River and Salmon River provide aquatic habitats for five Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species and are designated critical habitat for these fish species. Larger and specific tributary streams within the project/analysis area also provide designated critical habitat for spring/summer Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

The Snake River, Salmon River, and tributary streams provide aquatic habitat for 23 native fish species and 9 non-native fish species. Native fish species include anadromous (i.e., salmon and steelhead trout) and resident species (e.g., redband trout, westslope cutthroat trout). Other native species found in the analysis area include species such as northern pikeminnow, dace, sculpins, chiselmouth, and others. Common non-native species include species such as the smallmouth bass, carp, rainbow trout, and others.

Special Status Fish

Threatened and Endangered Fish Species (ESA-Listed)

Rivers and streams occurring within the analysis area provide suitable and occupied aquatic habitats for ESA-listed sockeye salmon fall Chinook salmon, spring/summer Chinook salmon, steelhead trout and bull trout. For additional information regarding ESA-listed species distribution and species specific information for the analysis area, refer to subbasin/watershed assessments that were prepared for ESA-listed fish (USDI-BLM, 2000A, 2000B, and 2000C).

The ESA-listed endangered sockeye salmon uses the Snake and Salmon Rivers for upriver and down river passage. Sockeye salmon spawn in the upper portions of the Salmon River drainage, but no spawning or early rearing occurs within the analysis area. The Snake and Salmon Rivers are designated critical habitat for the sockeye salmon.

The ESA-listed threatened fall Chinook salmon uses the Snake and Salmon Rivers for upstream and downstream passage, spawning and early rearing. The Snake and Salmon Rivers are designated critical habitat for the fall Chinook salmon.

The ESA-listed threatened spring/summer Chinook salmon uses the Snake and Salmon Rivers for upstream and downstream passage, and accessible streams with suitable habitat for spawning and juvenile rearing. Within the general analysis area, streams used

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for spawning by spring/summer Chinook salmon are very limited. Accessible streams and rivers with suitable habitat are designated critical habitat for spring/summer Chinook salmon (i.e., Snake River, Salmon River, Captain John Creek, China Creek, and Eagle Creek). With the SRP area, tributary streams are used for juvenile rearing.

The ESA-listed threatened steelhead trout uses the Snake and Salmon Rivers for upstream and downstream passage and staging areas prior to migrating to natal spawning streams or hatcheries. Accessible streams with suitable habitat are used by steelhead trout for spawning and/or juvenile rearing. Accessible streams and rivers with suitable habitat are designated critical habitat for steelhead trout. Steelhead trout are found in most accessible streams with suitable habitat within the analysis area (i.e., Captain John Creek, Corral Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Wapshilla Creek, China Creek, and Eagle Creek).

The ESA-listed bull trout use the Snake and Salmon Rivers for upstream and downstream passage, and adult and subadult foraging areas, some of which is located within or adjacent to the proposed commercial use area. The only designated critical habitat for bull trout is the Snake and Salmon Rivers. The mouth area or lower reaches of some of the larger tributaries may also be used by bull trout for adult and subadult foraging (e.g., Captain John Creek, China Creek, and Eagle Creek).

BLM Sensitive Fish Species

Idaho BLM sensitive fish species which occur in the Snake and Salmon Rivers include westslope cutthroat trout, redband trout, and Pacific lamprey, some of which is located within or adjacent to the proposed commercial use area. Redband trout also occur in the fish-bearing tributaries (e.g., Captain John Creek, Corral Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Wapshilla Creek, China Creek, and Eagle Creek). See Appendix 2, Table 4 for more information.



Figure 1. Looking upriver from the mouth of China Creek (center of photo). The Salmon River is the boundary between GMU 11 & 13 in this area.

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Proposed Action

The proposed SRP would have stipulations to avoid or minimize adverse effects to ESA-listed and BLM sensitive fish species, and aquatic/riparian habitats (see Appendix 1).

Implementation of this alternative would be in accordance with Cottonwood RMP (BLM 2009) for maintenance and/or achievement of desired conditions for aquatic and riparian habitats. No hunting camp sites or adverse soil/vegetation disturbances are proposed to occur in any Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) under this alternative and site evaluations for potential hunting camp sites would avoid areas that would cause adverse impacts.

Overall, a small amount (see Section 3.1.3 Assumptions) of commercial outfitting including hunting and other recreational activities would be expected to occur from this action on BLM lands. The primary potential to impact aquatic habitats from commercial hunting use would include actions that impact soils, vegetation, riparian areas, and actions which may cause injury or mortality, or disrupt life histories of ESA-listed fish. Overall, there is no measurable or appreciable potential for impacts to water quality, aquatic habitats, or species is expected to occur from activities that potentially may disturb soils and vegetation, which include use of existing roads and trails and cross country hiking and horse use. A “*no effect*” determination was concluded for ESA-listed and BLM sensitive fish and designated critical habitat for ESA-listed fish.

No Action Alternative

There would be no impacts to ESA-listed and BLM sensitive fish species.

Cumulative Impacts

There would be no effects to fish or aquatic habitats from the proposed and no action alternatives, therefore the alternatives would not contribute to cumulative impacts.

3.2.9 Wildlife and Habitat

The analysis area for wildlife, habitats, and special status species includes proposed commercial outfitting area occurring in GMU 11. Primary concerns and issues that would be addressed are in regard to commercial hunting activities and other recreational activities; and any direct or indirect effects to wildlife populations and habitats.

Affected Environment

The analysis area includes a variety of wildlife habitats, from low elevation canyon grasslands, timbered stringers in the canyon break lands to forested and meadow areas in the upper plateau areas refer to Section 3.2.6 *Vegetation – Riparian and Upland Habitats* above for additional habitat information. The general analysis area provides habitat for a

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variety of wildlife species, which includes big game, upland game, non-game birds and mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. BLM lands comprise 6.5% of GMU 11. Refer to Table 4 below for a summary of land ownership within GMU 11:

Table (4) Summary of Land Ownership in GMU 11

Ownership	Acres	Percentage
Bureau of Land Management	31,448 acres	6.5%
Private	333,485 acres	68.95%
Idaho Department of Lands	9,965 acres	2.06%
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	78,650 acres	16.26%
State Other	180 acres	0.04%
U.S. Forest Service	2,455 acres	0.51%
Nez Perce Tribe	7,446 acres	1.54%
Bureau of Indian Affairs /Water Bodies	20,031 acres	4.14%
Total	483,661 acres	100%



Figure 2: Looking down Corral Creek drainage towards the Snake River. Corral Creek is in GMU 11, and lies within the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area. The CMWMA is a very popular big game hunting area and a large percentage of the area is available for public hunting. Public access in the drainage is non-motorized and lands are available for public hunting and recreation.

GMU 11 – Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area (CMWMA)

GMU 11 is bordered by the Snake and Salmon Rivers on the west and south, and extends to the Clearwater River for the north boundary. The unit is comprised of a variety of

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habitats, which include canyon lands, higher elevation timbered/meadow areas in the Craig Mountains and intermixed agriculture lands. Approximately 67% of GMU 11 is privately owned and public access is restricted in some areas. The IDFG manages approximately 78,000 acres south of Lewiston, Idaho, known as the CMWMA. This area was created to protect and enhance some of the most important and unique wildlife and fish habitat along the lower Snake and Salmon Rivers, in Idaho.

Acquisition of approximately 18,000 acres of this CMWMA was funded by public sportsman's dollars and private donations. It was purchased in order to provide critical habitat for wildlife and recreational access for hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts along the Snake River. The Dworshak Dam Wildlife Mitigation Agreement led to the acquisition of the 60,000 acre Peter T. Johnson Wildlife Mitigation Unit. This unit makes up the eastern portion of the CMWMA lying north of the shoreline of the Salmon River. This segment was established in order to restore and maintain important native habitats for many species of wildlife.

In addition to the lands owned or managed by IDFG, BLM, IDL, Nez Perce Tribe, United States Forest Service and the Nature Conservancy also own significant acreages intermingled within the CMWMA (see Table 4 for some of these acreages). In combination, these ownerships bring the total acreage of lands available for public recreation on Craig Mountain to over 140,000 acres. This is a very popular area for hunting, and elk hunting, mule deer, and bighorn sheep hunting are controlled hunts, and available tags are limited and highly sought after by hunters (see "Authorized Hunting" section below).

The BLM previously issued one temporary permit authorizing commercial outfitting activities on the CMWMA; during 2012 this outfitter was authorized to hunt elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep. During 2010, the outfitter guided 14 hunters, and harvested two bighorn sheep, nine elk, and three mule deer.

Wildlife and Habitats

Big game species that occur within GMU 11 include mule deer, white tailed deer, elk, black bear, mountain lion, and bighorn sheep. Big game use of areas vary by season, habitat type, topography, elevation, climate, and human land uses; while some areas and habitats may be used yearlong by big game. Mule deer are primarily utilizing the canyon grasslands, break land habitats, and riparian habitats. White tailed deer utilize a variety of habitats; which includes canyon grasslands (lesser extent than mule deer), timbered/shrub areas, riparian habitats, and agriculture areas. Elk use the canyon grasslands, shrub/timber and riparian habitats. Black bear utilize the timber/shrub and riparian habitats. During the spring, black bear will also utilize some of the canyon grassland habitats in close proximity to timber/shrub habitats. Suitable habitats for mountain lion are also associated with habitats that are utilized by deer and elk. Bighorn sheep are primarily utilizing the canyon grassland habitats and canyon break lands. Steep and rugged topography, cliffs, and rock outcrops are an important escape habitat component for bighorn sheep.

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Common upland game found within the analysis area include chukar partridge, gray partridge, ruffed grouse, blue grouse, California quail, mountain quail, ring-necked pheasant, mourning dove, and turkeys. Popular upland game hunting associated with public lands within the analysis area includes chukar partridge and gray partridge in the canyon grasslands. Ruffed grouse are commonly found in forest and riparian habitats. Turkeys are associated with timbered and riparian habitats. California quail are often found in a mixture of shrub/timber, agriculture, and riparian habitats. There is no open hunting season for mountain quail.

Common waterfowl utilizing the Snake and Salmon Rivers include Canada geese, mallards, common merganser, and goldeneye.

Authorized Hunting

Authorized hunting for mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep in GMU 11 have no general hunting season and hunting is in accordance with controlled hunt regulations and a lucky hunter obtaining a controlled hunt permit (e.g., drawing). Tables 5-9 summarize the controlled hunt permits for elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep, general seasons for white-tailed deer, and statistics for hunter success, from 2011.

Table (5) 2011 Controlled Elk, Mule Deer, and Bighorn Sheep Hunts for GMU 11¹

Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Area	Authorized Elk	Permits	Season Dates	Notes
2001	11-1	Antlered Elk	80	Oct 1 – Oct 24	
2002	11-1	Antlered Elk	71	Nov 1 – Nov 24	
2051	11-1	Antlerless Elk	200	Oct 10 – Oct. 24	
2052	11-1	Antlerless Elk	175	Nov 10 – Nov 24	
2053	11-2	Antlerless Elk	125	Aug 1 – Sep 15	Very limited access
1002	11	Antlered Mule Deer	74	Oct 10 – Nov 3	
1003	11	Antlered Mule Deer	35	Nov 10 – Nov 24	
5001	11	Bighorn Sheep Rams	1	Aug 30 – Oct 13	
5100	11	Bighorn Sheep Rams	1	Aug 30 – Oct 13	Auction Tag - 11

¹Source: Idaho Big Game Seasons and Rules 2011 and Moose, Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Controlled Hunt Seasons and Rules 2011 and 2012, Idaho Dept. Fish and Game.

Table (6) 2011 Elk Controlled Hunt Harvest Statistics for GMU 11¹

Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Area	Hunters	Harvest	Success %	Days	Antlered	Antlerless	% Spike	% 6+Pts.
2001	11-1 Antlered Elk	80	39	48%	536	39	---	2.6%	39.9%
2002	11-1 Antlered Elk	86	32	48%	420	32	---	0.0%	29.1%
2051	11-1 Antlerless Elk	190	69	37%	1047	---	69	---	---
2052	11-1 Antlerless Elk	162	62	38%	783	---	62	---	---
2053	11-2 Antlerless Elk	101	34	34%	873	---	34	---	---

¹From Idaho Department of Fish and Game web site

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Table (7) 2011 Mule Deer (Antlered) Controlled Hunt Harvest Statistics¹

Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Area	Hunters	Harvest	Success %	Days	%4+Pts	%5+Pts
1002	11	73	52	71%	567	80.8%	28.8%
1003	11	34	23	68%	504	87	23.9%

¹From Idaho Department of Fish and Game web site

During 2011, the BLM permitted commercial outfitter did not provide guide service for bighorn sheep in GMU 11. During 2011, there were two tags issued for bighorn sheep; one had a controlled hunt permit and one hunter obtained a special bighorn sheep tag (auction bid, for choice of hunt areas in Idaho). If these hunters chose to use guide/outfitter services they would have been authorized to utilize Barker Trophy Hunts. Two bighorn sheep rams were harvested in GMU 11 during 2011. The two largest bighorn sheep rams harvested in Idaho during 2011 were both harvested in GMU 11, and this unit is known for producing some of the largest rams harvested in Idaho.

White-tailed general any-weapon deer seasons in GMU 11 are identified in Table 8 and hunter success is identified in Table 9.

Table (8) 2011 White-Tailed Deer (WT) and Regular (Reg.) Deer Tag General Any-Weapon Seasons¹

Unit	Antlered	Antlerless
11	Oct 10 – Nov 3 Reg. Tag Oct 10 – Dec 1 WT Tag	Oct 10 – Nov 3 Reg. Tag Oct 10 – Dec 1 WT Tag

¹Source: Idaho Big Game Seasons and Rules 2011, Idaho Dept. Fish and Game

Table (9) 2011 White-Tailed Deer Harvest Data Any Weapon – General Hunting Season¹

Unit	Hunters	Total Harvest	% Success	Days	Antlered	Antlerless	%4Pt.+	%5Pt.+
11	1,974	655	33.2%	11,110	474	182	64.2%	28.6%

¹From Idaho Department of Fish and Game web site.

Idaho Fish and Game established outfitter allocations for GMU 11 in 2004 which included one mule deer and four elk per year (of which Barker Trophy Hunts had one and three). In 2012, IDFG issued outfitter permits in GMU 11 for nine elk, four mule deer and two bighorn sheep. For example, Barker Trophy Hunts may take more clients than identified above if they hunt on BLM lands. For analysis purposes it is estimated that the SRP issued for commercial hunting in GMU 11 would accommodate approximately 25 guided hunters per year, along with mountain bike, photography, and backpacking tours (see Section 3.1.3 Assumptions). Regardless of the number of allocated tags, outfitters are required to be permitted by the landowner or land management agency before any commercial outfitting can occur on their lands.

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Proposed Action

Overall, a small amount of increased use (see Section 3.1.3 Assumption) in commercial hunting, day hiking or backpacking use, photography and mountain bike tours (commercial recreational uses) would be expected to occur from this action on BLM lands. This alternative would be expected to have minor effects to big game, and such impacts are considered not measurable or appreciable for GMU 11. IDFG sets the quota harvest for big game hunting, so the number of animals harvested can vary from year to year depending on the number of license and permits issued regardless if they are private or commercial hunters. Increased harvest of big game would occur from guided hunts (see Section 3.1.3 Assumptions), such harvest would vary from year to year but would include harvest of bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, and whitetailed deer; and overall hunter success from hunts would be expected to similar or above from hunter success identified in Tables.

Within GMU 11, a total of 25,182 acres of BLM lands would be potentially available for commercial outfitting. Motorized vehicle use would only be authorized on designated open roads and trails and no permanent commercial camp sites would be authorized on BLM lands, without site specific evaluation. The proposed SRP would have stipulations to avoid or minimize any adverse effects to upland and riparian/wetland wildlife habitats. However, disturbances and temporary displacement of wildlife may occur from hunting related and other commercial recreational activities. Authorized commercial hunting, day hiking or backpacking use, mountain bike tours, and photography tours use would be expected to have no adverse impacts to sustainable wildlife populations. Overall, with the exception of a few localized areas (e.g., spike camps, access routes, no other concentrated use areas would occur (see Section 3.1.3 Assumptions). Therefore, existing upland and riparian/wetland habitat conditions and trends would be expected to continue.

No Action Alternative

There would be no impacts, disturbance or displacement of wildlife would occur on BLM lands.

Cumulative Impacts

There would be no appreciable effects to wildlife or habitats from the proposed and no action alternatives, therefore the alternatives would not contribute to cumulative impacts.

4 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

4.1. Coordination with Other Agencies

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Throughout this planning process, the BLM has worked with the IDFG and IDL to discuss commercial hunting and commercial recreational-related activities. Both the BLM and IDFG continue to work on a consistent co-management approach for commercial hunting in the CMWMA within GMU 11, but have to-date have not reached a resolution.

4.2 Native American Consultation

The Nez Perce Tribe was contacted with an initial scoping letter and an additional letter describing this project. No response was received.

4.3 Preparers

Joe O'Neill, Outdoor Recreation Planner (Project Lead, Recreation)
Craig Johnson, Fisheries/Wildlife Biologist (ACECs; Vegetation; Wildlife and Special Status Species; and Fisheries)
Mark Lowry (Vegetation, Special Status Plants)
Dave Sisson, Archeologist (Cultural Resources)
Scott Pavey, Planning and Environmental Coordinator

4.4 Distribution

This EA will be available from the internet at: https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do

Copies of this document may be requested by calling or visiting the BLM Cottonwood Field Office, 1 Butte Drive, Cottonwood, Idaho 83522, telephone 208-962-3245.

A notice of availability or copy of this EA will be sent to the following interested entities that commented during the scoping period or requested a copy be mailed to them.

Individuals

David Victor, Seattle WA
Dr. Andrew Jones, Cottonwood ID
Joe and Connie Anderson, Cottonwood ID
Ken & Kathy Davis, Asotin WA
Margie Wright, White Bird ID
Mike Schlegel, Grangeville ID
Jim & Susan Mahan, Lewiston ID
Jon Garlinghouse, Eugene OR
R. Conner Jr., Laona WI
Susan Clarke Alley, Fresno CA
Jim Pope Sr., Clarkston WA
Kris Land, Poway CA
Michael Klaus, Yakima WA
William C. Smart
Robert Stoll

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Terry Rudd
Scott Doleshaw
Dr. Reg L Spannaus
Kenneth Haff

Businesses

Wapiti Outfitters, Gary Lane, Riggins ID
Rancher, Tm Gehring, Cottonwood ID
Heckman Cattle Company, Don Heckman, White Bird ID
Rancher, James Pete Johnson, Cottonwood ID
Barker River Trips, John A.K. Barker, Lewiston ID
Vogel Outdoor Adventures, Don & Vicki, Lewiston ID
Horseshoe Bend Ranch, George Shroyer
Barker Trophy Hunt, Jon Barker
Horseshoe Bend Ranch, Mark & Jennifer Shroyer

Non-Governmental Organizations

Idaho Outfitter and Guides Association, Grant Simonds, Boise ID
Friends of the Clearwater, Gary Macfarlane, Moscow ID
Idaho Conservation League, Jonathon Oppenheimer, Boise ID

Tribes

Chairman, Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai ID

State and Local Governmental Agencies

Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Dave Cadwallader, Lewiston ID

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REFERENCES

- BLM. 2002a. Lower Snake River ecosystem analysis at the watershed scale. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Cottonwood Field Office, Cottonwood, Idaho.
- BLM. 2002b. Lower Salmon River ecosystem analysis at the watershed scale. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Cottonwood Field Office, Cottonwood, Idaho.
- BLM. 2009. Cottonwood Approved Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision. U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Cottonwood, Idaho. <http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/planning.html>
- BLM. 2012. Wild and Scenic Rivers – Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, Planning, and Management BLM Manual 6400.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Commercial Hunting, Day Hikes, Mountain Bike Tours, Photography, and Backpacking Trips Additional Stipulations

1. The permittee shall comply with all Federal, State, and local laws; ordinances; regulations; orders; postings; or written requirements applicable to the area or operations covered by the Special Recreation Permit (SRP or permit). The permittee shall ensure that all persons operating under the authorization have obtained all required Federal, State, and local licenses or registrations. The permittee shall make every reasonable effort to ensure compliance with these requirements by all agents of the permittee and by all clients, customers, participants, and spectators.
2. A Special Recreation Permit authorizes special uses of the public lands and related waters, should circumstances warrant, the permit may be modified by the BLM at any time, including modification of the amount of use. At this time there are no use restrictions on the number of clients the outfitter take for each activity. The BLM reserves the right to amend, change or add new stipulations to SRP's. The authorized officer may suspend or terminate a SRP if necessary to protect public resources, health, safety, the environment, or because of noncompliance with permit stipulations. Actions by the BLM to suspend or terminate a SRP are appealable.
3. No value shall be assigned to or claimed for the permit, or for the occupancy or use of Federal lands or related waters granted thereupon. The permit privileges are not to be considered property on which the permittee shall be entitled to earn or receive any return, income, price, or compensation. The use of a permit as collateral is not recognized by the BLM.
4. Unless expressly stated, the permit does not create an exclusive right of use of an area by the permittee. The permittee shall not interfere with other valid uses of the federal land by other users. The United States reserves the right to use any part of the area for any purpose.
5. The permittee or permittee's representative may not assign, contract, or sublease any portion of the permit authorization or interest therein, directly or indirectly, voluntarily or involuntarily. However, contracting of equipment or services may be approved by the authorized officer in advance, if necessary to supplement a permittee's operations. Such contracting should not constitute more than half the required equipment or services for any one trip or activity and the permittee must retain operational control of the permitted activity. If equipment or services are

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- contracted, the permittee shall continue to be responsible for compliance with all stipulations and conditions of the permit.
6. All advertising and representations made to the public and the authorized officer must be accurate. Although the addresses and telephone numbers of the BLM may be included in advertising materials, official agency symbols may not be used. The permittee shall not use advertising that attempts to portray or represent the activities as being conducted by the BLM. The permittee may not portray or represent the permit fee as a special federal user's tax. The permittee is required to notify BLM of scheduled hunts, number of clients, and general area of use prior to the trip. This is to help BLM conduct possible compliance checks of the permit. The permittee must furnish the authorized officer with a current brochure, price list, a copy of your IOGLB outfitter license, copy of insurance and payment of fees for the Special Recreation Permit by April 15th each year.
 7. The permittee assumes responsibility for inspecting the permitted area for any existing or new hazardous conditions, e.g., trail and route conditions, landslides, avalanches, rocks, changing water or weather conditions, falling limbs or trees, submerged objects, hazardous flora/fauna, abandoned mines, or other hazards that present risks for which the permittee assumes responsibility. The permittee also assumes responsibility for clients to ensure they are shooting in safe directions to avoid other people out recreating.
 8. In the event of default on any mortgage or other indebtedness, such as bankruptcy, creditors shall not succeed to the operating rights or privileges of the permittee's SRP.
 9. The permittee cannot, unless specifically authorized, erect, construct, or place any building, structure, or other fixture on public lands. Upon leaving, the lands must be restored as nearly as possible to pre-existing conditions.
 10. The permittee must present or display a copy of the SRP to an authorized officer's representative, or law enforcement personnel upon request. If required, the permittee must display a copy of the permit or other identification tag on equipment used during the period of authorized use.
 11. The authorized officer, or other duly authorized representative of the BLM, may examine any of the records or other documents related to the permit, the permittee or the permittee's operator, employee, or agent for up to three years after expiration of the permit.
 12. The permittee must submit a Post Use Report to the authorized officer for every year the permit is in effect. The report will show the number of hunters, names of clients and guides, days hunted and the area they hunted and all the fees they paid and will be reported to the BLM by December 31 each year. If the Post Use

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Report is not received by December 31, the permit will be suspended and/or fines assessed.

13. The permittee shall notify the authorized officer of any incident that occurs while involved in activities authorized by these permits, which result in death, personal injury requiring hospitalization or emergency evacuation, or in property damage greater than \$2,500 (lesser amounts if established by State law). Reports should be submitted within 24 hours.
14. The permittee is responsible to know where their guides and clients are at all times to ensure that they are not trespassing on private lands or outside of the operating area on BLM lands.
15. Insurance: At a minimum, the permittee shall have in force public liability insurance covering: (1) damage to property in the amount of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000); and (2) damage to persons (bodily injury or death) in the amount of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) per occurrence. The policy shall also have a minimum annual aggregate limit of six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000). The coverage shall extend to property damage, bodily injury, or death arising out of the permittee's operations under the permit, including, but not limited to, the occupancy or use of the lands, structures, facilities, or equipment authorized by the permit. The insurance shall name the United States as additional insured and provide for specific coverage for the permittee's contractually assumed obligation to indemnify the United States. The policy shall also contain a specific provision or rider to the effect that the policy will not be canceled or its provisions changed or deleted before thirty (30) days written notice by the insurance company to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The permittee shall indemnify and hold harmless the United States against any liability for personal injury, loss of life, or property damage arising in any way from activities under the permit. Those permittee's holding insurance policies which only insure the permittee and not the permittee's employees must ensure that their employees also have the required insurance in effect. New permits will not be issued, and operations authorized under an existing permit will not be allowed to continue until proper proof of insurance is received by the BLM. This requirement may be satisfied by providing either an authenticated copy of the insurance policy or a certificate of insurance with the original signature of both the permittee and the insurer or their authorized representatives. The name of the insured must be identical with that on the permit application.
16. The permittee will be responsible for the prompt repair of any damages to utilities, fences and other improvements. The permittee shall take every reasonable precaution to protect natural resource values and any improvement on both private and public lands. Gates will be left open or closed, as they were found.

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17. The permittee is only allowed to conduct services listed in the SRP and on the BLM lands described in the hunting permit area map.
18. The outfitter is expected to work cooperatively with the IDFG to address wildlife resource management goals for the CMWMA.
19. No permanent camps are allowed on BLM managed lands. If an outfitter wants to propose setting up a permanent camp during a hunt they will have to notify the Cottonwood Field Office at least 9 month prior and provide an exact location of the proposed camp so the BLM can conduct Fisheries, Wildlife, Botany and Archeological inventories before the outfitter is authorized to establish a campsite. Temporary overnight spike camps will be allowed.
20. Operation and maintenance of all sanitation, food service, and water supplies, systems and facilities shall comply with the standards of the local department of health and the United States Public health Service.
21. Food and/or equipment caches will not be allowed unless prior approval is obtained from BLM's authorized officer. Location of proposed caches must be described in the permit application.
22. All Trash will be removed by the permit holder.
23. Fires: Because of the impacts campfires create, their use should be kept to a minimum. Using cook stoves is recommended as an alternative to cooking over campfires. When allowed, campfires shall be small and kept under control. Open fires may be prohibited during certain periods depending on fire danger.
24. No campfires will be left unattended. Permittee is solely responsible for all fires which permittee, employees or clients start.
25. Permittee may be held responsible for fire suppression costs resulting from wildfire caused by permittee, employees or clients.
26. Wildfires should be reported immediately to the Interagency Fire Dispatch Center in Grangeville. Permittee is responsible for informing employees and clients of the current fire danger and required precautions that may be placed in effect by the BLM.
27. Access and Transportation: The permittee is prohibited from inhibiting, limiting or reducing access to public lands within the permit area.
28. The permittee shall abide by all travel plan rules and restrictions for travel including both motorized and non-motorized transportation. Motorized vehicle use would only be authorized on designated roads and trails and no cross-country

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motorized travel would be authorized on BLM lands. All motorized vehicles need to be cleaned before use on BLM grounds to prevent weed transport.

29. The outfitter or guide must comply with current BLM travel regulations. These regulations prohibit driving off designated roads or ways in Wilderness Study Areas.
30. Permittee is responsible for knowing where Wilderness Study Area boundaries are and use restrictions that may apply to an area of operation within the WSA. Maps and information concerning restrictions are available at the BLM Cottonwood Field Office.
31. Issuance of a permit by BLM does not guarantee legal access to public lands. Where legal public access is not available it is the permittee's responsibility to obtain permission from the landowner(s) to travel through or use private lands.
32. Livestock Use: Use certified "weed-free" feed for all livestock.
33. Construction of permanent fences or corrals is not permitted. Temporary improvement including frames, corrals or hitching racks may be constructed only with prior BLM approval in writing.
34. If the permittee owns private property adjacent to public land the permittee shall provide reasonable administrative access across private and leased lands to the BLM for the monitoring of this permit.
35. If stipulations are not followed the BLM will recover all cost associated with the permit such as administrative, cleaning, supplies, vehicle mileage and rental, wages and other costs associated with the permit. BLM can require the permittee for pay for any reclamation and/or rehabilitation requirements.
36. Permittee must not disturb archeological and historic values, including, but not limited to: petroglyphs, ruins, historic buildings and artifacts.
37. These stipulations are in effect until new ones are made or modified. The BLM reserves the right to update or add new stipulations as needed to address to resource issues, policy, rules, regulations etc...

I have reviewed the stipulations above, and I agree to operate under its provisions.

Print Name

Date

Signature

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APPENDIX 2 BLM Sensitive Species

Table 1. BLM Sensitive Species (Mammals) Cottonwood Field Office Area

Common Name	Genus - Species	Habitat
Fringed Myotis	<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	Large trees, caves, mine tunnels, attics of old buildings. Insectivorous.
Townsend's Big Eared Bat	<i>Plecotus townsendii</i>	Caves, mine tunnels and buildings for roosts, obligate cave/mine user, may also feed on ground or in shrubs. Insectivorous.
Gray Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	Key components of wolf habitats are sufficient year-round prey base of ungulates and alternative prey, suitable and semi-secluded denning and rendezvous sites, and sufficient seasonal habitats with minimal exposure to humans. The gray wolf was delisted as an ESA-listed species in 2011.

Table 2. BLM Sensitive Species (Birds) Cottonwood Field Office Area

Common Name	Genus - Species	Habitat
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Winter habitat for the bald eagle is primarily associated with the larger rivers and corridors, such as the Snake River, Salmon River, Clearwater River, South Fork Clearwater Rivers; and Dworshak Reservoir. Bald eagles will also utilize lower elevation uplands and prairie areas during winter periods, particularly if carrion is available. Winter habitat for bald eagles is a function of perch and roost site availability, as well as access to fish, waterfowl, and ungulate carrion as forage/prey. Recent nest sites (two) have been reported in the Lower Salmon River subbasin, however, none have been documented for the project area.

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Common Name	Genus - Species	Habitat
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	Primarily open country; specifically cliff localities adjacent to mountain valleys, rivers, and large bodies of water. Nest is cape on ledge of high cliff. Foods are primarily small birds.
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Forests, forest edge, open woodlands. Most common in ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine and Douglas fir forests. Riparian habitats in winter. Nests are masses of twigs in tall conifers. Foods are tree squirrels, jackrabbits, ground squirrels, small birds, and occasionally grouse.
Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Steppe, canyon grasslands, to forests with cliffs. Nest is sticks and twigs on niche of cliff. Foods are ground squirrels, rodents, small birds.
Flammulated Owl	<i>Otus flammeolus</i>	Montane forests, open stands of fire-climax ponderosa pine or Douglas-fir forests. Nests in abandoned woodpecker holes. Primarily insectivorous.
Lewis Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	Open or logged forests, river groves in mountains. Nest is a hole in tree. Foods are insects, berries, and fruits.
White-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides albolarvatus</i>	Montane coniferous forests primarily dry open forests with ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. Nest is a hole in tree or stump, often close to ground. Food is primarily insects.
Williamson's Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus thryoideus</i>	Coniferous forests and burns at higher elevations in mountains. Nest is hole in tree. Foods are sap, insects and inner bark.
Mountain Quail	<i>Oreotys pictus</i>	Riparian areas, shrub mountainsides, coniferous forests, and forest edge. Nests on ground. Foods are buds, seeds, grain, and insects.
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus borealis</i>	Open timber at meadow margins in sparse timber, burns, partially logged areas. Nest is woven twigs near end of a horizontal limb of a conifer. Food includes insects caught while flying.

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Common Name	Genus - Species	Habitat
Hammond's Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax hammondii</i>	Mountains, in partially logged forests, open woods and along forest edges at medium and lower elevations. Nest is woven cup of vegetation in deciduous tree. Insectivorous and eats insects such as beetles, moths, flies, bees, and wasps.
Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Riparian areas, swamps, willow thickets, open woodlands. Builds cup shape nest in shrub or deciduous tree. Insectivorous.
Calliope Hummingbird	<i>Stellula calliope</i>	Foothills and forested mountains. Nests in conifers. Foods are nectar and insects.
Brewer's Sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri</i>	Lowest elevations to highest (8,000 feet or more) in sagebrush valleys, dry grassy ridges of foothills, brushy plains to tree line, cultivated areas with brushy fence rows or patches. Nest is cup of grass and twigs usually in sagebrush. Foods are insects and seeds.

Table 3. BLM Sensitive Species (Reptiles, Amphibians, and Invertebrates) - Cottonwood Field Office Area

Common Name	Genus - Species	Habitat
REPTILES		
Common Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	Inhabits wet or moist habitats. Preys primarily on earthworms, frogs, toads, salamanders, and fish.
AMPHIBIANS		
Coeur d'Alene Salamander	<i>Plethodon idahoensis</i>	Found in three primary habitats, which include springs or seepages; spray zones of waterfalls; and edges of streams. Often associated with fractured rock. Found in forested areas of northern Idaho. Areas within north central Idaho include the North Fork Clearwater River, Lochsa River, and Selway River drainages.

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Common Name	Genus - Species	Habitat
Idaho Giant Salamander	<i>Dicamptodon aterrimus</i>	Larvae usually inhabit clear, cold streams, but are also found in mountain lakes and ponds. Adults are found under rocks and logs in humid forests, near mountain streams, or on rocky shores of mountain lakes. Larvae feed on wide variety of aquatic invertebrates as well as some small vertebrates (e.g., fishes, tadpoles, or other larval salamanders). Adults eat terrestrial invertebrates, small snakes, shrews, and salamanders.
Western Toad	<i>Bufo boreas</i>	Streams, springs, grasslands, woodlands, mountain meadows. Usually in and/or near ponds, lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams. Insectivorous.
Woodhouse Toad	<i>Bufo woodhousii</i>	Found in grasslands, shrub steppe, woods, river valleys, floodplains, and agricultural lands, usually in areas with deep, friable soils. Metamorphosed toads eat various small, terrestrial invertebrates. Larvae eat suspended matter, organic debris, algae, and plant tissue. Within north central Idaho, primarily found in suitable habitats in Clearwater River subbasin (e.g., Nez Perce, Lewis, and northwest portion of Idaho counties).
INVERTEBRATES		
Columbia River Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela columbica</i>	Sandy beaches/riparian areas along the Salmon River.
Marbled disc	<i>Discus marmorensis</i>	Generally found at moderate elevations on limestone terrain in relatively intact, moist, well-shaded (closed to nearly closed canopy) ponderosa pine forest, with diverse deciduous and forb understory. Occasionally occurs in moist schist taluses occurring in forested areas. Colonies are generally near stream edges and at the base of steep slopes, moist sites near permanent water preferred. Found in central portion of a few large Salmon River tributaries in the vicinity of Lucile (e.g., John Day Creek, Slate Creek).

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Common Name	Genus - Species	Habitat
Shortface Lanx	<i>Fisherola nuttalli</i>	Found in unpolluted swift-flowing, highly oxygenated cold water on stable boulder-gravel substrate, in small to large rivers, often in the vicinity of rapids. Locally found in the Snake River (Hells Canyon) and the lower portion of the Salmon River.
Columbia Pebblesnail	<i>Fluminicola columbianus</i>	Occurs in the mainstem Salmon River. Restricted to small-large rivers, in swift current on stable gravel to boulder substrate in cold, unpolluted, highly oxygenated water, generally in areas with few aquatic macrophytes or edyphytic algae.
Whorled Mountainsnail	<i>Oreohelix vortex</i>	The species occurs in low to mid elevations in the Salmon River drainage, from Rock Creek to Riggins. Restricted to large-scale taluses. Sites are typically rather dry and open. Grasses common at preferred sites, with some forbs and shrubs.
Boulder Pile Mountainsnail	<i>Oreohelix jugalis</i>	Found in lower elevation areas in the Salmon River canyon, from river mile 20 to Riggins. Occurs in rock taluses and boulder piles. Sites generally open and can be seasonally dry. Plant associates include hackberry, shrubs, and grasses.
Lava Rock Mountainsnail	<i>Oreohelix waltoni</i>	Found in dry open areas occurring in the Lower Salmon River. Occurs between White Bird and Riggins, primarily in the Lucile and John Day Creek area. Associated with basalts and mixed schist/alluvium sites. Common plants found at sites are grasses and shrubs.

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Table 4. BLM Sensitive Species (Fish) Cottonwood Field Office Area

Common Name	Genus - Species	Habitat
Pacific lamprey	<i>Lampetra tridentata</i>	Pacific lamprey are anadromous and historical distribution is similar to salmon and steelhead. They primarily spawn in tributary streams and use the main stem rivers for upstream and downstream passage. A significant decline in historical distribution for Pacific lamprey occurs within Idaho, and occupied habitats are limited.
Westslope cutthroat trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki lewissi</i>	Westslope cutthroat trout exhibit three life histories in Idaho: adfluvial, fluvial and resident. Uses smaller higher elevation streams for spawning and juvenile rearing. Preferred spawning has clean gravels, good quality pools, and complex habitat structure, such as provided by large woody debris. Migratory fluvial fish use mainstem rivers for travel corridors and foraging.
Redband trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri</i>	Redband trout are divided into two groups, one evolved with steelhead trout and other group evolved outside the historical range of steelhead (above full fish passage barriers). Preferred spawning streams include good quality spawning gravels, with suitable complex habitat (large woody debris), with good ratio of pools and riffles. Also found in mainstem rivers and lakes.

Table 5. Idaho BLM Sensitive and Watch List Plant Species That Are Known to Occur or Potentially Occur on the Cottonwood Field Office

Common Name	Genus - Species	Habitat	Idaho BLM Status
Tolmie's onion	<i>Allium tolmiei</i> <i>var. persimile</i>	Grassland communities on rocky, gravelly, or clayey site. Seasonally wet soils of Elevation generally between 2,500 to 5,000 feet elevation.	3

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Common Name	Genus - Species	Habitat	Idaho BLM Status
Candystick	<i>Allotropa virgate</i>	Limited to forest habitats in which lodgepole pine are dominant or in a few cases at least a significant component.	3
Lemhi milkvetch	<i>Astragalus aquilonius</i>	Canyon grasslands. On dry, gentle to often steep and unstable slopes, talus, washes, alluvial debris, and flats. It occurs on various, but often southerly aspects having gravelly and sandy, to ashy and occasionally clayey soils.	3
Asotin milkvetch	<i>Astragalus asotinenesis</i>	Canyon grasslands.	2
Payson's milkvetch	<i>Astragalus paysonii</i>	Early- to mid-successional sites dominated by lodgepole pine with scattered Douglas-fir and western larch present. Found on north, northeast, and east aspects on flat to moderate slope (up to 45 percent). Elevation generally between 4,600 and 5,800 feet.	3
Deer-fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Occurs at lower elevation (less than 4,200 feet) within dense, moist, generally mature western red cedar with western hemlock forests. Most often grows in western redcedar/wild ginger (<i>Asarum caudatum</i>), western hemlock/wild ginger, or western hemlock/oakfern (<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>) habitat types. Usually on northern aspects and moderate slopes (10 to 60 percent).	3

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Common Name	Genus - Species	Habitat	Idaho BLM Status
Tweedy's reedgrass	<i>Calamagrostis tweedyi</i>	Moist meadows and subalpine slopes, usually in timber.	3
Green-band mariposa lily	<i>Calochortus macrocarpus</i> <i>var. maculosus</i>	Endemic to the canyons of the Lower Salmon, Lower Clearwater, and middle Snake Rivers. Most commonly associated with bluebunch wheatgrass communities and to a lesser extent, Idaho fescue communities. It occurs primarily on dry, warm, south-facing slopes.	2
Broad-fruit mariposa lily	<i>Calochortus nitidus</i>	Endemic to the Palouse Prairie and canyon grasslands and associated with canon rims, ridges and upper slopes. It also occurs within natural forest openings and open ponderosa pine and/or Douglas-fir communities in forested uplands. The plant is shade-intolerant that occurs on flat to gentle or occasionally steep slopes, on all aspects.	2
Dwarf gray rabbitbrush	<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i> ssp. <i>nanus</i>	Primarily restricted to exposed, dry, rocky ridges, outcrops, and associated stable, erosional debris. Most often found in the Craig Mountain area above 4,000 feet elevation. Soils are very shallow, rocky, and often with a gravelly and hard texture approaching an erosional pavement surface.	5
Palouse thistle	<i>Cirsium brevifolium</i>	Palouse prairie habitats, typical elevations 1,800 to 4,900 feet.	3

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Common Name	Genus - Species	Habitat	Idaho BLM Status
Case's corydalis	<i>Corydalis caseana</i> ssp. <i>hastata</i>	Primarily found along streams within the riparian area. Commonly found in cedar, Engelmann spruce and grand fir habitat types.	3
Idaho hawkbeard	<i>Crepis bakeri</i> ssp. <i>Idahoensis</i>	Found in Snake River canyonlands. It is widely scattered on dry to seasonally mesic open grassland slopes, benches, and ridges. It occurs on loamy and skeletal soils within canyon grasslands, primarily bluebunch wheatgrass-Sandberg's bluegrass and Idaho fescue/bluebunch wheatgrass communities.	2
Marsh willowherb	<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	Common in marshes and wet ground, including flushes on hills.	4
Chatterbox orchid	<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>	Occurs within moist riparian habitats associated with springs, seeps, stream banks, and thermal sites.	3
Puzzling halimolobos	<i>Halimolobos perplexa</i> var. <i>perplexa</i>	Found in the main Salmon River and Little Salmon River drainages and their tributaries. Found in dry and open Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and bluebunch wheatgrass habitats. Often occurs in shallow sandy loam or gravel-based soils, rock outcrop sites, and disturbed soil areas	5
Hazel's prickly phlox	<i>Leptodactylon pungens</i> ssp. <i>hazeliae</i>	Found in shallow rocky soils, cliffs, scree areas and rock outcrops in canyon grasslands associated with bluebunch wheatgrass habitat types; usually found below 2,000 feet.	3

Special Recreation Permit for Outfitter Hunting in Unit 11

Common Name	Genus - Species	Habitat	Idaho BLM Status
Salmon River biscuitroot	<i>Lomatium salmoniflorum</i>	Canyon grasslands, open rocky canyon slopes. Found near Snake, Salmon, and Clearwater Rivers. Appears restricted to basalt substrates rangewide. Specific habitats are open communities on cliff faces, ledges and in coarse, stabilized talus. Surrounding vegetation is mostly canyon grasslands and shrublands, but its rocky habitats can be surrounded by ponderosa pine woodlands and mixed coniferous forests.	3
Spacious monkey-flower	<i>Mimulus ampliatus</i>	Seepy basal outcrops and vernal seeps in open grassland or forest opening. Prefers particularly moist and shady sites. Known locations range from 2,600 to 6,900 feet in elevation.	2
Bank monkey-flower	<i>Mimulus clivicola</i>	Regional endemic plant of the interior Pacific Northwest. Range includes northern to west-central Idaho and adjacent Oregon. Often found on moderately dry slopes in grassland or conifer openings, often in pockets of mineral soil, including sites where the soil has been exposed because of big game activity or road cuts. In the CFO, usually found between 1,400 and 4,000 feet in elevation.	5

Special Recreation Permit for Outfitter Hunting in Unit 11

Common Name	Genus - Species	Habitat	Idaho BLM Status
Stalk-leaved monkey-flower	<i>Mimulus patulus</i>	Found on ephemeral seeps, moist basalt, and very fine gravel on top of bedrock. May be found in relatively undisturbed, winter-wet, summer dry, canyon grasslands.	3
Thin –sepal monkey-flower	<i>Mimulus hymenophyllus</i>	Found in wet, mesic forests.	2
Hall’s orthotrichum	<i>Orthotrichum hallii (moss)</i>	Found on dry rocks that are shaded.	3
Snowball cactus	<i>Pediocactus nigrispinus</i>	Often with sagebrush and canyon grasslands. Desert valleys to low mountains.	4
Simpson’s hedgehog cactus	<i>Pediocactus simpsonii</i>	Generally occurs in a variety of open, rocky habitats in the Lower Salmon and Lower Snake River canyons between 1,600 to 5,500 feet in elevation. Occurs on all aspects, although mostly warmer exposures, and from flat to steep slopes. Soils are generally shallow, rocky and well drained.	5
Goldenback fern	<i>Pentagramma triangularis ssp. triangularis</i>	Rock crevices and open rocky slopes in valleys and foothills. Found often in partly shaded sites. From 1,500 to 2,700 feet.	3
Palouse goldenweed	<i>Pyrrocoma liatrifomis</i>	Palouse Prairie and canyon grasslands, generally within the Idaho fescue and bluebunch wheatgrass habitat types. Other typical associated species include: prairiesmoke, western yarrow, northwest cinquefoil, and Nootka rose. Occurs from 1,900 to 3,000 feet.	2

Special Recreation Permit for Outfitter Hunting in Unit 11

Common Name	Genus - Species	Habitat	Idaho BLM Status
Western ladies-tresses	<i>Spiranthes porrifolia</i>	Typically occurring in seeps in Douglas fir stands at lower timberline near transition to grasslands.	3
Jessica's aster	<i>Symphyotrichum jessicae</i>	Palouse Prairie and canyon grasslands, often near small drainages, but on dry ground. It generally found within ponderosa pine/snowberry, Idaho fescue/snowberry, and Douglas fir/ninebark habitat types. Other associated species include bluebunch wheatgrass and arrowleaf balsamroot.	2
Purple thick-leaved thelypody	<i>Thelypodium laciniatum</i> var. <i>streptanthoides</i>	Generally found in the Lower Snake River and Lower Salmon River canyons. Occurs on rocky outcrops and in crevices of canyon cliffs surrounded by bluebunch wheatgrass habitats. Although it occurs on all aspects, it is more common on southerly aspects. Elevations range from less than 900 up to 4,000 feet.	5
Douglas' clover	<i>Trifolium douglasii</i>	Found in meadows, riparian areas, and along streambanks.	2
Plumed clover	<i>Trifolium plumosum</i> ssp. <i>ampifolium</i>	Dry to moderately moist Palouse Prairie, canyon grasslands, and meadows, within the Idaho fescues and bluebunch wheatgrass habitats in ponderosa pine stands.	2
Idaho barren strawberry	<i>Waldsteinia idahoensis</i>	Meadows and moist woods along streams. Toe to mid-slopes, occurs in moist and cool sites associated with grand-fir, cedar, and alpine fir zones.	3

Special Recreation Permit for Outfitter Hunting in Unit 11

Notes: In Idaho, the BLM has defined and further clarified the management of special status plants by designating species as either BLM Sensitive or Watch. The following categories are recognized:

Idaho BLM Special Status Plants Include Type 1 Through Type 4: Federally Listed, Proposed and Candidate Species: Includes species that are listed under the Endangered Species Act, proposed or candidates for listing.

Idaho BLM Sensitive Plant Species Include Type 2 Through Type 4:
Rangewide/Globally Imperiled Species - High Endangerment: Includes species that are experiencing declines throughout their range with a high likelihood of being listed under the Endangered Species Act in the foreseeable future due to their rarity and significant endangerment factors. Type 3: Rangewide/Globally Imperiled Species - Moderate Endangerment: Includes species that are globally rare with moderate endangerment factors. Their global rarity and inherent risks associated with rarity make them imperiled species. Type 4: Species of Concern: Includes species that are generally rare in Idaho with currently low endangerment threats.

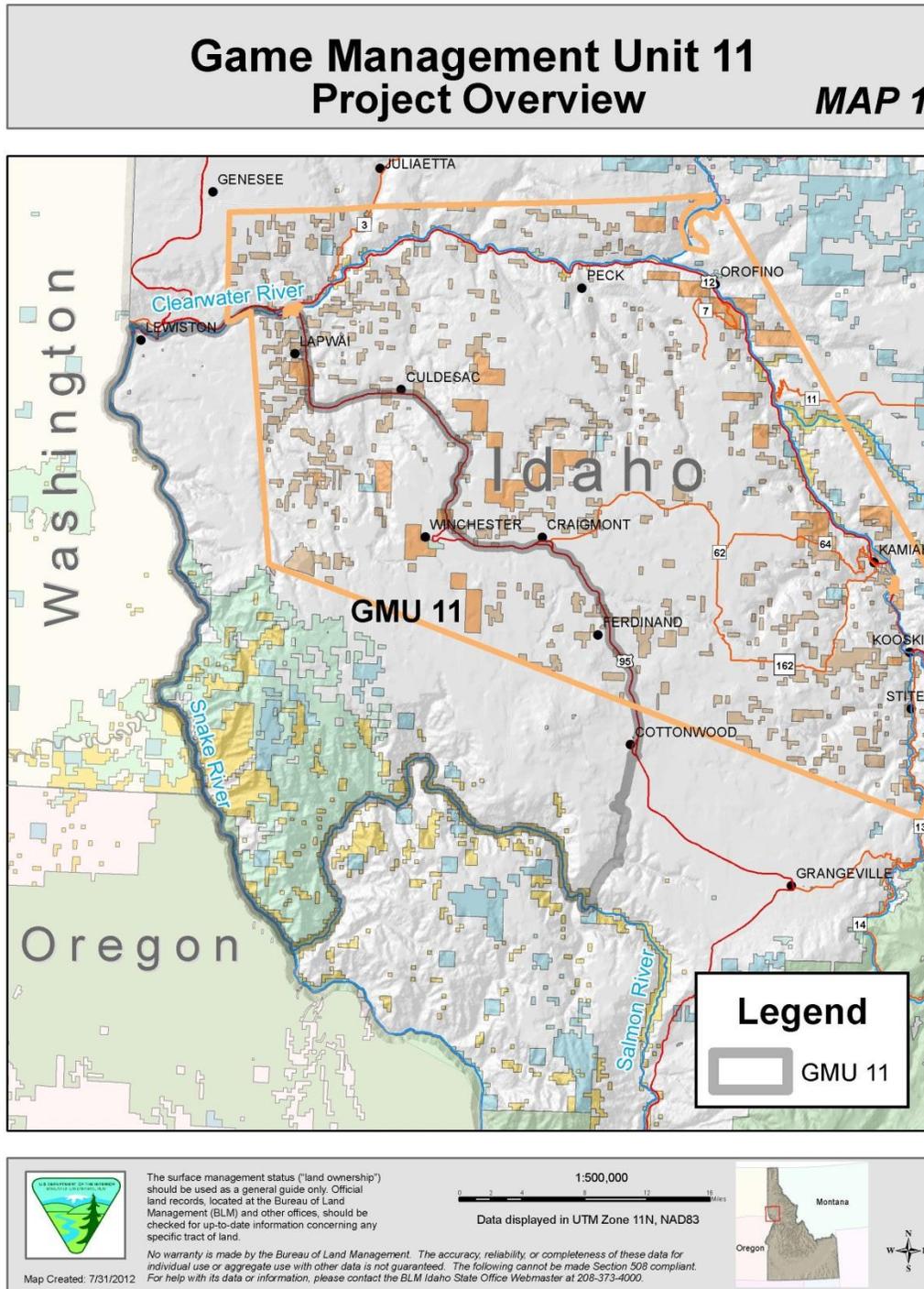
Idaho BLM Watch List Plant Species Include Type 5: Watch List: Includes species that are not considered Idaho BLM sensitive species, but current population or habitat information suggests that species may warrant sensitive species status in the future.

MAP ATTACHMENTS

- Map 1 GMU 11 Project overview
- Map 2 GMU 11 Ownership Acreages
- Map 3 GMU 11 Proposed Commercial Use Area
- Map 4 GMU 11 ACEC/Proposed Wild & Scenic or ACEC/RNA
- Map 5 GMU 11 Special Recreation Management Areas
- Map 6 GMU 11 & 13 Management Blocks Retention Areas

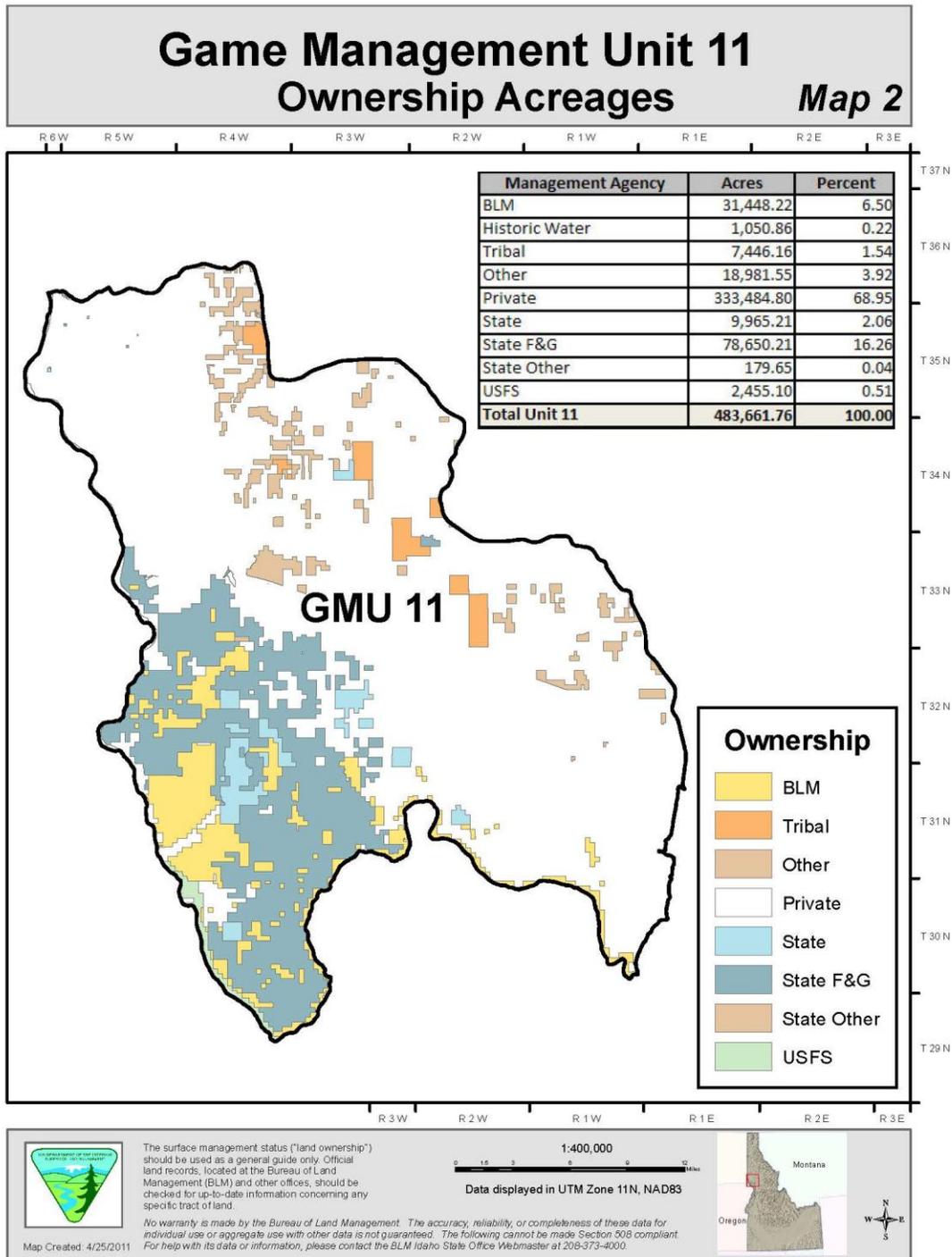
Special Recreation Permit for Outfitter Hunting in Unit 11

Map 1 GMU 11 Project Overview



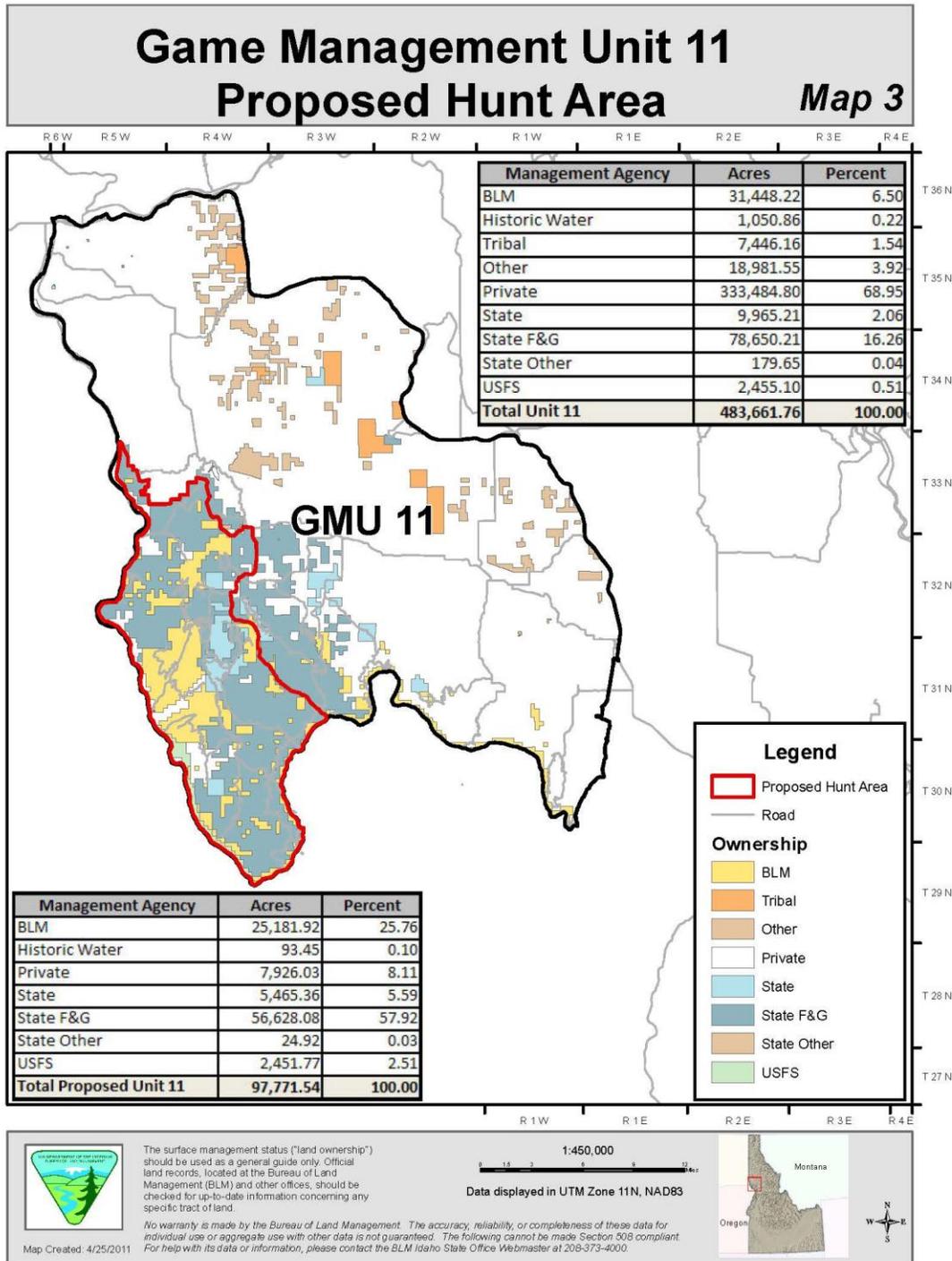
Special Recreation Permit for Outfitter Hunting in Unit 11

Map 2 GMU 11 Ownership Acreages



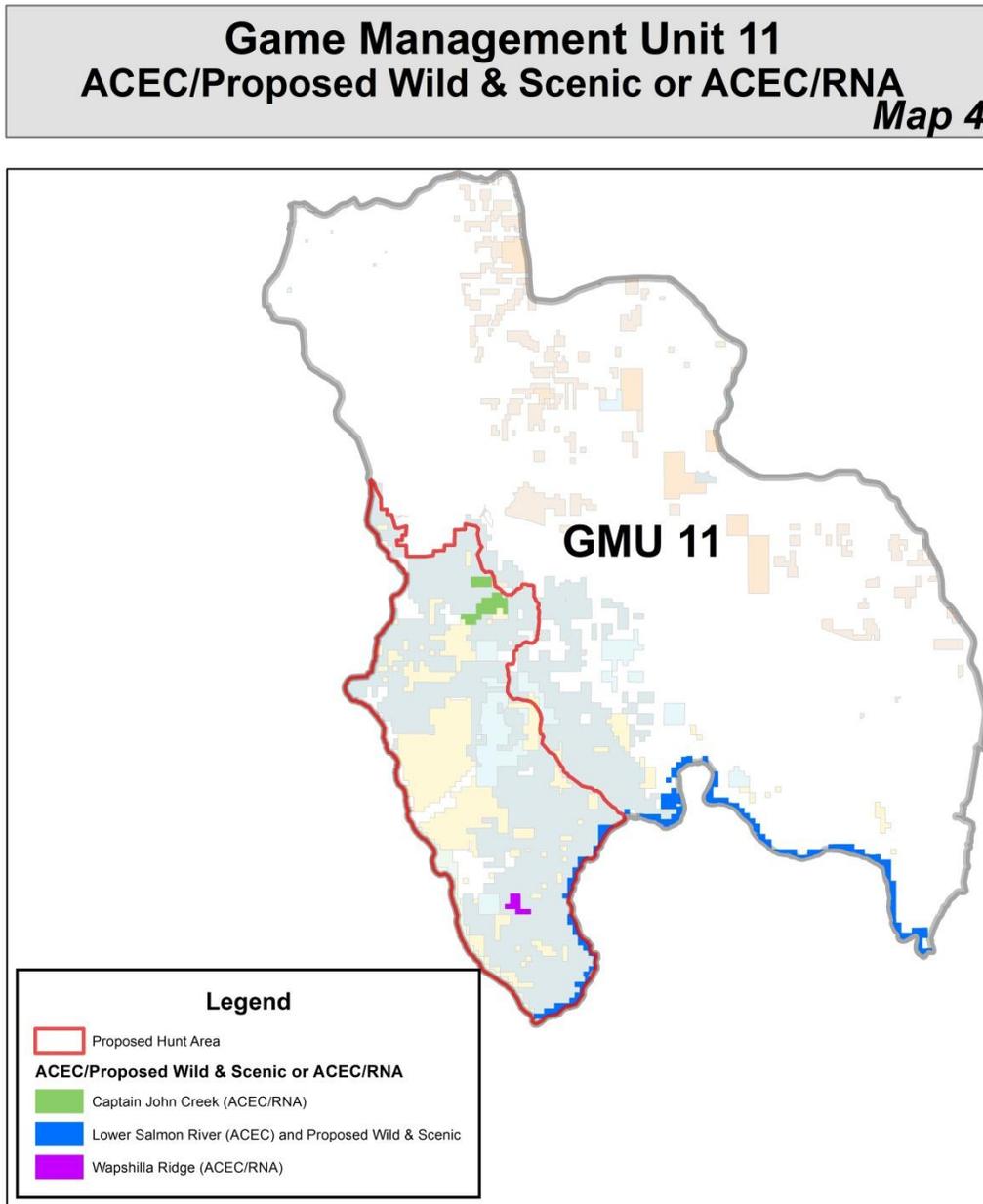
Special Recreation Permit for Outfitter Hunting in Unit 11

Map 3 GMU 11 Proposed Commercial Use Area



Special Recreation Permit for Outfitter Hunting in Unit 11

Map 4 GMU 11 ACEC/Proposed Wild & Scenic or ACEC/RNA



 The surface management status ("land ownership") should be used as a general guide only. Official land records, located at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other offices, should be checked for up-to-date information concerning any specific tract of land.

Map Created: 4/25/2011

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed. The following cannot be made Section 509 compliant. For help with its data or information, please contact the BLM Idaho State Office Webmaster at 208-373-4000.

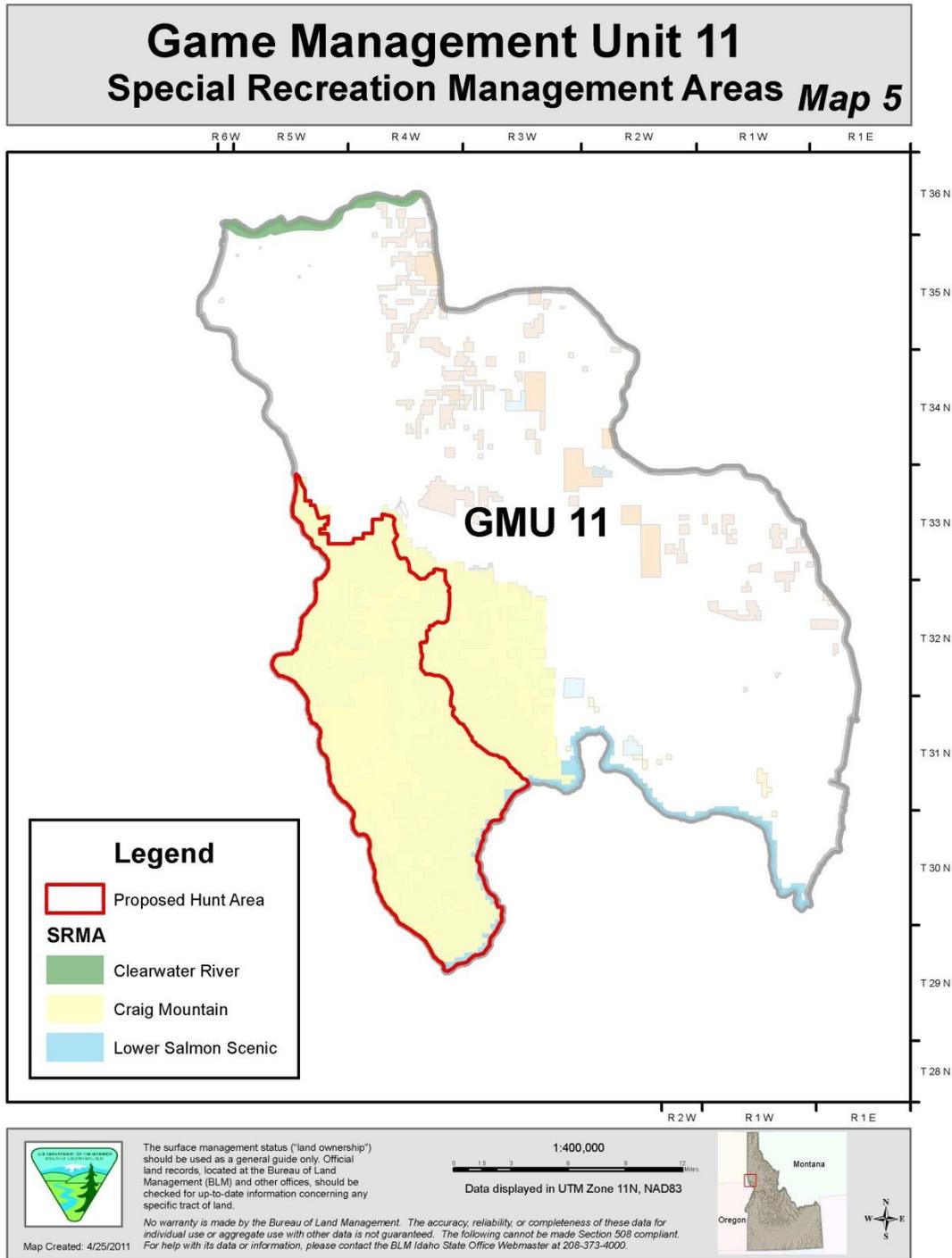
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Special Recreation Permit for Outfitter Hunting in Unit 11

Map 5 GMU 11 Special Recreation Management Areas



Special Recreation Permit for Outfitter Hunting in Unit 11

Map 6 GMU 11&13 Management Blocks Retention Areas

