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Predator Hunt Derby

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CHAPTER 1- INTRODUCTION

Background

While hunting has always been allowed on public lands, hunting and fishing derbies on public lands are increasing in popularity. Age old hunting traditions of competing for the biggest fish or wild game, has transitioned from informal wagers between family and friends to sanctioned competitive events. Typically in the past, these events have occurred on private lands and private hunting clubs, but as the popularity of the contest grow, public land managers are seeing more interest from the public to host these types of events on public lands and waters. The Bureau of Land Management has a procedure for accommodating such requests through the special recreation permit (SRP) administration process. SRPs are authorizations which allow specified recreational uses of public lands and related waters. SRPs allow the BLM to manage visitor use, protect natural and cultural resources, and achieve the goals and objectives of the field office recreation program as outlined in applicable land use plans. SRPs also serve as the mechanism to authorize six different types of recreational uses. Based on policy outlined in the BLM's Recreation Permit Administration Handbook H-2930-1, fishing and hunting derbies fall under the competitive use category. Competitive use means any organized, sanctioned, or structured use, event or activity on public land in which two or more contestants compete and either of the following elements apply:

1. Participants register, enter or complete an application for the event; or
2. A predetermined course or area is designated.

During the first week of December of 2013, the BLM Salmon Field Office received a request from Idaho for Wildlife to hold a predator hunt derby on private, state, U.S. Forest Service and BLM-managed lands within the Salmon area. This event was scheduled to take place the last week of December 2013. Given the short time frame between the request and the event, the BLM was given to process the permit, the BLM denied the applicant the opportunity for a permit. The BLM advised Idaho for Wildlife that it would not be able to process the application before the last week in December. The BLM recommended to Idaho for Wildlife to submit an application 6 months in advance for any events they would like considered in subsequent years. Consequently, the derby was held on private, state and U.S. Forest Service managed lands. Participants were advised that animals harvested from BLM-managed lands would not be eligible for prizes.

In accordance with BLM's advice, in June 2014, Idaho for Wildlife submitted an application for a second predator derby to be held January 2nd through 4th, 2015. This Environmental Assessment (EA) is an analysis of the potential environmental impacts that could result from implementing the application received by Idaho for Wildlife to host a predator hunt derby on BLM managed public lands as described in the proposed action. The EA assists the BLM in project planning, ensures compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and provides the analysis for making a determination of significance based on the consideration of context and intensity of the impacts.

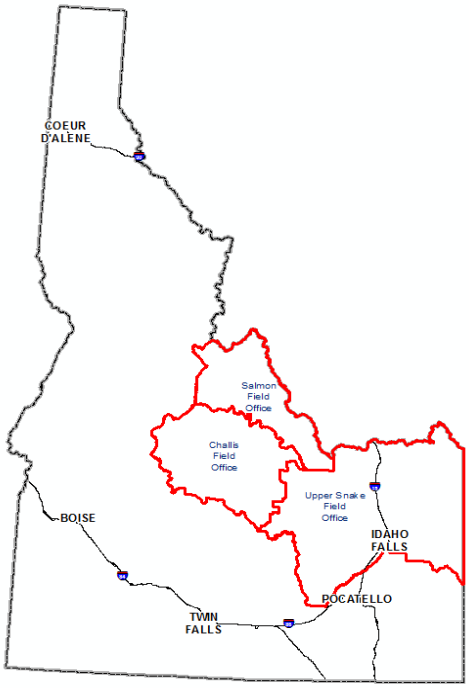
Purpose and Need for Action

The BLM's purpose is to respond to an application submitted by Idaho for Wildlife to host a

competitive event on public lands administered by the Idaho Falls District Office. The BLM needs to consider the proposed action as the agency is responsible, under the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLPMA), to manage public lands for multiple uses in a manner which recognizes the nation's need for recreation opportunities on public land.

Location

The area of analysis includes approximately 3,100,000 acres of BLM-managed public lands located within the Challis, Salmon and Upper Snake Field Offices of the Idaho Falls District. These lands encompass Lemhi, Fremont, Jefferson, Teton, Madison, Bingham, Bonneville, Power, Custer, Butte and Blaine Counties. The majority of the use would occur on lands surrounding the communities of Salmon, Leadore, Challis, North Fork and Gibbonsville, all located in Lemhi and Custer Counties (See Appendix A).



Conformance with the Applicable Land Use Plan

The area potentially affected by the proposed action is governed by six land use plans: the Lemhi Resource Management Plan, as amended (April 1987); the Challis Resource Management Plan, as amended (July 1999); the Medicine Lodge Resource Management Plan (April 1985); the Little Lost/Birch Creek Management Plan (1981); the Big Desert Management Framework Plan (1981); and the Big Lost Management Framework Plan (1982).

The proposed action is consistent with the Lemhi Resource Management Plan because a variety of recreational opportunities are specifically provided for in the following Land Use Plan decision:

<u>Recreation Opportunities</u> (Pg. 44): "A broad range of outdoor recreation opportunities will continue to be provided for all segments of the public, depending on demand."

The proposed action is in accordance with the Challis Resource Management Plan, which provides:

<u>Recreation Opportunities and Visitor Use, Goal 3 (page 55):</u> Provide recreation opportunities for the remainder of the resource area not included in a [Special Recreation Management Area], including areas specifically for unstructured outdoor experiences, trails, (e.g., hiking, horseback riding, bicycling), recreational mineral collection, and OHV use.

While not specifically provided for in the Medicine Lodge Resource Management Plan the issuance of SRPs for competitive events is consistent with the following plan objectives, terms, and conditions and, if applicable, implementation plan decision:

Management Area 4 Scatted Tracts (page 11-12),: Continue to manage the area for dispersed recreation activities."

The proposed action is in conformance with the Little Lost/Birch Creek Management Framework Plan (1981), which provides:

Recreation management objective #5 (page 11): "Maintain or enhance the present quality of recreation activities/opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and
wildlife viewing in the planning unit."

The Big Desert and Big Lost Management Framework Plans do not specifically address SRP applications, but the documents provide general guidelines for recreation on public lands.

Relationship to Statutes, Regulations or Other Plans

The proposed action is authorized by or consistent with the following laws, and treaties:

- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C §§1701-1782, October 21, 1976, as amended)
- The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, January 1, 1970, as amended)
- The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544, 87 Stat. 884), as amended
- The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended. (16 U.S.C. 703-712; Ch. 128; July 13, 1918; 40 Stat. 755) as amended
- The 1868 Fort Bridger Treaty, between the United States and the Shoshone and Bannock Tribes, reserves the Tribes right to hunt, fish, gather, and exercise other traditional uses and practices on unoccupied federal lands. In addition to these rights, the Shoshone Bannock have the right to graze tribal livestock and cut timber for tribal use on those lands of the original Fort Hall Reservation that were ceded to the federal government under the Agreement of February 5, 1898, ratified by the Act of June 6, 1900.

Scoping, Issues, and Decision to be Made

Scoping

In response to the application received in June 2014, the BLM created an inter-disciplinary team (IDT), comprised of recreation, forestry, wilderness, wildlife, range, fisheries, weeds,

archaeology, and lands to consider and discuss the potential impacts of the proposed event. A smaller IDT was created to further analyze these impacts as discussed in detail in Chapter 2.

On August 4, 2014, the BLM initiated a 15-day public scoping period. A scoping letter and a Notice of Proposed Action in Wilderness Study Area (WSA) was released prior to August 4, 2014, to inform interested publics of the proposed action. Approximately 56,500 comments were received during the scoping period. Roughly 56,490 commentors indicated opposition to the event; most of these letters were copies of nine different form letters that expressed general disapproval of a hunting derby wherever it is held. Approximately 500 unique/personalized comments were received.

Scoping Comments

Many individuals and organizations showed interest in the proposal through input received during the scoping process. Some of these comments were received from local and regional members of the public, but the majority of the comments were from national and international members of the public who received email alerts regarding the project from organizations such as Western Watersheds Project, Care2.org, Center for Biological Diversity, Wild Earth Guardians, MoveOn.org, the Coyote Project and Defenders of Wildlife. Almost all of the opposition comments include statements about disrupting the natural balance of the ecosystem and the nature of the event being unethical. A few of the commentors supporting the event referenced the hunting heritage of Idaho, multiple uses of public lands, and predator control as a means to manage big game populations. All of the commenters who provided specific responses indicated that public lands managed by the BLM are important to them or their supporters because they value these resources for wildlife, recreation, education, scenic qualities, wilderness, and leaving a healthy legacy for future generations.

Issues

The following issues were identified through internal and external scoping and are further analyzed in the environmental assessment:

1. How does the proposed event impact economic and social values?
2. How does the proposed project impact existing recreational uses or contribute to user created conflicts?
3. How will the proposed action affect wildlife habitat and threatened species in the project area?
4. How does the proposed action impact Tribal and Treaty Rights?; and
5. Does the proposed project meet the non-impairment standard for actions within a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and does the proposed action impact the WSAs future designation as Wilderness?

Decision to be Made

Based on the NEPA analysis, the authorized officer will approve the application and issue a SRP, approve the the application and issue a SRP subject to terms and conditions, or deny the application.

CHAPTER 2 –ALTERNATIVES

Alternative A (Applicant's Proposed Action)

Predator Hunt Derby Application for a Special Recreation Permit

The proposed action is for the BLM to issue a 5 year special recreation permit (SRP) to Idaho for Wildlife. This would allow an annual predator hunt derby on public lands managed by the Challis, Salmon, and Upper Snake Field Offices of the Idaho Falls District, totaling approximately 3,100,000 acres. For the purposes of the competition, predators include a variety of species, including, wolves, coyotes, weasels, skunks, jackrabbits, raccoons, and starlings. Harvests of gray wolves within Idaho are regulated by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). All rules and hunting regulations associated with a purchased wolf tag can be found at http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/docs/rules/bgWolf.pdf. The other species are un-regulated and therefore there is no limit on the number of animals harvested. Predatory wildlife may be taken in any number year-round and at any time by holders of the appropriate valid Idaho hunting or trapping licenses, provided such taking is not in violation of state, county or city laws, ordinances, rules or regulations.

Registration for the event would occur online or in person at a private business in Salmon, Idaho, and would be open for up to 500 participants. Because there is the opportunity for online registration, some competitors could hunt from distant locations on private or National Forest administered lands. However, the majority of the competitors would register in person and hunt within a short drive of Salmon, Idaho. Registered participants then harvest as many predators as they can within 3 days following the check-in. There would be no trapping for any species allowed as part of this event. Participants bring their harvested predators to a location on private property within Salmon, where they would compete on a point system based on the number and types of predators harvested. Legal predators as classified by Idaho Fish and Game that may be harvested as part of this event includes coyotes, skunks, weasels, jackrabbits, raccoons and starlings. Idaho Fish and Game manages the populations of these species listed as predatory wildlife and they have established that these species may be taken in any number, year-round, and at any time by holders of the appropriate valid Idaho hunting or trapping licenses, provided such taking is not in violation of state, county or city laws, ordinances, rules or regulations. The Gray Wolf, which is listed as a big game predator is also an acceptable targeted predator species as part of this event and the applicant would work closely with Idaho Fish and Game to ensure that the bag limit quota is not exceeded.

The applicant would be permitted to host a competitive event on public lands, and as such participants would have to comply with all regulations associated with public lands, including travel designations, game retrieval laws, and shooting restrictions (i.e. campgrounds, buildings). In addition, the design features/stipulations identified as part of the proposed event include:

- All Idaho Fish and Game hunting rules would apply.
- This event could occur between December 15 and January 15, and would be valid for 5 years after a successful initial 1-year probation period given the applicant completed the annual permit maintenance required and followed all applicable laws, regulations, and

stipulations.

- 3 consecutive days of competitive use of public lands within the permit area would be authorized under this permit.
- The anticipated use is between 250 to 300 registered competitors, however, the permit would allow for up to 500 competitors to accommodate growth in subsequent years.
- The applicant must provide information to the competitors regarding regulations associated with the public lands which would include travel designations, game retrieval laws, and shooting restrictions in addition to providing information regarding state hunting laws.
- In the event that any of the WSAs located within the action area are designated as wilderness, the permit would be amended to exclude the wilderness areas.
- The applicant would notify the Salmon Field Office of the intended derby dates 6 weeks in advance in subsequent years.
- Hunters would be required to disclose the location of where they harvested their animals entered into the contest during the nightly check-in.
- All vehicles and equipment used as a part of the event must be washed clean of mud and debris to reduce the spread of weed seed.

Monitoring:
Random monitoring would occur to ensure the permittee is implementing the stipulations and design features identified. A BLM representative would be present at the pre-meet and registration to ensure that the applicable rules and regulations are clearly communicated to the contestants.

Alternative B (No Action)

The BLM would not approve the SRP application submitted by Idaho for Wildlife. The recreation opportunities would remain as present within BLM administered lands in the Idaho Falls District. The event would likely still occur on private, state, and National Forest administered lands within the region.

CHAPTER 3 - AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section provides a description of the general environmental setting and resources within that setting that could be affected by the proposed action and alternative(s). In addition, the section presents an analysis of the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts likely to result from the implementation of the various alternatives.

General Setting:

The proposed action is located across a broad landscape encompassing varied terrain, generally characterized by wide open rolling sagebrush valleys with panoramic, steep forested mountains. Most of this area is very rural, and ranching has played an important role in the development of these lands. The impacts of ranching very visible today with fences, livestock developments, and roads scattered amongst the valley bottoms and rolling bench terrain. Roads are visible throughout the action area and most were pioneered for historical logging, mining, and ranching activities. However, today, most use is related to recreation and ranching activities. Because the area is so immense both elevation and precipitation vary, but valley bottoms typically average around 3,000 ft. above sea level and the high ridges of the Beaverhead and Salmon River Mountains extend as high as 8,000 ft. above seal level Annual average precipitation for the action area varies from 14 to 21 inches. Snow cover across the landscape is likely between the months of November and March, with only a couple of inches present in the valley bottoms to several feet of snow being common in higer elevations. Land ownership across the landscape is a mosaic of private, federal, and state administered lands.

View from South of Lemhi Pass, located in the action area

Resources Considered in the Impact Analysis:
The following items (Table 1) have been evaluated for the potential for impacts to occur, either directly, indirectly, or cumulatively, due to implementation of the proposed action.

Table 1. Resources Considered in the Impact Analysis.

Resource	Resource Status	Rationale
Access	Present, Not Affected	There are many existing access roads located on both private and public lands in the project area. The alternatives would not result in changes in access to the area.
Air Quality	Present, Not Affected	The implementation of the alternatives would not result in the production of vehicle or equipment emission or particulate matter above incidental levels.
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)	Present, Not Affected	There are 12 ACECs located in the project area. The proposed action would not result in measurable effect to the desired management objectives of the ACECs.
Cultural Resource	Present, Not Affected	The proposed action would cause no measurable effect to the cultural resources present in the action area because the intensity of hunter presence would likely not exceed that occurying during a

Resource	Resource Status	Rationale
		typical non-derby hunting season. Rules and regulations, such as obeying travel management objectives and designations will avoid disturbances to known cultural resources.
Economic and Social Values	Present, Affected	Impacts are disclosed under Environmental Consequences.
Environmental Justice	Present, Not Affected	There are some scattered minority and low-income populations in the project area however, the projects and actions described in the Alternatives would not affect these populations as described under Executive Order 12898 of 2/11/1994. There would be no disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects to the minority and low-income populations in the area resulting from the proposed activities.
Existing and Potential Land Uses	Present, Not Affected	Authorized uses within the area of the proposed action include rights-of-ways, Land Use Permits, grazing allotment, etc. The proposed action would not affect the current or future authorized uses occurring in the project area.
Fisheries	Present, Not Affected	The proposed action would not affect fishery resources because all motorized travel would be consistent with current travel designations. Fish habitat and population would not be effected as a result of implementing the proposed action. Fish are not a targeted species for the proposed predator derby.
Floodplains	Not Present	FEMA identified floodplains are not present in the project area and would not be impacted by any of the Alternatives.
Forest Resources	Present, Not Affected	The proposed action would not affect forest resources because as part of the proposed action all motorized travel would be consistent with current travel designations and does not involve the harvest of wood products.
Invasive, Non-Native Species	Present, not Affected	The proposed action would not affect Invasive, non-native species because motorized travel would be consistent with current travel designations and the design features mitigate the spread of invasive weed seed.
Mineral Resources	Present, not Affect	The proposed action would not affect mineral resources because the proposed action does not involve activities that would impact mineral resources.
Migratory Birds	Present	Impacts are disclosed under Environmental Consequences
Native American Religious Concerns	Present, not Affected	The proposed action would not affect ceremonial sites or resources associated with ceremonial practices in the proposed project area.
Paleontological Resources	Present, not Affected	The proposed action would cause no measurable affect to paleontological resources located in the area because motorized travel that would occur as part of the proposed action would be consistent current travel designations.
Prime and Unique Farmlands	Not Present	There are no prime or unique farmlands located within or near the proposed project area.

Resource	Resource Status	Rationale
Soil Resources	Present, not Affected	The proposed action would cause no measurable affect to soil resources because motorized travel that would occur as part of the proposed action would be consistent with current travel designations.
Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plants	Present, not Affected	The proposed action would cause no measurable affect to threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants or their habitat within the proposed project area because most plants would be in a dormant stage during the time of year that is proposed for use and motorized travel that would occur would be consistent with current travel designations.
Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animals	Present	Impacts are disclosed under Environmental Consequences
Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Fish	Present, not Affected	The proposed action would cause no measurable affect to threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish because motorized travel that may occur would be consistent with current travel designations.
Range Resources	Present, not Affected	The proposed action would not impact range resources because the proposed action would not be related to cattle or rangeland management public lands.
Recreational Use	Present, Affected	Impacts are disclosed under Environmental Consequences
Tribal Treaty Rights and Interests	Present	Impacts are disclosed under Environmental Consequences
Vegetation	Present, not Affected	The proposed action would cause no measurable affect to vegetation because as part of the proposed action all motorized travel would be consistent with current travel designations.
Visual Resources	Not Present	The proposed action would cause no measurable affect to visual resources.
Wastes, Hazardous and Solid	Not Present	The proposed action would cause no measurable affect to Hazardous and solid wastes.
Water Quality (Surface and Ground)	Present, not Affected	The proposed action would cause no measurable affect to water quality because all motorized travel would be consistent with current travel designations.
Wetland and Riparian Zones	Present, not Affected	The proposed action would cause no measurable effect to wetlands and riparian zones because all motorized travel would be consistent with current travel designations.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Present, not Affected	The proposed action would cause no effect to wild and scenic rivers because there would be no activities occurying in river corridors that would impact wild and scenic river values as a result of the proposed action.
Wild Horse and Burro HMAs	Present, not Affected	The proposed action would cause no impact to wild horse and burros because their habitat or populations would not be impacted as a result of implementing the proposed action.
Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas	Present	Impacts are disclosed under Environmental Consequences

Resource	Resource Status	Rationale
Wildlife Resources	Present	Impacts are disclosed under Environmental Consequences
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	Present, not Affected	The proposed action would cause no measurable affect to lands with wilderness characteristics in or near the project area because hunting does not impact lands with wilderness characteristic values.

**- Rationale for Interdisciplinary Team recommendations is required for all "not present" and "present not impacted" situations. For resources that are "present and impacted" a detailed analysis is provided.*

Wildlife, Threatened/Endangered Animals, Sensitive Animals, and Migratory Birds

Affected Environment

Wildlife habitat within the area includes Forest and Woodland, Semi-Desert Shrubland and Grassland, Mesic Shrubland and Grassland, High Montane Vegetation, and Sparse Vegetation and Natural Barren Areas.

Many wildlife species utilize these habitats. These habitats provide forage, nesting substrate, and cover for a variety of bird, mammal, amphibian and reptile species common to the area. Although all of the species are important members of native communities and ecosystems, most are common and have wide distributions within the area, state, and region. There are also species listed under the ESA in the area, as well as BLM special status species (Table 1).

Table 1: Important habitats for Special Status Species within the Action Area by cover type

Cover Type	Mammals	Birds	Reptiles and Amphibians
Forest and Woodland	Canada lynx, gray wolf, grizzly bear, wolverine, Townsend's big-eared bat, fisher	Flammulated owl, calliope hummingbird, Lewis' woodpecker, Williamson's woodpecker, olive-sided flycatcher, northern goshawk, Hammond's flycatcher, Unita chipmunk, Virginia's warbler	
Semi-desert Shrubland and Grassland (Sage-steppe)	Gray wolf, pygmy rabbit, Townsend's big-eared bat, Piute ground squirrel	Greater sage-grouse, Brewer's sparrow, prairie falcon, ferruginous hawk, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, loggerhead shrike	
Mesic Shrubland and Grassland (Riparian)	Grizzly bear, Townsend's big-eared bat, fisher	Yellow-billed cuckoo, bald eagle, Lewis' woodpecker, trumpeter swan, black tern, loggerhead shrike, sage sparrow, white-faced ibis, Virginia's warbler	Western toad, common garter snake, northern leopard frog
High Montane Vegetation	Canada lynx, gray wolf, grizzly bear, wolverine		
Sparse Vegetation and Natural Barren Areas	Wolverine, Townsend's big-eared bat	Peregrine falcon	

Further consideration is given to avian species afforded special management emphasis under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). As of 2010, under a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the USFWS, the BLM has a responsibility to "as practical, protect, restore, and conserve habitat of migratory birds, addressing the responsibilities in Executive Order 13186". Given the timing of the Proposed Action there will be very few migratory birds species in the area, since most will have migrated south for the winter months.

Alternative 1: Proposed Action

Wildlife species would be harvested as part of the proposed action. This harvest would be subject to the IDFG rules and regulations. The animals targeted for the derby could be harvested legally even if the event was not occurring. Comments concerning effects at the population level for the target species have been shared with the IDFG. The IDFG does not expect the species to be affected at the population scale. IDFG's management goal is for reduction, not elimination of predators. Predator control often involves removal of animals, but the intent is not to completely eliminate predators. The long-term goal is to reduce predator numbers enough to allow increased game numbers, increased harvest opportunities, and to maintain viable populations of all wildlife, including predators (IDFG, 2012).

Controversy will always surround predation management. It is complex and involves balancing diverse interests using biological and social considerations. Left unmanaged, predators and prey are likely to cause private property damage and have significant economic impacts. Unmanaged wildlife populations can also result in increased disease transmission, declines in habitat, food sources, and reduction of hunting, fishing and trapping opportunities (IDFG, 2012).

Within most of the Action Area, IDFG uses a quota system for the harvest of wolves. For 2014, a total of 125 wolves were available for harvest in Wolf Management Zones that overlap the Action Area, 47 were harvested. In the Southern Idaho Wolf Management Zone there was no quota, meaning that any number of wolves could be harvested, in that zone two wolves were harvested (IDFG and Nez Perce Tribe, 2014). The number of wolves harvested during the derby can not exceed the quotas that have been established by IDFG.

A study in Idaho (Hurley, et al., 2011) has tried to remove species like coyotes from an area to increase survivorship of prey species. However, the study concluded that coyote removal had no detectable effect on the population growth rate for mule deer in the study area. As for the population of coyotes, studies have shown that harvesting 75% of the population annually would not exterminate the population over 50 years, due to increased reproductive rates in areas where coyotes are intensively controlled (Voigt & Berg, 1987). Even under the most severe removal programs, repopulation by coyotes can be expected within months (Beasom, 1974) or 2–3 years (Connolly & Longhurst, 1975) (Connolly, 1978), (1995).

Skunk populations are stable to increasing statewide during the past five years (IDFG, 2012). Populations of skunks are robust as they have high recruitment rates and fluctuations in populations are generally attributed to environmental variables such as disease (Wade-Smith & Verts, 1982). Skunks are primarily a nocturnal species and often inactive during winter months. Weasels do not hibernate and are active in the winter and active during the day. Weasel

populations are robust as they have high reproductive rates and fluctuations are generally attributed to environmental variables such as seasonal food availability (King, 1983). Weasel populations statewide are stable to increasing over the past five years (IDFG, 2012). Populations of jack rabbits can fluctuate rapidly but jackrabbits are a robust species with high fertility and high mortality rates. Jack rabbits are primarily a nocturnal species (Best, 1996). Raccoon populations can fluctuate rapidly and population declines are generally attributed to environmental factors such as disease (Lotze & Anderson, 1979). Raccoon populations statewide are stable to increasing over the past five years (IDFG, 2012). Raccoons do not hibernate but may become inactive during extended periods of cold weather. Raccoons are generally nocturnal. Given the population size and activity of these target species during the winter months, it is unlikely the Proposed Action will have an affect on populations at the local or regional scale.

The European starling is an exotic invasive species. Their populations generally are thought to have a detrimental impact to the native flora and fauna of the region. Although the majority of starlings will migrate prior to December there have been starlings documented in the region during the winter months.

In addition to the legal harvest of wildlife, participants in the event would displace individual animals as they move through the area. This displacement would be short lived and only over small distances. Participants in the event would follow existing travel management restrictions which protect big game, like elk and deer, from being displaced on crucial wintering areas. Because the event would occur between December and January, most migratory bird species would have moved to wintering grounds during the event and would not be affected by the event.

Alternative 2: No Action Alternative
There would be no additional impacts to wildlife or their habitat. Animals would still be harvested as part of a contest, but not on BLM managed public lands.

Economic and Social Values

Affected Environment

Economics

The action area encompasses 3.1 million acres of BLM-administered public lands with several small and large communities scattered throughout the project area. Because the majority of competitors would register in Salmon, Idaho and the final check in and post meeting would be held in Salmon, the majority of economic impacts that may result would be concentrated around the town of Salmon; therefore, the economic analysis will focus on the town of Salmon and outlying smaller communities.

Salmon, Idaho is located in Lemhi County and the county is described as a rural area with an estimated population of 7,936. Most of the population is concentrated in and around the communities of Salmon, North Fork, Tendoy, and Leadore (Bureau, 2011). Historically, the Lemhi County economy was based on mining activity which caused population and job numbers to fluctuate over time.

Early in the decade Lemhi County's unemployment rate hit 7.4 percent and gradually declined to 4.3 percent by 2007. Since then rates doubled, averaging 9.8 percent in 2012. The average annual unemployment rate for 2013 in Lemhi County was 9.0% compared to 5.6% for the State of Idaho and 7.4% for the U.S. (Idaho Department of Labor). By June 2014, the total seasonally adjusted employment of the Civilian Labor Force in Lemhi County was 3,285 with the total unemployed of 259, a rate of 7.9%.

Lemhi County's basic economic sections are services and retail (tied to tourism and ranch/farm activities), government, agriculture (ranching), mining, and construction. Government, including schools, is a basic sector of the economy in many small, rural economies like Salmon because it brings personal income and tax revenues from the state and federal levels into the community (Idaho Department of Labor, 2014). Government employs about 37 % of the county's workers, and trade, transportation, and utilities, along with leisure and hospitality, employ 27% of the labor force.

Lemhi County's estimated per capita income in 2012 was $33,884, compared to an average of $34,481 for Idaho and $43, 735 nationally (Idaho Department of Labor). In Lemhi County, per capita income increased by $10, 650 since 2003.

Overall, outdoor recreation in Idaho supports 37,000 jobs, generates $154 million annually in state tax revenue, and generates $2.2 billion annually in retail sales and services. Non-residents spend more than $400 million per year on wildlife-related recreation in Idaho. The largest single category of non-resident wildlife-related recreation spending in Idaho is wildlife watching. Over 550,000 individual wildlife watchers spend over $432 million per year in Idaho and make up 67% of all "sportsmen" who recreate in the state. Idaho as a state has the highest overall per capita participation in non-hunting-related recreation in the U.S. Activities in this statistic include backpacking, cycling (on- and off-road), bird watching, car camping, canoeing, climbing, fly fishing, hiking, kayaking, rafting, skiing (on- and off-resort), snowshoeing, and trail running (J. Suhr-Pierce, BLM Regional Socio-Economic Specialist, Pers. Comm., 2014)

In counties containing a large percentage of federal land, such as Lemhi County, the Federal Government contributes payments in lieu of taxes (PILT). PILT payments are Federal payments to local governments to offset losses in property taxes and compensate for the costs to support nontaxable Federal lands within their boundaries. PILT totaled more than $7.3 million in Lemhi County from 2004 to 2013, for an average of about $733,000 per year[1]. The minimum payment was $502,309 in 2004 and the maximum payment was $899,963 in 2012.

Social

Concern as to how federal lands are managed is a common theme across the west. Many groups and individuals indicate the condition of resources on public lands managed by the BLM is important to them because they value these resources for wildlife, recreation, education, scenic qualities, wilderness, open space, and a variety of other reasons. Many individuals and groups are also concerned about limitations being put on the availability of public lands managed by the BLM for recreational and commercial uses.

[1] Based on data retrieved at http://www.doi.gov/pilt/county-payments.cfm

Recreation is a component of most lifestyles in the analysis area. The substantial recreational opportunities for fishing, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, OHV use and sightseeing are an important element of the overall quality of life for residents. Many people have either moved to or stayed in the county because of the recreation opportunities. Recreationists are very diverse groups of people and changes in recreation management can affect the people who engage in the various activities very differently. They tend to organize into interest groups; most recreational activities have at least one group advocating for their activity.

Small rural communities can be tied to public lands managed by the BLM in a variety of ways. Local businesses and governments depend upon the employees to maintain a population base for businesses and public services. Use of public lands managed by the BLM for livestock grazing, recreation activities, mineral development and other activities can provide employment and help maintain related businesses. In addition, the local residents depend on the public lands managed by the BLM for recreation and open space.

Small towns such as Salmon, Challis, North Fork and Leadore are unique places with shared values and a relationship with nearby public lands. Quality of life issues such as a slower pace of life, low crime rates, high levels of interpersonal trust, opportunities for community involvement, a sense of belonging and a high value placed on the health of the surrounding landscape motivates people to live in these communities. Public lands surrounding these communities are important to people because they provide a place for recreation including hiking, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, rafting, mountain biking, and motorized recreation. Additionally, many utilize public lands to make a living through ranching, outfitter and guiding, or mineral development. The community also cares about healthy landscapes; clean water, air, and soil are important to the people that reside in Lemhi County. Hunting is an important social and cultural aspect of the way of life in Lemhi County because of the meat it provides for families and is a tradition that has been taught and passed down for generations.
Some see threats to their opportunity to hunt and fish on public lands as a serious impact to their ability to feed their families and carry out these traditions. Many, however, are opposed to hunting in general, or are opposed to hunting outside of harvesting meat for consumption. Predator hunting generally is completed as a means to manage wildlife populations and the meat is rarely consumed.

Environmental Consequences
Alternative 1: Proposed Action
Economic
As a result of implementing the proposed action, some businesses would receive a short term increase in sales from out of town participants. Many of the competitors would travel to Salmon and stay overnight for up to 4 nights to register and participate in the event and in the pre and post event meetings; they may also use Salmon as a base to access surrounding lands for hunting activities.

Local businesses that may see an increase in sales as a result of implementing the proposed action include hotels, restaurants, grocery stores, sporting goods stores, and gas stations. If 100 of the 500 participants based their stay locally for 4 nights, gains to local businesses could amount to approximately $94,000, based on the following assumptions: $85 lodging/night,

$100/day for food, $50/day for other services (Table 2). Gains could be lower or higher depending on personal preferences of each individual participant.

Table 2. Estimated Annual Revenue

Number of Visitors Gained	Nights	Lodging Estimate/night	Total Lodging $ gained	Restaurant $ gained/day	Other Service* $ gained	Total Estimated gain
100	4	$85.00	34,000	$40,000	$20,000	$94,000

Of the approximately 56,500 comments received during scoping, 56,490 indicated opposition to the event; of these, a small percentage indicated they would not ever come to Idaho to recreate if the event were allowed to proceed. Because it is difficult to estimate the number of people who actually had planned to visit Idaho, but who would now not visit Idaho with the implementation of the proposed action, three scenarios were developed to estimate the economic impact from the loss of this income to the tourism industry (Table 3).

Table 3. Estimated Annual Economic Impact

Number of Visitors Lost	Nights	Total Lodging* $ lost	Restaurant* $ lost	Other Service* $ lost	Total Estimated Loss
10	7	$8,750	$8,050	$7,000	$23,800
100	7	$87,500	$80,500	$70,000	$238,000
1000	7	$875,000	$805,000	$700,000	$2,380,000

*assumptions: $125 average lodging rate; $25 breakfast, $30 lunch, and $60 dinner daily for restaurant losses; other services at $100/day include fuel, maps, gear, etc. Statewide lodging rates presumed higher than those in Salmon, Idaho. Losses could be lower or higher depending on personal preferences of each individual potential visitor.

While non-residents spend more than $400 million per year on wildlife-related recreation in Idaho, the loss of ten, 100 and even 1000 visitors to the state overall, would result in minimal economic impacts, with loss percentages related to the implementation of this event being 0.006%, 0.06%, 0.6%, respectively. Of this, impacts to local economic development, employment, population, property values, or public services and community facilities would be negligible.

Social

If the proposed action was selected, participants would have the opportunity to participate in a competitive hunting event. Positive social impacts would occur for members of the public that support and/or engage in these types of activities. These impacts may include personal satisfaction found when participating in a competitive event and the ability to participate in a social activity with peers or others sharing their value system.

Members of the public who oppose hunting, or oppose hunting outside of consumption of meat, would have their social values indirectly impacted in a negative manner by implementation of the proposed application. These impacts may include the displeasure of knowing an activity they find distasteful is occurring on public lands.

Alternative 2: No Action Alternative

Economic

There would be no impact to economic values under the No Action Alternative when compared to the current condition.

Social

Under the No Action Alternative, persons wanting to participate in the competition would not have the opportunity to do so on BLM-managed public lands and they would not have the personal satisfaction that occurs when participating in a competitive event or in a social activity with peers or others sharing their value system. There would be no impact to members of the public who oppose hunting. Members of the public who engage in predator hunting derbies, or those who support them, may perceive this as eliminating or curtailing their rights. If this alternative was implemented people would continue to hunt and trap on public lands.

Recreation

Affected Environment

Recreation opportunity across the three field offices located within the action area is diverse. Numerous developed recreation sites offer camping, boat launches, hot springs, access to destination areas, and interpretive services. Popular dispersed recreation activities include hunting, mountain biking, recreational boating, horseback riding, hiking, and OHV use. A few high use areas in the project area receive a moderate to high amount of visitation either year round or seasonally. These include river corridors, sand dunes, large multi-site campgrounds, and one hot spring site. Several outfitters and guides operate commercial guiding activities including fishing, hunting, trail riding, hiking, and OHV tours. Competitive events in the action area include mountain bike races, boat races, and endurance runs. Currently, no competitive hunting events occur within the action area.

Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1: Proposed Action

Impacts to the existing recreation resources and recreational activities as a result of implementing the proposed action would be minimal, partly because the event is proposed for early winter (between December 15 and January 15). A new opportunity for a competitive hunting event would be available. Some user-created conflicts could occur if competitors and others are concentrated in one area. However, this is unlikely as hunting is generally a dispersed activity because hunters desire to be isolated in hopes of viewing more game. Winter recreation use in the action area is low, however, some use does occur by snowmobilers, cross country skiers, and hunters. Non-winter based activities such as mountain biking and hiking does occur in lower elevation areas depending on snow cover and depth. Conflicts with other recreationists are unlikely given the vastness of the area and the low amount of recreation use during this time of year.

Alternative 2: No Action

Under the No Action alternative, the BLM would deny the special recreation permit received from Idaho for Wildlife. Recreation access, opportunities for competitive recreation events, and

dispersed recreation would remain consistent with current levels.

Tribal Treaty Rights and Interests

Affected Environment

The 1868 Fort Bridger Treaty, between the United States and the Shoshone and Bannock Tribes, reserves the Tribes the right to hunt, fish, gather, and exercise other traditional uses and practices on unoccupied federal lands. In addition to these rights, the Shoshone Bannock have the right to graze tribal livestock and cut timber for tribal use on those lands of the original Fort Hall Reservation that were ceded to the federal government under the Agreement of February 5, 1898, ratified by the Act of June 6, 1900.

The federal government has a unique trust relationship with federally-recognized American Indian Tribes including the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. BLM has a responsibility and obligation to consider and consult on potential effects to natural resources related to the Tribes' treaty rights or cultural use. Resources or issues of interest to the Tribes that could have a bearing on their traditional use and/or treaty rights include: tribal historic and archaeological sites, sacred sites and traditional cultural properties, traditional-use sites, fisheries, traditional-use plant and animal species, vegetation (including noxious and invasive, non-native species), air and water quality, management of wildlife, access to unoccupied federal lands and continued availability of traditional resources, land status, and the visual quality of the environment. The project area is located on unoccupied federal lands outside of the ceded boundary. Therefore, tribal treaty rights, as defined, are applicable to the study area.

In order to ensure future generations of tribal members their opportunity to exercise off-reservation Treaty Rights, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' Fish and Wildlife Department works with federal land management agencies to protect, restore, and enhance fisheries and wildlife. These efforts aim to perpetuate traditional-use animal species valued in Tribal oral tradition and spiritual life, as well as big game that provide for sustenance and material needs. These are crucial trust assets for the Tribes. The Tribes see the land, the water, the animals, and the people as related and intertwined. Tribal members who exercise their treaty rights hunt for subsistence and follow an age-old "take only what you need" philosophy when gathering plants and animal resources.

By Resolution of the Fort Hall Business Council (FHBC/GAME-2014-1177), the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have indicated opposition to the proposed action on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The resolution emphasizes the important role predator's and scavengers play in the overall ecosystem, and the Tribe's concerns about the impacts of the proposed hunt on this relationship.

Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1: Proposed Action

In terms of effects to predators and scavengers at a population scale, target species would not be affected by the proposed hunt. The coyote population, for example, would be expected to rebound quickly after each event, as has been observed by IDFG in previous coyote removal

studies. Displacement of individual animals potentially important in non-subsistence Treaty Rights pursuits may incidentally occur locally during the hunt, depending upon the number and density of participants. Migratory bird species (many of which are important game species for the Tribes) would not be affected since most would have flown south to warmer climes by the time the event occurs. Wolf harvests would be closely managed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game rules as permitted and presently regulated. No other Treaty Rights impacts would be anticipated during the hunt events.

Alternative 2: No Action Alternative
Predatory species identified in the event would still be harvested at approximately equivalent levels, but not as a part of this event. There would not be localized increases in incidental non-game animal displacement.

Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)

Affected Environment
There are no designated Wilderness areas within the action area, however there are 17 WSAs, located in the project area. The Borah Peak, Boulder Creek, Burnt Creek (shared with Upper Snake), Corral-Horse Basin, Goldburg, Jerry Peak, Jerry Peak West WSAs are within the boundaries of the Challis Field Office. Eighteenmile WSA is located within the Salmon Field Office. Appendicitis Hill, Black Canyon, Hawley Mountain, Hell's Half Acre, Sand Mountain, Snake River Islands, White Knob Mountains, Burnt Creek, Cedar Butte, China Cup Butte, and Henry's Lake WSAs are located within the Upper Snake Field Office (See Appendix B). Typical activities that occur within the project area's WSAs include: hiking, hunting, camping, fishing, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, and ranching is an allowable activity in some. Federal regulations (43 CFR 6302.20) prohibit competitive events like the proposed derby within designated wilderness. Thus, if Congress designates a wilderness area within the project area, hunting derbies would not be permitted within the boundaries of the wilderness.

Hunting, by itself, is an allowed use within wilderness and WSAs, and hunters use the WSAs within the project area for big game hunts such as elk, deer, pronghorn, or mountain lion. Predator hunts for species such as the wolf or coyote, and upland bird hunting for species such as chukar or grouse is also popular. Hunting derbies are regulated through an SRP because they are competitive events. The BLM may allow hunting derbies within WSAs if they are temporary (so they do not create an expectation that they will continue after designation) and do not cause physical alterations.

Environmental Consequences
Alternative 1: Proposed Action
As a result of implementing the proposed action, derby participants may hunt within WSA boundaries. However, as explained in more detail below, most of the use associated with this event would not occur within a WSA, and it is unlikely that many of the WSAs would see any use as a result of this event. Four WSAs (Eighteenmile, Goldburg, Corral-Horse Basin, and Burnt Creek) would likely receive some use, although the terrain and limited access combined with the potential for inclement weather during the winter limits widespread use. Borah Peak, Boulder Creek, Jerry Peak, Jerry Peak West, Hawley Mountain, White Knob Mountains,

Appendicitis Hill, and Black Canyon might receive use as they are within the action area, but it is highly unlikely due to their distance from derby head-quarters (Salmon), lack of suitable habitat, and topography. Derby-related activities within WSAs would be short term, less than 3 days per year for up to 5 years. All use would be limited to travel by foot only, and would likely be over-snow travel.

Hunting has always been an allowed use within the 17 WSAs. The aspect of the proposed activity that requires the issuance of an SRP is the competitive nature of the predator derby. The derby is limited temporally, in that the event is proposed to occur over a three-day period each year for up to five years. While the applicant has stated that up to 500 hunters will participate in the derby in any given year, there is no expectation that participants will use the same areas, within or outside WSAs, for hunting each year, or that participants will expect that areas designated as wilderness will remain available for competitive hunting events. Also, given the vast expanse of the project area, the dispersed nature of hunting, and the likelihood that the WSAs will be generally inaccessible during December and January due to snow in the higher elevations, physical impacts to WSAs are expected to be negligible.

The BLM's management policy is to manage resources and resource uses on lands designated as WSAs in a manner that maintains the area's suitability for preservation as wilderness. The BLM's policy is intended to protect the wilderness characteristics of all WSAs in the same or better condition than they were on October 21, 1976, until Congress determines whether or not they should be designated as wilderness. The WSAs' suitability for wilderness is based on four criteria: Naturalness, Solitude, Primitive and Unconfined Recreation, and Special Features. When analyzing an action that would occur within a WSA, the BLM ascertains whether the proposal meets the non-impairment standard. The non-impairment standard requires that the use must be both temporary and not create surface disturbance.

<u>Non-impairment Standard</u>

The use of WSAs for the proposed competitive hunting event meets the non-impairment standard because the action is temporary, short term, and would not create any surface disturbance. BLM Manual 6330 defines temporary as *the use or facility is needed for a defined time period to respond to a temporary need, and would be terminated and removed prior to or upon wilderness designation. A chronic, repeated short-term use does not meet this definition of "temporary." Uses, activities, or facilities that create a demand for uses that would be incompatible with wilderness management also do not meet the definition of temporary.*

Recreational hunting is an allowable use of the WSAs within the action area and the hunting associated with the derby is not considered a chronic or repeated short term use. This is due to the dispersed nature of hunting, topography, and the size of the units. Any increase in visitation to the WSA's above the existing recreational hunting use as a result of the proposed action would be insignificant. Therefore, the proposed action is not considered a chronic, repeated short-term use. Although competitive events are prohibited from designated wilderness, design features of the proposed action state that the event would be excluded from these units upon future designation, thus removing the demand that may be perceived as incompatible with wilderness management.

Size
The proposed action would not have any impacts on the size of the WSAs in the project area. Hunting by foot or with stock would not create roads or otherwise reduce the area below the minimum threshold for size.

Naturalness
Apparent naturalness is defined in a Wilderness context as whether or not an area looks natural to the average visitor. The area must appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, and any work of human beings must be substantially unnoticeable. When determining impacts an action may have on an area's naturalness, land managers look at what is left after completion of an action. For example, if a running race is permitted in a WSA, the action of many people travel the same path repeatedly over time may create a linear disturbance that would be noticeable to the average visitor and could detract from the area's apparent naturalness.

Depending on the amount of snow cover, between 4 and 12 WSAs may be visited as a result of implementing the proposed action. The dispersed nature of hunting, coupled with the likelihood that most travel would be over snow, would cause insignificant surface disturbance. Consequently, it is unlikely that the proposed action would have any impact on the WSAs' naturalness.

Solitude
Solitude refers to the visitor's opportunity to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people in the area. Factors or elements that may impact the solitude of a WSA may include size, configuration, topographic and vegetative screening, and ability of the visitor to find seclusion.

There may be chance encounters between hunters and other visitors to the WSAs. Visitors could also hear gunshots echoing as a result of hunting. Dispersed hunting is an allowed activity in WSAs so visitors may encounter hunters at any time. However, it is anticipated that there may be a small increase in hunting use of WSAs as a result of the proposed action. Therefore, impacts to solitude may occur as a result, although those impacts are expected to be short term (3 days) and intermittent. These short term impacts would not impact the solitude of a WSA to the extent that it would no longer be suitable for future designation as Wilderness.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation
The presence or absence of an areas primitive and unconfined recreation is described by outstanding opportunities for dispersed, undeveloped recreation within the WSA's which do not require facilities, motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or mechanized transport. Due to the short term, negligible and dispersed nature of the proposed action, any impact associated with the event will not detract from the primitiveness of any of the WSA's located within the action area. The unconfined recreation opportunities will not be affected by the proposed action.

Special Features
Special features of a WSA include any ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. These are not supplemental values that would be impacted as a result of implementation of the proposed action.

Alternative 2: No Action Alternative
There would be no impact to WSAs under the No Action Alternative. The Naturalness, Solitude, and Primitive and Unconfined Recreation values would remain consistent with their current condition.

CHAPTER 4 – CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVES

This section discloses the incremental impacts that the alternatives are anticipated to have when considered in the context of impacts associated with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions that have occurred, or are likely to occur, in the area. The Cumulative Impact Assessment Area (CIAA) consists of approximately 13,082,392 acres (Appendix B) and is the Idaho Falls District administrative unit boundary (excluding Pocatello Field Office) as defined by the BLM's National Operations Center. The total acreages per land management agency are listed in Table 4.

Table 4. Land Status of CIAA

Land Status (Ownership/land management agency)	Acres
Bureau of Land Management	3,101,128
U.S. Forest Service	5,849,863
National Park Service (Yellowstone National Park)	35,721
Dept. of Energy (Idaho National Laboratory)	562,009
State of Idaho	469,589
Private	2,974,349
Other (historic waters, military, national wildlife refuge, etc.)	89,663

Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions that have impacted the CIAA to varying degrees include livestock grazing, vegetation management, wild land fire, land use conversion and infrastructural development. Although these actions probably do not account for all of the actions that have or are likely to occur in the CIAA, GIS analysis, agency records, and professional judgment suggest that they have contributed to the vast majority of cumulative impacts that have occurred in the CIAA.

Past and Present Actions ***(following are some examples of the actions included.)***

Livestock grazing has a long history in the CIAA, dating back to the late 1800s. Throughout its history, livestock grazing has been characterized by localized areas of intense use. Hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, hiking, and snowmobiling have been popular recreation activities within the CIAA. OHV use occurs on the roads and two-tracks within the CIAA. Range improvements have occurred throughout the CIAA to improve grazing management and include fencing and water developments. Timber harvest has occurred within the CIAA and many of the roads that are currently still utilized were created for timber harvests. Mining exploration, namely thorium exploration, has occurred in the CIAA and can still be seen by the small mounds of soil scattered throughout.

Hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing, backpacking, snowmobiling, automobile and OHV touring, horseback riding, and day use hiking all occur within the CIAA. Forestry projects including thinning and conifer encroachments continue to occur within the CIAA. Thorium exploration continues to occur within the CIAA. Reclamation is ongoing of multiple abandoned mine lands within the CIAA.

Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

Reasonably foreseeable future actions include continuation of the past and present actions as described above. The level and character of livestock grazing and agricultural development are anticipated to remain consistent into the foreseeable future. Hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing, backpacking, snowmobiling, automobile and OHV touring, horseback riding, and day use hiking are likely to increase within the CIAA as the population continues to grow and the demand for access to solitude increases. Motorized recreation has continued to increase in popularity in Idaho and would likely increase within the CIAA. Power line and fiber optic lines are likely to increase within the CIAA. Thorium exploration is likely to continue and may increase as more uses for thorium are discovered and the demand increases. Several vegetation manipulation projects are planned throughout the CIAA through conifer thinning and sagebrush and native grass seeding projects. Several Travel Plans and landscape level projects are being proposed within the CIAA. This includes the South Half Travel Management Plan, the Upper Snake Field Office Resource Management Plan, and the Canyon to Big Timber Watershed Environmental Assessment. Two special recreation permits have been issued for activities within the CIAA; a wagon ride permit, and a foot race permit. One additional special recreation permit application has been received for a wildlife viewing contest within the CIAA. If permitted, this event would occur during the same time of year as the proposed event, but on different days.

Cumulative Impacts Associated with Past, Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

Alternative A – Proposed Action

Alternative A would contribute very little to the collective impact associated with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. The proposed action, when added to the existing and reasonably foreseeable future use, would result in increased use of the CIAA for recreational activities. However, these SRP's are short term (3 days or less a year) and do not overlap,

therefore the cumulative incremental effects would be negligible. Livestock use would remain at current levels, and the number of road miles within the area would not increase as a result of implementing Alternative A. The amount of suitable habitat for wildlife species that occur in the CIAA would remain the same. The actions described in Alternative A would not substantially alter the current or expected future conditions within the CIAA.

Alternative B – No Action

Alternative B would also contribute very little to the collective impact associated with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Livestock use would remain at current levels, and the number of road miles within the area would not increase as a result of implementing Alternative B. The amount of suitable habitat for wildlife species that occur in the CIAA would remain the same. The actions described in Alternative B would not substantially alter the current or expected future conditions of natural resources in the CIAA.

CHAPTER 5 - CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Coordination meetings between the Bureau of Land Management and IDFG occurred on July 28th, August 28th, September 3, and September 23, 2014. A 15-day public scoping period occurred between August 4 and 18, 2014 and a 15-day public comment period for the EA commenced October 2nd, 2014. At that time, a summary description of the proposed action and a draft version of the Environmental Assessment were made available on the BLM's eplanning site at https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do . Interested publics and other federal and state agencies were given the opportunity to provide comments or consult on the action.

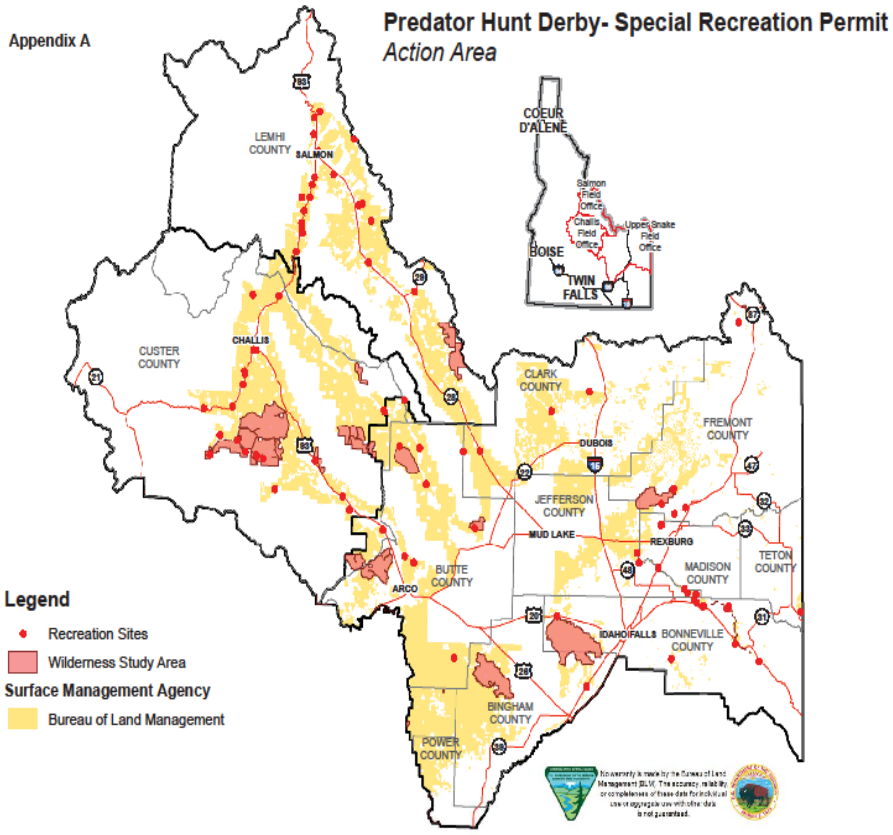
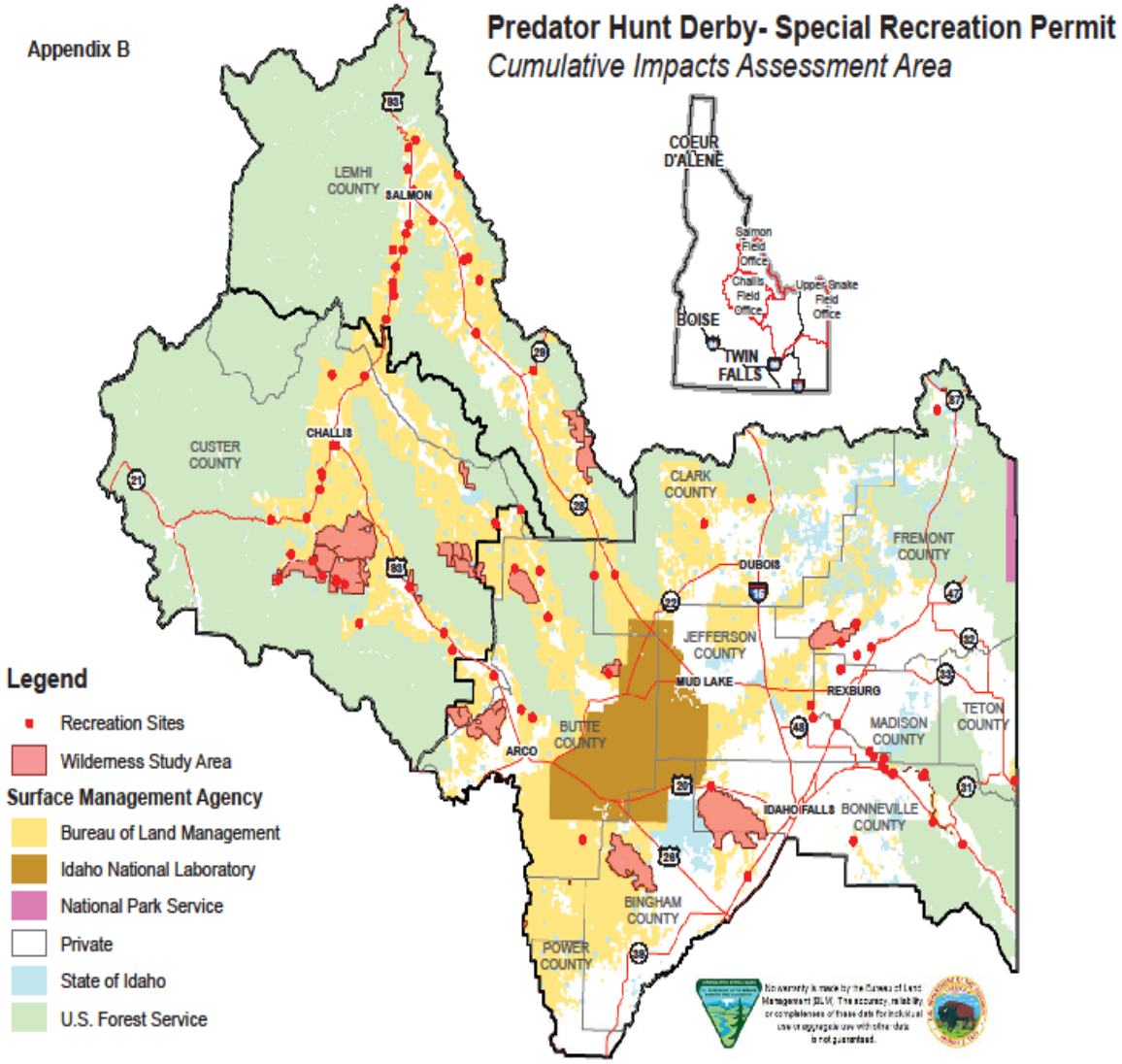
Table 5. List of Preparers

Section of EA	Specialist
Recreation/Wilderness/ Wild and Scenic Rivers/ Visual Resources/Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	Liz Townley
Wildlife/TES Animals/Migratory Birds	Vincent Guyer
Socio-Economic	Kyra Povirk
Tribal and Treaty Rights	Steve Wright

Preparer: /s/ Date:

NEPA Reviewer: /s/ Date

Appendix A – Map of the proposed action area



Appendix B – Map of the CIAA