Pocatello Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision

April 2003

Public

Scoping

Briefing

Package

United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Upper Snake River District
Pocatello Field Office
Pocatello, ID 83201

PURPOSE AND NEED:

The purpose of the Pocatello Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision is to: **1)** respond to resource conditions that have changed, **2)** respond to new issues, and **3)** prepare a comprehensive framework for managing public lands for the next 10 to 15 years. Public land use will be managed on the basis of multiple-use and sustained yield in accordance with the ***Federal Land Policy and Management Act*** of 1976 (**FLPMA**). Resource conditions and public demands over the past 20 years have changed sufficiently to warrant revisiting these decisions and associated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation.

The need for this Pocatello RMP revision is to develop a comprehensive plan that maintains, improves or restores resource conditions and provides for the economic needs of local communities over the long term. The land use planning process is the key tool used by the BLM to manage resources and designate uses on public lands, in coordination with state and local government, tribes, land users and interested public.

Land use plan decisions establish goals and objectives for resource management (i.e., desired future conditions, protective measures, or best management practices), the measures needed to achieve these goals and objectives, and parameters for uses on BLM managed lands.

NEED FOR CHANGE TOPICS SUMMARY:

An extensive review by the RMP interdisciplinary team of current land management decisions/direction from the Malad Management Framework Plan (MFP) 1981, and Pocatello RMP 1988, resulted in: **1)** the identification of key direction for resources/uses that could be carried forward into a revised plan and **2)** the identification of direction for resources/uses that need to be changed to address current laws, regulations and policies, and or address changed conditions on the public lands managed by the Pocatello Field Office (See attached map).

These "Need for Change Topics" would establish broad scale direction to guide future land management actions for resources/uses of public lands managed by the Pocatello Field Office (FO). This direction would serve as the basis for future actions to implement land use plan decisions on a site-specific basis.

Land use decisions can be classified into two categories: **Desired Outcomes** (goals, standards, and or objectives) and **Allowable Uses** and the actions to achieve the identified outcomes. Need for Change Topics address land use direction that needs to be addressed in the revised RMP.

NEED FOR CHANGE TOPICS:

Current land management direction that has proven to be effective and requires no change will continue forward through the analysis process. Some examples of management direction for specific resources/uses not identified as "Need for Change" include: **Air, Soil & Water, Cultural Resources, Paleontology, Fish & Wildlife, Forestry, and Livestock Grazing**.

Need for change has been identified for the following resources/uses to address current laws, regulations and policies, and or address changed conditions on the public lands.

Vegetation:

Desired Future Condition – The need for change suggests direction is needed to identify the desired future condition of vegetation types occurring within the Pocatello FO area. Existing plans provide direction for the uses of vegetation by livestock and wildlife, but do not provide direction for the desired future condition of vegetative resources.

Riparian Areas - The need for change suggests direction is needed to maintain or move riparian areas toward Proper Functioning Condition (PFC). Existing plans only provide direction to maintain riparian areas in good condition or improve riparian areas.

Disturbed Lands - The need for change suggests broad reclamation guidance is needed for rehabilitating public lands after disturbance, including mining activities, fire or other ground disturbing activities. Existing plans do not provide direction for reclamation.

Special Status Species:

The need for change suggests direction is needed for the management of all special status species habitat, including sage grouse, and other associated resource uses within the planning area. This direction would be based on the most recent scientific guidance for the management of affected species. Existing plans provide little or no direction for special status species.

Fire Management:

The need for change suggests the adoption of fire management direction (fire management areas, treatment levels, and fire management restrictions) contained in the Upper Snake Rive District (USRD) **Fire, Fuels, and Related Vegetation Management Plan Amendment** (FMDA). The FMDA is expected to be completed in 2004, well ahead of the completion of the Pocatello RMP revision. Existing plans provide little or no fire management direction.

Recreation:

Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) - The need for change suggests the need to identify the entire Pocatello FO area as "limited" to existing roads and trails for OHV management. This assumes current route designations are valid. Existing direction for the Pocatello FO provides a mix of designations including open, limited and closed areas. No OHV travel designations currently exist for the Malad portion of the Pocatello FO. Open, limited and closed designations are defined in the Glossary.

In addition, the need for change suggests the need to identify the entire Pocatello FO area as "open" for over snow vehicle use. This assumes that current over snow restrictions such as winter range closures are valid. Elk, deer and sage grouse wintering area closures need to be identified for the Malad area of the Pocatello FO. The Malad area is currently undesignated in the existing plan.

Oneida Narrows Special Recreation Management Area - The need for change suggests the need to identify the Oneida Narrows as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). This would provide enhanced management direction for the increasing recreational use. The existing plan provides little or no specific direction for recreational use in the Oneida Narrows area.

Blackfoot Special Recreation Management Area - The need for change suggests enhanced management direction is needed for the Blackfoot SRMA. During the Blackfoot River Wild & Scenic River suitability study, many public comments suggested existing direction for the Blackfoot River SRMA needed to be strengthened to protect river values and uses. The existing plan does not provide the level of protection felt to be needed by the public.

Lands & Realty:

Land Tenure Adjustment - The need for change suggests direction is needed to identify management areas or zones of public lands planned for retention or available to be

considered for disposal. Existing plan direction only identifies specific parcels available for disposal by legal description.

Corridors - The need for change suggests direction is needed to identify utility corridors within the Pocatello FO area based upon consideration of the Western Utilities Group (WUG) corridor needs. The existing plans provide little or no direction for utility corridors.

Alternative Energy Sources -The need for change suggests direction is needed for the development of alternative energy sources, such as wind energy, consistent with the President's National Energy Policy. Existing plans do not provide management direction for the development of alternative energy sources.

Minerals:

Leasable, Locatable, and Common Variety Minerals - The need for change suggests mineral management direction is needed for the Malad portion of the Pocatello FO consistent with LUP Handbook. Existing plans do not provide mineral management direction for the Malad area of the Pocatello FO.

Special Designations:

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) - The need for change suggests all existing ACEC designations be reviewed and consider the possible designation of 437 acres within the Petticoat Peak Wilderness Study Area as an ACEC. This area was not designated in existing plans.

KEY PRELIMINARY PLANNING ISSUES:

Several key preliminary issues have been identified from a variety of sources including the BLM, other agency staff, phone calls, e-mails, and letters from individuals and interested groups. These key issues are:

Vegetation,	Lands & Realty,
Special Status Species,	Minerals,
Fire Management,	Special Designations,
Recreation,	

It is anticipated the upcoming public scoping meeting discussions with participants and comment letters will lead to the identification of relevant issues which will provide specific direction for this planning effort.

PLANNING CRITERIA:

Planning criteria influence all aspects of the planning process including inventory and data collection, formulation of alternatives, estimation of effects, and selection of the preferred alternative. These criteria will set the side boards for focused planning and will guide decision making by topic. They will ensure that efforts are tailored to pertinent issues and that unnecessary data collection and analyses are avoided.

Included in this briefing package, you will find **Preliminary Issues and Planning Criteria** (**Attachment I**) for the Pocatello RMP planning effort. These preliminary issues and planning criteria were initially identified and described by Pocatello FO staff based upon their knowledge and experience. These issues and planning criteria will be refined throughout the planning process. You are encouraged to provide us with **written comments** concerning these **Preliminary Issues and Planning Criteria**.

PLANNING PROCESS:

The overall planning process will include the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The proposal and alternatives evaluated would result in the preparation and approval by the Idaho BLM State Director of a revised RMP for the Pocatello FO. This resulting RMP would provide broad management direction of resources and public land uses for the next 10 to 15 years. This EIS will incorporate public and agency comments received throughout the planning process. Preparation of the EIS and RMP is expected to take place over a 34 month period.

Project milestones include:

1. **Publish Notice of Intent**	**November 2001 (FY02)**
2. **Hold Public Scoping Meetings**	**May/June 2003 (FY03)**
3. **Identify Issues/Develop Alternatives**	**Sept/Oct 2003 (FY03/04)**
4. **Issue Draft EIS/Preferred Alternative**	**November 2004 (FY05)**
5. **Hold Public Meetings on Draft EIS**	**January 2005 (FY05)**
6. **Analyze Comments on Draft EIS**	**April 2005 (FY05)**
7. **Issue Final EIS/Proposed Resource Management Plan**	**August 2005 (FY05)**
8. **Protest Period**	**September 2005 (FY05)**
9. **Sign Record of Decision**	**January 2006 (FY06)**

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED:

The planning process will not be complete without your involvement. Your knowledge of these lands complements our understanding and helps us to establish goals and objectives for the future management of these resources and public land uses.

Please review the identified need for change items described for each resource/use in this briefing package. Where you have experience with a particular resource/use, or where you would be directly affected by an identified change in direction or new direction, please describe your concerns for us in a letter or e-mail. Also, please include any specific information you may have to support this concern.

We also ask that you review the Preliminary Issues and Planning Criteria (**Attachment I**) for suggestions on how these can be improved or strengthened.

Your written comments will help the RMP team to incorporate your concerns and identify issues to be addressed during this planning effort. We look forward to your participation at the upcoming scheduled public meetings.

Your written comments may be e-mailed to **ID_Pocatello_RMP@blm.gov** or sent directly to:

Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Terry Smith
1111 North 8th Avenue
Pocatello, ID 83201

A web site at **www.id.blm.gov/planning/pocrmp** is available to provide you with the latest information regarding the Pocatello RMP Revision.

REMINDER: Your comments need to be received no later than **June 30, 2003**.

In order to keep you informed, we will mail you materials like this briefing package throughout the planning effort. If you wish to remain on the mailing list, you must inform us in writing or attend one of the public meetings. **If we do not receive written comments from you or a written request to stay on the mailing list or if you do not attend one of the scheduled public meetings, your name will be removed and you will not receive any additional information by mail.**

PRIVACY NOTICE: If requested, a copy of all comments provided in response to this briefing package will be made available to the public including names, addresses, and any other personal information provided with the comments. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) – Type of special land use designation specified within the "Federal Land Policy and Management Act" (FLMPA). The designation is used to protect areas with important resource values in need of special management.

Desired Future Condition (DFC) – The condition of rangeland resources on a landscape scale that meet management objectives. It is based on ecological, social, and economic considerations during the land planning process. It is usually expressed as ecological status or management status of vegetation (species composition, habitat diversity, and age and size class of species) and desired soil qualities (soil cover, erosion, and compaction).

Special Status Species (SSS) - BLM sensitive species are designated by the State Director under 16 U.S.C. 1536 (a) (2). Sensitive species are managed so they would not need to be listed as proposed, threatened, or endangered species. They are given the same level of protection as candidate species (BLM Manual 6840).

Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) – Areas which require explicit recreation management to achieve the Bureau's recreation objectives and provide specific recreation opportunities. Major Bureau recreation investments are concentrated in these areas.

Open Area Designation – Any area where all types of vehicle use are permitted at all times in the area subject to the operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth in 43 CFR 8341 and 8342.

Limited Area Designation – An area restricted at certain times, in certain areas, and/or to certain vehicular use. The restrictions may be of any type.

Closed Area Designation – An area where off-highway vehicle (OHV) use is prohibited. Use may be allowed for certain reasons: however such use shall be made only with the approval of the authorized officer.

Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) – Riparian-wetlands function properly when adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows. The functioning condition of these areas is influenced by geomorphic features, soil, water and vegetation.

ATTACHMENT I

PRELIMINARY ISSUES AND PLANNING CRITERIA

Planning Issues help guide the planning process. Land use issues and conflicts that need to be resolved are identified during the scoping process. These issues may stem from such things as new information or changed circumstances, the need to address environmental concerns, or a need to reassess the appropriate mix of allowable uses based on new information obtained through the assessment process.

Planning Criteria are prepared to ensure decision-making is tailored to the issues pertinent to the planning effort and to ensure BLM avoids unnecessary data collection and analyses. These criteria set the side boards for focused planning and guide decision making by topic. Planning criteria are finalized based upon public comment and then approved by the District Manager.

In this document, the preliminary issue[1] is described first, followed by specific planning criteria to be used in addressing the issue. These criteria are being provided to you for review. You are invited to provide comments on these criteria during the **public scoping period of May 1, 2003 – June 30, 2003**.

AIR QUALITY:

Air quality on public lands near Pocatello and Soda Springs, designated as non-attainment areas, is often impacted by pollutants from local industry and urban sprawl. With an increased emphasis on the use of prescribed fire, management activities will have an increased risk of impacting air quality. While most Bureau programs in the planning area have little affect on air quality, both wild and prescribed fire can result in significant effects on a short-term basis.

How will management activities be conducted to meet or exceed air quality standards?

Preliminary Planning Criteria:

► Comply with applicable local, state, tribal and Federal air quality laws, statutes, regulations, standards and implementation plans. This includes applicable "conformity" regulations for BLM initiated or authorized activities within designated non-attainment or maintenance areas.

[1] Issues initially identified for public consideration/discussion. Additional issues may be added or existing issues may be modified or dropped based upon public comments.

► Incorporate direction from the Upper Snake River District (USRD) Fire, Fuels, and related Vegetation Plan Amendment.

WATER QUALITY:

Several Idaho Section 303(d) listed streams occurring within the planning area are affected by management activities. The highly fragmented ownership pattern of these public lands makes meaningful protection and/or improvement of water quality difficult where pollution sources often originate on neighboring, non-public lands.

How will uses and activities be managed to meet or exceed water quality standards?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Idaho Non-Point Source Management Program Plans and relevant state water quality standards,
► Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program and other water quality programs,
► Incorporate program and Best Management Practices (BMPs) where applicable,
► Consider recommendations consistent with the Blackfoot and Portneuf Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) and other approved TMDLs.

SOILS:

Management activities such as road construction, mining, grazing, off-highway (OHV) vehicle use, and prescribed fire contribute to soil erosion. Maintaining the long-term productivity of soils is at the core of sound land management practices and the Bureau's responsibility.

How will uses and activities be managed to protect and maintain soil productivity?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Incorporate program and activity Best Management Practices (BMP) as appropriate,
► Incorporate Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management,
► Incorporate guidance from scientific findings of the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plan.

VEGETATION:

a. Riparian:

Inventory shows many of the riparian habitats on public lands are not in Proper Functioning Condition (PFC). Livestock grazing, road construction, mining, timber harvest, and recreation are the primary activities that impact riparian areas. Riparian and Wetland habitats are of critical importance to fish and wildlife in the planning area. They generally comprise less than 10% of the landscape, yet provide habitat for a significant proportion of the fish and wildlife species. Riparian/wetland areas include streams, springs, seeps, and wetlands.

How will uses and activities be managed to maintain or improve riparian habitat to achieve Proper Functioning Condition?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Comply with Executive Order 11990,
► Maintain, improve and restore natural functions to benefit water storage, groundwater recharge, water quality, and fish and wildlife values,
► Design Best Management Practices (BMP) to maintain or improve resource integrity,
► Incorporate Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management,
► Apply BLM Idaho Riparian Policy guidance as applicable,

b. Uplands:

Management activities continue to impact the natural function and condition of upland vegetation communities. Structurally diverse and healthy upland plant communities provide habitat for wildlife, soil stabilization, increased infiltration of precipitation, and for moving clean water to adjacent streams.

How will uses and activities be managed to maintain or obtain healthy upland plant communities?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Incorporate Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management,
► Provide for the protection and restoration of native species,
► Provide for multiple use and sustained yield of forage for wildlife and domestic livestock,
► In consultation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game assure wildlife habitat is sustained.

c. Invasive/Noxious Species:

Invasive species and noxious weeds impact indigenous plant species, special status plants, wildlife habitat, and soils. The BLM is responsible for controlling noxious weeds, as identified by the State of Idaho, on public lands and coordinating with county, state, and private landowners and reducing the establishment of undesirable species. Some species are so wide spread that eradication is no longer feasible. Management objectives are limited to reduce numbers and rate of spread through the use of mechanical, chemical or biological control agents. Recently introduced species can be eradicated if detected early. Effective management will require an increase in inventory and participation in cooperative efforts to educate the public.

What actions and or restrictions will be needed to maintain or improve natural resource values impacted by undesirable species and noxious weeds?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Integrate weed management guidelines and design features identified in the "Vegetation Treatment on BLM Land in the 13 Western States EIS" and the "Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program EIS.",
► Protect non-target and special status plant species during treatment(s),
► Incorporate Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management,
► Consider availability of alternatives to mix or combine control methods to increase effectiveness of application techniques,
► Laws and executive orders requiring control of invasive species on Federal land.
► Comply with Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species (Feb. 1999).

CULTURAL RESOURCES:

The planning area contains many significant prehistoric, historic, and traditional cultural sites. Less than 20% of the entire area has been inventoried for historic and prehistoric resources. Traditional cultural resources are only beginning to be understood and identified. Recreation activities, accidental trespass, theft and vandalism are all sources of cultural resource degradation. Protection of cultural resource sites includes identification, stabilization, and enhancement.

How will cultural resources be protected?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Consultation with Tribal Government(s) and State Historical Preservation Office,
► Identification and protection of historical and cultural places,

► Protect, preserve and enhance sites listed in the National Historic Register,
► Incorporate Idaho Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:

Unregulated OHV traffic, particularly along the urban/rural interface, and the increasing need for communication site facilities to accommodate new technologies are the primary issues affecting visual resources. BLM is responsible for ensuring that the scenic values of public lands are considered in all proposed actions that may affect visual quality. BLM manages the visual resource by identifying visual resource values, establishing objectives for managing those values, and taking action to achieve the visual management objectives

Where are the different visual resource values within the planning unit and to what degree should they be protected?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Guidance described in BLM Manual Section 8400 - Visual Resource Management.

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES:

Special status species are plant and animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act as threatened or endangered, and/or BLM's sensitive species list. The planning area supports habitat for a number of federally listed and BLM sensitive species. Habitat(s) for special status species are affected by wildfire, grazing, off-highway vehicle use, and rural/urban development on neighboring private lands (fragmentation of habitat).

How will uses and activities be managed to promote recovery of listed species and prevent listing of additional species?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Incorporate as applicable, Interior Columbia Basin Science Assessment guidance,
► Applicable Conservation Agreement and Strategy plans (i.e. Bonneville Cutthroat Trout, Canada Lynx, and Sage Grouse),
► Management actions that do not jeopardize the continued existence of federally listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species, or result in the destruction or modification of critical habitat,
► Incorporate Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management,
► Management actions that protect State sensitive species and do not contribute to the listing of species proposed for Federal listing (candidate species).

FISH AND WILDLIFE:

The planning unit contains a diversity of important habitats (i.e. winter habitat) for a variety of fish and wildlife species. Habitat quality is in decline as a result of wildfire, grazing, and the growing rural/urban development of neighboring lands. Where public lands ownership patterns are highly fragmented, meaningful protection and/or improvement of fish and wildlife habitats is difficult. The key to maintaining fish and wildlife habitats is maintaining diverse, healthy vegetation and plant communities.

How will uses and activities be managed to enhance fish and wildlife habitat(s)?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Incorporate as applicable, Interior Columbia Basin Science Assessment guidance,
► Protect and preserve genetic integrity,
► Consider risks associated with Federal listing of fish and wildlife species,
► Protect and maintain the intrinsic and recreational values associated with native and appropriate non-native species,
► Habitat needs identified in consultation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game,
► Protect critical deer and elk winter range and big game habitat.

FIRE MANAGEMENT:

The Pocatello RMP revision will adopt fire management direction from the Upper Snake River District's **Fire, Fuels, and Related Vegetation Management Plan Amendment (FMDA)** to be completed in mid 2004. This direction will meet regulatory needs for the Pocatello RMP revision.

FORESTRY:

The planning area contains over 100,000 acres of forests and woodlands. Wooded areas provide habitat for wildlife, watershed protection, recreational and aesthetic values, and forest products. Fire suppression activities of the past century and prolonged drought throughout the last decade have changed the pre-settlement character of tree species composition and stand densities, thereby increasing the risk of wildfire and the biological opportunities for forest insects and disease. Encroachment of juniper into rangelands formerly dominated by sagebrush is causing loss of forage, loss of habitat for many wildlife species, and accelerated soil erosion.

How will forest and woodland health be maintained or restored? What areas are available and have the capacity for planned, sustained-yield timber harvest or special forest product harvest?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Guidance and criteria contained in the Pocatello Field Office Programmatic Forestry Environmental Assessment, December 2000,
► The Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project: Scientific Assessment, September 1999, and guidance contained in BLM Manual 5400/5000-12-a1,
► Standards for Rangeland Health,
► Need to enhance/protect wildlife habitat(s),
► Consider pre-European settlement stand composition,
► Availability of access,
► Native American treaty rights within the ceded Fort Hall Reservation boundaries,
► Public demand for forest products,
► Continuing effects of drought, insects, and disease,
► Inventory of Timber Production and Capability Classifications (TPCC)

LIVESTOCK GRAZING:

Properly managed livestock grazing can reduce conflicts with other uses and maintain or improve rangelands to desired conditions. Improper livestock grazing is detrimental to important ecological functions (i.e. water quality, soil stability) and plant community structure/diversity, (i.e. riparian areas). The Pocatello planning area currently authorizes livestock grazing on 467 grazing allotments.

What lands are or are not available to livestock grazing? How will livestock grazing be managed to reduce user conflicts and meet standards for rangeland health and guidelines for livestock grazing management?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Conformance with existing laws, regulations and BLM policy pertaining to livestock grazing on public lands,
► Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management,
► Consider ecological site inventory information,
► Need to protect important biological resource functions that provide for soil stability, water quality, and healthy riparian and uplands vegetation communities, and maintain conditions for desired plant communities,
►Authorize use to minimize environmental impacts under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT:

Outdoor recreation use for developed and undeveloped recreation opportunities is increasing rapidly and there increasing demand for commercially permitted activities. Increasing demand creates user conflicts and an increasing demand for facilities, user

information, and access. Within the planning area there are currently two Special Recreation Management Areas - the Pocatello (City) Front, and the Blackfoot River.

How should recreation opportunities be managed to meet demand, and what areas are suitable for Special Recreation Management designation?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Consider availability of law enforcement,
► Consider need to provide for and enhance recreation opportunities to accommodate use and reduce impacts to resources,
► Consider lands identified as special recreation management areas (SRMA), and those areas subject to special measures to protect resources or reduce conflicts among uses,
► Consider need to ensure existing recreation facilities can be properly maintained prior to proposals and construction of new facilities.
► Consider need to provide for and enhance recreation opportunities to accommodate use and reduce impacts to resources.

a. Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Management:

OHV use in the planning area is a popular form of recreation. OHV use can impact wildlife habitat, soil stability, landscapes, and create conflicts with residential development and other user groups. The proliferation of roads and trails in the planning area is extensive, particularly on or near the Pocatello urban interface. Approximately half of the planning area (400,000 acres) is currently "open" to motorized vehicle use or has no designated areas where vehicles are required to remain on roads and trails.

How will OHV use be managed to protect resources, reduce user conflicts, and provide motorized recreation opportunities for users?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Public safety,
► Consider need to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, and other resources,
► Consider need to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats,
► Consider need to minimize conflicts between OHV use and other existing or proposed recreational uses,
► Ensure compatibility of OHV designations with designations and conditions on neighboring federal, state, county, and municipal subdivisions, taking into account safety, noise and other related factors,
► Comply with BLM, National Off-Highway Vehicle Management Strategy,
► Comply with Executive Orders 11644 and 11989.

LANDS AND REALTY:

a. Corridors

The planning area contains a number of utility, transportation, and communication rights-of-ways. The locations of some of these existing rights-of-ways may or may not be suitable for expansion or development into corridors. It is important to identify those public lands that are suitable for above and/or below ground rights-of-way corridors that provide for common public need.

What lands will be available for right-of-way corridors, and what are the limitations on further development of existing utility, transportation, and communication rights-of-way?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► 1992 Western Regional Corridor Study prepared by the Western Utility Group,
► Comply with Section 503, FLPMA,
► Minimize adverse environmental impacts and the proliferation of separate rights-of-ways,
► Utilize existing/common rights-of-ways to the extent possible,
► Identify public lands with existing rights-of-way corridors that may or may not be suitable for additional rights-of-ways,
► Identify areas where corridors are not permitted,
► Identify conflicts with existing or potential resource values and uses,
► Consider Visual Resource Management (VRM) classifications.

b. Public Access:

Many tracts of public lands, large and small, within the planning area have no legal access for the public. Population growth, rural/urban development, and increasing recreational activity have resulted in an increased need for access to public lands. If landowners are willing and money is available, the BLM can negotiate and purchase easements for public access.

Where is there a need for access to public lands?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Consider the type and need for existing or proposed facility,
► Consider conflicts with existing or potential resource values and uses,
► Comply with Section 205 of FLPMA,
► Consider cost and benefits,
► Consider the duration and assurance of title.

c. Land Tenure Adjustment:

The burden and cost, per acre, to manage public land is very high due to fragmented ownership within the planning area. Many parcels are less than 180 acres and have no legal access. Land tenure adjustments provide opportunities that can reduce these burdens and costs and provide for more effective management of consolidated parcels.
What values are associated with isolated tracts and opportunities exist to make adjustments to public land ownership to improve efficiency of management and increase public use benefits?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Comply with Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act of 2000,
► Comply with Section 203 and 206 of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act (FLPMA),
► The need to facilitate access to public lands and resources,
► The need to maintain or enhance important resource values uses,
► Consider maintaining or enhancing local social and economic values,
► Improve management efficiency through the elimination of isolated tracts and consolidation of public lands.

MINERALS AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT/DEVELOPMENT:

The planning area has potential for the discovery of additional phosphate deposits, geothermal energy, oil and gas, hardrock, and locatable minerals. Mineral and energy development activities can impact visual quality, fish and wildlife habitat, forage availability, and soil stability. These impacts are eliminated or reduced through carefully developed, site-specific stipulations e.g., reclamation, special management of waste rock, control of development methods, and avoiding critical wildlife habitats.

How will mineral and energy development activities be managed to provide for products while protecting other natural resources?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► The need to make public lands available for the orderly and efficient development of energy and mineral resources,
► Identify areas that are managed specifically to protect resource values.

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS:

The planning area contains a number of Special Designations that serve to protect a variety of unique resource values e.g., Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's), Research Natural Areas/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (RNA/ACEC's), Oregon and California

National Historic Trails, and eligible river corridor segments under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

What areas are suitable or require special designations to protect unique resource values?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Comply with FLPMA, Sections 201, 202,
► Comply with Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review, BLM Handbook 8550-1,
► **Manage** identified suitable river segments for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in accordance with BLM Manual 8351 Wild and Scenic Rivers Policy,
► Comply with the Wilderness Inventory and Procedures Handbook (H-6310-1)

AMERICAN INDIAN CONCERNS:

Because of the proximity of the Shoshone-Bannock Fort Hall Indian Reservation to the planning area, there is a high probability of the existence of sacred sites, landscapes, traditional cultural use areas and other significant historical areas. While some of these are known, there are doubtless others that have not been identified for protection (only 20% of the planning area inventoried). This will require inventory, protection, and interpretation to meet Section 110 responsibilities.

How can sacred sites, landscapes, traditional cultural use areas and significant tribal historical areas be protected?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Manage to retain values that make cultural resources/areas significant to tribal members,
► Protect cultural use areas in cooperation with Tribal Government(s),
► Comply with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 and Amendments (post 1987) to the National Historic Preservation Act.

TREATY RIGHTS:

Federally recognized tribes retain special legal rights to use public land. These rights may preclude or eliminate other recognized land uses. Cooperative management is the key to achieving management goals for both the Tribes and BLM.

How can treaty rights and Federal trust responsibilities best be met?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Comply with Fort Bridger Treaty rights with all associated management activities and uses.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY (LOCAL COMMUNITIES):

Leasing for mineral development on public lands is an important part of southeastern Idaho's economy. Mineral processing industries employ over 1500 people in the planning area. Livestock production on public lands also makes a considerable contribution to the health of local and rural economies. Population growth continues to increase and shift the demand on public lands for many uses e.g., recreation opportunities. This demand and shift in the kinds of uses of public lands may contribute to changes in the economies of the 7 counties and communities within the planning area.

How will public land uses affect the social and economic resiliency and sustainability of local economies?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► The need to promote social and economic diversification and resiliency in southeastern Idaho,
► Recognition of increasing demand for outdoor recreational opportunities,
► Recognition that local community economies are dependant on goods and services from public lands.

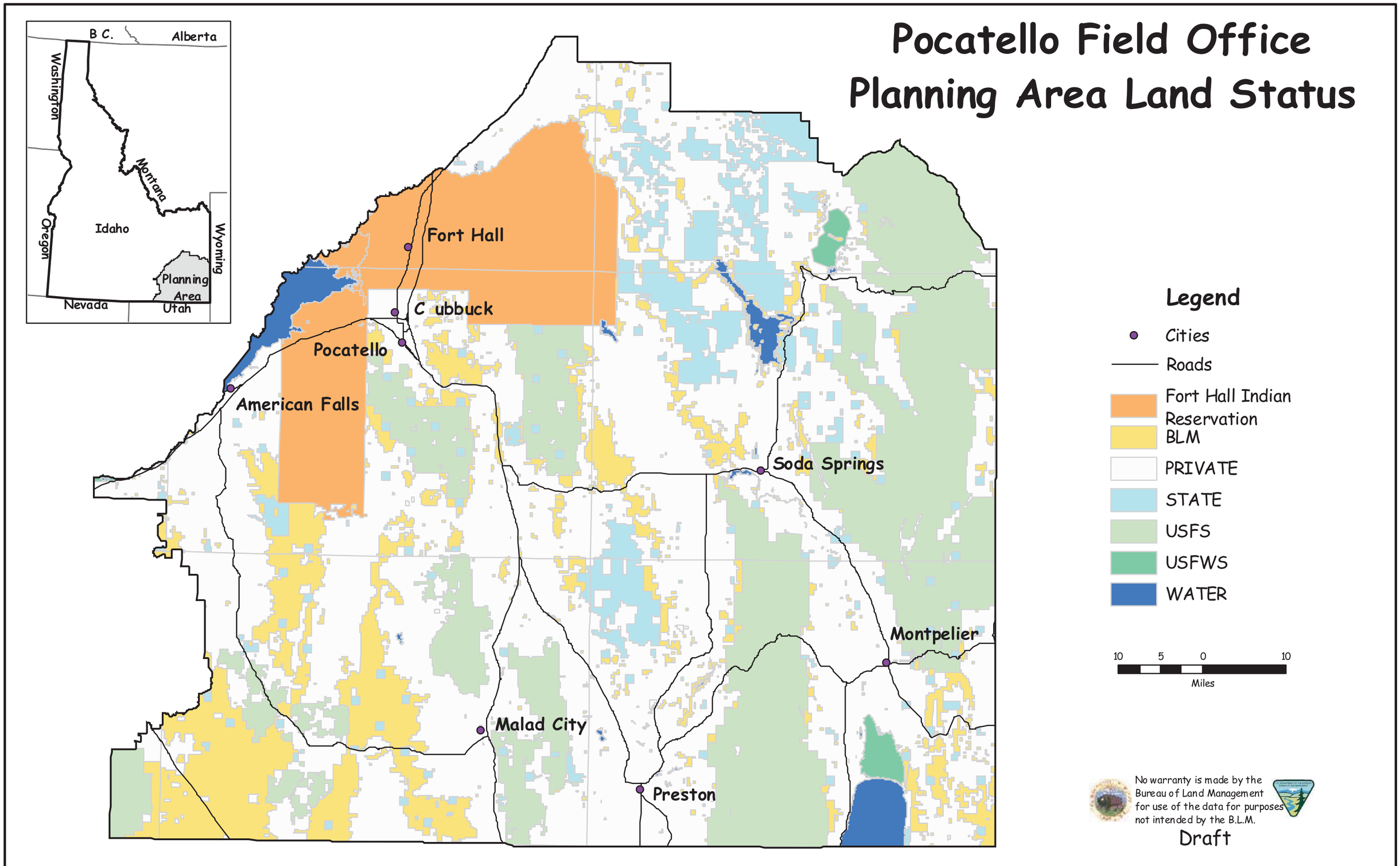
AGRICULTURE PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE (APHIS) AND WILDLIFE SERVICES (WS) COORDINATION:

The BLM routinely cooperates with APHIS in the control of grasshoppers and crickets, and with WS in the control of predators. Aphis and WS prepare Environmental Assessments (EA) for control activities. These documents are reviewed and approved by the BLM when the control activities occur on public lands within the planning unit.

What restrictions should be placed on planning area insect and predator control activities?

Preliminary Planning Criteria

► Consult and coordinate with APHIS and WS on all proposed insect and predator control activities.


Pocatello Field Office
Planning Area Land Status
B C.
Alberta
Washington
Montana
Idaho
Oregon
Wyoming
Planning Area
Nevada
Utah
Fort Hall
C ubbuck
Pocatello
American Falls
Soda Springs
Montpelier
Malad City
Preston
Legend
Cities
Roads
Fort Hall Indian Reservation
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