U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Resource Management Plan

Missoula Field Office

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the stewardship of our public lands. The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

BLM/MT/PL-20/005+1610

Missoula Resource Management Plan

January 2021

Lead Agency: Bureau of Land Management

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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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January 2021

In Reply Refer To:
1610 (MT930)

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is pleased to announce that, after many years of hard work and collaboration, the BLM Missoula Field Office (MiFO) Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) is complete. The Approved RMP will provide guidance for managing approximately 163,000 acres of BLM-administered public lands and approximately 267,000 acres of federal mineral estate across western Montana.

The enclosed Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved RMP were prepared in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The ROD's approval serves as the final decision for all land use planning and implementation decisions described in the enclosed Missoula Approved RMP.

The Proposed RMP/Final Environmental Impact Statement (ETS) was subject to a 30-day protest period that ended March 16, 2020. The BLM received 72 protest letters, and the BLM reviewed all protest issues for the proposed planning decisions. The BLM's Acting Assistant Director for Resources and Planning concluded that the BLM Montana State Director followed the applicable laws, regulations, and policies, and considered all relevant resource information and public input. The Acting Assistant Director for Resources and Planning addressed the protests and issued a Protest Resolution Report to protesting parties and posted the Report on the BLM's website.

On September 25, 2020, the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana ruled that, among other things, BLM Deputy Director for Policy and Programs William Perry Pendley had unlawfully served as the BLM Director for the last 424 days and enjoined him from exercising the authority of the BLM Director. On October 16, 2020, the court set aside the Missoula Approved RMP on those grounds. The Department strongly disagrees with the court's decision, and, as particularly relevant here, with the assertion that only the BLM Director may resolve protests on resource management plans. Moreover, as described above, Mr. Pendley did not actually resolve the protests for the Missoula RMP. Nonetheless, the Department recognizes that the Court has set aside the Missoula RMP based on its conclusions to the contrary. Accordingly, following the Court's order, the Secretary and his staff completed an independent evaluation of a

proposed Protest Resolution Report and Proposed Record of Decision. Following that review, on December 29, 2020, the Secretary approved the Protest Resolution Report, issued the Protest Resolution Report to protesting parties and posted the Report on the BLM's website.

The 60-day Governor's consistency review period for the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, which promotes consistency with State government plans or policies, concluded on April 13, 2020. The Governor submitted a letter identifying some concerns in response to the consistency review. They included consistency with recently enacted State legislation and State wildlife plans. The BLM thoroughly reviewed the Governor's letter and confirmed that the Proposed RMP is consistent with existing State plans. The Governor did not exercise his option to appeal the decision of the State Director to the BLM Director.

The ROD and Approved RMP are available online at the BLM's ePlanning site https://eplanning.blm.gov. Limited printed copies or flash drives available by request from the Missoula Field Office, 3255 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, Montana 59804 or by calling (406) 329-3914.

Missoula Field Office

Record of Decision

and

Approved Resource Management Plan

Prepared by US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Missoula Field Office
Missoula, Montana

Cooperating Agencies:
US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Region 1
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Southwestern Land Office
Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Region 2
Missoula County

January 2021

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

	Full Phrase
ACEC	area of critical environmental concern
BCA	Backcountry Conservation Area
BLM	United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practice
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
Decision Area	public lands and federal mineral estate managed by the BLM
DOI	Department of the Interior
EIS	environmental impact statement
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
Forest Service	United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
GIS	geographic information systems
MiFO	Missoula Field Office
MTDNRC	Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
MTFWP	Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
OHV	off-highway vehicle
PDF	project design feature
Planning Area	Missoula Field Office boundary, including all lands regardless of ownership
RMP	resource management plan
RMZ	recreation management zone
RNA	research natural area
ROD	record of decision
ROW	right-of-way
SRMA	special recreation management area
SRP	special recreation use permit
USFWS	United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
VRM	visual resource management
WSA	wilderness study area
WSR	Wild and Scenic River

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I. RECORD OF DECISION

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I.1 INTRODUCTION

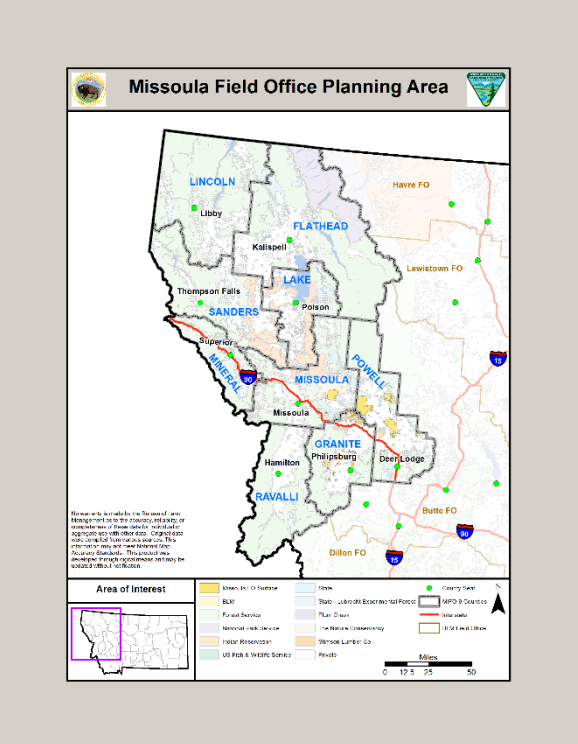
I.1.1 OVERVIEW

The United States (US) Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) uses Resource Management Plans (RMPs) to guide management of the land it administers. This Record of Decision (ROD) approves the BLM's proposal to manage BLM-administered lands and minerals in the Missoula Field Office (Missoula) as presented in the attached approved Resource Management Plan (RMP). This RMP is substantially similar to the Proposed Plan in the Missoula Proposed RMP/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)/Proposed RMP revision. The background and rationale for approving the decisions in the Proposed Plan are described in this ROD.

I.1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREA

The Missoula RMP planning area is located in western Montana in Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, and Sanders Counties (see Figure 1 below). Within these nine counties, the BLM will only make decisions on lands that fall under the BLM's jurisdiction, including subsurface minerals. Over 99 percent of these surface acres are located in Granite, Missoula, and Powell Counties. Other land managers and owners in the planning area include national forests, Glacier National Park, state, tribal, and private lands. A map of the decision area and land ownership in the planning area below in Figure 1.

Figure 1 Missoula Planning Area



1.2 DECISION

The decision is hereby made to approve the attached RMP (Section II). The BLM has determined that the Proposed Plan (with consideration of public and agency comments, public protests, and the Governor's consistency review) is the most consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs associated with implementing its legal mandates.

The BLM prepared the Missoula RMP in accordance with NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500–1508), the US Department of the Interior NEPA regulations (43 CFR 46), and the requirements of the BLM's NEPA Handbook, H-1790-1 (BLM 2008).[1] Management decisions identified in the Approved RMP are final and become effective when this ROD is signed.

1.2.1 CLARIFICATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

The BLM only made minor changes from the Proposed RMP/Final EIS to the Approved RMP: a definition of prescriptive grazing was added to the glossary; the term land classification was removed from the glossary; and we clarified land tenure terms.

1.2.2 MITIGATION MEASURES

Mitigation broadly includes any means that would reduce or avoid adverse effects of the proposed action. The Council on Environmental Quality states that mitigation includes avoiding, minimizing rectifying, reducing or eliminating over time, and compensating for adverse environmental impacts (40 CFR 1508.20).

In the Missoula Proposed RMP, most of the measures that would avoid, minimize, rectify, or reduce environmental impacts are integral to the design of the alternatives and have been included in the designations, allocations, and actions.

The Approved RMP adopts the mitigations included in the designations, allocations, and actions included in the Proposed RMP. All mitigations adopted in the Approved RMP were included as part of the Proposed RMP's design in the EIS; there are no additional mitigation measures adopted with this decision. The Approved RMP incorporates measures that include restrictions on uses such as seasonal closures, and application of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Required Design Features (RDFs) in Appendix P.

1.2.3 PLAN MONITORING

The CEQ regulations implementing NEPA state that agencies may monitor to ensure that their decisions are carried out, and they should do so in important cases (40 CFR 1505.2(c)). Land use plan decision monitoring is a continuous process occurring over the life of the RMP. The aim is to maintain a dynamic RMP. Monitoring data are collected, examined, and used to draw conclusions about the following:

[1] BLM (Bureau of Land Management). 2008. Handbook H-1790-1. BLM NEPA Handbook. Washington, DC. January 2008.

- Whether planned actions have been implemented in the manner prescribed by the RMP (implementation monitoring).
- Whether RMP allowable use and management action decisions and the resultant implementation actions are effective in achieving program-specific objectives or desired outcomes (effectiveness monitoring).

The BLM uses conclusions drawn from monitoring to make recommendations on whether to continue current management or identify changes that need to be made to implementation practices to better achieve RMP goals. Indicators, methods, locations, units of measure, frequency, and action triggers can be established by national policy guidance, in RMPs, or by technical specialists in order to address specific issues. If implementation of land use plans does not achieve anticipated desired outcomes, adaptive management may be necessary.

Based on staffing and funding levels, monitoring is annually prioritized to be consistent with the goals and objectives of the RMP. The BLM may work in cooperation with local, state, and other federal agencies, or it may use data collected by other agencies and sources when appropriate and available.

I.3 ALTERNATIVES

I.3.1 INTRODUCTION

An RMP provides broad guidance for managing public lands. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) directs the BLM to develop RMPs as the primary means to identify and allow for appropriate uses of BLM-administered land. The RMP decisions establish goals and objectives (desired outcomes) for resource management that guide future implementation decisions. In addition, the RMP also identifies measures necessary for achieving the outcomes, expressed as management actions (proactive management techniques) and allowable uses (lands that are open or closed to certain uses), including any restrictions on uses.

The NEPA requires the development and consideration of a reasonable range of alternatives, including a no action alternative, to analyze impacts and guide decision-makers in developing and selecting the Approved RMP. The BLM developed three alternatives and one sub-alternative and analyzed them in detail in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

I.3.2 ALTERNATIVES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED BUT NOT ANALYZED IN DETAIL

Bison Reintroduction
At this time, the state of Montana has not proposed to reintroduce wild bison on any BLM lands managed by the Missoula Field Office. Bison in private ownership are considered livestock, and as such, are permitted by the BLM pursuant to 43 CFR 4130.3-2(e).

Site-Specific Travel Management
The RMP designates off-highway vehicle (OHV) allocations. Specifically, this RMP allocates BLM-managed lands in the planning area as either: (a) Open motorized travel, (b) Closed to motorized travel, or (c) Limited motorized travel. These allocations set the stage for subsequent step-down travel management plans. Travel management route designations (e.g., motorized or non-motorized trails, types of vehicles

or use per route, seasonal restrictions, etc.) are implementation-level decisions, which align with the RMP allocations and are subject to site-specific NEPA analysis and public involvement.

Fluid Mineral Leasing

The BLM has not received an expression of interest in fluid leasable minerals since 1985 and there is no reasonably foreseeable future expression of interest. Thus, fluid mineral leasing was considered but not analyzed further in the EIS. If in the future the BLM were to receive an expression of interest, the BLM would proceed with the requisite environmental analysis and public involvement process at that time.

Wind and Solar Renewable Energy

The BLM has not received an expression of interest for wind or solar development. There is no known infrastructure in the BLM-managed lands to support any development. At this time, there is no reasonably foreseeable future demands for wind or solar energy on the BLM-managed lands. Thus, provisions specific to wind and solar developments were not addressed further in the EIS, and no allocations of preferred areas for competitive leasing, known as designated leasing areas, were made in this land use plan. Any applications for testing or development would be addressed on a case-by-case basis with the requisite NEPA analysis and public involvement.

Release Wilderness Study Areas or Designate Wilderness

Only Congress can designate lands as "Wilderness" and only Congress can release Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) for other management. With the passage of FLPMA, Congress mandated that the BLM conduct a wilderness review of its administered public lands. The BLM studied the Wales Creek area and the Hoodoo Mountain area under the authority of Section 603 of FLPMA, which directs the BLM to inventory, study, and report to Congress the suitability of certain lands for wilderness preservation. The BLM studied the Quigg West area under Section 202 of FLPMA. The WSAs are managed under BLM Manual 6330 until Congress decides whether to designate these areas as wilderness or release them to multiple use management. The BLM will prepare a wilderness management plan for any areas designated as wilderness by Congress. Thus, designating lands as wilderness or removing the WSA designations is outside the BLM's authority and was beyond the scope of the revision

Analyzing an Alternative that Makes All Lands in the Planning Area Unavailable for Livestock Grazing and Eliminates Livestock Forage Allocation

No issues or conflicts were identified during this land use planning project to warrant the complete elimination of livestock grazing across the planning area. The analysis of an alternative entirely eliminating grazing was not needed; this is because the BLM has considerable discretion through its grazing regulations to determine and adjust stocking levels, seasons-of-use, and grazing management activities and to allocate forage to uses of the public lands in RMPs.

Current resource conditions on BLM-administered land, including range vegetation, watershed, and wildlife habitat, as reflected in land health assessments, did not warrant an area-wide prohibition of livestock grazing. Following initial surveyed forage allocations, the basis for increasing or decreasing permitted use has been land health evaluations, inventories, and monitoring data (vegetative and levels of use). Suitable measures, which could include reducing or eliminating livestock grazing, were provided for in the EIS. They could become necessary in specific situations where livestock grazing causes or contributes to conflicts with protecting or managing other resource values or uses. Such determinations would be made during site-specific activity planning or permit renewal and their associated environmental review.

Backcountry Conservation Areas Proposal

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership submitted a proposal for allocating 54,331acres of BLM-managed lands as backcountry conservation areas. The BLM considered the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership proposal and analyzed a similar alternative, although not the exact proposal, in detail. The BLM reduced acres that would not be feasible for management due to road infrastructure, distance from the primary BCA polygon, and the potential for user conflicts.

I.3.3 ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED IN DETAIL

Alternative A (No Action)

Alternative A meets the requirement that a no action alternative be considered. This alternative continues current management direction and prevailing conditions derived from existing planning documents. Goals and objectives for resources and resource uses are based on the applicable portions of the Garnet RMP, approved in1986, along with associated amendments, activity and implementation level plans, and other management decision documents. Laws, regulations, and BLM policies that supersede RMP decisions would also apply.

Goals and objectives for BLM-administered lands and mineral estate would not change. Appropriate and allowable uses and restrictions pertaining to activities such as mineral leasing and development, recreation, timber harvesting, construction of utility corridors, and livestock grazing would also remain the same. The BLM would not modify existing or establish additional criteria to guide the identification of site-specific use levels for implementation activities.

Alternative B (Draft RMP/Draft EIS Agency Preferred)

Alternative B meets the purpose and need with an emphasis on healthy forests through active vegetation management while sustaining and enhancing ecological integrity for plant, wildlife, and fish habitat across the landscape.

This alternative provides for the most vegetation treatments and noxious weed treatments annually. Treatments would restore forested vegetative communities to achieve the mid-range of the natural range of variability sooner and provide for the multiple terrestrial and aquatic species dependent upon these habitats. Treatments also restore and improve grassland and shrubland vegetative communities. Quantities of forest-based commodity resources from vegetation restoration activities would be the greatest.

This alternative emphasizes dispersed recreation opportunities, especially for hunting and fishing. Recreation would be a priority in four areas—the Lower Blackfoot Corridor, the Garnets (Garnet Ghost Town and winter trails), and Chamberlain, Limestone Cliffs —with updated management direction. Wildlife-dependent recreation would be a priority in the Hoodoos Backcountry Conservation Area (6,100 acres). Dispersed recreation would continue throughout the planning area. Alternative B also sets the stage for step-down travel management focused on snowmobiles, mountain biking, and hiking opportunities in the Blackfoot and Garnet areas with the "Limited motorized travel" allocation.

Existing allotments of livestock grazing would remain available subject to the Rangeland Health Standards with flexibility at the site-specific level to adjust the terms and conditions such as season of use, rest rotations, AUMs, and more. More acres are available for prescriptive grazing under this alternative.

The ESA threatened or endangered species would continue to receive priority emphasis in accordance with USFWS recovery plans. Other priority species and habitats for management include Bureau sensitive species, big game, and migratory birds. Restoration of key species habitats would be important in this alternative. The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail corridor would be 1/2 mile on public lands on either side of the centerline of the trail.

Alternative C

Alternative C meets the purpose and need, while emphasizing the greatest degree of conservation of fish and wildlife habitat, and conservation of cultural and historic resources. It also places an emphasis on allowing natural processes to occur in moving toward attainment of natural range of variability in forests. Alternative C emphasizes wildlife-dependent recreation and moderate levels of resource use balanced with various human demands and land uses, while sustaining and enhancing ecological integrity for plant, wildlife, and fish habitat across the landscape.

This alternative provides for active restoration of vegetative communities to achieve the natural range of variability, but to a lesser extent than alternatives A and B. Treatments within forested and grassland vegetative communities would emphasize terrestrial and aquatic habitat restoration. Quantities of forest-based commodity resources from vegetation restoration activities would be the lowest.

Alternative C also emphasizes dispersed recreation opportunities, especially hunting and fishing. Wildlife-dependent recreation (hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing) would be a priority in four areas through Backcountry Conservation Area designations— the northern Garnets (Chamberlain), the Hoodoos, Marcum Mountain, and Ram Mountain. Recreation would also be a priority in the Blackfoot, but for a diversity of recreation experiences. Dispersed recreation would continue throughout the planning area. This alternative also sets the stage for step-down travel management focused on snowmobiles, mountain biking, and hiking opportunities in the Blackfoot and Garnet areas with the "Limited motorized travel" allocation.

Existing allotments of livestock grazing would remain available subject to the Rangeland Health Standards with flexibility at the site-specific level to make adjustments to the terms and conditions such as season of use, rest rotations, AUMs, and more. Stricter requirements are triggered when rangeland health standards are not met, and the causal factor is livestock grazing. Very few acres are available for prescriptive grazing under this alternative.

The ESA threatened or endangered species would continue to receive priority emphasis in accordance with USFWS recovery plans. Other priority species and habitats for management include Bureau sensitive species, big game, and migratory birds. Restoration of key species habitats would be a high priority in this alternative. The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail corridor would be 1 mile on public lands on either side of the centerline of the trail. Wildlife habitat objectives would be similar to alternative B, but with a greater emphasis on conservation and restoration of terrestrial wildlife habitat. Riparian conservation criteria for project-level implementation would be similar to alternative B.

Sub-Alternative C (Environmentally Preferred)

Sub-alternatives are variations of an action alternative that modify an individual component of the alternative to explore how these changes would alter certain outcomes. The BLM developed this sub-alternative in the Final EIS because of public comments. Individual components vary to test specific questions about alternative design based on input received during external and internal scoping. The sub-alternative primarily includes:

- Reduced animal unit months (25%) to allocate more forage for wildlife.
- Finding of suitability for five of the wild and scenic river segments.
- Inclusion of two Research Natural Areas managed for their relevant and important biological values.
- Additional acreage for Backcountry Conservation Areas.
- Manage lands with wilderness characteristics and a majority of WSAs, if released, as Backcountry Conservation Areas.

Agency Proposed (Selected Alternative)

The BLM developed the Proposed RMP as a variation on Alternative B, which the BLM identified in the Draft RMP/EIS as the preferred alternative. The Proposed RMP meets the purpose and need with an emphasis on healthy forests through active vegetation management while sustaining and enhancing ecological integrity for plant, wildlife, and fish habitat across the landscape.

This alternative provides for the most vegetation treatments and noxious weed treatments annually. Treatments would restore forested vegetative communities to achieve the mid-range of the natural range of variability sooner and provide for the multiple terrestrial and aquatic species dependent upon these habitats. Treatments also restore and improve grassland and shrubland vegetative communities. Quantities of forest-based commodity resources from vegetation restoration activities would be the greatest.

Recreation with updated management directions would be a priority in four areas—the Blackfoot, the Garnets (Garnet Ghost Town and winter trails), Chamberlain, and Limestone Cliffs.

Wildlife-dependent recreation would be a priority in three areas, which would be designated as Backcountry Conservation Areas – Ram Mountain, Hoodoos, and Wales. Dispersed recreation would continue throughout the planning area. The Proposed RMP also sets the stage for step-down travel management focused on snowmobiles, mountain biking, and hiking opportunities in the Blackfoot and Garnet areas with the "Limited motorized travel" allocation. Dispersed recreation opportunities, especially for hunting and fishing, would be allowed throughout the entire planning area.

Existing allotments of livestock grazing would remain available subject to the Rangeland Health Standards with flexibility at the site-specific level to adjust the terms and conditions such as season of use, rest rotations, AUMs, and more. More acres are available for prescriptive grazing under this alternative.

The ESA threatened or endangered species would continue to receive priority emphasis in accordance with USFWS recovery plans. Other priority species and habitats for management include Bureau

sensitive species, big game, and migratory birds. Restoration of key species habitats would be important in this alternative. The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail corridor would be 1/2 mile on public lands on either side of the centerline of the trail. The West Fork Buttes would be managed as a Research Natural Area (950 acres) prioritizing maintaining the biologically diverse plant species, treating invasive species, and partnering on opportunities for education and research.

I.4 MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS AND DECISION RATIONALE

The Approved RMP reflects statutory, regulatory, and national policy considerations. The decision is also based on review and substantive comments from federal, tribal, state, and local governments and agencies, the public, industry, and the three cooperating agencies that participated in the planning process.

The Approved RMP provides the best combination of management decisions to meet the purpose of and need for the RMP in consideration of the planning issues and management concerns identified through the planning process. It fulfills the purpose by providing goals and objectives for public lands management and by resolving multiple-use conflicts or issues associated with those requirements that drive the preparation of the RMP. It fulfills the need by addressing current resource conditions, changes in circumstances, such as evolving demands on resources, and new or revised national-level policies (43 CFR 1610.5-6) since preparation of the 1986 Garnet Resource Area RMP (BLM 1986) as amended.

The Approved RMP provides the most comprehensive framework for addressing the diverse management needs of BLM-administered lands in the Decision Area. The Approved RMP is responsive to the public demand for recreation as it includes four special recreation management areas, three backcountry conservation areas, and allows dispersed hunting throughout the planning area. The Approved RMP also emphasizes active forest management that balances providing fire resiliency, timber production, and improving wildlife and aquatic habitats.

I.5 APPLICATION OF THE APPROVED RMP TO EXISTING PROJECTS

Numerous rights and privileges have been established on BLM-administered lands under law, regulation, or planning decisions. The decisions included in this ROD and Approved RMP supersede 1986 Garnet Resource Area RMP (BLM 1986), and their subsequent amendments. Beyond the decisions in the Approved RMP, all BLM-administered lands and federal mineral estate in the Missoula remain subject to valid existing rights and to the stipulations and conditions of approval associated with the given right at the time it was granted. This includes the right of reasonable access to surface and subsurface parcels leased for the development of the mineral interest.

Projects that require a decision to extend an existing authorization or permit may require modification to conform to the RMP before approval, such as ROW grant and grazing permit renewals. Projects for which site-specific decisions have not yet been signed, but for which preparation of NEPA documents began before the ROD's effective date, may also require modification to conform to the RMP.

1.6 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The policy of the BLM is to provide opportunities for the public, various groups, other federal agencies, Native American Tribal Governments, and state and local governments to participate meaningfully and substantively by providing input and comments during the preparation of the RMP/EIS. Preparation of the Missoula Draft RMP /Draft EIS included four distinct public involvement efforts: (1) pre-scoping envisioning; (2) formal public scoping; (3) recreation focus groups; and, (4) public review of preliminary alternatives.

Throughout the planning process, the BLM actively engaged the public and its cooperating agencies, as well as consulted with the Montana State Historic Preservation Office and US Fish and Wildlife Service. The BLM also engaged in government-to-government consultation with Native American tribes. Public review of the Draft RMP/EIS occurred for 90 days following its publication. Information about the RMP/EIS process can be obtained by the public at any time by visiting the Missoula RMP/EIS ePlanning website at the link above. This website contains background information about the project, a public involvement and project timeline, maps and relevant GIS data of the Planning Area, and copies of public information documents released throughout the RMP/EIS process.

1.6.1 PUBLIC ENVISIONING

In the spring of 2016, the Missoula BLM kicked off a pre-scoping public envisioning phase. During this phase, the BLM held multiple listening sessions and four public workshops in Missoula, Philipsburg, Greenough, and Helmsville. The facilitators gathered information on general perspectives on BLM-managed lands and minerals, public lands, and issues. The Public Envisioning Report (June 2016, USDI-BLM) is available on the Missoula RMP/EIS website at https://go.usa.gov/xmyyG.

1.6.2 PUBLIC SCOPING

In the winter of 2016 –2017, the BLM entered the public scoping period. Public scoping commenced upon publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register, on December 12, 2016. The BLM subsequently hosted four public workshops in Missoula, Phillipsburg, Greenough, and Helmsville to share information about the planning process. The BLM Scoping Report (August 2017, USDI-BLM) summarizes the public scoping comments, also available on the Missoula RMP/EIS ePlanning website: https://go.usa.gov/xmyyG

1.6.3 RECREATION FOCUS GROUP WORKSHOPS

In July 2017 members of the Public Lands Recreation Research Partnership (PLRRP) conducted a series of three focus groups (35 participants) regarding recreational outcomes and experiences on BLM managed lands in and around Missoula, Montana. A mixed methodology focus group was employed to establish the recreational experience baseline. Participants were asked a series of open-ended questions as well as survey-type questions (recorded on handouts provided) in a 90-minute discussion focusing on their relationship to these public lands, and their preferences for recreational settings, experiences, and outcomes related to these lands. The focus group script covered all the major elements needed in planning for recreation on public lands: preferences for outcomes and experiences, interests and expectations, setting characteristics, activities, and the services needed to support the recreation experience. Additional questions encouraged participants to express their preferences for management practices including the BLM's engagement with the public during its planning process.

The majority of participants in the focus groups came from communities within 50 miles of Missoula such as Seeley Lake, Bonner, Clinton, and Stevensville. They highlighted the scenic beauty, recreational opportunities, and close proximity of these lands to their communities as vitally important characteristics of the landscape that greatly enhanced their quality of life and the character of their communities. The participants were concerned about access to these landscapes and the impacts of vandalism and development on the character and sustainability of the natural resources including wildlife, vegetation, soils, water, and visual resources. Typical of public lands across the west, these landscapes provide opportunities for a variety of recreational activity, but land managers have the challenge of handling the conflict that often arises between user groups. The diversity of the population, culture, and the landscape were particularly prized by participants in this study. This made it even more important that managers included a wide variety of stakeholders in the planning process and focused on transparent ways to communicate with the public and included them in partnerships for planning and management of the landscape. According to most of the participants, this is a natural landscape that should be managed for recreational opportunities, the protection of unique biological and physical qualities, and as a place to experience tranquil escapes and self-reliant adventures that enhance the quality of life for local residents and tourist visitors into the future.

BLM Missoula FO Recreation Focus Group Report provides detailed results of the focus group data collection, both the written responses and group discussions with public land users concerning recreation on BLM-administered lands in the Missoula BLM.

1.6.4 Release of Preliminary Alternatives

In the winter of 2018, the Missoula BLM provided the public an opportunity to view an early version of the alternatives —mainly the high-level allocations and concepts—before a full draft was complete. The BLM posted the preliminary alternatives to its website and hosted three public open houses in Missoula, Greenough, and Philipsburg in January 2018. The handouts provided during these workshops are available on the Missoula RMP/EIS ePlanning website: https://go.usa.gov/xmyyG

1.6.5 Public Review and Comment on the Draft EIS/Draft RMP

A notice of availability announcing the release of the Draft RMP/EIS was published in the Federal Register on May 17, 2019 initiating a 90-day public comment period ending on August 15, 2019. The BLM also issued a news release on May 17, 2019, announcing the release of the Draft RMP/EIS and providing a link to the draft documents and information about upcoming public meetings and instructions for submitting comments. During the public comment period, the BLM held one public comment open house for the Draft RMP/EIS on July 11, 2019, in Missoula. The public open house provided opportunities for the public to ask questions and submit comments. BLM managers, resource specialists, and other representatives of the BLM were present during these open houses to discuss and answer questions.

During the 90-day public comment period, BLM received a total of approximately 6,000 email submissions, and 72 of these were considered unique submissions while the remainder were part of Form Letters in support of either Backcountry Conservation Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, or Wilderness Study Areas. These documents resulted in 520 unique substantive comments received on the Draft RMP/EIS. Excerpted substantive comments from individual submissions, as well as summaries of and the BLM's responses to those substantive comments, are in Appendix S of the

Proposed RMP/Final EIS. This appendix summarizes the public comment process, provides a detailed description of the comments received during the public comment period, and explains the comment analysis methodology used.

1.6.6 PROTEST RESOLUTION – PROPOSED RMP/FINAL EIS

Pursuant to the BLM's planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2), the Proposed RMP/Final EIS was subject to a 30-day protest period that ended on March 16, 2020. The BLM received 72 protest letters during the protest period. Consistent with the delegation of authority provided by BLM manual section 1203, the BLM's Acting Assistant Director for Resources and Planning worked with BLM Headquarters staff to resolve these protests.

Specifically, the BLM dismissed 68 protest letters because they were comments and not protests, or they were incomplete protests.

The BLM received 4 valid/complete protest letters from parties with standing during the 30-day protest period. Issues raised by protestors included those associated with the following:

- NEPA range of alternatives
- NEPA impact analysis – grazing
- NEPA impact analysis - lands with wilderness characteristics
- FLPMA – monitoring
- FLPMA – unnecessary and undue degradation
- FLPMA – consistency with other plans, travel management
- WSA - wild and scenic rivers
- ESA – consultation

The Acting Assistant Director for Resources and Planning concluded that the BLM Montana State Director followed the applicable laws, regulations, and policies, and considered all relevant resource information and public input. The Acting Assistant Director resolved the protests without making changes to the Proposed RMP.

On June 19, 2020, the BLM issued a Protest Resolution Report, and each protesting party was notified in writing of the BLM's findings and the disposition of their protests. The Protest Resolution Report was made available on the BLM website.

On September 25, 2020, the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana ruled that BLM Deputy Director for Policy and Programs William Perry Pendley has unlawfully served as the Acting BLM Director for the last 424 days and enjoined him from exercising the authority of the BLM Director. *Bullock v. Bureau of Land Management et al.*, 4:20-cv-00062, (D. Mont. September 25, 2020). On October 16, 2020, after further briefing by the parties, the Court set aside the Missoula and Lewistown RMP Revisions – as well as the Miles City RMP Amendment – on the grounds that Mr. Pendley "exercised the Director's exclusive authority to resolve protests" on all three plan decisions. Further, the Court determined that "[o]nly the Secretary of the Interior can perform functions or duties of the BLM Director." *Bullock v. Bureau of Land Management et al.*, 4:20-cv-00062, *4 (D. Mont. October 16, 2020).

Following issuance of the October 16, 2020 Order, the Secretary independently reviewed the protests and a proposed Protest Resolution Report prepared by the BLM. Following that review, on December 29, 2020, the Secretary independently approved a Protest Resolution Report and issued a protest resolution response to protesting parties. The Protest Resolution Report was also made available on the BLM's website https://go.usa.gov/xmyyG.

1.6.7 GOVERNOR'S CONSISTENCY REVIEW

To promote consistency with state government plans or policies (as required by 43 CFR 1610.3-2(e)), the BLM initiated the Montana Governor's Consistency Review for the Missoula Proposed RMP/Final EIS in a letter dated February 14, 2020. The consistency review period concluded on April 13, 2020.

The Governor submitted a letter to the State Director on April 13, 2020, identifying some concerns in response to the consistency review. These concerns included consistency with the State comprehensive outdoor recreation plan and State wildlife and fish species management. The BLM thoroughly reviewed the Governor's response letter and determined that the Proposed RMP was consistent with existing State plans and no changes were made to the Approved RMP. The Governor did not exercise the option to appeal the decision of the State Director to the BLM Director.

I.7 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The BLM land use planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.3), FLPMA (43 US Code 1712), and regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1501.5 and 1501.6) guide the BLM in coordinating and cooperating with other federal and state agencies, local governments, and Native American tribes during the land use planning process. This collective guidance instructs the BLM as follows:

- Stay informed of federal, state, local, and tribal plans.
- Ensure that it considers these plans in its own planning.
- Seek ways to resolve inconsistencies between such plans and BLM planning.
- Cooperate with other agencies and tribal governments in developing RMPs and NEPA analyses.

I.7.1 TRIBAL CONSULTATION

Government-to-government consultation began in March 21, 2017 with the BLM sending requests for consultation letters to all area tribes – Nez Perce Tribe, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Fort Hall Reservation, Blackfeet Nation, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes expressed an interest to stay informed and continue the formal consultation throughout the planning process. The BLM held informational meetings with tribal representatives of the Salish and Kootenai Tribes. This was to ensure that management actions were consistent with treaty rights retained by tribes and that the concerns of tribal groups were considered. Government-to-government consultation continued throughout the development of the Proposed RMP.

I.7.2 MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE CONSULTATION

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) was notified of the status of the Missoula RMP and received the Proposed RMP/Final EIS containing additional information on SHPO consultation.

I.7.3 U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CONSULTATION

To comply with Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), the BLM began consulting with the USFWS early in the planning process. The USFWS provided input on planning issues, data collection and review, and alternatives development. The BLM consulted with the USFWS to identify ESA issues associated with Canada Lynx, Grizzly Bear, and Bull trout and their respective Critical Habitats. On June 6, 2020, USFWS provided Biological Opinions with determinations of no-jeopardy findings for the grizzly bear, Canada lynx, and bull trout. The Conservation Recommendations from the Biological Opinions are included in Appendix T.

I.7.4 COOPERATING AGENCIES

The BLM invites agency cooperation early in the RMP process using the process outlined in 43 CFR 1501.6. A cooperating agency is any federal, state, or local government agency or Indian tribe that enters into a formal agreement with the lead federal agency to help develop an environmental analysis. More specifically, cooperating agencies "work with the BLM, sharing knowledge and resources, to achieve desired outcomes for public lands and communities within statutory and regulatory frameworks" (BLM Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1; BLM 2005). The primary role of cooperating agencies during the planning process is to provide input on issues for which they have a special expertise or jurisdiction.

The BLM is the lead agency for the Missoula RMP. In the spring of 2016, the BLM sent letters to over 40 federal, state, and local agencies, and tribal governments, inviting them to participate in the RMP revision as an official cooperating agency. Of the 40 agencies invited, three agencies signed a memorandum of understanding with the BLM to become official cooperating agencies. These agencies are: (1) Missoula County; (2) Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Region 2; and, (3) U.S. Forest Service—Region 1 (Lolo National Forest; Helena and Lewis and Clark National Forest, Lincoln Ranger District; Bitterroot Deerlodge National Forest, Pintler Ranger District; Flathead National Forest; Rocky Mountain Research Station, Forestry Science Lab (Missoula); Fire Science Lab).

I.8 AVAILABILITY OF THE PLAN

Copies of the ROD and the Missoula RMP may be obtained from the BLM website at https://go.usa.gov/xmyyG or by obtaining a copy at the following locations:

Bureau of Land Management
Montana State Office
5001 Southgate Drive
Billings, MT 59101

Bureau of Land Management
Missoula Field Office
3255 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, Montana 59804

1.9 APPROVAL

I hereby approve the land use plan decisions. My approval of the land use plan decisions is based on an independent review of the Protests, Protest Resolution Report, ROD, Proposed RMP/Final Environmental Impact Statement, and other documents otherwise made available to me directly or indirectly. My decision constitutes the final decision of the Department of the Interior in accordance with the land use planning regulations at 43 CFR 1610.

Approved by:

David L. Bernhardt
Secretary of the Interior

1/4/2021
Date

II. Approved Resource Management Plan

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II.1 INTRODUCTION

The US Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Missoula Field Office (FO) prepared the Missoula Resource Management Plan (RMP). The intent is to provide comprehensive management direction for BLM-administered lands in the Missoula FO. This is the Approved Resource Management Plan for the public lands administered by the BLM Missoula FO.

The BLM prepared the RMP in compliance with its planning regulations, Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 1600, under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). This document also meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), the BLM's NEPA regulations (43 CFR 46), and requirements of the BLM's NEPA Handbook, 1790-1 (BLM 2008a).

II.1.1 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The resource management planning process is a key tool that the BLM uses, in collaboration with interested public parties, to ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to managing BLM-administered lands. An RMP is a set of comprehensive decisions concerning the use and management of programs and resources administered by BLM. In general, the purpose of an RMP is twofold: first, it provides an overview of goals, objectives, and needs associated with public lands management; second, it resolves multiple-use conflicts or issues associated with those requirements that drive the preparation of the RMP.

BLM regulations require that existing land use plans be revised when necessary to address current resource conditions, changes in circumstances, such as evolving demands on resources, and new or revised policy on the national level (43 CFR 1610.5-6). Management direction for lands in the Missoula Planning Area was contained in the 1986 Garnet Resource Area RMP (BLM 1986). Although the 1986 RMP has been subsequently amended, they did not satisfactorily address new and emerging issues. Laws, regulations, policies, and issues regarding management of BLM-administered lands have changed during the life of the plans. The BLM needed to revise the 1986 RMP to ensure compliance with current laws and policies and to address issues that have arisen since its preparation.

II.1.2 MISSOULA PLANNING AREA AND DECISION AREA

Planning Area

The Missoula RMP planning area is located in western Montana in Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, and Sanders Counties (see Figure 1 below). Within these nine counties, the BLM will only make decisions on lands that fall under the BLM's jurisdiction including subsurface minerals. Over 99 percent of these surface acres are located in Granite, Missoula, and Powell Counties (see Figure 2). Other land managers and owners in the planning area include national forests, Glacier National Park, state, tribal, and private landowners (see Table 1 and Table 2).

Analysis Area. The analysis area refers to any lands, regardless of jurisdiction, for which the BLM synthesizes, analyzes, and interprets data and information that relates to planning for BLM-managed

lands. This generally includes all lands within Granite, Missoula, and Powell Counties, regardless of jurisdiction or ownership. Although the cumulative effects analysis area for a particular resource or resource use may expand beyond this general 3-county analysis area boundary, depending on the issue.

Decision Area. The decision area refers to lands within a planning area for which the BLM has authority to make land use and management decisions, which includes the approximately 163,000 surface acres of BLM-managed lands, and the approximately 267,389 acres of subsurface minerals in split estate as described above.

II.1.3 SCOPING AND ISSUES

The formal scoping period began with publication of the Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* on December 12, 2016 (81 Federal Register 89504, December 12, 2016). The scoping period ended March 16, 2010. The BLM identified issue statements and management concerns in the Notice of Intent. Based on public scoping and internal scoping, the BLM revised these issues and management concerns that were carried forward for analysis were:

Air Quality and Climate. How would the alternatives address air quality and the changing climate in the plan?

Economics and Community. How would the BLM consider social and economic conditions in the planning area when managing BLM lands, specifically how should the BLM contribute to local economies and infrastructure needs through recreation opportunities, rights-of-way, mineral exploration and development, livestock grazing, and forest products while managing for wildlife and aquatics habitat?

Environmental Justice. What communities or populations, if any, will receive disproportionate impacts as an effect of RMP implementation? How would the BLM mitigate these effects if any exist?

Noxious and Invasive Species. How would the alternatives address management to limit the spread of invasive species, including aquatic invasive species?

Lands available for and recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry. How will the alternatives either release or recommend for withdrawal acres of interminable temporary segregation?

Lands, Realty, and Access. How should the BLM-managed lands improve public access and resource management, including hunting opportunities, through land tenue actions?

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. How would the alternatives address lands with wilderness characteristics?

Paleontological Resources. How would the alternatives address surface disturbing activity and paleontological resources?

Partnerships. How would the alternatives address local, state, tribal, and national partnerships to achieve shared goals for priority watersheds and forest vegetation projects?

Recreation. How would the alternatives provide for public demands for access and recreation, specifically hunting, fishing, mountain biking, snowmobiling, off-highway vehicles, hiking, and river-related recreation?

Special Designations. How should special designations be managed to protect values that warrant special designation status?

Visual Resources. How would varying types and intensities of resource uses in the RMP alternatives impact visual resource quality on BLM-managed lands in the planning area?

Vegetation Management. What is the appropriate intensity of active forest management to achieve natural range of variability in order to achieve fish and wildlife habitat objectives, and also to provide a sustainable supply of forest products and forage for wildlife and domestic livestock?

Watershed Management. How could the BLM-managed lands be managed to contribute to restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters, safe drinking water supplies, soil and vegetation health, and the proper functioning condition of riparian-wetlands?

Wildlife and Aquatics Species and Habitats. How would the alternatives manage for ecologically resilient fish and wildlife habitat, including contribution to the recovery of Canada lynx, grizzly bear, and bull trout, big game species, and other Bureau sensitive species?

Issues Considered but Not Further Analyzed

During scoping, participants raised several concerns regarding issues that would not be addressed in the RMP, including administrative, policy, and implementation issues; issues outside the scope of the RMP; and issues that have already been addressed through other BLM activities. The Missoula RMP Scoping Summary Section 3.5 of the Missoula Resource Management Plan Scoping Report (USDI-BLM 2017) contains a comprehensive list of the issues, concerns, and questions by the public that were outside of the scope of the RMP, which is incorporated here by reference. These were the issues considered but not analyzed in detail:

Reintroduce Bison: At this time, the state of Montana has not proposed reintroducing wild bison on any BLM lands managed by the Missoula Field Office. Bison in private ownership are considered livestock, and as such, are permitted by the BLM pursuant to 43 CFR 4130.3-2(e).

Site-Specific Travel Management: The RMP designated off-highway vehicle (OHV) allocations. Specifically, this RMP allocates BLM-managed lands in the planning area as either: (a) Open motorized travel, (b) Closed to motorized travel, or (c) Limited motorized travel. These allocations set the stage for subsequent step-down travel management plans. Travel management route designations (e.g., motorized or non-motorized trails, types of vehicles or use per route, seasonal restrictions, etc.) are implementation-level decisions, which align with the RMP allocations and are subject to site-specific NEPA analysis and public involvement.

Fluid Mineral Leasing: The BLM has not received an expression of interest in fluid leasable minerals since 1985, and there is no reasonably foreseeable future expression of interest. Thus, fluid mineral leasing was considered, but not analyzed further. If, in the future, the BLM were to receive an

expression of interest, the BLM would proceed with the requisite environmental analysis and public involvement process at that time.

Wind and Solar Renewable Energy: The BLM has not received an expression of interest for wind or solar development. There is no known infrastructure in the BLM-managed lands to support any development. At this time, there are no reasonably foreseeable future demands for wind or solar energy on the BLM-managed lands. Thus, provisions specific to wind and solar developments were not addressed further in this document, and no allocations of preferred areas for competitive leasing, known as designated leasing areas, were made Any applications for testing or development would be addressed on a case-by-case basis with the requisite NEPA analysis and public involvement.

Release Wilderness Study Areas or designate areas as Wilderness: Only Congress can designate lands as "Wilderness" and only Congress can release Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). With the passage of the FLPMA, Congress mandated that the BLM conduct a wilderness review of its administered public lands. The BLM studied the Wales Creek area and the Hoodoo Mountain area under the authority of Section 603 of FLPMA, which directs the BLM to inventory, study, and report to Congress the suitability of certain lands for wilderness preservation. The BLM studied Quigg West under Section 202 of FLPMA. The WSAs are managed under BLM Manual 6330 until Congress decides whether to designate these areas as wilderness or release them to multiple use management. The BLM will prepare a wilderness management plan for any areas designated as wilderness by Congress. Thus, designating lands as wilderness or removing the WSA designations is outside the BLM's authority and was beyond the scope of the revision.

II.1.4 PLANNING CRITERIA AND LEGISLATIVE CONSTRAINTS

The FLPMA is the primary authority for the BLM's management of public lands. This law provides the policy by which BLM-administered lands will be managed and establishes provisions for land use planning, land acquisition and disposition, administration, range management, rights-of-way (ROWs), designated management areas, and the repeal of certain statutes.

The NEPA establishes a national policy for the environment. It requires the consideration and public availability of information regarding the environmental impacts of major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. In concert, FLPMA and NEPA provide the overarching guidance for administrating BLM activities.

Planning criteria are the standards, rules, and guidelines that help to guide data collection and alternative formulation and selection in the RMP development process. In conjunction with the planning issues, planning criteria ensure that the planning process is focused. The criteria also help guide the final plan selection and provide a basis for judging the responsiveness of the planning options.

The Missoula BLM planning criteria:

- Complete the plan and associated environmental impact statement in compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA); the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); the National Historic Preservation Act; the National Trails Act; Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; Endangered Species Act; Clean Water Act; Clean Air Act; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Minerals Leasing Act; and other federal laws, regulations, and policies as required.

- Establish new guidance and identify existing guidance upon which the BLM will manage public lands within the Missoula Field Office.
- Provide opportunities for public participation throughout the planning process, including a preliminary alternatives outreach.
- Recognize and manage for valid existing rights.
- Work cooperatively with state and federal agencies, tribes, and local governments. Working closely with the USFWS, the BLM will develop the action alternatives to provide sufficient detail in the analysis to facilitate RMP-level endangered species consultation. Working closely with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency, the BLM will develop the action alternatives to satisfy state and federal water quality rules and regulations at the RMP level.
- Initiate consultation with Native American tribes to identify and discuss management options for any sacred sites located on BLM lands within the decision area.
- Consider relevant plans and policies of adjacent conservation system units, landowners, and local governments so that RMP decisions will be consistent to the degree reasonably practical.
- Consider public access and recreational opportunities when evaluating land tenure decisions consistent with Secretarial Order 3373.
- Conform to the BLM's H-1601-1 Land Use Planning Handbook, Appendix C; program-specific and resource-specific decision guidance; and applicable BLM manuals and handbooks as updated by program guidance.
- Incorporate by reference the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for Montana/Dakotas; the BLM's H-9214-1 Fuels Management and Community Assistance Handbook; Best Management Practices for Forestry in Montana; the Montana Streamside Management Zone Law and Rules, and the Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides FEIS.
- Create wildlife habitat management consistent with U.S. Department of the Interior guidance and the Montana Department of Fish and Wildlife objectives. Coordinate with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks pursuant to Secretarial Order 3362 to enhance and improve the quality of big-game winter range and migration corridors on federal lands.
- Consider efforts to expand hunting, fishing, and recreational opportunities consistent with Secretarial Orders 3347, 3356, and 3366.
- Geospatial data will be automated within a geographic information system (GIS) to facilitate discussions of the affected environment, alternative formulation, analysis of environmental consequences, and display of the results.
- Consider resource allocations that are reasonable and achievable within available technological and budgetary constraints.
- Incorporate environmental justice considerations in the action alternatives to respond to environmental justice issues facing minority populations, low-income communities, and Native American tribes living near public lands and using public land resources. The environmental justice analysis will use guidance provided in H-1601-1, Appendix D, Social Science Considerations in Land Use Planning Decisions.

- Incorporate best management practices (BMPs) for road drainage, grazing, Water Quality BMPs for Montana Forests, fire rehab, fire management, wind energy, power lines, and ESA-listed species.
- Develop action alternatives and provide cumulative effects analysis to provide a framework to simplify and facilitate project-level NEPA analysis for management actions implementing the RMP.
- Incorporate measures to protect against catastrophic wildfires consistent with Executive Order 13855 and Secretarial Order 3372.

II.1.5 PLANNING PROCESS

The BLM uses a multistep planning process when developing RMPs, as required by 43 CFR 1600 and illustrated in the BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601-1 (BLM 2005). The planning process is designed to help the BLM identify the uses desired by the public of BLM-administered lands. During this process, the BLM considers these uses to the extent they are consistent with the laws established by Congress and the policies of the executive branch of the federal government. The planning process is issue driven. The BLM used the public scoping process to identify planning issues (noted above) to direct the development of the Missoula RMP. It used the scoping process to introduce the public to planning criteria.

Title II, Section 202, of FLPMA directs the BLM to coordinate planning efforts with Native American tribes, other federal agencies, and state and local governments as part of its land use planning process. The BLM is also directed to integrate NEPA requirements with other environmental review and consultation requirements, to reduce paperwork and delays (40 CFR 1500.4-5). The BLM coordinated with the Confederated Tribes of the Salish Kootenai as well as other Federal, State, and local agencies through ongoing communications and collaboration with an interdisciplinary team of BLM specialists.

Any activity-level or project-specific authorization or management action must conform with the Approved RMP (i.e., be specifically provided for in the RMP or consistent with the terms, conditions, and decisions in the Approved RMP; 43 CFR 1601.0-5(b)). A land use plan amendment may be necessary to consider monitoring and evaluation findings; substantive new data; new or revised policy; changes in circumstances; or a proposed action that may result in a change in the scope of resource uses or a change in the terms, conditions, and decisions of the Approved RMP.

II.1.6 RELATED PLANS AND POLICY

The BLM considered federal, state, local, and tribal plans that were germane to the development of the RMP/EIS. The BLM worked closely with federal, state, local, and tribal governments during preparation of the RMP/EIS. A list of all plans and policies BLM considered can be found in Sections 1.7 and 1.8 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. Chapter 4 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS describes coordination that occurred throughout the development of the RMP.

This RMP is consistent with and incorporates requirements identified in various laws, regulations, and policies. These include executive orders, legislative designations, and court settlements and rulings.

II.2 MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

This section of the Approved RMP presents the goals, objectives, actions, allowable uses, and stipulations established for BLM-administered lands in the Decision Area. Most of the desired future conditions are long range and are assumed to require a period of time to achieve and framed as goals. These management decisions are presented by program area under three category headings: resources, resource uses, special designations, and public safety and Tribal Interests. Types of management decisions are presented in Table II-3 and management decisions are presented below.

Table 1 Program Categories

RMP Program Category	Abbreviation
General management	GM
Resources	
Air quality and climate	AC
Aquatic habitat and special status aquatic species	AQ
Cave and Karst Resources	CK
Cultural and Heritage Resources	CH
Paleontological Resources	PL
Soil, Water and Riparian-Wetland Vegetation	SWR
Vegetation, general	
Vegetation – Forest including special status plant species	FV
Vegetation – Grassland and Shrubland	GS
Vegetation – Noxious and Invasive Plants	NX
Wildlife Habitat and special status species	WL
Wildland Fire Management	WF
Resource Uses	
Forestry and woodland products	FOR
Livestock grazing	GRZ
Minerals - locatable minerals, mineral materials, and nonenergy solid leasable materials	MI
Recreation and visitor services	REC
Travel and transportation management	TM
Lands and realty, land tenure adjustments	
Lands and Realty – Access	LA
Lands and Realty – Land tenure	LT
Lands and Realty – Land Use Authorizations	LU
Lands and realty, land tenure adjustments	
Lands and Realty – Access	LA
Lands and Realty – Land tenure	LT
Lands and Realty – Land Use Authorizations	LU

RMP Program Category	Abbreviation
Minerals - locatable minerals, mineral materials, and nonenergy solid leasable materials MN	
Withdrawals and other segregation WI	
Roads and Facilities RF	
Special Designations	
Areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs)	ACEC
National Trails	NT
Garnet National Winter Trail	
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail	
Wilderness Study Areas	WSA
Wild and Scenic Rivers	WSR
Safety and Tribal Interests	
Native American tribal interests	TRB
Public health and safety	PS

Decisions are presented below, and each is numbered, for ease of identification. The numbering sequences for the decisions are by program, each of which has an identified abbreviation (**Table II-1**), and each decision in that program is numbered in coordination with the program abbreviation (**Table II-1**), type of decision (**Table II-2**), and decision number.

Table 2 Decisions Types

Type of Decision	Abbreviation
Goal	GOAL
Objective	OBJ
Management action and allowable uses	MA

An example is as follows:

- AIR-GOAL-01: First air program goal
  - AIR-OBJ-01: First air program objective
    - AIR-MA-01: First air program management action decision
    - AIR-MA-02: Second air program management action decision

All acreages and maps presented in the Approved RMP are estimations, based on current data. Calculations depend on the quality and availability of data, and most calculations in this RMP are rounded to the nearest 10 acres or 0.1 mile. Given the scale of the analysis, the compatibility constraints between datasets and lack of data for some resources, all calculations are approximate; they are for comparison and analytic purposes only. Likewise, the figures in **Appendix H** are provided for illustrative purposes and subject to the limitations discussed above. Updating these data is considered plan maintenance, which will occur over time as the Approved RMP is implemented, additional surveys are completed, and information is revised.

The support information for the decisions contained in the Approved RMP are within the Proposed RMP/Final EIS incorporated and available here: https://eplanning.blm.gov.

Maps depicting resource information and stipulations applicable to surface-disturbing activities in the Approved RMP are provided in Appendix H. Appendices A through R contain supporting information for decisions outlined in the Approved RMP. Appendices not bolded are located in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS: https://eplanning.blm.gov. Appendices in bold are included in this document:

Appendix A. Air Quality and Climate (see *Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)*
Appendix B. Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Conservation Strategy
Appendix C. Forest Vegetation *(see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)*
Appendix D. Impaired Waters *(see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)*
Appendix E. Locatable Minerals Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario *(see Missoula PRMP/ Final EIS)*
Appendix F. Major Laws (see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)
Appendix G. Wild and Scenic River Suitability Report *(see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)*
Appendix H. Approved RMP Maps
Appendix I. Noxious and Invasive Species List *(see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)*
Appendix J. Post-Wildfire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Procedures *(see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)*
Appendix K. Probable Sale Quantity Determinations and Calculations *(see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)*
Appendix L. Approved Recreation Management Areas
Appendix M. Socioeconomic Report *(see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)*
Appendix N. Summary of No Action Alternative Management (see *Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)*
Appendix O. Supplemental Rules
Appendix P. Design Features and Best Management Practices
Appendix Q. Lands and Realty *(see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)*
Appendix R. Rangeland Health *(see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)*
Appendix S. Biological Opinions

II.2.1 GENERAL DECISIONS

GD-MA-1. Comply with federal laws, regulations, standards, and Secretarial Orders, including but not limited to the FLPMA multiple-use and sustained yield mandates.

GD-MA-2. Preserve valid existing rights, which include any leases, claims, or other use authorizations established before a new or modified authorization, change in land designation, or new or modified regulations is approved.

GD-MA-3. Continue management of the Garnet Winter Back Country Byway, which is part of the national scenic byway system. The goal of the Garnet Winter Back Country Byway is to highlight and interpret scenic, historic, archaeological or other interest values associated with Garnet Winter Back Country Byways in partnership with communities, interest groups, and state and federal agencies. The BLM manages it as a Type IV byway, specifically for winter use, and to accommodate snowmobiling and cross-country skiing along the byway, and to enhance visitor experiences, while evaluating future trails or roads for potential inclusion to this byway.

GD-MA-4. Implement administrative actions at approximately the same levels as the past decade. Administrative actions are routine transactions and activities that are required to serve the public and to provide optimum management of resources, including but not limited to:

- Administrative access for BLM staff and authorized leases/permits/etc.
- Competitive and commercial recreation activities
- Special forest product collection permit issuance
- Lands and realty actions (including the issuance of grants, leases, and permits)
- Unauthorized use resolution
- Facility maintenance and improvements
- Road maintenance
- Hauling permit issuance
- Recreation site maintenance and improvement
- Hazardous materials or tree removal
- Law enforcement
- Legal land or mineral estate ownership surveys
- Engineering support assistance in mapping field visits for the design of projects, include clearance inventories
- Tree sampling
- Project implementation and plan effectiveness monitoring Incidental live or dead tree removal for safety or operational reasons Wildlife, fisheries, or plant population or habitat monitoring

RESOURCES

II.2.2 AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE

Goals

AC-G-1. Manage native vegetation and wildlife species, soil and water resources, and wildlife habitats to maintain productivity, viability, and natural processes in response to stresses induced by climate change.

Objectives

AC-OBJ-1. Protect air quality-related values in federal mandatory Class I areas. Ensure authorizations and management activities comply with federal and state-mandated air quality regulations and requirements. Class I areas or federal land manager-specified sensitive Class II areas.

AC-OBJ-2. Prevent exceedances of national, state, or local ambient air quality standards.

AC-OBJ-3. Follow the BLM's climate-related policies addressing greenhouse gas emissions and carbon storage.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

AC-MA-1. Actions would comply with the Clean Air Act requirements, including compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), Montana Ambient Air Quality Standards (MAAQS), and the Montana State Implementation Plan.

AC-MA-2. For prescribed burns, continue to participate in the Montana Idaho Airshed Group to manage smoke impacts and coordinate with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

AC-MA-3. Use BMPs to reduce dust from unpaved road surfaces during extended management operations, such as timber sales and wildfires (Appendix P).

AC-MA-4. Follow the Air Resource Management Plan for activities that could negatively affect the status of air quality non-attainment or maintenance area.

II.2.3 AQUATIC HABITAT AND SPECIAL STATUS AQUATIC SPECIES

The BLM developed many of the management goals, objectives, and actions in this section based on those defined in INFISH (abbreviations in parenthesis indicate INFISH standards and guidelines carried forward in this plan). The Aquatic Conservation Strategy is located in Appendix B. Additional design features and best management practices are in Appendix P.

Goals

AQ-G-1. Contribute to the conservation and recovery of species and their habitats that are Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed, proposed, and sensitive species including candidate species.

AQ-G-2. Provide healthy, functioning aquatic, riparian, and wetland areas that support native and desired non-native aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, and rare plant species populations and communities.

Objectives

AQ-OBJ-1. Manage special status fish and other special status riparian-associated species in accordance with USFWS recovery plans, conservation agreements, and designated critical habitat.

AQ-OBJ-2. Maintain and restore riparian areas, stream channels and wetlands by providing forest shade, sediment filtering, wood recruitment, stability of stream banks and channels, waters storage and release, vegetation diversity, nutrient cycling, and cool and moist microclimates.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

AQ-MA-1. Conduct habitat restoration projects to improve aquatic special status species in fish key watersheds as appropriate.

AQ-MA-2. Apply project-level design features and BMPs as appropriate (Appendix P).

Riparian habitat conservation areas

AQ-MA-3. Delineate riparian habitat conservation areas (RHCAs) at the project or activity level in response to potential issues for aquatic species and habitat; and develop site-specific riparian management objectives (RMOs) giving primary emphasis to riparian-dependent resources.

AQ-MA-4. Design activities to maintain existing aquatic habitat; develop restoration projects when aquatic habitat is not meeting desired conditions.

AQ-MA-5. Activities in an RHCA shall not result in long-term degradation to aquatic conditions although limited short-term effects from activities may be acceptable when outweighed by long-term benefits.

AQ-MA-6. Apply project design features and best management practices as appropriate at the project level (Appendix P).

AQ-MA-7. Apply chemical herbicides, pesticides and toxicants in a manner that avoids adverse biological effects and does not retard or prevent attainment of RMOs. (RA-3)

Aquatic Invasive Species

AQ-MA-8. Collaborate with partners to maintain aquatic habitats free of invasive species (zebra mussels, New Zealand mud snails, quagga mussels, etc.) and prevent expansion into water bodies.

AQ-MA-9. Use BMPs for aquatic invasive species prevention and follow aquatic nuisance species management plans (appendix P).

Minerals Management

AQ-MA-10. Prevent undue and unnecessary degradation to aquatic species and their habitat for locatable mineral exploration and development by determining RHCAs and the associated management objectives at the project level.

Road and Infrastructure

AQ-MA-11. Maintain desired aquatic conditions to meet RMOs and avoid adverse effects to special status aquatic species for existing and planned roads. (RF-2)

AQ-MA-12. Manage for elimination, reduction, or minimize adverse effects from roads on aquatic resources, and address closure and rehabilitation of unneeded roads (RF-3c)

AQ-MA-13. Maintain or improve roads in a condition that will not contribute sediment to streams that will hinder spawning habitat for fish. This could include maintaining vegetated ditch lines, improving road surfaces and installing cross drains at appropriate spacing. (RF-3b)

Vegetation and Wildland Fire Management

AQ-MA-14. Vegetation management activities (fuel treatments, wildland fire suppression, harvest, fuelwood cutting, salvage, etc.) within the RHCAs will not prevent attainment of RMOs and will be designed to minimize disturbance of riparian ground cover vegetation. (TM-1b)

AQ-MA-15. Immediately establish an emergency or BAER team and develop a rehabilitation treatment plan to attain RMOs whenever RHCAs have been substantially damaged by a wildfire. (FM-5)

Lands and Rights-of-Way

AQ-MA-16. Issue land use authorizations (leases, permits, rights-of-way) to avoid effects that would retard or prevent attainment of desired RMOs and avoid adverse effects on special status aquatic species or critical habitats. Where the authority to do so was retained, adjust existing leases, permits, and rights-of-way to eliminate effects that would retard or prevent attainment of desired RMOs, and avoid adverse effects on special status aquatic species. Where the authority to do so was not retained, negotiate to make changes in existing leases, permits, and rights-of-way to eliminate effects that would retard or prevent attainment of desired RMOs and avoid adverse effects on special status aquatic species. (LH-3)

AQ-MA-17. Use land acquisition, exchange, and conservation easements to attain desired RMOs n and facilitate restoration of special status aquatic species habitat. (LH-4)

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration

AQ-MA-18. Design and implement restoration projects in a manner that promotes the long-term ecological integrity of habitats, provides for the genetic integrity of native species, and contributes to attainment of RMOs. (FW-1, WR-1)

AQ-MA-19. Cooperate with federal, tribal, and state fish management agencies to identify and eliminate adverse effects on aquatic special status species associated with habitat manipulation, fish stocking, fish harvest, and poaching. (FW-4)

AQ-MA-20. Fish key watersheds would be a high priority for restoration when funding is available.

II.2.4 CAVE AND KARST RESOURCES

Goals

CK-G-1. Identify, protect, or restore significant cave and karst resource values, and ensure the resource is available for appropriate use by present and future generations.

Objectives

CK-OBJ-1. Ensure that proposed land uses initiated or authorized by the BLM avoid damage to significant cave and karst resources. Inventory and survey cave and karst resources to identify significance in accordance with the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act.

CK-OBJ-2. Provide opportunities for appropriate recreational use, scientific research, or educational study while protecting other significant resource values.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

CK-MA-1. When appropriate, develop cave management plans for significant cave and karst resources.

CK-MA-2. Maintain a database of significant cave and karst features.

CK-MA-3. Monitor significant cave and karst resources to assess potential adverse impacts and develop responses as appropriate.

II.2.5 CULTURAL AND HERITAGE RESOURCES

Goals

CH-G-1. Preserve, protect, and interpret cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.

Objectives

CH-OBJ-1. Reduce imminent threats from natural or human-caused deterioration, and/or reduce potential conflict with other resources by ensuring that authorizations for land and resource use.

CH-OBJ-2. Promote stewardship, conservation, and appreciation of cultural resources through education and public programs in accordance with the BLM Heritage Education Program.

CH-OBJ-3. Manage important archeological and historic sites, or areas of concentration of cultural resources occur, for the use based on the nature of the cultural resource and relative preservation value.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

CH-MA-1. Evaluate documented cultural resources for National Register of Historic Places eligibility. Protect National Register of Historic Places eligible or listed sites through avoidance or other protection measures.

CH-MA-2. Comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for actions that have the potential to affect historic properties. Managers shall consider prudent and feasible alternatives to avoid adverse effects on cultural resources or their uses.

CH-MA-3. Conduct Section 110 inventories as appropriate.

CH-MA-4. Manage cultural resources in a stewardship role for public benefit. The public benefit is to analyze the scientific and sociocultural values of cultural resources; to provide a basis for allocation of cultural resources; to make cultural resources an important part of the planning system; and to identify information needed when existing documentation is inadequate to support a reasonable cultural resource-based land use allocation.

CH-MA-5. Assign identified or recorded cultural resources to cultural resource use categories in accordance with BLM Manual 8110 into one of the use allocations in Table 4.

Table 1. Cultural resource use allocations

Use Allocations	Desired Outcome	Management Action
Scientific use	Preserved until research potential is realized	Permit appropriate research including data recovery
Conservation for future use	Preserved until condition for use are met	Proposed protection measures/designations
Traditional use	Long-term preservation	Consult with Tribes; determine limitations; nomination priority is determined with consultation with appropriate cultural group
Public use	Long-term preservation, on-site interpretation	Determine limitations, permitted uses; high nomination priority
Experimental use	Protected until used	Determine nature of experiments; low nomination priority
Discharged from management	No use after recordation, not preserved	Remove protection measures

II.2.6 PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Goals

PL-G-1. Identify, preserve, and protect paleontological resources, and ensure they are available for appropriate use by present and future generations.

Objectives

PL-OBJ-1. Ensure that proposed land uses initiated or authorized by the BLM avoid inadvertent damage to significant paleontological resources.

PL-OBJ-2. Identify and prioritize areas for inventory based on paleontological resource potential for occurrence and known fossil localities.

PL-OBJ-3. Promote the stewardship, conservation, and appreciation of paleontological resources through appropriate educational and public outreach programs.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

PL-MA-1. Require permits for individuals or institutions conducting paleontological investigations for scientifically significant fossils.

PL-MA-2. Require appropriate BMPs or design features for paleontological resources for proposed land uses initiated or authorized by the BLM (Appendix P).

PL-MA-3. Maintain a database of paleontological sites and localities.

PL-MA-4. Monitor known paleontological locales to assess potential adverse impacts and develop design features as appropriate.

II.2.7 SOIL, WATER, AND RIPARIAN-WETLAND VEGETATION

Goals

SWR-G-1. Watersheds are in, or are making significant progress toward, properly functioning physical condition, including their upland, riparian-wetland, and aquatic components; soil and plant conditions support infiltration, soil moisture storage, and the release of water that are in balance with climate and landform and maintain or improve water quality, water quantity, and timing and duration of flow.

SWR-G-2. Ecological processes, including the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow, are maintained, or there is significant progress toward their attainment, to support healthy biotic populations and communities.

SWR-G-3. Water quality complies with federal and Montana State water quality standards and achieves or is making significant progress toward achieving BLM management objectives.

SWR-G-4. Hydrologic function is retained within the NRV in coordination with management of basin vegetation.

SWR-G-5. There are adequate water rights for support of multiple uses and state-designated beneficial uses.

SWR-G-6. Riparian-wetland areas achieve, or make significant progress toward meeting, proper functioning condition, the minimum acceptable condition (USDI 2015).

Objectives

SWR-OBJ-1. Maintain and secure water rights as needed for beneficial and multiple uses.

SWR-OBJ-2. Manage water quality in cooperation with Montana DEQ for sampling, monitoring, and determinations according to terms of the Memorandum of Understanding.

SWR-OBJ-3. Conduct soil rehabilitation and site restoration where feasible.

SWR-OBJ-4. Manage public lands administered by BLM to not contribute to water quality impairment in 303d or TMDL waterbodies.

SWR-OBJ-5. Inventory riparian-wetlands assess for condition and prioritize for management action; select and implement actions necessary to attain PFC objective(s); and conduct riparian-wetland restoration where feasible for areas deemed nonfunctional or functioning-at-risk.

SWR-OBJ-6. Regulations and policy drive the general programmatic management of these resources, and is thus, common to all alternatives. See appendix G for the objectives and management actions relevant to soil, water, and riparian-wetland resources. The BLM will manage

riparian-wetlands with the minimum objective of proper functioning condition (PFC), or progress toward PFC, for riparian-wetlands with PFC potential.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

SWR-MA-1. Through assessment of PFC, identify those elements that are limiting PFC attainment and develop actions that move toward PFC. These actions could be restoration (planting, invasive species removal, streambank stabilization, beaver reintroduction, artificial structures) and/or changes in use (protective fencing, reduction in numbers or utilization).

SWR-MA-2. Implement standards and guidelines for grazing administration as directed for soil and water resources.

SWR-MA-3. Incorporate design features and best management practices in project design features, terms and conditions for activities such as livestock grazing, harvest, and others that may impact the soil, water, or riparian-wetlands (Appendix P). Develop site-specific BMPs when needed for project design to meet resource objectives.

SWR-MA-4. Manage vegetation, soils, streams, and riparian-wetlands such that hydrologic function and character at multiple scales (basin, hillslope, stream reach, riparian/wetland site) is retained within the NRV. Identify site-specific management opportunities and priorities using a watershed approach and watershed assessment information.

Riparian

SWR-MA-5. The BLM would provide for riparian-wetlands and those areas influencing aquatic habitat. The BLM would delineate RHCAs at the site-specific level including criteria related to water and land features and protect those values. This management approach is based upon INFISH.

SWR-MA-6. Modify or relocate grazing practices that prevent attainment of desired aquatic habitat conditions or are likely to adversely affect special status aquatic species.

SWR-MA-7. Manage riparian habitat conservation areas in coordination with upland vegetation and soils in consideration of overall watershed hydrologic function and NRV.

SWR-MA-8. Manage all riparian habitat conservation areas to contribute to the support of state-designated beneficial uses, water quality, and habitat quality for aquatic and terrestrial fauna.

SWR-MA-9. Manage BLM resource activities and uses such that riparian-wetland areas meet, or make significant progress toward meeting, proper functioning condition.

SWR-MA-10. Use riparian assessment data to develop needed changes in resource management, as well as the design and implementation of monitoring efforts and restoration or enhancement projects.

SWR-MA-11. Establish and maintain an inventory of riparian-wetland areas. Periodically assess the ecological status and functioning condition at no more than 10-year intervals.

SWR-MA-12. Permit livestock grazing when compatible with meeting, or making significant progress toward meeting, proper functioning condition and attaining riparian management objectives.

Soils

SWR-MA-13. Use soils and ecological site description information. Information is to be used (1) in conducting land health assessments to help achieve aquatic, riparian, and upland health; (2) to plan and implement emergency stabilization and land restoration affected by wildfire and other disturbances; (3) to evaluate and plan for potential effects of proposed land uses on system productivity and integrity; (4) to reduce, avoid or minimize potential adverse effects of BLM Chapter 2: Alternatives 40 Bureau of Land Management Missoula Resource Management Plan FEIS management actions; and, (5) to maintain the productivity of soil resources by minimizing physical, biological, and/or chemical degradation, and accelerated erosion.

SWR-MA-14. Maintain soil productivity. Prioritize and develop activity plans to correct soil or water problems.

SWR-MA-15. Use the Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey to identify soil properties and limitations for silvicultural practices.

Water Quality

SWR-MA-16. Implement management actions to reduce non-point source pollution and improve water quality where BLM-managed public lands or authorized activities are contributing to impairment of waterbodies listed as impaired by the State of Montana.

SWR-MA-17. Restore water quality and rehabilitate site productivity and stream stability through reclamation. Apply corrective measures where unsatisfactory watershed conditions are identified.

SWR-MA-18. Manage water quality under the MOU with Montana DEQ.

SWR-MA-19. Report biannually to Montana DEQ on actions taken to improve water quality. Identify site specific or basin specific BMPs and rehabilitation techniques to meet water quality requirements.

SWR-MA-20. Manage uses in Source Water Protection Areas in compliance with the Montana DEQ Source Water Protection program.

II.2.8 VEGETATION: FOREST VEG AND SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES

Goals

FV-G-1. Forest management emphasizes ecological integrity, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species habitat needs, and properly functioning watersheds while simultaneously providing forest products and creating forests resilient to disturbances such as wildland fire and epidemic insect outbreaks.

FV-G-2. Restore or maintain forests within the natural range of variability (NRV) for each habitat type group in terms of species composition, structure, density, and disturbance patterns. Emulate disturbance patterns in terms of intensity, frequency, and scale.

FV-G-3. Create or maintain a mosaic of differing successional pathways across the landscape, consistent with natural disturbance regimes for each habitat type group over space and time as appropriate to create and maintain wildlife habitat.

FV-G-4. Create, maintain, and restore vegetative communities that are resilient to changing disturbance regimes (e.g., drought, wildfire, insects, and pathogens), allowing for shifting of plant communities, structure, and ages across landscapes.

FV-G-5. Maintain, monitor, and restore populations of vegetative species listed as threatened or endangered by the USFWS or listed as sensitive by BLM across the planning area.

FV-G-6. Identify and maintain rare plant communities as appropriate within the BLM-lands.

Objectives

FV-OBJ-1. Increase the number of acres in each habitat type group that are within the mid-range natural range of variability for that habitat type group to restore ecological conditions consistent with suitable disturbance regimes.

FV-OBJ-2. Increase acres of treatment on the landscape where appropriate through management opportunities (mechanical, as well as prescribed fire) to emulate or restore natural disturbance patterns.

FV-OBJ-3. Treat approximately 15,000 acres per decade, with a goal of moving 10 percent per decade of forest vegetation that is currently near the lower or upper bounds of the natural range of variability (NRV) toward the midrange of NRV by using mechanical means or prescribed fire, or both.

FV-OBJ-4. Manage wildland fires based on the objectives for the relevant fire management zone.

FV-OBJ-5. Manage vegetation structure, density, species composition, patch size, pattern, and distribution to reduce impacts of wildland fires and forest insect outbreaks that are outside the NRV.

FV-OBJ-6. Identify and enhance BLM special status and native plant species

FV-OBJ-7. Protect and maintain the genetic diversity of whitebark pine. Increase white pine blister rust resistance in future whitebark pine populations.

FV-OBJ-8. Promote development of fire-resilient forests for public safety, wildland firefighter safety, and to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire. Work collaboratively with all land management partners to manage public, private, and tribal lands. Apply prescribed burns and mechanical or hand fuels treatments to reduce the potential for uncharacteristic wildfires. Apply maintenance treatments at appropriate levels to retain fire resilient conditions.

FV-OBJ-9. Partner with other agencies and NGOs to promote public awareness and understanding of rare plants and their habitats

FV-OBJ-10. Implement BLM Special Status Species Management Manual 6840.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

FV-MA-1. Design treatments to emulate disturbance and move conditions toward stand density, species composition and structure, which are within NRV for all habitat types.

FV-MA-2. Consider vegetation management treatments in warm dry habitat type groups a moderate to high priority based upon departure from NRV, and treatments in cool moist and cold habitat type groups a moderate to low priority based upon departure from NRV.

FV-MA-3. Maintain and create mature forest conditions through active treatment and restoration activities. Design actions to develop stand structures that are relatively complex with

variable tree densities, diverse understory composition, and abundant snags and downed logs. Where deficient on the landscape, create snags and down woody material for wildlife habitat.

FV-MA-4. Maintain adequate access for management activities and treatments including permanent or temporary roads as necessary. Determine road locations based on topography, drainage, soil type, and other natural features to minimize erosion. Rehabilitate skid trails and temporary roads by appropriate methods that disperse runoff, reduce erosion, and promote revegetation as needed.

FV-MA-5. Apply site-specific treatments to emulate historic disturbance patterns within the historic range of variability in terms of intensity, frequency, and scale.

FV-MA-6. Design vegetation manipulation projects to improve wildlife habitat when and where possible. For example, create early stand initiation and mature multi-story for Canada lynx or other species.

FV-MA-7. To maintain nutrient cycling and provide for wildlife habitat features scatter materials not utilized as commercial forest products (seedlings, saplings, tops, branches, cull logs, and down woody material) on the forest floor where and when it would not contribute to fire hazard.

FV-MA-8. Strive to maintain or create the quantity of mature (late-successional) forest structure that is consistent with NRV for a given habitat type group to maintain or enhance habitat for species dependent upon mature forest structures. Location of these stands would shift across the landscape over time.

FV-MA-9. In the wildland-urban interface (WUI), prioritize fuels reduction to address site-specific conditions and objectives for public safety rather than moving vegetation toward NRV or managing for any other objectives.

FV-MA-10. Prioritize stands with characteristics indicating a high risk of developing epidemic levels of forest insects and/or disease for treatments to reduce risk across all habitat type groups.

FV-MA-11. Manage slash to be conducive to revegetation and advantageous to the passage of wildlife. Dispose of slash when necessary to reduce fire hazard in the WUI or to accomplish other resource objectives.

FV-MA-12. Document conditions of current and potential whitebark pine habitats. Protect potential or known rust-resistant seed sources. Use silvicultural practices, including prescribed fire, outlined in the BLM technical reference Conservation and Management of Whitebark Ecosystems on Bureau of Land Management Lands in the Western United States to restore and maintain WBP populations.

FV-MA-13. Refer to the Visual Resource section for management actions pertaining to forest vegetation management.

FV-MA-14. Maintain or, where practical, enhance site productivity on lands available for harvest: (a) minimize insect and disease losses with harvesting and management practices; (b) precommercial thin stands to maximize growth on residual trees; and (c) participate in tree-improvement cooperatives and use genetically improved seedlings in reforestation of these lands.

FV-MA-15. Maintain unique flora and provide opportunities for education and research, in particular the Chamberlain Meadows.

FV-MA-16. Manage the Bear Creek Flats mature ponderosa pine trees (40 acres) to maintain the late successional, mature values.

FV-MA-17. Apply project-level design features as appropriate (Appendix P).

II.2.9 VEGETATION: GRASSLAND AND SHRUBLAND

Goals

GS-G-1. Manage upland vegetation communities to move toward or remain in proper functioning condition, including a full range of herbaceous and shrub species.

Objectives

GS-OBJ-1. Maintain or enhance plant communities, by managing for priority plant species and their habitats (including, but not limited to, bitterbrush, rough fescue, and bluebunch wheat grass) to achieve desired ecological functions and vegetative conditions.

GS-OBJ-2. Manage upland vegetative communities to maintain or improve quality and quantity of domestic livestock and wildlife forage.

GS-OBJ-3. Manage plant communities that reflect the desired plant community appropriate for the ecological site. Where appropriate, use fire as a management agent to achieve or maintain disturbance regimes supporting healthy functioning vegetation conditions.

GS-OBJ-4. Improve or maintain the ecological status of BLM-managed land in the uplands to Standards for Rangeland Health (USDI-BLM 1997).

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

GS-MA-1. Design vegetation treatments to enhance vegetative health and/or habitat diversity consistent with desired conditions for vegetation and wildlife habitat.

GS-MA-2. Monitor rangeland conditions on a routine schedule (approximately 10 years) with an interdisciplinary team; monitoring data may include but not limited to Rangeland Health Assessments (USDI-BLM 1997), forage utilization, pace transects, photo point, etc.

II.2.10 VEGETATION: NOXIOUS AND INVASIVE PLANTS

Goals

NX-G-1. Prevent, reduce, and minimize the introduction of invasive species and the spread of existing invasive species infestations on BLM-managed lands.

Objectives

NX-OBJ-1. Treat infested areas in partnership with adjacent land managers.

NX-OBJ-2. Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants according to the principles of Integrated Weed Management.

NX-OBJ-3. Treat 21,000 to 50,000 infested acres of noxious and invasive species over the life of the plan.

NX-OBJ-4. Prioritize prevention and control on roads, trails, waterways, recreation sites, and disturbed sites due to other resource management projects; and prioritize prevention and control in special designation areas and cooperative weed management areas.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

NX-MA-1. Implement measures to prevent, detect, and rapidly control new infestation of noxious weeds in healthy plant communities (approximately 0 to 5 percent infestation) as a high priority.

NX-MA-2. Emphasize Integrated Weed Management efforts on species identified on the Montana State Noxious Weed List, county noxious weed lists, and the BLM invasive species list where feasible.

NX-MA-3. Prioritize Weed Management Areas (areas with agreement between landowners to manage for weeds) for treatments.

NX-MA-4. Use manual, mechanical, cultural, chemical, and biological (includes classical and targeted grazing by cattle, goats) treatments to manage invasive species infestations.

NX-MA-5. Treat invasive plants and host species for invasive forest pathogens in accordance with the most current vegetation treatment BLM EIS/amendment; implement the standard operating procedures described in the Record of Decision for the Final Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

NX-MA-6. Provide opportunities for education and awareness.

NX-MA-7. Use weed seed-free forage (hay, grains, cubes, pelletized feeds, straw, and mulch) on BLM-managed lands.

NX-MA-8. Maintain an updated inventory of and monitor treatment of noxious weeds on BLM-managed lands in partnership with other federal, state, and county partners.

NX-MA-9. Follow BMPs when conducting planned or permitted activities within BLM-managed lands whether conducted by BLM personnel or contractors. (See Appendix P.)

NX-MA-10. Continue cooperative agreements with county and state entities. Coordinate efforts, including education and outreach, with federal, state, county, and private landowners.

II.2.11 VISUAL RESOURCES

Goals

VR-G-1. Identify, preserve, and protect paleontological resources, and ensure they are available for appropriate use by present and future generations.

Objectives

VR-OBJ-1. Manage visual resources in accordance with the objectives established for visual resource management classes.

A. VRM Class I - Preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.

B. VRM Class II - Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of

form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

C. VRM Class III - Partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

D. VRM Class IV - Provide for management activities that require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

VR-MA-1. Allow forest management activities in VRM Classes II, III, and IV. For forest activities in VRM Class II, design activities to maintain or improve visual qualities and retain the character of the landscape over the long term. Short-term impacts are allowed as long as there is a long-term scenic quality character attainment.

VR-MA-2. Implement design features and best management practices for activities potentially impacting visual resources (Appendix P).

II.2.12 WILDLIFE HABITAT AND SPECIAL STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES

Goals

WL-G-1. Manage habitat to conserve and recover species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Grizzly bear, Canada lynx, yellow-billed cuckoo, and red knot are listed threatened under the ESA. Wolverine are proposed for listing, candidate species are not represented, and Canada lynx critical habitat is designated. Missoula Field Office coordinates with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks on ESA related issues.

WL-G-2. The majority of terrestrial wildlife habitat management of ESA-listed species and Bureau-sensitive species is driven by law, regulation, and policy and common to action alternatives. Bureau manuals 6500, 6800, 1745, and secretarial orders pertaining to terrestrial wildlife habitat, and other direction would be followed.

WL-G-3. Manage Bureau-sensitive species and their habitats to prevent listing under the ESA by improving, maintaining, and restoring sensitive species habitats. Follow Bureau manuals 6500, 6800, 1745, and secretarial orders pertaining to terrestrial wildlife habitat, and other direction as updated.

WL-G-4. Manage long-term goals for NRV by providing diverse and well-distributed plant communities across the landscape by implementing principles of ecological forestry; while also ensuring there is habitat for native wildlife in sufficient quantity and quality to enhance biological diversity and conservation, and to sustain ecological, economic, and social values.

WL-G-5. Manage to provide diverse and well-distributed plant communities across the landscape. Implement sound ecological principles, focusing on ecological forestry, when designing vegetation treatments, to emulate natural disturbance and plant community development.

WL-G-6. Manage wildlife habitat, including migration corridors, in cooperation and partnership with local, state, federal, tribal, and non-governmental organizations.

Objectives – all wildlife

WL-OBJ-1. Contribute to the conservation and recovery of listed terrestrial wildlife species and their habitats through the current and future USFWS recovery plans or interagency strategies such as the Canada Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy, Canada lynx critical habitat designation, and the final NCDE Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy in coordination with the USFWS through Section 7 consultation.

WL-OBJ-2. Reduce, minimize, or avoid fragmentation of large intact security habitat, important to special status species and other wildlife. Maintain functional blocks of security habitat for special status species and other wildlife across the landscape.

WL-OBJ-3. Manage travel corridors, such as ridges, saddles, and riparian areas, to link landscapes and geographic areas for wildlife movement, especially Canada lynx and grizzly bear. Avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts to sensitive species travel habitats, travel corridors and linkages. Consider opportunities to avoid, minimize, or mitigate negative impacts to Montana species of concern.

WL-OBJ-4. Manage terrestrial special status species in a manner consistent with restoration, conservation, recovery plans, and conservation agreements; inventory and monitor in cooperation with USFWS; Forest Service; Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; and Montana Natural Heritage Program.

WL-OBJ-5. BLM sensitive species are priority species and their habitats. Provide for priority terrestrial wildlife habitats including caves, cliffs, snags, down woody debris, sagebrush, and bitterbrush communities.

WL-OBJ-6. Improve, maintain, and restore habitat for terrestrial wildlife in warm/dry, cool/moist, and cold/ moist habitat type groups, also including upland vegetation. Mitigate (minimize or avoid) potential long-term adverse effects.

WL-OBJ-7. Improve, maintain, and restore important wildlife habitat such as rare or limited seasonal habitats, corridors, linkages, blocks of intact functional habitat across the landscape, areas of low open road density, foraging areas, seasonal habitat components, and riparian areas, and species from Montana's Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy (MFWP 2005a) as possible.

WL-OBJ-8. Improve, maintain, and restore wildlife corridors and linkages utilizing vegetation management and safe passages.

WL-OBJ-9. Provide habitat to maintain viable and diverse populations of native plant and animal species, including special status species. Comply with Rangeland Health Standards, Standard #5 (USDIBLM 1997).

WL-OBJ-10. Retain dead and down woody material in amounts consistent with the NRV and habitat type groups, to the extent compatible with reforestation objectives, fire hazard reduction standards, and public health and safety.

WL-OBJ-11. Follow the BLM manuals 6500, 6840, and 1745 or as amended.

WL-OBJ-12. Where appropriate, use active management techniques consistent with Executive Order 13855 and Secretarial Orders 3362 and 3372.

Objectives – Canada Lynx Specific

WL-OBJ-13. Develop vegetation management projects in Canada lynx habitat within lynx analysis units, and lynx critical habitat, to enhance and create dense early stand initiation forage habitat and dense mature multistory foraging and denning habitat, in a mosaic pattern across the landscape over space and time.

WL-OBJ-14. In Canada lynx habitat within lynx analysis units, and in lynx critical habitat, mitigate surface disturbing activities to avoid, minimize, or reduce long-term potential adverse effects.

WL-OBJ-15. Maximize lynx and snowshoe hare habitat to provide for Canada lynx recovery over the long term when habitat conditions are consistent with vegetation goals described in FV-G-2.

WL-OBJ-16. Create a mosaic of early stand initiation and mature multistory habitat within each lynx analysis unit and lynx critical habitat. The BLM would consider thinning methods, within lynx habitat and lynx critical habitat, in early stand initiation structure if treatments would result in short-term effects with long-term benefits to snowshoe hare, red squirrel, and lynx.

WL-OBJ-17. Fuels treatment projects within the within the 1-mile wildland urban interface (WUI) buffer (approximately 7,648 acres) and Fire Management Zone 1 not meeting lynx conservation measures (due to protecting life, increasing the safety of firefighters, and protecting property, improvements, and infrastructure) may occur.

Objectives – Grizzly Bear Specific

WL-OBJ-18. Follow the final interagency NCDE Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy and Bureau manuals 6500, 6840, and 1745 or as updated.

WL-OBJ-19. Develop a monitoring plan for the life of mineral activity within zone 1, where it is determined there is potential for adverse effects to the grizzly bear or its habitat resulting from leasable or locatable mineral activities. The monitoring plan would outline how changes in habitat and/or disturbance to bears will be monitored and how efforts to reduce or minimize effects (e.g., monitoring of mining reclamation measures) will be identified and funded.

WL-OBJ-20. Monitor the density of motorized routes open for public use during the non-denning season on BLM-managed lands and compare with the 2011 baseline.

WL-OBJ-21. Manage BLM-managed lands within NCDE Zone 1 so there shall be no net increase above the 2011 baseline (1.70 mi/mi2) in open motorized route density (roads and trails) open to public during the non-denning season (April 1 to November 30). This does not apply to the following:

A. Motorized use by agency personnel or others authorized by the appropriate agency personnel;

B. Temporarily opening a road for a short period of time to allow for public firewood gathering and other authorized use;

C. Updated or improved road data without an actual change on the ground;

D. Changes in technology or projections that result in changed calculations without actual change on the ground (e.g., a switch in geodetic systems from the North American Datum of 1927 to the North American Datum of 1983);

E. A road closure location is moved a short distance to a better location (e.g., to the nearest intersection or turnout) to allow a turn-around providing for public safety, to reduce vandalism, or to improve enforcement of the road closure;

F. The agency exchanges, acquires, buys, or sells lands with motorized routes;

G. A change in an open road necessary to comply with federal laws;

H. Motorized use for mining activities (as authorized under the Mining Law of 1872) conducted in accordance with valid existing rights and applicable standards and guidelines;

I. A change in a motorized route necessary to address grizzly bear-human conflicts, resource damage, or human safety concerns;

J. Use of motorized routes in emergency situations as defined by 43 CFR 8340; and,

K. Temporary roads (see glossary).

WL-OBJ-22. Implement food storage order in accordance with BLM policy.

WL-OBJ-23. Allow no new sheep allotments on BLM-managed lands in Zone 1. Allow no new livestock grazing allotments within Zone 1, except on acquired lands that had active cattle grazing at the time of the acquisition.

WL-OBJ-24. Reduce, minimize, or avoid long impacts to habitat availability, such as foraging, denning, and cover, from surface-disturbing activities, with special emphasis given to spring and den habitat.

WL-OBJ-25. Adjust livestock lease terms and conditions on grizzly bear spring habitat to prevent or avoid adverse impacts.

WL-OBJ-26. Collaborate with MT FWP to improve or maintain grizzly bear travel corridors, and provide safe passages, especially in the Marcum area.

WL-OBJ-27. Collaborate with local, state, federal, tribal and non-governmental organizations on education, awareness, and prevention of human/wildlife conflicts

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

WL-MA-1. Implement measures to prevent detect, and rapidly control new infestation of noxious weeds in healthy plant communities (approximately 0 to 5 percent infestation) as a high priority.

WL-MA-2. Identify timing and spatial restrictions at the project level for activities that might impact special status species and their habitats. Avoid, minimize, or mitigate human activities disrupting special status species habitats during their season of use, particularly during the breeding, and winter seasons. Minimize disturbance during crucial times for elk and big game (winter range, calving).

WL-MA-3. Implement design features to restore habitats, and to avoid or reduce impacts to Bureau sensitive species, priority species, including elk and migratory birds (Appendix P); develop site-specific design features or best management practices as appropriate.

WL-MA-4. Conduct wildlife habitat vegetation projects to:

A. Restore, maintain, or improve unsatisfactory or declining wildlife habitat;

B. Improve desired ecological conditions of plant communities for the purpose of maintaining or improving forage, nesting, breeding, security habitat, hiding and thermal cover, and travel corridors for a wide variety of terrestrial wildlife; and

C. Improve, maintain, and restore NRV within habitat type groups.

D. Short-term effects with long-term benefits may occur during habitat improvement projects.

WL-MA-5. Use project management techniques aimed at restoring, maintaining, or improving habitats that include but are not limited to prescribed fire and managed wildland fire, prescriptive livestock grazing, planning, exclusion to intense disturbance, timber harvest and other mechanical methods.

WL-MA-6. Consider effects to native pollinators and appropriate BMPs or other design features for surface disturbing activities (Appendix P).

WL-MA-7. Collaborate with USFWS and MFWP on pollinator data collection and management.

WL-MA-8. Provide habitat of sufficient quantity and quality, including connectivity and wildlife movement corridors, habitat complexity, forest openings, edges, and ecotones, to enhance biological diversity and provide quality, sustainable habitat for native wildlife species.

WL-MA-9. Create or maintain a mosaic of early, mid and late-succession forest conditions across the landscape consistent with natural disturbance regimes to create and maintain desired forest conditions for priority wildlife species.

WL-MA-10. Retain to the extent practicable, trees and snags with old-growth forest structure in grasslands/shrublands undergoing vegetation treatments, such as removal of conifer encroachment through mechanical thinning or prescribed burning.

WL-MA-11. Collaborate with Montana Department of Transportation and MFWP on wildlife crossings for forest carnivores, elk and other big game, and other wildlife as appropriate.

Big Game Specific

WL-MA-12. Across cool/moist habitat type groups, provide hiding and thermal cover habitat components near quality elk summer and fall habitat (such as wallows, mineral licks, corridors, etc.).

WL-MA-13. Across warm/dry habitat type groups, provide areas with dense early to mid-successional conditions on aspects to provide elk thermal and hiding cover near quality elk forage in winter range.

WL-MA-14. Across all habitat type groups, provide mature and late-successional forest components for security habitat near harvest units, parks, meadows, and grasslands.

WL-MA-15. Base the size of harvest units, except single tree or group selection, and thinning units upon natural disturbance patterns and ensure that they will have irregular shapes or reserve blocks within units to increase edge effect and maintain proper sight distances.

WL-MA-16. Retain large blocks of big game security habitat.

WL-MA-17. Consider objectives to maintain or improve big game summer and fall habitat during forest management activities.

WL-MA-18. Limit timber sale activity in big game winter range to as short a period as possible to minimize disturbance.

WL-MA-19. Dispose of road right-of-way slash in such a way that it does not pose a barrier to big game travel.

Livestock Grazing Specific

WL-MA-20. Manage livestock allotments to mitigate negative impacts to riparian vegetation, upland vegetation, and big game winter and summer range.

WL-MA-21. Improve wildlife habitat, where necessary, by adjusting livestock lease terms and conditions to prevent or avoid negative impacts. This could include changes to the AUMs, season of use, or removal of livestock for a period of time.

WL-MA-22. Build new fences to standard specifications to allow safe passage and/or to keep native wildlife out of an area (Appendix P).

WL-MA-23. Install wildlife escape ramps in new and old livestock water developments.

Bats Specific

WL-MA-24. Restore special habitat components or features contributing to bat species productivity.

WL-MA-25. Survey and assess caves, abandoned mines, talus, and late-succession forest for bat use at the project level. BLM would determine the need for bat-friendly closures for activities affecting bat use (foraging and roosting), such as caves and abandoned mines.

WL-MA-26. Use bat gates or other suitable devices to maintain bat habitat when bat use of caves or abandoned mines is determined. Public health and safety would take precedence over bat habitat if hazardous mine openings cannot be remedied with bat gates.

WL-MA-27. Collaborate with state and federal agencies in response to the spread of white-nose syndrome in bats.

Raptors Specific

WL-MA-28. New and existing powerlines and substations constructed on BLM lands would comply with the most current raptor protection standards developed by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC 2012). See the Visual Resource section for management actions pertaining to forest vegetation management. Comply with BMPs and project design features for raptors when designing projects, resource management, decisions, monitoring, and restoration or enhancement projects

II.2.13 WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

Goals

WF-G-1. Emphasize firefighter and public safety as the first priority in every wildland fire and fuels management activity.

WF-G-2. Restore and maintain desired ecological conditions consistent with appropriate fire regimes.

WF-G-3. Manage wildland fire and fuels to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fires, as well as to protect, maintain, and enhance resources.

WF-G-4. In partnership with local, state, and federal partners, conduct fire mitigation, education, and fire prevention activities to reduce human-caused wildfire ignition, and improve public safety.

WF-G-5. Minimize the adverse effects of wildland fire and wildfire suppression activities on resources.

WF-G-6. Promote seamless wildland fire management planning across jurisdictions within the boundaries of BLM.

WF-G-7. Protect life and property by treating hazardous fuels on BLM-managed lands.

Objectives

WF-OBJ-1. Use FMZs and WUI to guide and prioritize wildland fire and fuels management activities. FMZ1 and the WUI would be the highest priority, while FMZ3 the lowest. Treatments include wildland fire, mechanical, manual, biological, and chemical.

WF-OBJ-2. Manage approximately 43,600 acres as Fire Management Zone 1, 88,365 acres as Fire Management Zone 2, and 30,640 acres as Fire Management Zone 3 (see Appendix H, Fire Management Zones, Map)

WF-OBJ-3. Within the 1-mile wild and urban interface (WUI) buffer (approximately 7,648 acres) and Fire Management Zone 1, design and implement fuels treatments to protect life, increase the safety of firefighters, and protect property, improvements, and infrastructure. These treatments will be the highest priority on BLM administered lands and take precedence over other resources.

WF-OBJ-4. Use rehabilitation to mitigate the adverse effects of wildland fire to soil, vegetation, and water resources in a cost-effective manner.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

WF-MA-1. In general, manage wildfires according to Fire Management Zone classification. Although the FMZ determination does not dictate exactly how every wildfire is to be managed, it will be used to guide and prioritize wildfire response and fuels management. Taking actions to limit fire growth is always an option for any wildfire in any FMZ. The strategy for any wildfire depends on many factors including the FMZ, current vegetation conditions, time of year, condition of fuels, risk management, resource availability, safety, protection agency, geographical area and national wildland fire activity, and smoke impacts.

A. FMZ1: High values at risk, or areas at high risk of catastrophic fire due to current vegetation conditions, where an unplanned wildland fire is likely to cause negative effects. These lands would generally be under a full suppression strategy. These lands are adjacent to and close proximity to the WUI, intermingled with private and state lands, and contain important cultural, recreational, economic, or biological resources. Fuels treatments including mechanical and prescribed fire will play a major role in these areas.

B. FMZ2: Wildland fire is desired to manage ecosystems, but there are constraints to using wildland fire. Constraints are many and vary greatly including current vegetation conditions, time of year, condition of fuels, risk management, resource availability, safety, protection agency, geographical area and national wildland fire activity, and smoke impacts. Prior vegetation treatments will aid in allowing wildland fire to be utilized to manage vegetative communities, and wildland fire is needed to maintain some of these prior vegetation treatments. The full range of fuels treatments including mechanical and prescribed fire on lands in this category will be important to the success of wildland fire management.

C. FMZ3: Wildland fire is desired to manage ecosystems, and there are fewer constraints to using wildland fire. In these areas, wildland fire could be allowed to play its natural role on the landscape. These lands include wilderness study areas, protected lands with wilderness characteristics, areas geographically far from values at risk, and where current vegetation conditions are favorable to meet resource objectives by carefully managing wildfires. While fuels treatments can and could occur here, management of wildfire would be the preferred treatment method.

WF-MA-2. Minimum impact suppression tactics would be used for wildland fire management in Wales BCA, Hoodoos BCA, WSAs and, if WSAs released, in the Wales Creek ACEC, expanded Hoodoos BCA, and Wales BCA. Wildland fire management in WSAs will follow BLM Manual 6330-Management of BLM Wilderness Study Areas.

WF-MA-3. The use of heavy equipment for wildland fire management would not be allowed in WSAs, Hoodoos BCA, Wales BCA, Wales Creek ACEC, and historic or cultural sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places unless approved by line officer.

WF-MA-4. Assist communities in developing, maintaining, and implementing community wildfire protection plans.

WF-MA-5. Coordinate and cooperate with local jurisdictions to prioritize fuels reduction in WUI areas in conjunction with completed community wildfire protection plans.

WF-MA-6. Use the BLM's Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Handbook (H-1742-1) and Appendix J for implementing emergency fire rehabilitation projects following wildland fires. Separate environmental analysis will only be completed for emergency fire rehabilitation projects that are outside the scope of activities described in Appendix J.

WF-MA-7. Locate incident bases, camps, helibases, staging areas, and other incident management activities outside of riparian areas. Exemptions will require line officer approval. 6. Avoid using retardant in WSAs, protected lands with wilderness characteristics, and ACECs. Exemptions will require line officer approval.

WF-MA-8. Select fire suppression methods to minimize or eliminate the impact on significant historic properties, ACEC values, and riparian areas.

WF-MA-9. Prescribed fire may be used to accomplish wildlife habitat and livestock forage objectives.

RESOURCE USES

II.2.14 FOREST PRODUCTS

Goals

FP-G-1. Manage forest resources to provide a sustainable flow of timber to support local economies through timber harvest.

FP-G-2. Manage forested lands for multiple uses including commercial timber and other forest products commodity production, wildland fire resiliency, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat, recreational uses and cultural resources.

FP-G-3. Collaborate with all land management partners (federal, state, private, and tribal) to increase effectiveness and amount of lands treated to promote forest health.

FP-G-4. Provide sales opportunities for special forest products that maintain a balance between public demand and desired vegetation conditions. Examples of special forest product sales include but are not limited to firewood, Christmas trees, house logs, posts and poles, vegetative cuttings, and conifer boughs.

Objectives

FP-OBJ-1. Manage forest resources to provide a sustainable flow of timber to support local economies through timber harvest. Maintain and annually update a 5-year sale plan to facilitate planning

for and implementing timber sales. Establish a Probable Sale Quantity that will serve as a tool for sustainable flow of timber; the annual PSQ is not an upper limited as timber sale quantities will vary depending on fluctuations in timber market conditions, insect and disease epidemics, wildland fires, funding and staffing levels and other objectives.

FP-OBJ-2. Collaborative planning with land manager partners and response to forest health conditions related to catastrophic wildland fire and insect and disease epidemics will be a priority.

FP-OBJ-3. Offer approximately 79 MMBF of timber for sale per decade (annual quantities will vary from less than the long-term average of 3.6 MMbf to around 15 MMbf) through forest product sales on an available land base of approximately 101,669 acres. Pursue additional contributions to the Probable Sale Quantity (PSQ) from approximately 13,264 acres available for harvest with limitations within Canada lynx habitat and RHCAs. Approximately 33,377 acres would be unavailable for harvest operations.

FP-OBJ-4. Build new permanent roads if necessary, to facilitate long-term management of areas to meet forest resource objectives, and close temporary roads upon completion of project implementation. Replacement, maintenance, and decommissioning of existing roads to meet transportation planning and management objectives could also occur during forest product management projects if deemed appropriate at the project level.

FP-OBJ-5. Consider salvaging dead or dying trees resulting from wildland fire, forest insects and diseases, weather-induced or other forest mortality events, and salvage dead or dying merchantable timber in designated WUI or Fire Management Zone 1 areas within 2 years of when the tree mortality causing event started.

FP-OBJ-6. The special forest products (SFP) sale program would maintain current types of activities as well as the development of treatment areas to help meet public demand for SFP sale forest products. SFP sales would only occur where sufficient physical access currently exists. No new permanent roads would be constructed to meet the demands of the SFP sale program.

FP-OBJ-7. Cooperate with the Forest Service to continue offering personal use firewood permits valid for product collection from both the BLM and USFS lands in western Montana to the extent possible by following agency procedures such as a valid MOU.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

FP-MA-1. Implement project design features and best management practices to improve habitats for or to minimize effects to wildlife, aquatics, riparian areas, and other resources from forest management activities (Appendix P).

FP-MA-2. Commercial harvest of forest products is typically associated with vegetative restoration to a NRV and would be designed to meet multiple objectives some of which would include; forest management, wildlife habitat management, hazardous fuels reduction, hazard tree removal, special status species management, visuals, recreation, and travel management. However, commercial harvest of forest products would be the primary objective of management activities in some instances to meet goals and objectives of supporting local economies.

FP-MA-3. Timber salvage project areas would have some areas that are left untreated as retention patches to maintain wildlife habitat.

FP-MA-4. In areas with dead and dying trees (including retention patches), tree cutting would be allowed for human safety, fire rehabilitation and stabilization, to benefit wildlife habitat and/or forest or stream restoration activities.

FP-MA-5. Silvicultural prescriptions would be created and implemented for commercial harvest activities and would be consistent with professionally acceptable methods related to site, species, habitat types, and regeneration methods appropriate in a given area.

FP-MA-6. Only dead and dying trees would be allowed to be taken as firewood unless live trees cutting area are designated. The BLM could designate specific areas for firewood cutting of live trees to meet resource objectives or BLM authorized uses such as leases and right-of-way.

FP-MA-7. To protect snag habitat for wildlife, dead trees greater than 24 inches d.b.h. would not be permitted to be cut for firewood unless they are within two tree lengths of an open road. An exception to this management action is if there is a high density of dead trees creating a public safety hazard and the needs for snag dependent wildlife habitat have been met, dead trees greater than 24 inches d.b.h could be harvested.

FP-MA-8. See Recreation section for firewood exception areas.

FP-MA-9. Montana forestry BMPs would be followed during implementation of commercial timber harvest or special forest product sales activities.

FP-MA-10. Insect and disease suppression treatments would be permitted to contain outbreaks and reduce the risk to other forest stands in the vicinity.

II.2.15 LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Goals

LG-G-1. Manage the public rangelands to provide for a sustainable level of livestock grazing consistent with multiple use and sustained yield.

Objective

LG-OBJ-1. Manage allotments in compliance with Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for Public Lands in Montana/Dakotas (USDI-BLM 1997). The BLM would adjust grazing levels and management practices when needed to meet or make progress toward meeting the standards for rangeland health.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

LG-MA-1. Manage approximately 145,558 acres as available for livestock grazing, and 17,027 acres as unavailable for livestock grazing; and would administer 6,660 animal use months (AUMs) across the BLM-managed lands. Forage levels for livestock may vary at the project level, based on the implementation of comprehensive grazing strategies necessary to maintain or achieve vegetation objectives (See Appendix H, Maps)

LG-MA-2. Follow the BLM's 1997 Record of Decision for Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Final Environmental Impact Statement for Montana and North and South Dakota. The five standards include:

a. Uplands are in proper functioning condition;

b. Riparian areas and wetlands are in proper functioning condition

c. Water quality meets Montana State standards;

d. Air quality meets state standards; and

e. Provide habitat as necessary, to maintain a viable and diverse population of native plant and animal species, including special status species

LG-MA-3. Allotments where Standards for Rangeland Health (USDI-BLM 1997) are not met and livestock grazing is a significant causal factor for non-achievement, then the BLM will take appropriate action to achieve or make progress toward achieving unmet rangeland health standards. Adjustments to the leases terms and conditions may include but is not limited to changes to animal unit months (AUMs), season of use, rest rotations, or removal of cattle from a portion or all of the allotment for a duration of time. Implementation or maintenance of range improvement projects may be required. Adjustments could occur at the project or activity-level.

LG-MA-4. Issue grazing leases for domestic livestock upon request. Prior to authorizing leases for domestic sheep in bighorn sheep habitat, coordinate with MTFWP.

LG-MA-5. Exclude developed recreation sites from livestock grazing, except where grazing is needed to maintain the desired plant community. Manage grazing by horses and other livestock used by recreationists in developed recreation sites through specific activity plans.

LG-MA-6. Livestock grazing use could be suspended after wildfire, prescribed fire, or non-fire vegetative treatments until grazing could continue as Standards for Rangeland Health were met.

LG-MA-7. Modify grazing schedules and livestock management practices as necessary during drought conditions according to Bureau policy/guidance.

LG-MA-8. Rest, limited forage utilization, or deferring areas from livestock grazing following major disturbance as appropriate, depending on a variety of factors including, but not limited to, resource objectives, the type of fuel, burn severity, accessibility of the burned area to livestock and post-burning climatic factors.

LG-MA-9. Newly acquired lands would be evaluated to determine if they should be allocated for grazing, or designated as unavailable for livestock grazing in consideration of the management needs and objectives for the acquisition

LG-MA-10. At the time a lessee voluntarily relinquishes a lease, the BLM would consider either the public lands where that permitted use was authorized should remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives. Follow current BLM policy and guidance in relinquishment process.

LG-MA-11. As allotments located within or adjacent to subdivisions on private lands become vacant, the BLM will evaluate the availability of livestock grazing on a case-by-case basis.

LG-MA-12. Changes to categories of allotments (I, M, C) would occur through plan maintenance.

LG-MA-13. Conduct site-specific NEPA for any prescribed grazing.

II.2.16 RECREATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

Goals

RV-G-1. Maintain and enhance a diverse array of quality recreation opportunities and benefits while providing educational opportunities, minimizing user conflicts, and promoting public safety.

RV-G-2. Develop and maintain appropriate recreation facilities, balancing public demand, protection of Public Land resources, and fiscal responsibility.

RV-G-3. Collaborate with partners on recreation and visitor service experiences including but not limited to national, state and local recreation providers, non-profit organizations, other federal, state and local agencies, historic preservation groups, tourism entities and local recreational groups.

RV-G-4. Pursuant to Secretarial Orders 3347 and 3356, provide opportunities for outdoor recreation that add to the participants' quality of life while contributing to local economies.

Objective

RV-OBJ-1. Continue existing partnerships, and develop and maintain additional cooperative relationships with national, state and local recreation providers, non-profit organizations, other federal and state agencies, historic preservation groups, tourism entities and local recreational groups.

RV-OBJ-2. A variety of dispersed and water-based recreation activities are permitted and may be supported by the development of river access, trails, and trailhead facilities. Cooperative river management for recreation will be encouraged with appropriate BLM participation on the Clark Fork River, Blackfoot River, and Rock Creek.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

RV-MA-1. Manage lands designated as a SRMA, ERMA or BCA – see Appendix L Recreation Management Areas for specific management direction.

A. Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) are managed to protect and enhance a targeted set of activities, experiences, benefits and desired recreation setting characteristics. SRMAs may be subdivided into recreation management zones (RMZs) to further delineate specific recreation opportunities. Within an SRMA, recreation and visitor services management are a recognized and predominant land use plan focus, where specific recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are managed to be protected on a long-term basis.

B. Extensive Recreation Management Areas (RMAs) are administrative units that require specific management consideration in order to address recreation use, demand, or recreation and visitor service program investments.

C. Backcountry Conservation Areas (BCAs) are managed to protect and enhance wildlife-dependent recreation.

RV-MA-2. Designate four areas as SRMAs (71,632 acres):

1 *Blackfoot SRMA,* approximately 19,543 acres will provide a wide array of outcome focused recreation opportunities for multiple skill levels and users while maintaining the scenic values. May include rafting, fishing, hiking, biking, hunting, scenic driving, motorized and non-motorized recreation. Continue working with partners to manage recreation and to develop recreation opportunities.

2 *Garnet SRMA,* approximately 28,183 acres in 2 recreation management zones: Garnet Ghost Town (424 acres); Garnet Trails (27,759 acres). Manage Garnet Ghost Town to provide day use activities to include guided and self-guided tours, interpretation and education, hiking, picnicking, and viewing the preservation of cultural resources. Also, manage winter cabin rental. Manage, maintain and expand the existing network of snowmobile trails in the Garnet Range, including the Garnet National Winter Recreation Trail and Garnet Winter Backcountry Byway.

3 *Chamberlain SRMA,* approximately 19,307 acres would continue to offer a quality, walk-in hunting experience for the public including the local community, continue working with MFWP and the landowners in support of this experience and allow snowmobile riding.

4 *Limestone Cliffs SRMA* (approximately 50 acres) would provide rock-climbing opportunities while maintaining educational and interpretative values of the limestone outcrops; provide educational and scientific interpretation opportunities.

RV-MA-3. Designate three areas as BCAs

1. *Hoodoos BCA* (approximately 12,533 acres) would provide dispersed wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities including but not limited to hunting, camping, wildlife viewing, and hiking. Provide for and enhance habitat for recreationally dependent wildlife species.
2. *Ram Mountain BCA* (approximately 4,549 acres) would provide dispersed wildlife dependent recreation opportunities including but not limited to hunting, camping, wildlife viewing, and hiking. Provide for and enhance habitat for recreationally dependent wildlife species.
3. *Wales BCA* (2,365 acres) managed similarly as Hoodoos BCA.

RV-MA-4. Manage lands not designated a SRMA, ERMA or BCA to reduce user conflict and to provide visitor health and safety.

RV-MA-5. No outfitter and guide permits will be issued for hunting except in conjunction with adjoining Forest Service lands.

RV-MA-6. If the BLM acquires lands that are adjacent to special recreation management areas (SRMA), the BLM would manage acquired lands in accordance to the designated SRMA.

II.2.17 TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT

Goals

TM-G-1. Provide a balanced approach to travel management that offers a sustained flow of local economic benefits and minimizes or mitigates user conflict, safety concerns, and resource effects while taking into consideration the unique attributes and values of the various travel management planning areas.

Objective

TM-OBJ-1. Designate areas as Open, Closed, or Limited for motorized and non-motorized travel to minimize resource effects and conflicts of use. Motorized use includes snowmobiles and other off-highway vehicles.

A. Open: Motorized vehicle travel is permitted yearlong anywhere within an area designated as "open" to OHV and snowmobile use. Open designations are used for intensive OHV use areas where there are no special restrictions or where there are no compelling resource protection needs, user conflicts, or public safety issues to warrant limiting cross-country travel (see 43 CFR 8340.05).

B. Limited: Motorized vehicle travel within specified areas and/or on designated routes, roads, vehicle ways, or trails is subject to restrictions. The limited designation is used where OHV and snowmobile use must be restricted to meet specific resource management objectives. Examples of limitations include: number or type of vehicles; time or season of use; permitted or licensed use only; use limited to designated roads and trails; or other limitations if restrictions are necessary to meet resource

management objectives, including certain competitive or intensive use areas that have special limitations (see 43 CFR 8340.05).

C. Closed: Motorized vehicle travel is prohibited in the area. Access by means other than motorized vehicle is permitted. Areas are designated closed if closure to vehicular use is necessary to protect resources, promote visitor safety, or reduce use conflicts (see 43 CFR 8340.05).

TM-OBJ-2. Use an interdisciplinary approach to address resource and administrative access needs for completion of Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management planning. Consider and address the full range of various modes of travel on public lands, motorized and non-motorized, including over-land, over-snow and fly-in access, as well as recreational opportunities and the demands for such uses.

TM-OBJ-3. Use a systematic process that considers the unique resource issues and social environments of each route-specific travel planning within Travel Management Areas. This preliminary set of criteria, at a minimum, to consider during comprehensive travel management planning must include the following:

a. Areas and trails shall be located to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, air or other resources of the public lands, and to prevent impairment of wilderness suitability;

b. Areas and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitat, special attention will be given to protect endangered and threatened species and their habitats;

c. Areas and trails shall be located to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicles use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors; and

d. Areas and trails shall not be located in officially designated Wilderness areas or primitive areas; areas and trails shall be located in natural areas only if the authorized officer determines that off-road vehicle use in such locations will not adversely affect their natural aesthetic scenic or other values for which such areas are established.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

TM-MA-1. Manage approximately 133,770 acres as Limited motorized travel (OHVs limited to designated routes and trails, and snowmobiles limited seasonally and designated areas). Manage approximately 28,844 acres as Closed to motorized travel (OHV and snowmobiles) within the Wilderness Study Areas and Ram Mountain (see Appendix H maps).

TM-MA-2. Maintain the current management of the Travel Management Plan until subsequent Travel Management Planning at the activity-level with appropriate public involvement and NEPA analysis.

TM-MA-3. Update and maintain the road and trail database to correct mapping errors and refine decisions.

TM-MA-4. Restrictions and closures will be established for specific roads, trails or areas based on consideration of the following criteria: the need to promote user enjoyment and minimize use conflicts; the need to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, road beds or other resource values; the need to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant degradation

of wildlife habitat; the need to promote user safety; and the need to cooperate with adjoining landowners.

TM-MA-5. Promote the use of shared trails whenever possible. 5. Manage the road system and implement road infrastructure and design features and best management practices (Appendix P).

TM-MA-6. Allow for temporarily opening a road for a short period of time to allow for public firewood gathering and other authorized uses.

TM-MA-7. A road closure location is allowed to be moved a short distance (e.g., to the nearest intersection or turnout) to a better location to allow turn-arounds providing for public safety, to reduce vandalism, or to improve enforcement of the road closure

TM-MA-8. Any land acquired by the BLM over the life of the resource management plan will be managed similarly to the existing OHV area designations of adjoining BLM lands or as stated, or implied, in the transfer. Where clarification is absent, the BLM will manage acquired lands under the OHV limited area designation. The types of limitation will be set by implementation-level decisions; until these decisions are made, use may continue in the same manner and degree consistent with the purposes for which the acquisition was made

TM-MA-9. Cooperate with MFWP to adjust seasonal travel restrictions in accordance with big game hunting season extensions.

II.2.18 LANDS & REALTY: ACCESS

Goals

LA-G-1. Address public and administrative access needs across nonfederal lands.

LA-G-2. BLM-managed lands would have reasonable access, while providing a balance of use, enjoyment and protection of resource.

LA-G-3. Continue working with all land management partners (federal, state, private, and tribal) and nonprofit organizations to maintain and improve access.

Objective

LA-OBJ-1. Acquire and maintain access to BLM-managed lands to improve management efficiency in coordination with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and private landowners; or to improve public access for recreation.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

LA-MA-1. Legal public or administrative access would be pursued from willing landowners on a case-by-case basis as the need or opportunity arises. Acquisition efforts would be focused on Category 1 and 2 lands where no legal public or administrative access exists or where additional access is necessary to meet management objectives.

II.2.19 LANDS AND REALTY: LAND TENURE

Goals

LT-G-1. Improve resource management efficiency and provide public benefit as opportunities arise.

LT-G-2. Continue working with all land management partners (federal, state, private, and tribal) and nonprofit organizations to maintain and improve resource management.

Objectives

LT-OBJ-1. Manage approximately 59,462 acres in Category 1, approximately 103,149 acres in Category 2, and 0 acres in Category 3 (see Appendix H, maps).

LT-OBJ-2. Retain public lands with high resource values, adjust land ownership to consolidate public lands, acquire lands with high resource values, and meet public and community needs.

LT-OBJ-3. Consistent with Secretary's Order 3373, ensure that public access and recreational opportunities are important consideration of any land tenure adjustment, and manage BLM lands according to its identified land tenure category: Category 1 (Retention), Category 2 (Limited Exchange), Category 3 (Disposal). See Appendix Q for criteria and legal descriptions and Appendix H for maps.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

LT-MA-1. Manage lands based on category as described in Appendix H. The BLM would retain Category 1 lands and disposal would not be permitted. The BLM would generally retain Category 2 lands, but exchanges and other conveyances would be permitted if in the public interest. FLPMA section 203 sales would not be permitted.

LT-MA-2. Manage newly acquired lands similar to adjacent BLM lands and the following criteria:

A. Lands acquired within special management areas with specific Congressional mandates (such as NHT) will be managed in conformance with established guidelines for those areas.

B. Lands acquired adjacent to administratively designated management allocations (such as BCAs or SRMAs) will be managed the same as and become part of the adjacent allocation.

C. Lands acquired without special values or management goals will be managed in the same manner as comparable surrounding public lands.

D. To the extent possible, management direction would be extended to newly acquired lands through plan maintenance.

LT-MA-3. Acquisitions and exchanges will adhere to law, regulation, and policy using appropriate and available funding sources including, but not limited to, the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

LT-MA-4. Accomplish acquisition will primarily through purchase of land or interests in land from willing landowners using the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) account if available, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), or other funding sources. Acquisition of land may also be accomplished through donations to the BLM by nonfederal landowners. The BLM may acquire conservation easements to preserve open space, enhance public access, and protect important resource values.

LT-MA-5. BLM would generally reserve access rights in conveyance of lands that contain public access routes. 6. Land Tenure actions can be initiated by public request or proposal. These requests or proposals are considered on a case-by-case basis. The land tenure categories identify where land acquisitions could move forward for consideration of whether they are in the public interest. Consistent with Secretarial Order 3373, ensure that public access and

recreational opportunities are an important consideration of any land tenure adjustment (see land tenure criteria listed in Appendix Q).

LT-MA-6. Applications for R&PP, transfer of administrative jurisdiction to other federal agencies, Color-of-Title, Carey Act Grant, State Grant, Railroad Grants, and Airport Grants would be considered and reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

LT-MA-7. Land tenure adjustments will be subject to environmental review including biological reports, cultural and paleontological inventories, and hazardous materials assessments, as well as water rights documentation and minerals appraisal, if the mineral estate is included in the proposal

LT-MA-8. No BLM land in the Missoula Field Office is suitable for Desert Land Entry or Indian Allotments.

II.2.20 LANDS & REALTY: LAND USE AUTHORIZATIONS

Goals

LU-G-1. Consider requests for rights-of-way, land use permits, and leases.

Objectives

LU-OBJ-1. Designate transportation and utility corridors, as well as avoidance and/or exclusion areas.

LU-OBJ-2. Designate lands as exclusion or avoidance areas as appropriate.

LU-OBJ-3. Respond to public needs for use authorizations such as rights-of-way, leases, and land use permits while balancing for other resource use and protection.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

LU-MA-1. Manage lands according to ROW Exclusion and Avoidance Areas:

A. ROW Exclusion Area: The BLM would manage ROW exclusion areas as unavailable for rights-of-way.

B. ROW Avoidance Areas: The BLM would manage ROW avoidance areas as generally not available for large-scale infrastructure; exceptions may be permitted based on type of and need for facility proposed; conflicts with other resource values and uses, including potential values and uses; and availability of alternatives and/or design features. ROWs may also be allowed if they support or promote management objectives for the area and/ or if the ROW does not impact the goals and objective of the area. For example, during site-specific planning, the BLM would allow a ROW only if compatible with riparian habitat conservation areas' RMOs, or if the historical and cultural values were not compromised.

LU-MA-2. Manage approximately 46,988 acres as ROW avoidance areas for recreation management areas (5 SRMAs and 1BCAs), all ACECs, and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail corridor. Manage approximately 23,480 acres as ROW exclusion areas, and 236 acres as a ROW corridor (see Appendix H, maps)

LU-MA-3. Consider ROWs outside of avoidance and exclusion areas on a case-by-case basis with appropriate stipulations.

LU-MA-4. Locate new right-of-way facilities within or adjacent to existing rights-of-way, or corridors, to the extent practical, to minimize adverse environmental effects and the proliferation of separate rights-of-way.

LU-MA-5. Allow nonfederal landowners who are surrounded by BLM land d a degree of access that will provide for the reasonable use and enjoyment of the nonfederal land (BLM Manual 2801).

LU-MA-6. Analyze requests for land use authorizations (rights-of-way, leases, or permits) and apply design features on a case-by-case basis through the environmental review process with applicable terms and conditions (Appendix P).

LU-MA-7. Manage ROW to the latest version of Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines (APLIC 2006).

LU-MA-8. *Communication Sites:* Consider communication sites on a case-by-case basis consistent with management objectives of the area. Group new communication site users into suitable existing sites to reduce impacts and expedite application processing. Complete communication site management plans before authorizing communication site uses in new areas.

LU-MA-9. *ROW Corridor:* The Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/Record of Decision (ROD) for Designation of Energy Corridors on Bureau of Land Management-Administered Lands in the 11 Western States (USDI-BLM 2009) was approved on January 14, 2009. The Garnet RMP designated corridor was for electric only (Corridor 229-254).

LU-MA-10. *Revised State (R.S.) 2477:* Revised Statute (R.S.) 2477, which provided that "[t]he right of way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public uses, is hereby granted," was repealed on October 21, 1976, by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. FLPMA did not terminate valid rights-of-way established under R.S. 2477 prior to its repeal.

LU-MA-11. *Revised State (R.S.) 2477:* Current guidance is contained in WO IM No. 2006-159: Non-Binding Determinations of R.S. 2477 Right-of-Way Claims. Briefly, this guidance states that the BLM does not have the authority to make binding determinations on the validity of R.S. 2477 right-of-way claims. The BLM may make informal, non-binding determinations for its own land use planning and management purposes. A non-binding determination that the right-of-way exists is required before completing consultation with states or counties on any proposed improvements to a claimed R.S. 2477 right-of-way (i.e., any work beyond routine maintenance). It may also be appropriate before taking action to close or otherwise restrict the use of a claimed R.S. 2477 right-of-way.

LU-MA-12. *Unauthorized Use:* Attempt to reduce trespass through prevention, detection, and resolution. The priority for resolving trespass in an area is accorded to newly discovered ongoing uses, developments, or occupancies where resource damage is occurring and/or where there is a significant loss of revenue to the United States. In such cases, resolution is needed to halt and prevent further environmental degradation or revenue loss. Historic trespass cases where little or no resources damage is occurring are resolved as workloads permit.

II.2.21 MINERALS

Goals

MI-G-1. Provide land use opportunities to explore and develop locatable minerals while preventing undue or unnecessary degradation to other resources.

MI-G-2. Provide land use opportunities to explore and develop solid leasable and salable minerals while preventing or minimizing impacts to other resources

Objectives

MI-OBJ-1. Identify resource-specific or mining best management practices (BMP), required design features to help in preventing unnecessary or undue degradation from locatable mineral exploration and development (Appendix P).

MI-OBJ-2. In accordance with 43 CFR 3809.2(a), review areas of interminable "temporary" segregation from the mining laws and restore these lands by opening to locatable mineral entry if a withdrawal is not recommended.

MI-OBJ-3. For areas requiring special management, identify required design features for leasable and salable mineral projects to meet other resource goals and objectives.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

MI-MA-1. Recommend approximately 283 acres for withdrawal from mineral entry (Garnet Ghost Town, 263 acres; Limestone Cliffs, 20 acres), and recommend approximately 20,211 acres of interminable temporary segregation as open to mineral entry.

MI-MA-2. Close approximately 716 acres to leasable and salable minerals—Garnet Ghost Town RMZ, 424 acres; conservation easements, 242 acres; and Limestone Cliffs SRMA, 50 acres.

MI-MA-3. Apply design features as determined at the project level under energy and mineral exploration and development (see Appendix P).

MI-MA-4. Coal: Under the first regulatory screening procedure at 43 CFR 3420.1-4(e), only the areas that have development potential may be identified as acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing; therefore, if a coal lease application is submitted to the BLM, the applicant must be able to adequately demonstrate development potential and the merit of their data. If the application is determined to be adequate and passes the remaining screening and unsuitability assessment procedures required by regulation, a land use plan amendment would be required before the BLM could issue a coal lease.

II.2.22 WITHDRAWALS AND OTHER SEGREGATION

Goals

WS-G-1. Protect significant resources or government investments**.**

Objectives

WS-OBJ-1. Use withdrawal recommendations with the least restrictive measures and of the minimum size necessary to accomplish the required purpose.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

WS-MA-1. Approximately 1,193 acres of Powersite Reservations and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission withdrawals under the authority of the Federal Power Act would remain in effect.

WS-MA-2. New withdrawal proposals that result in a transfer of jurisdiction to another federal agency will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Other agency requests for new withdrawals, or modification, extension, or revocation of existing withdrawals will be considered.

WS-MA-3. Existing withdrawals will be reviewed prior to their expiration to determine if a need exists to extend and/or modify the withdrawal. Should the review indicate that the purpose for which the lands were withdrawn is no longer valid, the withdrawal would be allowed to expire. If the purpose remains valid for a portion of the withdrawn lands, the withdrawal would be modified and extended.

II.2.23 ROADS AND FACILITIES

Goals

RF-G-1. Manage facilities, including roads and trails, to provide for public access or administrative needs, while maintaining or protecting resource values and in coordination with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and private landowners.

Objective

RF-OBJ-1. Provide and maintain a road transportation system that serves resource management needs (administrative/commercial) and public use needs (recreational/domestic) for BLM-managed lands while mitigating impacts to resources.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

RF-MA-1. Construct new permanent/temporary roads where needed to meet resource management objectives, including major culverts and bridges as necessary, to established BLM engineering design standards.

RF-MA-2. Apply BMPs as needed to road location, design, and construction (Appendix P).

RF-MA-3. Maintain existing roads to provide access for both resource management and casual use activities to established BLM maintenance standards while providing user safety, protecting water quality and facility investments, and in consideration of other resource issues.

RF-MA-4. Manage for safety along BLM-managed roads including, but not limited to, hazard tree removal.

RF-MA-5. Fully decommission and obliterate (permanent closure) roads with no future resource management need. Decommission (long-term closure) roads not currently needed for resource management but that will be operated and maintained again in the future. Apply as needed road closure BMPs. Close roads only with the approval of affected reciprocal right-of-way permittees.

RF-MA-6. Close and rehabilitate nonessential roads if expenditure of funds is justified.

RF-MA-7. Roads and trails on BLM-managed land under the jurisdiction of other entities will be maintained by the appropriate holder of rights within the provisions of the granting authority or right.

RF-MA-8. Manage to eliminate, reduce, or minimize adverse effects from roads on aquatic resources, and address closure and rehabilitation of unneeded roads

RF-MA-9. Provide and maintain fish passage at new, replacement, and reconstructed road crossings of existing and potential fish-bearing streams, unless barriers are determined beneficial for native fish and/or sensitive aquatic species conservation.

RF-MA-10. Maintain or improve roads within the RHCAs in a condition that will not contribute sediment to streams that will hinder spawning habitat for fish.

RF-MA-11. Avoid locating new roads or road-related facilities in RHCAs. Exceptions may be granted upon watershed or site-specific analysis focused on how road design features would minimize or avoid adverse effects to aquatic and riparian resources at site-specific, reach, and watershed scales.

RF-MA-12. Avoid or minimize sediment delivery to streams from the road surfaces to attain and maintain desired aquatic habitat conditions in riparian areas and wetlands.

RF-MA-13. Design new, replacement, and reconstructed stream crossings (culverts, bridges, and other crossings).

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

II.2.24 AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACECS)

Goals

ACEC-G-1. Protect relevant and important values and apply special management where standard or routine management is not adequate to protect the values from risks or threats of damage/degradation or to provide for public safety from natural hazards. Objectives 1. Maintain or restore important relevant and important values in Areas of Critical Environmental Concern including Research Naturals Areas.

Objectives

ACEC-OBJ-1. Maintain or restore important relevant and important values in ACECs/RNAs.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

ACEC-MA-1. Manage the Phil Wright Rock ACEC (640 acres) for its relevant and important values. Emphasize the wildlife, watershed, recreation, and scenic values of the area. Would be a ROW avoidance area; closed to motorized vehicles. Any other activities (livestock grazing, commercial timber harvest, mineral materials) must be compatible with ACEC values. Any locatable minerals would require a plan of operations. Management actions would protect, maintain, and enhance (where feasible): bighorn sheep lambing habitat; bighorn sheep, elk, and deer yearlong and winter habitat values; the scenic qualities of the cliffs; recreation uses compatible with the primary values of the tract; fisheries habitat of Rock Creek; riparian vegetation of Rock Creek; and raptor nesting habitat of the cliffs. Recreation use and opportunities would be oriented toward preserving and enjoying the wildlife, watershed, and scenic values of the tract – wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, hiking and sightseeing are compatible with those values and would be emphasized, no developed recreation sites or opportunities are being considered. Roads will not be constructed unless needed to meet specific management goals.

ACEC-MA-2. Manage the West Fork Buttes (950 acres) as Research Natural Areas (RNA). Manage West Fork Buttes RNA to maintain the diverse native plants species (over 200); prioritize the area for invasive species and noxious weed treatments; and allow research and

education in partnership with other agencies, Tribes, and education groups. Livestock grazing would continue.

ACEC-MA-3. If Congress were to release the Wales Creek WSA then approximately 5,602 acres would be managed as the Wales Creek ACEC for the pearlshell mussel population and unique geologic features in the area.

ACEC-MA-4. Implement activities necessary to maintain or restore important and relevant values found in the Preliminary ACEC Report (USDI-BLM 2018)

ACEC-MA-5. Manage ACECs/RNAs for the identified relevant and important values. Allow livestock grazing and other activities not prohibited so long as the activity does not degrade the relevant and important values and is compatible with preserving and enhancing the key values of the tract.

ACEC-MA-6. Manage ACECs as land tenure Category 1 for retention.

ACEC-MA-7. Review and update existing activity plan as needed; create new activity plans to manage relevant and important values as needed.

II.2.25 NATIONAL TRAILS

Goals

NT-G-1. Safeguard the nature and purposes; and protect and restore the Garnet Winter National Recreation Trail and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail resources, qualities, values, and associated settings and the primary use or uses.

NT-G-2. For the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, protect the values set forth in the enabling legislation/designation and cooperatively work with the trail administrator for current and future national trails.

Objectives

NT-OBJ-1. Designate a corridor on public lands that is one-half mile on either side of the centerline of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. The BLM would manage the corridor as a ROW avoidance area, VRM Class II, and limited off-highway vehicle allocation. Recreation use and opportunities would be oriented toward preserving and enjoying the trail experience—wildlife viewing, floating, fishing, hunting, hiking, biking and sightseeing are compatible with those values and would be emphasized. For public safety, no grazing use would be allowed in the Lower Blackfoot Corridor portion of the trail corridor. Forest management, road building, and other activities may occur if compatible with preserving, restoring, and enhancing the key values of the Trail.

NT-OBJ-2. Provide premier visitor experiences for public benefit for both national trails.

NT-OBJ-3. Maximize opportunities for shared national trail stewardship for both national trails.

NT-OBJ-4. For both national trails, avoid activities that are incompatible with the purposes for which each trail was established.

NT-OBJ-5. Permit no uses that would substantially interfere with the nature and purposes of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

NT-OBJ-6. Identify and manage the historical route and historical remnants and artifacts for public use, enjoyment, and vicarious trail experiences for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

NT-OBJ-7. Identify and manage high potential historical sites or high potential route segments, including the recommendation of additional Federal Protection Components for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

NT-MA-1. Designate a Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail corridor on public lands that is one-half mile on either side of the centerline of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. The trail corridor is a ROW avoidance area, VRM Class II, and limited off-highway vehicle allocation. Recreation use and opportunities will be oriented toward preserving and enjoying the trail experience—wildlife viewing, floating, fishing, hunting, hiking, biking and sightseeing are compatible with those values and would be emphasized. No grazing use would be allowed in the Lower Blackfoot Corridor portion of the trail corridor. Forest management, road building, and other activities may occur if compatible with preserving, restoring, and enhancing the key values of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

II.2.26 WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Goals

WSR-G-1. Conserve outstanding remarkable values (ORVs) for suitable or deferred suitable segments.

Objective

WSR-OBJ-1. Manage segments suitable or deferred from suitability for the outstanding remarkable values (ORVs) until determination by Congress on inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Management Action and Allowable Uses

WSR-MA-1. Manage the Rock Creek segment (2.1 miles) on BLM-managed lands as eligible for its Fish, Geological, Recreation, Scenic outstanding remarkable values (ORVs) until the U.S. Forest Service evaluates suitability on the other 9 miles of Rock Creek.

II.2.27 WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Goals

WSA-G-1. Manage Hoodoo Mountain, Quigg West, and Wales Creek WSAs so as not to impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness, until Congress either designates them as wilderness or releases them from further study.

Objective

WSA-OBJ-1. Manage the WSAs according to BLM Manual 6330 – Management of BLM Wilderness Study Areas – until Congress acts upon the recommendations.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

WSA-MA-1. Manage the WSAs according to BLM Manual 6330 – Management of BLM Wilderness Study Areas – until Congress acts upon the recommendations. Only Congress can designate or release lands.

WSA-MA-2. Prepare a wilderness management plan for any areas Congress designates as wilderness.

WSA-MA-3. If Congress releases the Wales Creek WSA, then the BLM would manage approximately 5,982 acres as part of the Wales Backcountry Conservation Area. The other 5,602 acres would be managed as the Wales Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

WSA-MA-4. If Congress releases the Hoodoo Mountain WSA, then the BLM would manage approximately 11,380 acres as a Hoodoos BCA.

WSA-MA-5. If Congress releases the Quigg West WSA, the 520 acres would be managed as part of the Ram Mountain BCA.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRIBAL INTERESTS

II.2.28 PUBLIC SAFETY

Goals

PS-G-1. Provide an appropriate management response to natural and human disturbances, emphasizing public and firefighter safety.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

PS-MA-1. Prioritize abandoned mine land reclamation to address immediate problem sites that pose a threat to public health and safety. Abandoned mine land features impacting water quality, or that are in the vicinity of recreational use by the public are also assigned a high priority for closure and mitigation.

PS-MA-2. Conduct reclamation activities in accordance with land health standards and BMPs.

PS-MA-3. Survey and assess abandoned mines for bat use. Determine the need for closures or seasonal closures for activities affecting bat populations in abandoned mines, if present.

PS-MA-4. Monitor abandoned mine land sites after reclamation.

II.2.29 TRIBAL INTERESTS

Goals

TI-G-1. Accommodate treaty and legal rights, including the Hellgate Treaty of 1895, of federally recognized Native American groups in management of public lands including the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Objective

TI-OBJ-1. Notify and consult with tribes on BLM actions. Conduct consultation and coordination on a government-to-government basis with federally recognized tribes.

II.3 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The BLM will continue to work with existing partners, to cultivate new partnerships, and to seek the views of the public during the implementation of this RMP. It will use such techniques as news releases and website postings to ask for participation and to inform the public of new and ongoing management actions and site-specific planning.

The BLM will also continue to coordinate, both formally and informally, with the numerous federal and state agencies, Native American tribes, local agencies, and officials interested and involved in the management of public lands in the Missoula FO.

II.4 MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The BLM will develop an implementation plan to identify actions to achieve the desired outcomes of the Approved RMP. The implementation plan will assist BLM managers and staff to prepare budget requests and to schedule work priorities.

The management actions and allowable uses outlined in Chapter 2 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS that are now part of the Approve RMP (Section II.2). Most management actions and allowable uses can be implemented through existing laws and regulations. That is, these actions are enforceable. In some cases, unique, and site-specific restrictions and prohibitions need to be clearly spelled out for ease of understanding and clarity. One of the BLM's tools to achieve this are supplementary rules. The Final EIS, Volume II, Appendix O contained proposed supplementary rules. The BLM prepared supplementary rules to provide full authority to BLM Law Enforcement to enforce management decisions made in the Approved RMP pursuant to BLM's authority under 43 CFR 8365.1-6. Appendix O of this Approved RMP contain the supplementary rules.

The BLM will issue implementation decisions to fully implement the RMP. During implementation of the RMP, the BLM will prepare additional documentation for site-specific actions to comply with NEPA. This can vary from a simple statement of conformance with the RMP and adequacy of existing NEPA analysis to more complex EAs or EISs that analyze several alternatives.

II.5 RMP IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION

Chapter 5 of the Final EIS outline the RMP implementation, monitoring, and evaluation processes. The BLM will monitor and periodically evaluate implementation of the RMP based on guidance in the BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601-1 (BLM 2005), as amended.

II.5.1 RMP EVALUATION

Evaluation is the process of reviewing the land use plan and the periodic plan monitoring reports to determine whether the land use plan decisions and NEPA analysis are still valid and how effectively the plan is being implemented. In accordance with the BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1; BLM 2005), the BLM will periodically evaluate an approved RMP to determine whether the land use plan

decisions and NEPA analysis are still valid and whether the plan is being implemented effectively. Land use plan evaluations determine whether:

- The decisions remain relevant to current issues.
- Decisions are effective in achieving or making progress toward achieving the desired outcomes specified in the RMP.
- Any decisions need revision, amendment, or deletion.
- Any new decisions are needed.

In making these determinations, the BLM's evaluation will consider whether mitigation measures such as those described in the Approved RMP are effective in mitigation impacts, whether there are significant changes in the related plans of other entities, or whether there is significant new information. In addition to periodic evaluations, special evaluations may also be required to review unexpected management actions or significant changes in the related plans of Native American tribes, other federal agencies, and state and local governments, or to evaluate legislation or litigation that has the potential to trigger an amendment or revision to the RMP. Evaluations may identify resource needs, as well as the means for correcting deficiencies and addressing issues through plan maintenance, amendments, or revisions. Evaluations should also identify where new and emerging issues and other values have surfaced.

II.5.2 RMP MONITORING

Monitoring is the process of tracking and documenting the implementation (or the progress of implementation) of land use plan decisions. Land use plan decision monitoring is a continuous process occurring over the life of the RMP. The aim is to maintain a dynamic RMP. Monitoring data are collected, examined, and used to draw conclusions about 1) whether planned actions have been implemented in the manner prescribed by the RMP (implementation monitoring) identified in **Section 0**, , 2) whether RMP allowable use and management action decisions and the resultant implementation actions are effective in achieving program-specific objectives or desired outcomes (effectiveness monitoring), and 3) calculating the cost of delivering a service or product (efficiency monitoring by program elements). Implementation monitoring tracks the completion of land use plan decisions, whereas effectiveness monitoring helps determine whether completion of land use plan decisions achieves anticipated desired outcomes. If implementation of land use plans does not achieve anticipated desired outcomes, adaptive management may be necessary.

The BLM uses conclusions drawn from monitoring to make recommendations on whether to continue current management or to determine what changes need to be made to implementation practices to better achieve RMP goals. Indicators, methods, locations, units of measures, frequency, and action triggers can be established by national policy guidance, in RMPs, or by technical specialists in order to address specific issues.

Based on staffing and funding levels, monitoring is annually prioritized consistently with the goals and objectives of the RMP. The BLM may work in cooperation with local, state, and other federal agencies, or it may use data collected by other agencies and sources when appropriate and available.

II.6 REFERENCES

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II.7 GLOSSARY

Abandoned Mine Lands. An abandoned hard rock mine on or affecting public lands administered by the BLM, at which exploration, development, mining, reclamation, maintenance, and inspection of facilities and equipment, and other operations ceased as of January 1, 1981 (the effective date of BLM's Surface Management regulations codified at 43 CFR 3809) with no evidence demonstrating that the miner intends to resume mining.

Accelerated Erosion: Soil loss above natural levels resulting directly from human activities. Because of the slow rate of soil formation, accelerated erosion can lead to a permanent reduction in plant productivity.

Acquired Lands: Lands in federal ownership that were obtained by the government through purchase, condemnation, gift, or exchange.

Active Preference: That portion of the total grazing preference for which grazing use may be authorized.

Activity Plan: Site-specific plan that precedes actual development. This is the most detailed level of BLM planning, and is also referred to as project level or implementation level planning.

Actual Use: The amount of animal unit months consumed by livestock based on the numbers of livestock and grazing dates submitted by the livestock operator and confirmed by periodic field checks by the BLM.

Affected Environment: Natural, physical and human-related environment that is sensitive to changes due to proposed actions.

Air Quality: Refers to standards for various classes of land as designated by the Clean Air Act of 1978.

Air Quality Standards: Primary standards are designed to protect human health, including sensitive populations, such as people with asthma and emphysema, children, and senior citizens. Primary standards were designed for the immediate protection of public health, with an adequate margin of safety, regardless of the cost.

Secondary standards are designed to protect public welfare, including soils, water, crops, vegetation, buildings, property, animals, wildlife, weather, visibility, and other economic, aesthetic, and ecological values, as well as personal comfort and well-being. Secondary standards were established to protect the public from known or anticipated effects of air pollution.

Allotment: An area of land where one or more livestock operators graze their livestock. Allotments generally consist of BLM lands but may also include other federally managed, state owned, and private lands. An allotment may include one or more separate pastures. Livestock numbers and periods of use are specified for each allotment.

Allotment Categorization: Grazing allotments and rangeland areas used for livestock grazing are assigned to an allotment category during resource management planning. Allotment categorization is

used to establish priorities for distributing available funds and personnel during plan implementation to achieve cost-effective improvement of rangeland resources. Categorization is also used to organize allotments into similar groups for purposes of developing multiple use prescriptions, analyzing site-specific and cumulative impacts, and determining trade-offs.

Allotment Management Plan: A written program of livestock grazing management, including supportive measures if required, designed to attain specific management goals in a grazing allotment.

Alluvium: Any sediment deposited by flowing water, as in a riverbed, floodplain, or delta.

Analysis of Management Situation: A comprehensive documentation of the present conditions of the resources, current management guidance, and opportunities for change.

Animal Unit Month (AUM): A standardized measurement of the amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow unit or its equivalent for 1 month; approximately 800 pounds of forage. An AUM is the amount of forage needed to sustain one cow and her calf, one horse, or five sheep or goats for a month.

Annual Sale Quantity (ASQ): The maximum volume of timber that may be sold on a sustained-yield basis from the area of suitable land covered by the resource management plan for a time period specified in the plan. This volume is usually expressed on an annual basis as the average annual allowable sale quantity.

Appropriate Management Response (AMR): This term became obsolete in February 2009 when new interagency guidance was developed for implementing Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy. The definition was 'any specific action suitable to meet Fire Management Unit (FMU) objectives. Typically, the AMR ranges across a spectrum of tactical options (from monitoring to intensive management actions). The AMR is developed by using Fire Management Unit strategies and objectives identified in the Fire Management Plan.'

Appropriation: Public lands covered by an entry, settlement, claim, location, withdrawal, or reservation that sets the land apart for some particular use or land tenure action.

Aquatic: Living or growing in or on the water**.**

Aquifer: A water-bearing bed or layer of permeable rock, sand, or gravel capable of yielding large amounts of water.

Archaeological Resource/Remains: A term with legal definition and application, meaning any material remains of human life or activities that are at least 100 years of age, and that are of archaeological interest.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): Areas within the public lands where special management attention is required to: (1) protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or (2) protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Assessment: The act of evaluating and interpreting data and information for a defined purpose**.**

Authorized Officer: The federal employee who has the delegated authority to make a specific decision.

Authorized Use: Uses of public land that may be authorized include agriculture development, residential use (under certain conditions), business, industrial, and commercial uses, advertising; research projects, State National Guard maneuvers, and motion picture filming. Recreational concessions are considered business uses and may be authorized by lease. Timber harvest, livestock grazing, mineral extraction and special recreation events, among other uses, are authorized under other regulations and not under Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA).

Avoidance Areas: Areas to be avoided but may be available for location of rights-of-way with special stipulations. (BLM Land Use Planning Handbook, Appendix C)

Back Country Byways: Vehicle routes that traverse scenic corridors utilizing secondary or back country road systems. National back country byways are designated by the type of road and vehicle needed to travel the byway.

Backcountry Conservation Area: are defined as BLM-managed lands in a specific planning area which promote public access to support wildlife-dependent recreation and hunting opportunities and facilitate the long-term maintenance of big game wildlife populations. These areas are primarily contiguous and intact. Management of BCAs may include activities such as active forest and rangeland management, grazing, motorized access on designated routes and other areas for game retrieval, fluid and solids leasable minerals, and other actions consistent with the BLM's multiple use, sustained yield mission. Further management actions and allowable uses are described further in Appendix L.

Basin: A depressed area having no surface outlet (topographic basin); a physiographic feature or subsurface structure that is capable of collecting, storing, or discharging water by reason of its shape and the characteristics of its confining material (water); a depression in the earth's surface, the lowest part often filled by a lake or pond (lake basin); a part of a river or canal widened (drainage, river, stream basin).

Beneficial or Positive Effect: An effect promoting a favorable result for a specific resource of resource use. Could be used in short-term, long-term, or both short- and long-term contexts.

Best Management Practices (BMPs): A suite of techniques that guide, or may be applied to, management actions to aid in achieving desired outcomes. Best management practices are often developed in conjunction with land use plans, but they are not considered a land use plan decision unless the land use plan specifies that they are mandatory. They may be updated or modified without a plan amendment if they are not mandatory.

Big Game: Large species of wildlife that are hunted, such as elk, deer, bighorn sheep, mountain lion, black bear, and pronghorn antelope.

Big Game Analysis Unit: Logical locations across the landscape to conduct analysis of big game winter range. These areas were broken out based on a combination of Elk Management Units from Montana's Elk Management Plan (MFWP 2004) and watershed boundaries.

Biodiversity: The diversity of living organisms considered at multiple levels of organization including genetics, species, and higher taxonomic levels, and the variety of habitats and ecosystems, as well as the processes occurring therein.

Biological Assessment: The gathering and evaluation of information on proposed endangered and threatened species and critical habitat and proposed critical habitat. Required when a management action potentially conflicts with endangered or threatened species, the biological assessment is the way federal agencies enter into formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and describe a proposed action and the consequences to the species the action would affect**.**

Biological Weed Treatment: Treatments that involve living creatures, such as insects, sheep and goat grazing, plant pathogens, and biopesticides.

Biomass: Woody biomass is defined as the trees and woody plants, including limbs, tops, needles, leaves, and other woody parts, grown in a forest, woodland, or rangeland environment, that are the by-products of forest management.

Board Feet: A unit of solid wood one-foot square and one inch thick (BF - board foot, MBF - thousand board feet, MMBF - million board feet).

Browse: To browse (verb) is to graze a plant; also, browse (noun) is the tender shoots, twigs and leaves of trees and shrubs often used as food by livestock and wildlife.

Bunchgrass: Individual grasses that have the characteristic growth habit of forming a "bunch" as opposed to having stolens or rhizomes or single annual habit.

Burn Plan: A plan required for every fire application ignited by management. Plans are documents prepared by qualified personnel, approved by the agency administrator, and include criteria for the conditions under which the fire will be conducted (a prescription). Same as Prescribed Fire Burn Plan.

Burn Severity: A qualitative assessment of the heat pulse directed toward the ground during a fire. Burn severity relates to soil heating, large fuel and duff consumption, consumption of the litter and organic layer beneath trees and isolated shrubs, and mortality of buried plant parts. See also Fire Severity.

Candidate Species: Any species included in the Federal Register notice of review that are being considered for listing as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Canopy: Foliar layer(s) consisting of the crowns of trees or shrubs in a forest or woodland.

Carrying Capacity: The maximum stocking rate possible without damaging vegetation or related resources.

Channel: An open conduit either naturally or artificially created which periodically or continuously contains moving water or forms a connecting link between two bodies of water.

Chemical Weed Treatment: These are treatments using additives, such as applying herbicides or changing soil nutrient ratios.

Classification: The authority of the Secretary of the Interior to examine land to see whether it is proper for entry, selection, or location.

Classification of Lands: The process of determining whether lands are more valuable or suitable for transfer or use under particular or various public land laws than for retention in federal ownership for management purposes.

Clean Air Act (CAA): Federal legislation governing air pollution.

Climax Vegetation: The ecological vegetation community that represents the culminating stage or highest development of natural vegetative succession. The climax community often can perpetuate itself indefinitely unless disturbed by outside forces.

Closed: Generally, denotes that an area is not available for a particular use or uses; refer to specific definitions found in law, regulations, or policy guidance for application to individual programs.

Closed Road: Closed to motorized public access and subject to administrative or permitted uses based on case-specific exceptions (such as for mining claimants with existing claims accessed by existing routes). Routes identified as closed would have a route bed left intact in case, they are needed for valid existing rights only, or in the extended future for administrative purposes. Closed routes would be open to non-motorized use.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR): The official, legal tabulation or regulations directing federal government activities.

Collaboration: A cooperative process in which interested parties, often with widely varied interests, work together to seek solutions with broad support for managing public and other lands.

Commercial Forest Land: Forest land that is producing, or has a site capable of producing, at least 20 cubic feet/acre/year of a commercial tree species.

Common Variety Minerals: Stone, gravel, pumice, and cinders that, though possibly having value for trade, manufacture, the sciences, or the mechanical or ornamental arts, do not have a distinct, special value for such use beyond normal uses. On the public lands such minerals are considered salable and are disposed of by sales or by special permits to local governments.

Community: An assemblage of plant and animal populations in a common spatial arrangement.

Composition (of Forest Vegetation): The proportion of each tree species in a stand, expressed as a percentage of the total number, basal area, or volume of all tree species in the stand.

Condition Class: A classification of the degree of departure from historical fire regimes, possibly resulting in alternations of key ecosystem components. These classes categorize and describe vegetation composition and structure conditions that currently exist inside the Fire Regime Groups. The risk of loss of key ecosystem components from wildfires increases from Condition Class 1 (lowest risk) to Condition Class 3 (highest risk). Synonymous with Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC).

Conformance: That a proposed action shall be specifically provided for in the land use plan or, if not specifically mentioned, shall be clearly consistent with the goals, objectives, or standards of the approved land use plan.

Conifer: A tree or shrub of the order Coniferae with cones and needle-shaped or scale-like leaves.

Coniferous: Pertaining to conifers, which bear woody cones containing naked seeds.

Connectivity: The degree to which similar but separated vegetation components of a landscape are connected.

Conservation Agreement: A formal signed agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service and other parties that implements specific actions, activities, or programs designed to eliminate or reduce threats or otherwise improve the status of a species. Conservation agreements can be developed at a state, regional, or national level and generally include multiple agencies at both the state and federal level, as well as tribes. Depending on the types of commitments the BLM makes in a conservation agreement and the level of signatory authority, plan revisions or amendments may be required prior to signing the conservation agreement, or subsequently in order to implement the conservation agreement.

Conservation Strategy: A strategy outlining current activities or threats that are contributing to the decline of a species, along with the actions or strategies needed to reverse or eliminate such a decline or threats. Conservation strategies are generally developed for species of plants and animals that are designated as BLM Sensitive species or that have been determined by the Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service to be federal candidates under the Endangered Species Act.

Contiguous: Lands or legal subdivisions having a common boundary; lands having only a common corner are not contiguous.

Cooperating Agency: Assists the lead federal agency in developing an environmental analysis or environmental impact statement. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA define a cooperating agency as any other federal agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise for proposals covered by NEPA. Any tribe or federal, state, or local government jurisdiction with such qualifications may become a cooperating agency by agreement with the lead agency.

Corridor: A designated right-of-way corridor is a parcel of land with specific boundaries identified by law, Secretarial order, the land-use planning process, or other management decision, as being a preferred location for existing and future rights-of-way and facilities. The corridor may be suitable to accommodate more than one type of right-of-way use or facility or one or more right-of-way uses or facilities that are similar, identical, or compatible. (43 CFR 2801.5(b)(9))

Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ): An Executive Office advisory council established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 for review of federal program effects on the environment. The council conducts environmental studies and advises the President on environmental matters.

Cover: Any form of environmental protection that helps an animal stay alive (mainly shelter from weather and concealment from predators).

Cover Type: The present vegetation composition of an area, described by the dominant plant species.

Critical Habitat: An area occupied by a threatened or endangered species "on which are found those physical and biological features (1) essential to the conservation of the species, and (2) which may require special management considerations or protection."

Cultural Resource / Cultural Property: A definite location of human activity, occupation, or use identifiable through field inventory (survey), historical documentation, or oral evidence. The term includes archaeological, historic, or architectural sites, structures, or places with important public and scientific uses, and may include definite locations (sites or places) or traditional cultural or religious importance to specified social and/or cultural groups. Cultural resources are concrete, material places and things that are located, classified, ranked, and managed through the system of identifying, protecting, and utilizing for public benefit.

Cultural Resource Inventory Classes: Class I – Existing data inventory: a study of published and unpublished documents, records, files, registers, and other sources, resulting in analysis and synthesis of all reasonably available data. Class I inventories encompass prehistoric, historic, and ethnological/sociological elements, and are in large part chronicles of past land uses. They may have major relevance to current land use decisions. Class II – Sampling field inventory: a statistically based sample survey designed to help characterize the probable density, diversity, and distribution of archaeological properties in a large area by interpreting the results of surveying limited and discontinuous portions of the target area. Class III – Intensive field inventory: a continuous, intensive survey of an entire target area, aimed at locating and recording all archaeological properties that have surface indications, by walking close-interval parallel transects (generally at 30 m intervals) until the area has been thoroughly examined.

Cultural Weed Treatment: These are treatments which involve human behavior, such as using quarantine, closure, or relocation of a particular activity to reduce weed spread, selective timing and choice of stock for grazing, containing livestock after they have grazed in a weed infested area, revegetation seed mix choices for rehabilitating new soil disturbances, land use choices, and public outreach methods.

Cumulative Impact: The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Decommissioned Road: Route is closed and rehabilitated to eliminate resource impacts (for example, to eliminate erosion or to restore a riparian area if route is located within a riparian area) and is no longer useable for public or administrative uses.

Deep Soils: Soils that are 40 to 60 inches deep to bedrock.

Denning Habitat: Habitat used during parturition and rearing of young until they are mobile. The common component appears to be large amounts of coarse woody debris, either down logs or root wads. Coarse woody debris provides escape and thermal cover for kittens. Denning habitat may be found either in older mature forest of conifer or mixed conifer/deciduous types, or in regenerating stands (over 20 years since disturbance). Denning habitat must be located within daily travel distance of foraging habitat (typical maximum daily distance for females is 3-6 miles).

Designated Roads and Trails: Specific roads and trails where some type of motorized vehicle use is allowed either seasonally or yearlong.

Design Features: Methods or procedures that reduce or lessen the impacts of an action. Part of the suite of mitigation measures and conservation actions, which includes Best Management Practices (BMPs), operating procedures, or design features that have been developed to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate for potentially significant adverse environmental impacts associated with surface-disturbing or disruptive activities.

Desired Future Condition: Outcomes representing the long-term vision of BLM with regard to the resources managed on BLM land.

Developed Recreation: Recreation that requires facilities and might result in concentrated use of an area; for example, a campground.

Dispersed Recreation: Recreation activities of an unstructured type that are not confined to specific locations such as recreation sites. Example of these activities may be hunting, fishing, off-road vehicle use, hiking, and sightseeing.

Disturbance: Events that alter the structure, composition, or function of terrestrial or aquatic habitats. Natural disturbances include drought, floods, wind, fires, wildlife grazing, and insects and pathogens. Human-caused disturbances include actions such as timber harvest, fire, livestock grazing, road construction, and the introduction of exotic species.

Diversity: The relative abundance of wildlife species, plant species, communities, habitats, or habitat features per unit of area.

Easement: A right afforded a person or agency to make limited use of another's real property for access or other purposes.

Ecological Function: The process through which the constituent living, and nonliving elements of ecosystems change and interact, including biogeochemical processes and succession.

Economics: The study of allocation of limited resources, goods, and services among competing uses.

Ecosystem: A complete, interacting system of living organisms and the land and water that make up their environment; the home places of all living things, including humans.

Eligibility (for Wild and Scenic Rivers): A river is eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System if it is free flowing and has at least one river-related value that is considered outstandingly remarkable.

Elk Management Unit: Designated by Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, establishes statewide elk management population objectives and divides Montana's elk habitat into 35 management units, each with its own elk management objectives and elk population targets.

Emergent Vegetation: Aquatic plant species that are rooted in wetlands but extend above the water's surface.

Encroach: Plant succession in the absence of disturbance, in areas the plant type is not desired. Often associated with vegetative type conversion such as conifer colonization of grass or shrub meadows.

Endangered Species: Any plant or animal species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Entry: An application to acquire title to public lands.

Environmental Assessment: A concise public document that analyzes the environmental impacts of a proposed federal action and provides sufficient evidence to determine the level of significance of the impacts.

Environmental Impact Statement: A detailed written statement required by the National Environmental Policy Act when an agency proposes a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Environmental Justice: Refers to the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures and incomes with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, programs and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal state, local and tribal programs and policies.

Ephemeral Area: Watershed land area that delivers surface water flow during spring runoff, rain, and snowstorms to intermittent and perennial streams.

Ephemeral Stream: A stream or part of a stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation; it receives little or no water from springs, melting snow, or other sources; its channel is at all times above the water table.

Erosion: The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, or other geological agents.

Exchange: A trading of public lands (surface and/or subsurface estates) that usually do not have high public value, for lands in other ownerships that do have value for public use, management, and enjoyment. The exchange may be for the benefit of other federal agencies as well as for BLM.

Exclusion Areas: Areas that are not available for location of rights-of-way under any conditions (BLM Land Use Planning Handbook, Appendix C).

Exploration: The work of investigating a mineral deposit to determine by geological surveys, geophysical surveys, geochemical surveys, boreholes, pits, and underground workings if it is feasible to mine.

Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA): An identified area of BLM land managed to provide stewardship of resources and visitor use. Investments are limited to stewardship actions only within ERMAs.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976: Public Law 94-579, October 21, 1976, often referred to as the BLM' s "Organic Act," which provides the majority of the BLM's legislated authority, direction, policy, and basic management guidance.

Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA): FLTFA monies accrue from disposal of BLM lands by sale and the monies stay within the state where the disposal parcels are located. The BLM is entitled to 60 percent of the fund, while the Forest Service, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service are each entitled to 10 percent. The remaining 10 percent covers administrative costs. A proposal to use the fund for a specific acquisition must be presented to and agreed upon by all four agencies.

Federal Power Project Reservation: A reservation of public lands for use in a project developed under the jurisdiction of the Federal Power Commission.

Federal Register: A daily publication that reports Presidential and federal agency documents.

Fire Frequency: How often fire burns a given area; often expressed in terms of fire return intervals. For example, a site might burn every 5 to 15 years.

Fire Intensity: The rate of energy released per unit length of the fire front; loosely, how hot the fire is burning.

Fire Management Category: A classification for landscape-level fire and fuels management strategies and options based on consideration of fire history, land status, issues, concerns, hazardous fuels, and other resource objectives. There are four categories which range from Category A where wild and prescribed fire are not desired due to reasons other than ecological; to Category D where fire may be desired and there are no constraints associated with the resource condition, or social, economic, or political considerations.

Fire Management Plan: A strategic plan that defines a program to manage wildland fire (***wildfire*** and ***prescribed fire***) and documents the fire management program in the approved land use plan; the plan is supplemented by operational procedures such as preparedness plans, preplanned dispatch plans, prescribed fire plans, and prevention plans.

Fire Management Unit: A land management area definable by objectives, management constraints, topographic features, access, values to be protected, political boundaries, fuel types, major fire regime

groups, etc. that set it apart from the characteristics of an adjacent FMU. The FMU may have dominant management objectives and pre-selected strategies assigned to accomplish these objectives.

Fire Management Zone: Administrative unit for wildland fire suppression, for the execution of all logistical, aviation, and support activities within this geographical area.

Fire Preparedness: Activities that lead to a safe, efficient, and cost-effective fire management program in support of land and resource management objectives through appropriate planning and coordination.

Fire Regimes: Descriptions of the patterns of fire occurrence, frequency, size, and severity in a given area or ecosystem. A fire regime is a generalization based on fire histories at individual sites. Fire regimes can often be described as cycles because some parts of the histories usually are repeated, and the repetitions can be counted and measured, such as fire return interval.

Fire Regime Condition Class: A classification describing the degree of departure from historical fire regimes, possibly resulting in alternations of key ecosystem components. These classes categorize and describe vegetation composition and structure conditions that currently exist inside the Fire Regime Groups. The risk of loss of key ecosystem components from wildfires increases from Condition Class 1 (lowest risk) to Condition Class 3 (highest risk). ***See also*** Condition Class.

Fire Regime Groups: A classification of fire regimes into groups based on frequency and severity. The national classification includes five groups: **I** - frequent (0 to 35 years), low severity; **II** - frequent (0 to 35 years), stand replacement severity; **III** – 35 to 100+ years, mixed severity; **IV** – 35 to 100+ years, stand replacement severity; and **V** - 200+ years, stand replacement severity.

Fire Severity: The degree to which a site is altered by fire; a product of fire intensity and residence time. ***See also*** Burn Severity.

Fishery: Habitat that supports the propagation and maintenance of fish.

Fish key watersheds: Watersheds containing strongholds of aquatic species populations that will be the highest aquatic habitat restoration priority areas.

Flood plain: The relatively flat area or lowlands adjoining a body of standing or flowing water which has been or might be covered by floodwater.

Fluvial: Pertaining to streams or produced by stream action.

Forage: All browse and herbaceous foods available to grazing animals, which may be grazed or harvested for feeding.

Forb: An herbaceous plant that is not a grass, sedge, or rush.

Forest Health: The perceived condition of a forest derived from concerns about such factors as its age, structure, composition, function, vigor, presence, or unusual levels of insects and disease, and resilience to disturbance.

Forest Health Treatments: Treatments that restore forest ecosystems or stands to a condition that sustains their complexity, function and/or productivity while providing for human needs, fish and wildlife populations, and will be the highest aquatic habitat restoration priority areas.

Forest Resilience The capacity of a forest to absorb disturbance, retain ecosystem function and return, over time, to its pre-disturbance state.

Forest Land: Land that is now, or has the potential of being, at least 10 percent stocked by forest trees (based on crown closure) or 16.7 percent stocked (based on tree stocking).

Forestry BMPs: Standard operating procedures incorporated into project design for forest management activities such as timber harvest, roads, hazardous materials, stream crossings, post-fire salvage, and restoration. The practice is aimed at the protection of soils and site productivity, water quality, stream crossings and fish passage

Fossil: Mineralized or petrified form from a past geologic age, especially from previously living things.

Fragmentation: The splitting or isolating of patches of similar habitat. Habitat can be fragmented by natural events or development activities.

Free-Flowing River: Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip- rapping, or other modification of the waterway.

Fuel Loading: Relative to flammable vegetation and natural debris, the amount of fuel present expressed quantitatively in terms of weight of fuel per unit area (ex: tons per acre).

Fuel Management: The act or practice of controlling flammability of vegetation and reducing resistance to control of wildland fires through mechanical, prescribed fire, chemical, or biological means, in support of land management objectives.

Fuel Treatment: The manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or to lessen potential damage and resistance to fire control (e.g., lopping, chipping, crushing, piling and burning).

Fuel Type: An identifiable association of fuel elements of a distinctive plant species, form, size, arrangement, or other characteristics that will cause a predictable rate of fire spread or difficulty of control under specified weather conditions.

Game Species: Any species of wildlife or fish for which seasons and bag limits have been prescribed, and which are normally harvested by hunters, trappers, and fisherman under state or federal laws, codes, and regulations.

Geographic Information System (GIS): A system of computer hardware, software, data, people and applications that capture, store, edit, analyze and graphically display a potentially wide array of geospatial information.

Goal: A broad statement of a desired outcome. Goals are usually not quantifiable and may not have established time frames for achievement.

Grazing Relinquishment: A grazing "relinquishment" is the voluntary and permanent surrender by an existing permittee or lessee, (with concurrence of any base property lienholder(s)), of their priority for a livestock forage allocation on public land (their preference) as well as their permission to use this forage (their grazing permit or lease), in whole or in part.

Grazing lease. A document that authorizes grazing use of public lands under Taylor Grazing Act Section 15; it specifies grazing preference and the terms and conditions under which lessees make grazing use during the lease term. Public lands outside grazing district boundaries are administered under Taylor Grazing Act Section 15.

Grazing System (domestic): Scheduled grazing use and non-use of an allotment to reach identified goals or objectives by improving the quality and quantity of vegetation. Include, but are not limited to, developing pastures, utilization levels, grazing rotations, timing and duration of use periods, and necessary range improvements.

Groundwater: Water contained in pore spaces of consolidated and unconsolidated surface material.

Guidelines: Actions or management practices that may be used to achieve desired outcomes, sometimes expressed as best management practices. Guidelines may be identified during the land use planning process, but they are not considered a land use plan decision unless the plan specifies that they are mandatory.

Habitat: (a) Species-specific environment or environmental conditions suitable for occupancy by that species. (b) particular land cover type that provides an environment or environmental conditions suitable for occupancy by many species.

Habitat Connectivity: Vegetative cover in sufficient quantity and arrangement to allow for the movement of wildlife.

Habitat Diversity: The variation in types, sizes, and shapes of landscape elements or vegetation types.

Habitat Type Group (HTG) An ecologically based stratification system that defines site potential and historic fire regimes and enables land managers to predict responses to vegetation management activities (Pfister et al. 1977). Current species composition in a given habitat type group depends upon where an area is in terms of disturbance, stand development phase, succession and a number of additional factors. Forested lands within the analysis area were stratified into habitat type groups.

Hazardous Fuel: Excessive live or dead wildland fuel accumulations that increase the potential for uncharacteristically intense wildland fire and decrease the capability to protect life, property, and natural resources.

Healthy Forest Initiative of 2002: Presidential direction to the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior to improve regulatory processes and management efficiency in reducing the threat of destructive wildfires while upholding environmental standards and encouraging early public input during review and planning processes. The initiative is based on sound science and helps care for forests and

rangelands, reduce the risk of catastrophic fire to communities, help save the lives of firefighters and citizens, and protect threatened and endangered species.

Heavy Metal: Any of the metals that react readily with dithizone, including zinc, copper, cobalt, lead, bismuth, gold, cadmium, iron, manganese, nickel, tantalum, tellurium, platinum, and silver.

Herbaceous: Pertaining to or characteristic of an herb (fleshy-stem plant) as distinguished from the woody tissue of shrubs and trees.

Historic: Period wherein nonnative cultural activities took place, based primarily upon European roots, having no origin in the traditional Native American culture(s).

Historic property or Historic Resource: "any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register. The term includes, for purposes of these regulations, artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term 'eligible for inclusion in the National Register' includes both properties formally determined as such by the Secretary of the Interior and all other properties that meet National Register listing criteria." (quoted from 36 CFR 900.2(e)).

Home Range: The area in which an animal travels in the scope of natural activities.

Hydrologic Condition: The current state of the processes controlling the yield, timing, and quality of water in a watershed. Each physical and biologic process that regulates or influences stream flow and groundwater character have a range of variability associated with the rate or magnitude of energy and mass exchange. At any point in time, each of these processes can be defined by their current rate or magnitude relative to the range of variability associated with each process. Integration of all processes at one time represents hydrologic condition.

Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): A coding system developed by the U.S. Geological Survey to map geographic boundaries of watersheds by size.

Impact Analysis for Planning (IMPLAN): The IMPLAN Model is the most flexible, detailed and widely used input-output impact model system in the U.S. It provides users with the ability to define industries, economic relationships and projects to be analyzed. It can be customized for any county, region, or state, and used to assess "multiplier effects" caused by increasing or decreasing spending in various parts of the economy. This can be used to assess the economic impacts of resource management decisions, facilities, industries, or changes in their level of activity in a given area.

Implementation Decisions: Decisions that take action to implement land use plan decisions. They are generally appealable to Interior Board of Land Appeals.

Implementation Plan: A site-specific plan written to implement decisions made in a land use plan. An implementation plans usually selects and applies best management practices to meet land use plan objectives. Implementation plans include both activity plans and project plans.

Indian Tribe: Any Indian group in the conterminous United States that the Secretary of the Interior recognizes as possessing tribal status.

Initial Fire (Attack): An aggressive fire suppression action consistent with firefighter and public safety and values to be protected.

Integrated Weed Management: This is a decision support system involving deliberate selection, integration, and implementation of effective weed management tactics. It utilizes cost/benefit analysis and takes into consideration public interests and social, economic, and ecological impacts in the decision-making process.

Interdisciplinary Team: A group of individuals with different training, representing the physical sciences, social sciences, and environmental design arts, assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The members of the team proceed to a solution with frequent interaction so that each discipline may provide insights to any stage of the problem and disciplines may combine to provide new solutions. The number and disciplines of the members preparing the plan vary with circumstances. A member may represent one or more discipline or Bureau program interest.

Interim Management Policy: Policy that guides management of the BLM's Wilderness Study Areas. The policy balances the various uses of Wilderness Study Areas with the requirement to protect the lands wilderness values.

Interior Board of Land Appeals: The Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals board that acts for the Secretary of the Interior in responding to appeals of decisions on the use and disposition of public lands and resources. Because the Interior Board of Land Appeals acts for and on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, its decisions usually represent the Department's final decision but are subject to the courts.

Intermittent Stream: A stream that flows only when it receives water from rainfall runoff or springs, or from some surface source such as melting snow.

Invasive Plants: Plants that are invasive species.

Invasive Species: Organisms that have been introduced into an environment where they did not evolve. Executive Order 13112 focuses on organisms whose presence is likely to cause economic harm, environmental harm, or harms human health.

Inversion: The state of the atmosphere in which a layer of cool air is trapped near the Earth's surface by an overlying layer of warm air so that the lower layer cannot rise. Serious air pollution problems may result from air pollutants being emitted into the limited mixing depth below the inversion.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): Most LWCF monies comes from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing, and are used for the purchase of land, waters and wetlands with an emphasis on special management areas. Congress allocates the money based on competing proposals submitted by various BLM offices.

Land Use Allocation: The identification in a land use plan of the activities and foreseeable development that are allowed, restricted, or excluded for all or part of the planning area, based on desired future conditions.

Land Use Plan: A set of decisions that establish management direction for land within an administrative area, as prescribed under the planning provisions of FLPMA; an assimilation of land-use-plan-level decisions developed through the planning process, regardless of the scale at which the decisions were developed.

Leasable Minerals: Those minerals or materials designated as leasable under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. They include coal, phosphate, asphalt, sulphur, potassium, and sodium minerals, and oil, gas, and geothermal.

Lessee (Grazing): Holder of a valid lease that authorizes grazing use of the public lands outside the grazing district.

Lentic: Standing water.

Lentic Riparian: Standing water habitat such as lakes, ponds, seeps, bogs and meadows.

Lentic Riparian-Wetland Resources: Resources whose capabilities and potentials are defined by the interaction of three physical components: 1) vegetation, 2) landform/soils, and 3) hydrology.

Limited Areas or Trails: Designated areas or trails where the use of off-road vehicles is subject to restrictions, such as limiting the number or types or vehicles allowed, dates and times of use (seasonal restrictions), limiting use to existing roads, primitive roads and trails, or limiting use to designated roads and trails. Under the designated roads and trails designation, use would be allowed only on roads and trails that are signed for use. Combinations of restrictions are possible, such as limiting use to certain types of vehicles during certain times of the year.

Livestock grazing standards and guidelines: Practices applied to the terms and conditions of grazing leases to avoid or lessen grazing impacts to streams, soils, water quality, riparian function, and aquatic habitat.

Locatable Minerals: Minerals subject to exploration, development, and disposal by staking mining claims as authorized by the Mining Law of 1872, as amended. This includes deposits of gold, silver, and other uncommon minerals not subject to lease or sale.

Lode Mining: Mining of a mineral deposit in solid rock.

Long-term: Effects lasting more than 10 years.

Lotic: Moving water.

Lotic Riparian: Running water habitat such as rivers, streams and springs.

Lotic Riparian-Wetland Resources: Resources whose capabilities and potentials are defined by the interaction of three physical components: 1) vegetation, 2) landform/soils, and 3) hydrology.

Lynx Habitat: Lynx occur in mesic coniferous forest that have cold, snowy winters and provide a prey base of snowshoe hare. In the Rocky Mountains primary vegetation that contributes to lynx habitat is

lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and Englemann spruce. Secondary vegetation that, when interspersed within subalpine forests, may also contribute to lynx habitat, includes cool, moist Douglas-fir, grand fir, western larch, and aspen forest. Dry forest types (ponderosa pine, climax lodgepole pine) do not provide lynx habitat. Primary elevations for lynx habitat are between 1500-2000 m. (4,920 – 6,560 ft.) elevation zones in the northern Rockies.

Mechanized Travel: Moving by means of mechanical devices such as a bicycle; not powered by a motor (source: Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 2010-056 and Draft Travel and Transportation Management Manual to replace Manual 8342, Release 8-20).

Mine: An opening or excavation in the earth for extracting minerals.

Mineral: Any solid or fluid inorganic substance that can be extracted from the earth for profit.

Mineral Entry: The filing of a claim on public land to obtain the right to any minerals it may contain.

Mineral Estate: The ownership of minerals, including rights necessary for access, exploration, development, mining, ore dressing, and transportation operations.

Mineral Materials: Materials such as common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, and clay, that are not obtainable under the mining or leasing laws but that can be acquired under the Mineral Materials Act of 1947, as amended.

Mineral Withdrawal: A formal order that withholds federal lands and minerals from entry under the Mining Law of 1872 and closes the area to mineral location (staking mining claims) and development.

Mining Claim: A parcel of land that a miner takes and holds for mining purposes, having acquired the right of possession by complying with the Mining Law and local laws and rules. A single mining claim may contain as many adjoining locations as the locator may make or buy. The four categories of mining claims are: lode, placer, millsite, and tunnel site.

Monitoring Plan: The process of tracking the implementation of land use plan decisions and collecting and assessing data/information necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of land use planning decisions.

Motorized Travel: Moving by means of vehicles that are propelled by motors, such as cars, trucks, off-highway vehicles (OHV), motorcycles, snowmobiles, and boats (source: Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 2010- 056 and Draft Travel and Transportation Management Manual to replace Manual 8342, Release 8-20).

Motorized Vehicles: Synonymous with off-highway vehicle (OHV). Examples of this type of vehicle include all- terrain vehicle (ATV), utility type vehicle (UTV), sport utility vehicle (SUV), motorcycle, and snowmobile. (source: BLM Travel and Transportation Management Handbook 8342-1.).

- **All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV):** A wheeled vehicle other than a snowmobile, which is defined as having a wheelbase and chassis of fifty (50) inches in width or less, steered with handlebars, generally having a dry weight of 800 pounds or less, travels on three or more low-pressure tires, and with a seat designed to be straddled by the operator.

- **Motorcycle:** Motorized vehicles with two tires and with a seat designed to be straddled by the operator.
- **Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV):** OHV is synonymous with Off-Road Vehicles (ORV). ORV is defined in 43 CFR 8340.0-5 (a): Off-road vehicle means any motorized vehicle capable or, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding: 1) Any non-amphibious registered motorboat; 2) Any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes; 3) Any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer, or otherwise officially approved; 4) Vehicles in official use; and 5) Any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies. OHVs generally include dirt motorcycles, dune buggies, jeeps, 4-wheel drive vehicles, SUVs, over-the-snow vehicles, UTVs and ATVs.
- **Over-the-Snow Vehicle:** An over-snow vehicle is defined as a motor vehicle that is designed for use over snow that runs on a track or tracks and/or a ski or skis, while in use over snow. An over-snow vehicle does not include machinery used strictly for the grooming of non-motorized trails.
- **Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV):** A street legal, high clearance vehicle used primarily on-highway but designed to be capable of off-highway travel.
- **Utility Type (or Terrain) Vehicle (UTV):** Any recreational motor vehicle other than an ATV, motorbike or snowmobile designed for and capable of travel over designated unpaved roads, traveling on 4 or more low-pressure tires, maximum width less than 74 inches, usually a maximum weight less than 2,000 pounds, or having a wheelbase of 94 inches or less. Utility type vehicle does not include vehicles specially designed to carry a person with disabilities.

MTFWP: Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Multiple Use: Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the term "multiple use" means the management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; the use of some land for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and non-renewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output." (43 U.S.C. 1702, Sec. 103(c))

Multiple-indicator monitoring: Uses streambank alterations, woody browse, and stubble heights for analyzing impacts to riparian habitat.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS): The allowable concentrations of air pollutants in the ambient (public outdoor) air. National ambient air quality standards are based on the air quality criteria and divided into primary standards (allowing an adequate margin of safety to protect the public health) and secondary standards (allowing an adequate margin of safety to protect the public

welfare). Welfare is defined as including (but not limited to) effects on soils, water, crops, vegetation, human-made materials, animals, wildlife, weather, visibility, climate, and hazards to transportation, as well as effects on economic values and on personal comfort and well-being.

National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969: An Act that encourages productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment and promotes efforts to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; enriches the understanding or the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation, and establishes the Council on Environmental Quality.

National Register of Historical Places: A register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects, significant in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture, established by the "Historic Preservation Act" of 1966 and maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System: A system of nationally designated rivers and their immediate environments that have outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, and other similar values and are preserved in a free-flowing condition. The system consists of three types of streams: (1) recreation—rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad and that may have some development along their shorelines and may have undergone some impoundments or diversion in the past, (2) scenic—rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments with shorelines or watersheds still largely undeveloped but accessible in places by roads, and (3) wild—rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trails, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted.

Natural range of variability (NRV): A spectrum of ecological vegetative states and the spatial and temporal variation in these states. Modeling was used to develop a quantified estimate of the NRV for this RMP and knowledge of historical conditions helped corroborate the model results.

Noxious Weeds: A plant species designated by federal or state law as generally possessing one or more of the following characteristics: aggressive and difficult to manage; parasitic; a carrier or host of serious insects or disease; or nonnative, new, or not common to the United States.

Nutrient Cycling: The circulation of chemical elements such as nitrogen, oxygen, carbon, and phosphorus in specific pathways from the abiotic (not involving or produced by organisms) portions of the environment into organic substances in plants and animals and then back into abiotic forms.

Objective: A description of a desired condition for a resource. Objectives can be quantified and measured and, where possible, have established time frames for achievement.

Obligate: Essential, necessary, unable to exist in any other state, mode, or relationship.

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV): Any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding: (1) Any non-amphibious registered motorboat; (2) Any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes; (3) Any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer, or otherwise officially approved; (4) Vehicles in official use; and (5) Any combat or combat support vehicle

when used in times of national defense emergencies. OHVs generally include dirt motorcycles, dune buggies, jeeps, four-wheel drive vehicles, snowmobiles, and ATVs.

Operator: Any person who has taken formal responsibility for the operations conducted on the leased lands.

Open: Generally, denotes that an area is available for a particular use or uses. Refer to specific program definitions found in law, regulations, or policy guidance for application to individual programs.

Outstandingly Remarkable (River) Values: Values among those listed in Section 1(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act are "scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historical, cultural, or other similar values. . . ." Other similar values that may be considered include botanical, hydrological, paleontological, or scientific. Professional judgment is used to determine whether values exist to an outstandingly remarkable degree.

Over-Snow Vehicle: An over-snow vehicle is defined as a motor vehicle that is designed for use over snow that runs on a track or tracks and/or a ski or skis, while in use over snow. An over-snow vehicle does not include machinery used strictly for the grooming of non-motorized trails.

Overstory: The layer of foliage in a forest canopy, often the uppermost layer(s) consisting of the crowns of trees or shrubs.

Paleontological Resources (Fossils): The physical remains of plants and animals preserved in soils and sedimentary rock formations. Paleontological resources are important for understanding past environments, environmental change, and the evolution of life.

Paleontology: A science dealing with the life forms of past geological periods as known from fossil remains.

Patent: The instrument by which the federal government conveys title to the public lands.

Perennial Stream: A stream that normally has water in its channel at all times.

Permit: For grazing authorizations issued under 43 CFR 4100, permits are normally issued for 10 years.

Permitted Use: The forage allocated by, or under the guidance of, an applicable land use plan for livestock grazing in an allotment under a permit or lease. Expressed in AUMs.

Perpetual Exclusive Easement: A perpetual exclusive easement acquired by the United States to use land of another owner for a particular purpose. An exclusive road easement grants control to the United States and may allow it to authorize third party use and set road use rules. When obtaining a road easement, the BLM's preferred option is to gain an exclusive easement to obtain the right for the general public to use and access the road.

Petroglyph: A figure, design, or indentation carved, abraded, or pecked into a rock.

Physical Weed Treatment: Treatments that use manual labor, mechanical equipment, or fire, such as hand pulling, mowing or tilling, and prescribed burning.

Pictograph: A figure or design painted on a rock.

Placer: An alluvial deposit of sand and gravel containing valuable minerals, such as gold.

Placer Mining: A method of mining in which the overburden is removed to expose gold-bearing gravel deposits beneath. The gravel is then sluiced to separate the gold. The Placer Mining BMPS are for placer mining operations (including reclamation, hazardous materials, weed control, roads, diversions, crossings) for the protection of water quality.

Planning Criteria: The standards, rules, and other factors developed by managers and interdisciplinary teams for their use in forming judgments about decision making, analysis, and data collection during planning. Planning criteria streamline and simplify the resource management planning actions.

Planning Decision (Land Use Plan Decision): Establishes desired outcomes and actions needed to achieve them. Decisions are reached using the BLM planning process. When they are presented to the public as proposed decisions, they can be protested to the BLM Director. They are not appealable to Interior Board of Land Appeals.

Population: Within a species, a distinct group of individuals that tend to mate only with members of the group. Because of generations of inbreeding, members of a population tend to have similar genetic characteristics.

Potential Natural Community (PNC): The biotic community that would become established if all successional sequences were completed without human interference, under the present environmental conditions (Winward 2000).

Power Site Classification: A classification made by the Federal Power Commission that is a segregation against the operation of the public land laws for lands that are needed or have potential for power projects and associated transmission lines. Lands classified to benefit transmission lines are open to the operation of the public land laws subject to their use for transmission lines.

Power Site Reserve: A reservation of public lands that have potential value for power development.

Precious Metals: A general term for gold, silver, or any of the minerals of the platinum group.

Precommercial Thinning: A thinning that does not yield trees of commercial value, usually designed to reduce stocking in order to concentrate growth on the more desirable trees or to meet desired vegetation and/or fuel loading conditions.

Prehistoric: Refers to the period wherein Native American cultural activities took place and were not yet influenced by contact with historic nonnative culture(s).

Prescribed Fire: The planned ignition of fire in a planned area; implementation must occur under specified conditions to meet specific management objectives.

Prescribed Fire Burn Plan: A plan required for each fire application ignited by management. Plans are documents prepared by qualified personnel, approved by the agency administrator, and include criteria for the conditions under which the fire will be conducted (a prescription).

Prescriptive Grazing: Prescribed grazing is the application of domestic livestock grazing at a specified location and intensity to accomplish specific vegetation management objectives. For example, authorizing sheep and goats to graze a piece of land as a biological control agent to treat noxious weeds. Prescription grazing would normally be authorized on a temporary nonrenewable basis and is subject to site-specific NEPA analysis.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Non-motorized, non-mechanized and undeveloped types of recreational activities.

Priority Habitats: Priority habitats would include habitat for all special status species as well as riparian areas, dry savannah forest, special habitats including caves, cliffs, snags, and down woody material, sagebrush, bitterbrush communities and mountain mahogany communities.

Priority Species: Priority species are those wildlife, fish or plant species that the BLM has determined to be unique or significant based on at least one of the following factors: density, diversity, population size, public interest, remnant character, or age.

Probable Sale Quantity (PSQ): A best assessment of the average amount of timber likely to be available for sale annually in a planning area over the next 10 years.

Project Plan: A type of implementation plan. A project plan typically addresses individual projects or several related projects. Examples of project plans include prescribed burn plans, trail plans, and recreation site plans.

Project Area (Vegetation): An area of land within some type of management activity would occur and encompasses a region defined by logical boundaries such as: watersheds, ridges, highways, or ownership blocks of BLM lands. The project area can be both the analysis area and a starting point to determine where treatments or activities should occur, and includes the area needed for supporting structures and activities such as roads, transmission lines, or pipelines.

Proper Functioning Condition (PFC): Ecosystems are in PFC when they function within their historic range of variability. Proper functioning condition (PFC): adequate vegetation, landform, or woody material is present to dissipate high streamflow energy, capture sediment, aid floodplain development, improve floodwater retention and groundwater recharge, develop root masses that stabilize streambanks, and maintain channel characteristics. Riparian areas that have limited functioning condition and have hydrologic, vegetative, or geomorphic attributes that make them susceptible to impairment are considered **functioning-at-risk (FAR).** Riparian areas that do not have adequate vegetation, landform, or woody material present are considered **nonfunctional (NF).**

Protest: Application for review by a higher administrative level.

Public Lands: Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the term "public lands" means any land and interest in land owned by the United States within the several States and

administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership" (43 U.S.C.1702, Sec. 103(e)).

Public Land Laws: A body of laws that regulates the administration of the public lands and the resources thereon.

Public Land Order: Creating, continuing, modifying, or revoking a withdrawal or reservation that has been issued by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to his delegations of authority.

Quarry: An open or surface working, usually for the extraction of stone, slate, limestone, etc.

Rangeland: Land used for grazing by livestock and big game animals on which vegetation is dominated by grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs.

Raptor: Bird of prey with sharp talons and strongly curved beaks such as hawks, owls, vultures, and eagles.

Reach: A segment of stream.

Reclamation: Reclamation is the reconstruction of topographic, soil, and plant conditions after disturbance, which may not be identical to the predisturbance site, but which permits the degraded land mass to function adequately in the ecosystem of which it was and is a part (Munshower 1994).

Reclamation Project: A water development and irrigation project of the Bureau of Reclamation.

Reclamation Withdrawals:

- First Form: A reclamation withdrawal of public lands that are or may be needed for the building and maintaining a reclamation project.
- Second Form: A reclamation withdrawal of public lands susceptible to irrigation form a reclamation project.
- The distinction between the first and second forms of withdrawals has been eliminated, and all such withdrawals are called reclamation withdrawals

Record of Decision: A document signed by a responsible official recording a decision that was preceded by the preparing of an environmental impact statement.

Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act: Authorizes the sale or lease of BLM lands for recreational or public purposes to State and local governments and to qualified nonprofit organizations. Examples of typical uses under the act are historic monument sites, campgrounds, schools, fire houses, law enforcement facilities, municipal facilities, landfills, hospitals, parks, and fairgrounds. Department of the Interior regulations for the Recreation and Public Purposes Act are found in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR), Parts 2740 (Sales) and 2912 (Leases).

Relinquished Allotment (Grazing): An allotment where an existing permittee or lessee gives up his or her permit or lease causing the allotment to become unleased.

Reservation: A "setting aside" or dedication of lands for the federal government for a specific public purpose. "Reserved" land is not necessarily withdrawn. A permanent withdrawal dedicated to a specific public purpose.

Resource Advisory Council (RAC): A council established by the Secretary of the Interior to provide advice or recommendations to BLM management.

Resource Management Plan (RMP): A land use plan as prescribed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act which establishes, for a given area of land, land-use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple-use, objectives and actions to be achieved.

Retirement of Grazing Privileges: Ending livestock grazing on a specific area of land. ***See also*** Grazing Relinquishment.

Right-of-Way: A permit or an easement which authorizes the use of public lands for certain specified purposes, commonly for pipelines, roads, telephone lines, electric lines, reservoirs, etc.; also, the lands covered by such an easement or permit.

Right-of-way Corridor: A parcel of land that has been identified by law, Secretarial order, through a land use plan or by other management decision as being the preferred location for existing and future right-of-way grants and suitable to accommodate one type of right-of-way or one or more rights-of-way which are similar, identical or compatible.

Riparian Area: A form of wetland transition between permanently saturated wetlands and upland areas. Riparian areas are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and are distinguished by gradients in biophysical conditions, ecological processes, and biota. They are areas through which surface and subsurface hydrology connect waterbodies with their adjacent uplands. They include those portions of terrestrial ecosystems that significantly influence exchanges of energy and matter with aquatic ecosystems (i.e., a zone of influence). Riparian areas are adjacent to perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams, lakes, and estuarine-marine shorelines. (National Academy of Sciences 2002).

Riparian habitat conservations area (RHCA): the area around a waterbody, wetland, or landslide-prone area where riparian-dependent resources (primarily aquatic habitat and species) receive management emphasis and for which Riparian Management Objectives are developed.

Riparian management objective (RMO): developed for specific areas for shade (temperature), pools (channel function), barriers, and sediment (erosion and channel function) for protecting aquatic habitat and species.

River Designation: The process whereby rivers are added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by an act of Congress or by administrative action of the Secretary of the Interior with regard to state-designated rivers under Section 2(a)(ii) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Road: A linear route more than 50 inches wide declared a road by the owner, managed for use by low-clearance vehicles having four or more wheels, and maintained for regular and continuous use; unless identified and managed as a trail.

- ***Decommissioned Road***: The stabilization and restoration of an unneeded road to a more natural state.
- ***Impassable Road***: A road that has been treated in such a manner that the road is blocked and there is little resource risk if road maintenance is not performed on a regular basis (self-maintaining). Roads may become impassable as a result of a variety of means, including but not limited to one or more of the following: natural vegetation growth, road entrance obliteration, scarified ground, fallen trees, boulders, culvert or bridge removal, etc. Impassable roads may remain on the inventoried road system if use of the road is anticipated at some point in the future;
- ***Temporary Road:*** A transportation linear feature authorized or acquired for the development, construction, or staging of a project or event that has a finite lifespan. A temporary route is not intended to be part of the permanent transportation system but may be part of the travel network. Temporary routes must be reclaimed by the project proponent (or their representative) when its intended purpose(s) has been fulfilled, unless through a separate review and decision making process the BLM incorporates and appropriately designates the route as part of its transportation system. Unless a temporary route is specifically intended to accommodate public use, it should not be made available for that use
- ***Open Road:*** Open year-round to public
- ***Open Road with Restriction:*** Open to the public with seasonal and/or vehicle type limitations.
- **Road Density:** Number of miles of open road per square mile.
- **Open Motorized Road Density**: Roads and motorized trails that are open to wheeled motor vehicle use by the public for any part of the non-denning season
- **Open Motorized Road Density in NDCE Zone 1:** The baseline for open road density on BLM lands in NCDE Zone 1 is 1.70 mi/mi^2 defined as conditions on existing BLM-administered public lands as of 12/31/2011, as modified by changes in numbers that were evaluated and found to be acceptable through the Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation with the USFWS while the grizzly bear was listed as threatened. This does not include future land acquisitions.

Runoff: The water that flows on the land surface from an area in response to rainfall or snowmelt.

Salable Minerals: Common variety minerals on the public lands, such as sand and gravel, which are used mainly for construction and are disposed of by sales or special permits to local governments.

Scenic Quality: The degree of harmony, contrast and variety within a landscape.

Scenic River: A river or section of a river that is free of impoundments, and whose shorelines are largely undeveloped but accessible by roads in places.

Seasonal Restriction: A fluid minerals leasing constraint that prohibits surface use during specified time periods to protect identified resource values. The constraint does not apply to the operation and maintenance of production facilities unless analysis demonstrates that such constraints are needed and that less stringent, project-specific constraints would be insufficient.

Section 7 Consultations: The requirement of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act that all federal agencies consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service if a proposed action might affect a federally listed species or its critical habitat.

Section 106 Compliance: The requirement of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act that any project funded, licensed, permitted, or assisted by the federal government be reviewed for impacts to significant historic properties and that the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be allowed to comment on a project.

Security Habitat: Refers to the protection inherent in any situation that allows elk to remain in a defined area despite an increase in stress or disturbance associated with hunting or other human activities.

Sediment: Soil, rock particles, and organic or other debris carried from one place to another by wind, water or gravity.

Sedimentation: The process or action of depositing sediment.

Segregation: Any action, such as a withdrawal or allowed application (exchange) that suspends the operation of the general public land laws; removing lands from the operation of part or all the public land mineral laws.

Sensitive Species: Species designated by the State Director, usually in cooperation with the State agency responsible for managing the species and State Natural heritage programs, as sensitive. They are those species that: (1) could become endangered in or extirpated from a State, or within a significant portion of its distribution; (2) are under status review by the USFWS; (3) are undergoing significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution; (4) are undergoing significant current or predicted downward trends in population or density such that federal listed, proposed, candidate, or State listed status may become necessary; (5) typically have small and widely dispersed populations; (6) inhabit ecological refugia or other specialized or unique habitats; or (7) are state-listed but which may be better conserved through application of BLM sensitive species status.

Seral: A temporal and intermediate condition pertaining to the successional stages of biotic communities.

Shrub: A low, woody plant, usually with several stems, that may provide food and/or cover for animals.

Significant Paleontological Resource (syn. Significant Fossil Resource): Any paleontological resource considered to be of scientific interest, including most vertebrate fossil remains and traces, and certain rare or unusual invertebrate and plant fossils. A significant paleontological resource is considered scientifically important because it is a rare or previously unknown species, of high quality and well-preserved, preserves a previously unknown anatomical or other characteristic, provides new information about the history of life on Earth, or has identified educational or recreational value. Paleontological resources that may be considered to not have paleontological significance include those that lack provenience or context, lack physical integrity because of decay or natural erosion, or are overly redundant or otherwise not useful for research.

Silviculture: The art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests to meet desired outcomes.

Slash: Forest residues such as branches, bark, tops, cull logs, broken or uprooted trees, and/or stumps that can be left on the ground or in piles after logging, vegetative or fuels treatments, or land use activities such as road construction.

Slope: The degree of deviation of a surface from the horizontal.

Soil Compaction: A layer of dense soil caused by repeated impacts on or disturbances of the soil surface. Compaction becomes a problem when it begins to limit plant growth, water infiltration, or nutrient cycling processes.

Soil Productivity: The capacity of a soil to produce a plant or sequence of plants under a system of management. Maintaining soil productivity encompasses and infers all aspects including biological processes and mycorrhizal relationships.

Solitude: (1) the state of being alone or remote from others; isolation; (2) a lonely or secluded place.

Source Water Protection Plan: A management plan, usually developed by local communities, that addresses public water system concerns based on information contained within Source Water Delineation and Assessment Reports.

S**pecial Recreation Management Area (SRMA):** An identified area of BLM land managed to provide entire recreation products (i.e., services, settings, and activity and outcome opportunities) in response to identifiable significant customer desires. Investments in facilities and/or visitor assistance are authorized within SRMAs.

Special Status Species: Includes proposed species, listed species, and candidate species under the Endangered Species Act; state-listed species; and BLM State Director-designated sensitive species.

Species: A unit of classification of plants and animals consisting of the largest and most inclusive array of sexually reproducing and cross-fertilizing individuals that share a common gene pool.

Species Diversity: The number, different kinds of, and relative abundances of species present in a given area.

Split Estate: Split estate is a land status term that applies when the surface is patented or deeded into non-federal ownership, while the federal government retains the mineral rights. Reverse split estate applies when the federal government transferred both the surface and mineral estate into non-federal ownership, but the surface estate was subsequently returned while the minerals, or a portion of them, were retained by the private landowner.

Stand: A community of trees or other vegetation uniform in composition, constitution, spatial arrangement, or condition to be distinguishable from adjacent communities.

Stand Composition: The proportion of each tree species in a stand expressed as a percentage of all trees, basal area or volume.

Streamside management zone (SMZ): the area along each side of a stream, lake, or other waterbody where certain forest practices applied under a timber sale are prohibited or limited for protecting water quality.

Steep Slopes: Slopes with a gradient between 20 and 60 percent (USDA-SCS 1993).

Stipulations: Requirements that are part of the terms of a mineral lease. Some stipulations are standard on all federal leases. Other stipulations may be applied to the lease at the discretion of the surface management agency to protect valuable surface resources and uses.

Stream Reach: A specified length of a stream or channel.

Structure (Stream Channel): Any object, usually large, in a stream channel that controls water movement.

Structure (of Forest Vegetation): The horizontal and vertical distribution of plants in a stand, including height, diameter, crown layers, and stems of trees, shrubs, herbaceous understory, snags and coarse woody debris.

Succession: The replacement in time of one plant community with another. The prior plant community (or successional stage) creates conditions that area favorable for the establishment of the next stage.

Suitability (for Wild and Scenic Rivers): Evaluation of eligible rivers for inclusion into the national Wild and Scenic River System by Determining the best use of the river corridor and the best method to protect the outstandingly remarkable values within the river corridor.

Surface-Disturbing or Disruptive Activities: For the purposes of applying project design features, BMPs or other features to reduce or minimize effects, surface-disturbing and disruptive activities are defined below.

> **Surface-Disturbing Activities:** The physical disturbance or removal of land surface and vegetation. Some examples of surface-disturbing activities include, but are not limited to, construction of roads, well pads, pipelines, powerlines, pits/reservoirs, facilities, recreation sites, and mining. Vegetation renovation treatments that involve soil penetration and/or substantial mechanical damage to plants (plowing, chiseling, chopping, etc.) are also surface- disturbing activities.
>
> **Disruptive Activities:** Those resource uses and activities that are likely to alter the behavior of, displace, or cause excessive stress to wildlife populations occurring at a specific location and/or time. In this context, disruptive activity(ies) refers to those actions that alter behavior or cause the displacement of wildlife such that reproductive success is negatively affected, or the physiological ability to cope with environmental stress is compromised. This term does not apply to the physical disturbance of the land surface, vegetation, or features. Examples of disruptive activities may include noise, vehicle traffic, or other human presence regardless of the activity. The term is used in conjunction with protecting wildlife during crucial life stages (e.g., breeding, nesting, birthing, etc.), although it could apply to any resource value. This definition is not intended to prohibit all activities or authorized uses. For example, emergency activities (e.g., fire

suppression, search and rescue), rangeland monitoring, routine maintenance associated with an approved authorization, dispersed recreational activities (e.g., hunting, hiking) and livestock grazing are not considered surface-disturbing or disruptive activities.

Sustainability: The ability of an ecosystem to maintain ecological processes and functions, biological diversity, and productivity over time.

Sustained Yield: Maintenance of an annual or regular periodic output of a renewable resource from public land consistent with the principles of multiple use.

Terms and Conditions: Measures contained in livestock grazing permits and leases that are determined by the authorized officer to be appropriate to achieve management and resource condition objectives for the public lands and other lands administered by the BLM, and to ensure conformance with Fundamentals of rangeland health and Standards and guidelines for grazing administration.

Terrestrial Species: Ground-dwelling plants and animals.

Thermal Cover: Vegetation or topography that prevents radiational heat loss, reduces wind chill during cold weather, and intercepts solar radiation during warm weather.

Threatened Species: Any plant or animal species defined under the Endangered Species Act as likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range; listings are published in the Federal Register.

Tools: Something that helps to accomplish the stated goal or action for a resource/resource use or program. Tools include timing, duration of grazing, forage utilization, grazing rotation, deferment of grazing, stubble height, bank alteration, and structural features.

Total Maximum Daily Load: An estimate of the total quantity of pollutants (from all sources: point, nonpoint, and natural) that may be allowed into waters without exceeding applicable water quality criteria.

Trail: Linear routes managed for human-powered, stock, or off-road vehicle forms of transportation, or for historical or heritage values. Trails are not generally managed for use by four-wheel drive or high-clearance vehicles.

Travel Management Areas: Polygons or delineated areas where a rational approach has been taken to classify areas open, closed, or limited, and have identified and/or designated network of roads, trails, ways, and other routes that provide for public access and travel across the planning area. All designed travel routes within travel management areas should have a clearly identified need and purpose as well as clearly defined activity types, modes of travel, and seasons or timeframes for allowable access or other limitations.

Treatment Area: The specific area of land where the actual management activity, such as timber harvest, prescribed burning, construction, or other activity would occur. One or more treatment areas can be included in a project area, which usually includes adjacent and/or surrounding areas that are not treated, and multiple activities could occur within a single treatment area, concurrently or over time.

Unauthorized Occupancy: Activities that result in full or part-time human occupancy or use. An example would be the construction, placement, occupancy, or assertion of ownership of a facility or structure (cabin, house, natural shelter, trailer, etc.) on BLM land.

Unauthorized Use: Activities that do not appreciably alter the physical character of BLM land or vegetative resources. Some examples of unauthorized use include the abandonment of property or trash, enclosures, and use of existing roads, primitive roads and trails for purposes that require a use fee or right-of-way.

Understory: Vegetation (e.g., trees or shrubs) growing under the canopy formed by taller trees.

Ungulates: Hoofed animals, including ruminants but also horses, tapirs, elephants, rhinoceroses, and swine.

Unleased Allotments (Grazing): Areas of land designated and managed for livestock grazing that are currently not leased or permitted by a qualified applicant.

Unreserved Public Lands: Public lands not covered by a reservation or a withdrawal except by the federal orders of withdrawal.

Uplands: Lands at higher elevations than alluvial plains or low stream terraces; all lands outside the riparian-wetland and aquatic zones.

Use Authorization: Approval of a proposed use for land or resources on the prescribed form or document designated for such use; a document showing permission to use land or the resources thereon; a formalized grant pursuant to a request to use land or resources.

User Day: Any calendar day, or portion thereof, for each individual accompanied or serviced by an operator or permittee on the public lands or related waters; synonymous with passenger day or participant day.

Utility Type (or Terrain) Vehicle (UTV): Any recreational motor vehicle other than an all-terrain vehicle, motorbike, or snowmobile designed for and capable of travel over unpaved roads, traveling on four or more low-pressure tires, maximum width is less than 74 inches, usually a maximum weight less than 2,000 pounds, or having a wheelbase of 94 inches or less. Utility type vehicles do not include vehicles specially designed to carry a person with disabilities.

Utilization (Rangeland): The proportion of the current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by grazing animals. Utilization is usually expressed as a percentage.

Vacant Available Lands (Grazing): Areas of land designated for livestock grazing that are not segregated into allotments. These lands may be formed into allotments if a qualified applicant applies for a lease or permit.

Vacant Public Lands: Public lands that are unappropriated and unreserved and not within a withdrawal; lands that are not reserved except by the general orders of withdrawal.

Valid Existing Rights: Locatable mineral development rights that existed when the Federal Land Policy and Management Act was enacted on October 21, 1976. Some areas are segregated from entry and location under the Mining Law to protect certain values or allow certain uses. Mining claims that existed as of the effective date of the segregation may still be valid if they can meet the test of discovery of a valuable mineral required under the Mining Law. Determining the validity of mining claims located in segregated lands requires BLM to conduct a validity examination and is called a "valid existing rights" determination.

Vegetation Community: An assemblage of plant populations in a common spatial arrangement.

Vegetation Manipulation: Alteration of vegetation by using fire, plowing, cutting, powered mechanical, or other means.

Vegetation Type: A plant community with distinguishable characteristics described by the dominant vegetation present.

Viable: Capable of sustaining a healthy, productive, and reproducing population over a long period of time.

Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classes: Categories assigned to public lands based on scenic quality, sensitivity level, and distance zones. There are four classes. Each class has an objective that prescribes the amount of change allowed in the characteristic landscape.

Water Quality: The chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water with respect to its suitability for a particular use.

Water Quality Restoration Plans: A comprehensive plan developed in conjunction with Montana Department of Environmental Quality, local watershed groups, and numerous agencies and entities to address and establish water quality goals, Total Maximum Daily Loads, restoration strategies, and monitoring.

Water Table: The surface in a groundwater body where the water pressure is atmospheric. It is the level at which water stands in a well that penetrates the water body just far enough to hold standing water.

Watershed: A geomorphic area of land and water within the confines of a drainage divide. The total area above a given point on a stream that contributes flow at that point.

Watershed Approach: A framework to guide watershed management that: (1) uses watershed assessments to determine existing and reference conditions; (2) incorporates assessment results into resource management planning; and (3) fosters collaboration with all landowners in the watershed. The framework considers both ground and surface water flow within a hydrologically defined geographical area.

Watershed Assessment: An analysis and interpretation of the physical and landscape characteristics of a watershed using scientific principles to describe watershed conditions as they affect water quality and aquatic resources.

Weed Management Area: These are distinguishable zones based on similar geography, weed problems, climate, or human-use patterns with agreements between landowners to cooperatively manage noxious weeds.

Wetland Vegetation: The outer extent of the obligate and facultative wetland species that grows on land that is inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater.

Wetlands: Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water often and long enough to support and under normal circumstances do support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands include marshes, shallows, swamps, bogs, muskegs, wet meadows, estuaries and riparian areas. (USDI 2015) Similarly, Executive Order 11990, Sec 7(c) (U.S. Congress, 1977a) defines wetlands as areas that are inundated by surface or ground water with a frequency sufficient to support and under normal circumstances does or would support a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas such as sloughs, potholes, wet meadows, river overflows, mud flats, and natural ponds.

Certain riparian areas and wetlands may be classified as jurisdictional wetlands under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (U.S. Congress 1972). These fall under regulatory purview of the Environmental Protection Agency and certain activities are subject to permitting through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Jurisdictional wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

Wild River: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Wild, Scenic or Recreational River: The three classes of what is traditionally referred to as a "Wild and Scenic River." Designated river segments are classified as wild, scenic and/or recreational, but the segments cannot overlap.

Wild and Scenic River Study: Rivers identified in Section 5 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for study as potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The rivers shall be studied under the provisions of Section 4 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Wilderness: A congressionally designated area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, that is protected and managed to preserve its natural conditions and that (1) generally appears to have been affected mainly by the forces of nature, with human imprints substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least 5,000 acres or is large enough to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value.

Wilderness Characteristics: Key characteristics of a wilderness listed in section 2(c) of the "Wilderness Act" of 1964 and used by BLM in its wilderness inventory. These characteristics include size, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined type of recreation, and special features.

Wilderness Study Area: A designation made through the land use planning process of a roadless area found to have wilderness characteristics as described in Section 2 (c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Wildfire: An unplanned, unwanted wildland fire, including unauthorized human-caused fires, escaped prescribed fire projects, and all other wildland fires where the objective is to put the fire out.

Wildland Fire: Any non-structure fire that occurs in the wildland. This term was updated in February 2009 to include two (rather than three) types of wildland fire:

- ***Wildfire*:** An unplanned, unwanted wildland fire, including unauthorized human-caused fires and escaped prescribed fire projects.
- ***Prescribed Fire:*** A planned fire; planned ignitions.

Wildland Fire Use: This term became obsolete in February 2009, when new interagency guidance was developed for implementing Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy. The definition was '*application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in pre-defined designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans*.' There is no new term to replace this, but the concept remains available as a planned management option. Prior to 2009, this term was the third type of **Wildland Fire**.

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI): The line, area, or zone, where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuel.

Wildlife Corridor: Landscape elements that connect similar patches of habitat through an area with different characteristics. Wildlife corridors are also segments of land that create a link between critical habitats. For example, streamside vegetation may create a corridor of willows and hardwoods between meadows or through a forest. These linkage zones are where species migrate and intermingle ensuring genetic interchange and consequently long-term survival.

Winter Range: An area where specific wildlife species (primarily deer, antelope and elk) congregate during winter time periods. These areas are often composed of topographic or vegetative features that enhance survival for these species when conditions such as snow accumulation and temperature place increased energetic demands on individual animals.

Withdrawal: Removal or withholding of public lands by statute or secretarial order, from the operation of some or all of the public land laws.

Woodland: A forest community occupied primarily by noncommercial species such as juniper, mountain mahogany, or quaking aspen groves. All western juniper or limber pine are classified as woodlands, since juniper and limber pine are classified as noncommercial species.

II.8 APPENDICES

The following appendices are part of the Missoula ROD/Approved RMP:

Appendix A. Air Quality and Climate (see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)
Appendix B. Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Conservation Strategy
Appendix C. Forest Vegetation (see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)
Appendix D. Impaired Waters (see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)
Appendix E. Locatable Minerals Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario (see Missoula PRMP/ Final EIS)
Appendix F. Major Laws (see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)
Appendix G. Wild and Scenic River Suitability Report (see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)
Appendix H. Maps (updated!)
Appendix I. Noxious and Invasive Species List (see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)
Appendix J. Post-Wildfire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Procedures
Appendix K. Probable Sale Quantity Determinations and Calculations (see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)
Appendix L. Recreation Management Areas
Appendix M. Socioeconomic Report (see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)
Appendix N. Summary of No Action Alternative Management (see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)
Appendix O. Supplemental Rules
Appendix P. Design Features and Best Management Practices
Appendix Q. Lands and Realty
Appendix R. Rangeland Health
Appendix S. Public Comments
Appendix T. Summary of USFWS Biological Opinions

Appendices B, H, L, O, P, and Q and included in Section III below. The other appendices, as mentioned above, can be found in the Missoula PRMP/Final EIS located here: https://eplanning.blm.gov

III. APPENDICES

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Appendix S. Summarized Public Comments (see Missoula PRMP/Final EIS)
Appendix T. Summary of USFWS Biological Opinions

APPENDIX B. AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN HABITAT CONSERVATION STRATEGY

This Strategy consolidates programmatic direction and guidance for riparian and aquatic conservation and restoration and conforms to the direction issued on April 18, 2014, for implementation of the Aquatic and Riparian Habitat component of the Interior Columbia Basin Strategy and Aquatic Framework (USFS et al. 2014). Conservation of aquatic wildlife, plants, and habitats are considered together with broader-scale ecosystem components including landscape dynamics, terrestrial source habitats, and riparian and hydrologic processes. The proposed Resource Management Plan balances short-term risks with long-term benefits through goals, objectives, and management actions designed to move aquatic resources toward desired conditions. "A Framework for Incorporating the Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Component of the Interior Columbia Basin Strategy into BLM and Forest Service Plan Revision" (USFS et al. 2014) provided the basis for this strategy.

This strategy contains the following key components:

- Utilizing Riparian Conservation Areas and Riparian Management Objectives
- Specific goals, objectives and standards

- protection for population strongholds of aquatic Special Status Species and their habitat;
- provisions for multi-scale analysis and how it will be used in project-level decisions;
- identification of priority restoration of aquatic and riparian habitats;
- monitoring and adaptive management for determining if the plan is being implemented and is achieving desired results.

The BLM adopted the Inland Native Fish Strategy (INFISH) (USDA, 1995) in bull trout occupied watersheds in an Instruction Memorandum (IM-ID-96-010). The justification for BLM to apply the strategy to watersheds containing other special status aquatic species, such as westslope cutthroat trout and western toad, is included in BLM Policy Manual 6840 and the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1610-1, Appendix C).

RIPARIAN CONSERVATIONS AREAS (RCAS) AND RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES (RMOS)

RCAs are portions of watersheds where localized processes influence aquatic habitat condition and where proper ecological function is essential for maintenance. RCAs are defined for all permanent and intermittent flowing streams, lakes, wetlands, seeps, springs and unstable sites that may influence these areas. RCAs may extend into tributaries that contain special status species or habitat and may also extend outside the actual riparian zone when considering sources of stream shading, woody debris and organic matter, and delivery paths of sediment and nutrients. Riparian-dependent resources receive management emphasis within RCAs. RCA management aims to maintain and restore riparian structure and function, benefit fish and other aquatic species, enhance conservation of organisms dependent on the transition zone between upslope and instream habitats, and improve connectivity of travel and dispersal corridors for terrestrial animals, plants, and aquatic organisms.

A key aspect of RCA management is the development of RMOs, using watershed or site-specific analyses at a site-specific scale, in response to project-specific concerns, and in consideration of: (1) inherent site capability, (2) specific circumstances such as spawning or overwintering habitat, and (3) the condition and trend of the riparian area and instream habitat. Establishing RMOs based on site-specific conditions and desired ecological characteristics replaces the default numeric standards of INFISH and allows for the incorporation of additional indicators, such as those defined in the USFWS bull trout matrix (1998).

Riparian Management Objectives (RMOs) provide criteria to measure the attainment of, or progress toward attainment of, riparian goals. These indicators represent standards for ecosystem health and are a good starting point to describe the desired condition for fish habitat. RMOs described by INFISH are pool frequency, water temperature, large woody debris, bank stability, lower bank angle, and width/depth ratio. These RMOs apply when watershed analysis has not been completed. Components of good habitat can vary across geographic area and land managers are encouraged to establish site specific RMOs through watershed analysis or site-specific analysis. Furthermore, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed a matrix describing RMOs for bull trout (USFWS 1998). The indicators used to assess bull trout habitat include: water temperature, sediment, chemical contaminants and nutrients, physical barriers, substrate embeddedness, large woody debris, pool frequency and quality, large pools, off-channel habitat, refugia, stream channel width/maximum depth ratio, streambank condition, floodplain

connectivity, change in peak/base flow, increases in drainage networks, road density and location, disturbance history, riparian conservation areas and disturbance regimes.

RCAs are not regarded as "no management zones." Some treatments to vegetation or soils may be essential to achieving or maintaining desired RMOs and riparian conditions.

Determination of RCA widths is made at an appropriate scale determined by project-specific planning and analysis, and in response to proposed or ongoing management activities that may affect attainment of desired conditions. Determination is supported by knowledge of riparian and aquatic ecology, geomorphic processes, resource values, cause-effect relationships, and the hazard-risk scenario of proposed activities.

RCA widths are to be adequate to provide stream shade and streambank stability, protect the stream from non-channelized sediment inputs, and provide organic matter and woody debris. Therefore, RMOs are developed to focus on those key elements.

In the absence of a watershed or site-specific analysis to develop RMOs and specific RCA widths, the 'default' widths recommended in INFISH (USDA 1995) and the Interior Columbia Basin Science Assessment or as amended, and literature review (Quigley and Arbelbide 1997) would be applied as follows:

> Fish-bearing streams: RCAs shall consist of the stream and the area on each side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to the top of the inner gorge, or to the outer edges of the 100-year floodplain, or to the outer edges of riparian vegetation, or to a distance equal to the height of two site-potential trees, or 300 feet slope distance (600 feet including both sides of the stream), whichever is greatest.
>
> Permanently flowing, non-fish-bearing streams: RCAs shall consist of the stream and the area on each side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to the top of the inner gorge, or to the outer edges of the 100-year floodplain, or to the outer edges of riparian vegetation, or to a distance equal to the height of one site-potential tree, or 150 feet slope distance (600 feet including both sides of the stream), whichever is greatest.
>
> Seasonally flowing or intermittent streams, ponds, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, and landslide prone areas: RCAs shall consist of the body of water or wetland and the area to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation, or to the extent of seasonally saturated soil, or the extent unstable areas, or to a distance equal to the height of one site-potential tree, Or 150 feet slope distance from the edge of the maximum pool elevation of constructed ponds and reservoirs or from the edge of the stream channel, wetland, pond or lake, whichever is greatest.

SPECIFIC GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STANDARDS

This plan incorporates the riparian goals of INFISH. Standards and guidelines have also been developed based on those defined by INFISH. Any modifications to standards and guidelines are intended to help clarify the intent of INFISH. Standards and guidelines apply to all RCAs and projects and activities in areas outside of RCAs that are identified through NEPA analysis as potentially degrading to RCAs.

Standards and guidelines for RCAs are used in combination with BMPs, design features, and other management actions to achieve desired outcomes for the conservation of aquatic and riparian resources. Management goals, objectives and actions can be found in Appendix G (abbreviations in parenthesis indicate INFISH standards and guidelines carried forward in this plan). Design features and best management practices are in Appendix P.

PROTECTING AQUATIC SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES POPULATION STRONGHOLDS

Fish key watersheds are listed and depicted in the table. Fish Key watersheds are also displayed in *Appendix H, Figure A-4, Aquatics*. Key watersheds emphasize protection of imperiled aquatic species populations and identify habitat networks of existing strongholds with robust populations and high-quality habitat that will support expansion and recolonization to adjacent watersheds. Key watersheds may receive priority over non-key watersheds for restoration work.

Watershed	Watershed Aquatic resource values	BT prob. Occur 2040 (0 EBT)	Geographic area	Comments
Arrastra Creek	BT, WT	86%	Marcum	Flows directly into BTCH (Blackfoot R)
Middle Upper Willow Creek	BT, WCT, WPM	16-46%	Pburg West	BT and WPM in Upper Willow Cr. And WCT in Scotchman and Miner gulch
Wales Creek	WCT, WPM	19%	North Garnets	Very strong population of WPM and solid ownership of upper portion of watershed
Chamberlain Creek	WCT, WPM	14%	North Garnets	Solid ownership of upper portion of watershed; BT and WPM (translocated) just downstream from BLM, WCT 97% in 1998
Belmont	BT, BTCH, WCT	Less than 3% on BLM; 6% way up	LBC	Solid ownership of lower portion of watershed
Blackfoot River-Buck Creek	BT, BTCH, WCT	Less than 3%	LBC	Solid ownership of portion of watershed
Cottonwood Creek	WCT	27%	Hoodoos	Solid ownerships of upper portion of watershed

BT = bull trout; BTCH = bull trout critical habitat; WCT = westslope cutthroat trout; WPM = western pearlshell mussel

Methods for selecting Fish Key Watersheds

Management of Fish Key Watersheds emphasizes conservation of westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, and western pearlshell mussel by providing quality habitat, and focusing on the strongest populations across the Analysis Area. The primary indicator for population strength was the length of stream occupied by a population. Higher consideration was given to watersheds with cutthroat populations which are (or nearly) genetically pure. Some key watersheds have less robust populations than others

but were selected in order to achieve an adequate distribution and maintaining migratory life histories and connectivity. *See Appendix H, Figure A-4, Aquatics.*

Management considerations for Fish Key Watersheds

- Coordination with adjacent land managers in describing the strongholds and management objectives for their riparian areas and streams.
- Fish key watersheds may be added or deleted based on new information.
- Management activities should emphasize achieving or maintaining riparian and aquatic habitat values and processes.

MULTI-SCALE ANALYSIS

Generally, no single assessment will adequately address the complex issues facing resource managers today. Fine-scale assessments provide context for management and project planning, but they cannot adequately address broad patterns and processes, such as habitat conditions for wide-ranging species. Broad-scale assessments provide context for policy formulation and for mid- and fine-scale assessment, but they cannot by themselves provide detailed information, such as site-specific habitat conditions. Together, multi-scale assessments provide comprehensive information for land management.

Multiple scales of review and assessment provide the context to implement broad-scale decisions within individual BLM District and Field Offices. As needed, multi-scale analysis may be used for future plan amendments or revisions and for subsequent project-level decisions. Analysis at the appropriate scale is generally recognized to provide the needed context for decision making. The four levels of review or assessment that may be used for multi-scale analysis are:

- Broad-scale (e.g., analysis at the basin scale, such as the Interior Columbia River Basin);
- Mid-scale (e.g., analysis at the subbasin scale, such as the Snake River subbasin);
- Fine-scale (e.g., analysis at the watershed scale, such as the Salmon Falls Creek Watershed); and
- Site-scale (e.g., analysis at the stream reach or project scale, such as China Creek).

Management considerations for multi-scale analysis include the following:

- Land Use Plans are generally developed and analyzed at the scale of the land management unit, normally analogous to a subbasin (or group of subbasins) scale.
- Subsequent finer-scale analysis, such as to support restoration prioritization and monitoring strategy development, should include interagency coordination.
- Assessments should include evaluation of existing conditions, factors limiting aquatic species populations, resource risks, management needs, and restoration opportunities.
- Information developed at the finer scale should be considered in implementing aquatic conservation or restoration measures and used to make adjustments or modifications to appropriate management actions, as warranted.
- Multi-scale analysis provides a basis for integrating and prioritizing conservation measures for wide ranging species

Bull Trout

In July 1998, bull trout was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. In 1999, the listing was applied to one distinct population segment (DPS) of bull trout within the coterminous United States by including bull trout in the Coastal-Puget Sound populations and Saint Mary-Belly River populations with previous listings of three separate distinct population segments of bull trout in the Columbia River, Klamath River, and Jarbidge River basins. In 2015, the USFWS published the Recovery Plan for the Coterminous United States Population of Bull Trout (USFWS 2015). The Recovery Plan is organized with multi-scale analysis in mind.

In the Recovery Plan, the scale of the entire DPS for bull trout is discussed, and the ultimate goal of the recovery strategy is to manage threats and ensure sufficient distribution and abundance to improve the status of bull trout throughout their extant range in the coterminous United States. The distinct population segment covers parts of 5 western states. The Plan then tiers down to six recovery units. Each recovery unit has its own recovery unit implementation plan. This is analogous to broad-scale analysis at the basin scale.

The recovery unit scale is approximate to the basin scale, such as the upper Columbia River Recovery Unit. This is larger than a typical Field Office within a BLM district, as such multiple BLM resource management plans could fall under one recovery unit. Within each recovery unit are multiple core areas. There are 35 within the Columbia Headwaters Recovery Unit. The Blackfoot River, the Upper Clark Fork River, and Rock Creek are core areas with Missoula Field Office BLM managed lands within the recovery unit.

Bull Trout Critical Habitat

On January 14, 2010, the USFWS revised its 2005 designation of critical habitat for bull trout (USFWS 2010). The designation of critical habitat intends to provide sufficient habitat to allow for genetic and life history diversity, ensure bull trout are well distributed across habitats, ensure sufficient connectivity among populations, and allow for the ability to address threats facing the species. In the planning area, critical habitat includes the Upper Clark Fork River, Flint Creek, Rock Creek, and the Blackfoot River (to include the lower portions of Belmont and Gold creeks).

An interagency Memorandum of Understanding for westslope cutthroat trout management (MCTSC 2007) and the bull trout recovery plan (USFWS 2015) have been developed for the coordinated management of these aquatic special-status species.

MONITORING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Implementation and effectiveness monitoring, in addition to current scientific information such as stream temperature modeling, will be used to determine if the RMP is achieving desired watershed, riparian and aquatic conditions. Monitoring efforts and data sharing is coordinated with federal, state, and tribal agencies when possible. Current/relevant monitoring programs are summarized below. Additional monitoring will be conducted on a project level/site specific basis as needed to inform decision making and allow adjustments to the plan.

Special Status Fish Species Habitat Monitoring

Areas considered high priority for current status and trend monitoring include fish key watersheds and fish bearing stream reaches accessible by livestock. Habitat conditions are determined by monitoring the most appropriate of the INFISH RMOs and/or the 18 in-channel indicators identified in the NMFS matrix of pathways and indicators (1996) and the USFWS bull trout matrix (1998). Of these, 4 main indicators (pools, barriers, temperature, and sediment), are deemed most important for assessing habitat condition for bull trout other sensitive aquatic species. The Conservation Strategy for Bull Trout on USFS lands in Western Montana (USDA 2013) provides baseline data for these 4 indicators in bull trout core areas adjacent to lands managed by the Missoula BLM. Though the BLM manages a small land base compared to adjacent USFS lands, there is a need to compile baseline data for local populations within the Blackfoot River, the Upper Clark Fork River, and Rock Creek core areas that align with Missoula Field Office BLM managed lands. Baseline data will give the Missoula BLM a better understanding of the current status of aquatic resources and provide for a detailed restoration strategy.

PACFISH/INFISH/Biological Opinions (PIBO) Effectiveness and Implementation Monitoring

The Missoula BLM has 8 designated monitoring areas (DMAs) which are sampled using the Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) protocol to gauge implementation of management actions. These sites are located where stream reaches are accessible by livestock and are monitored annually for grazing indicators (streambank alteration, stubble height, streambank stability and cover and woody browse) and every 5 years for long term indicators (greenline composition, greenline-to-greenline width, woody species height and age class, substrate, residual pool depth and pool frequency, streambank stability and cover). There are also 2 reference DMAs that are sampled once every 5 years. MIM monitoring is used to identify non-compliance with livestock grazing standards and adjust grazing use. Additional DMAs will be established as needed.

There are two PIBO effectiveness monitoring sites on Missoula BLM lands (Chamberlain and McElwain Creeks). These sites are sampled every 5 years by PIBO personnel. Continued PIBO effectiveness monitoring is used to evaluate effectiveness of objective implementation in achieving or maintaining desired riparian conditions. The PIBO monitoring protocol uses many of the indicators identified in the USFWS bull trout matrix (1998b), including data collected on the 4 important indicators mentioned above. Further, the PIBO database is expansive and can be used to compare managed and referenced conditions in the same geophysical area. This is of particular importance to the Missoula BLM in evaluation of broad scale priority watershed monitoring because of the small percent of BLM land ownership in the Upper Clark Fork, Flint-Rock and Blackfoot 8-digit HUCs.

Amphibian Monitoring

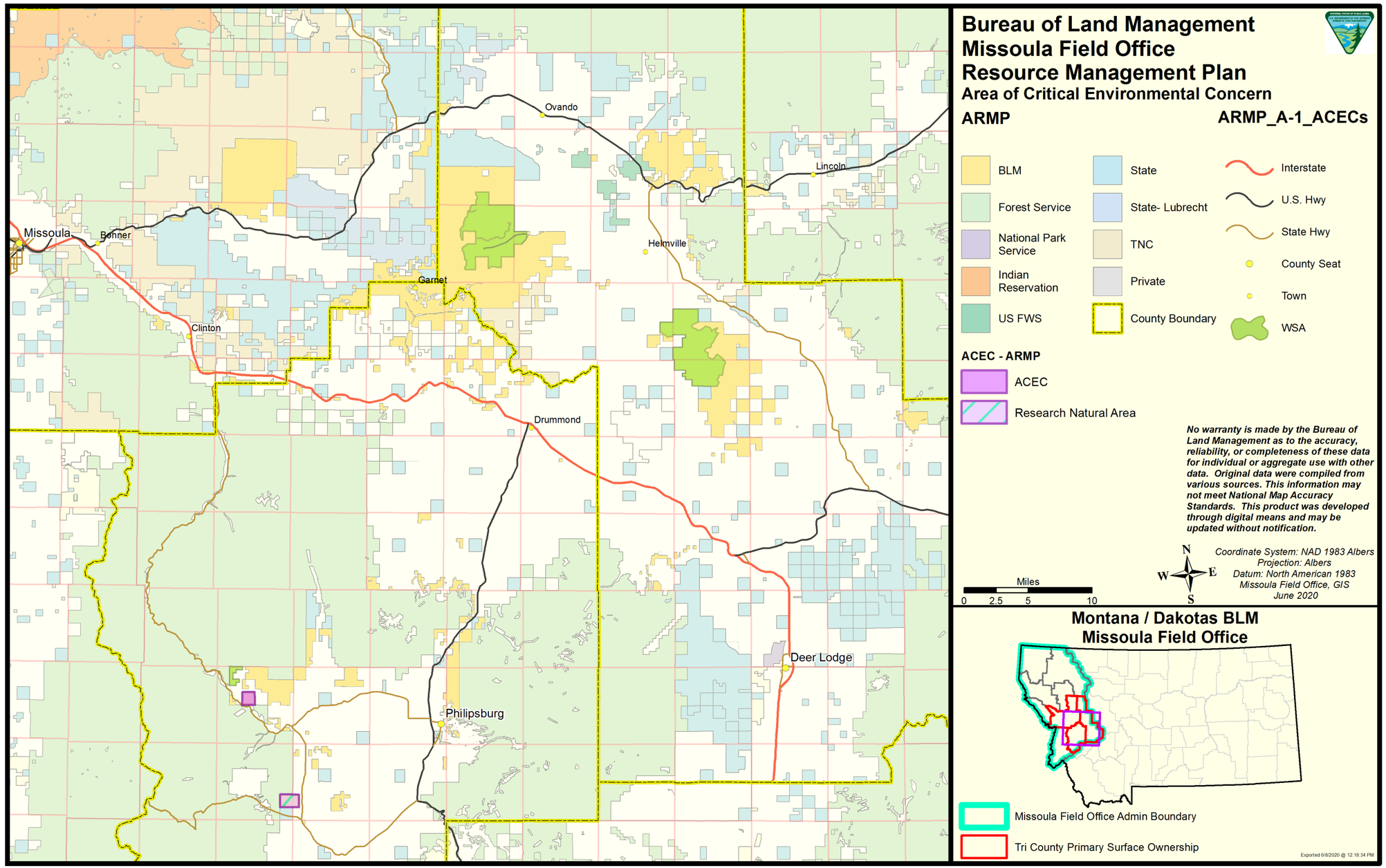
The 1986 Garnet RMP did not include mention of amphibians or aquatic reptiles, so a new list of attributes important in defining habitat conditions for these species reflecting recent science and current agency guidelines must be developed. In general, amphibians have complex life cycles with life history stages that require specific breeding, foraging, and overwintering habitats that may be spatially separate (Maxell 2000). Loss or degradation of any one of these components is could result in the decline or local extirpation of a species. Impacts for these species will be addressed as appropriate through examining changes to the environment that fulfill the habitat needs for each life stage.

Breeding, foraging, and aquatic overwintering habitat requirements and known migration distances are summarized for each of Montana's amphibian species in Maxell (2000). Thus, regular monitoring of amphibian populations on Missoula BLM lands and the habitat requirements summarized in Maxell (2000) can be used to identify likely impacts from a variety of anthropogenic activities so that appropriate measures can be taken to ensure the persistence of species in this region. Specifically, analysis of these impacts need to be included during project level planning.

In 2005, a report, in conjunction with other federal and private entities in the region, inventorying on the herpetofauna in the Missoula BLM planning area was completed (Maxell 2005). This report provides important baseline amphibian presence data as well as surveying methods and habitat measurements. In addition, the Montana Heritage Program's Point Observation Database is a great resource for baseline amphibian presence data across Montana. It is important that the BLM continue monitoring known amphibian sites on Missoula BLM lands in regular intervals and survey new sites as they become known to determine trends in amphibian populations. Observations are uploaded to the Montana Heritage Database to assist regional land managers and contribute to regional population data.

APPENDIX H. APPROVED RMP MAPS

Figure Number	Title
ARMP A-1	Areas of critical environmental concern
ARMP A-2	Phil Wright Rock ACEC
ARMP A-3	West Fork Butte RNA
ARMP A-4	Aquatics habitat
ARMP A-5	Wildland fire management
ARMP A-6	Livestock grazing
ARMP A-7	Mineral Restriction
ARMP A-8	Off-highway vehicle and snowmobile allocations
ARMP A-9	Recreation management areas
ARMP A-10	Rights-of-way
ARMP A-11	Terrestrial wildlife
ARMP A-12	Visual resource management
ARMP A-13	WSA If Released
ARMP A-14	Land tenure
ARMP A-15	Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail


Missoula
Bonner
Clinton
Garnet
Ovando
Helmville
Lincoln
Drummond
Philipsburg
Deer Lodge
Bureau of Land Management
Missoula Field Office
Resource Management Plan
Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ARMP
ARMP_A-1_ACECs
BLM
Forest Service
National Park Service
Indian Reservation
US FWS
State
State- Lubrecht
TNC
Private
County Boundary
Interstate
U.S. Hwy
State Hwy
County Seat
Town
WSA
ACEC - ARMP
ACEC
Research Natural Area
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.
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Tri County Primary Surface Ownership
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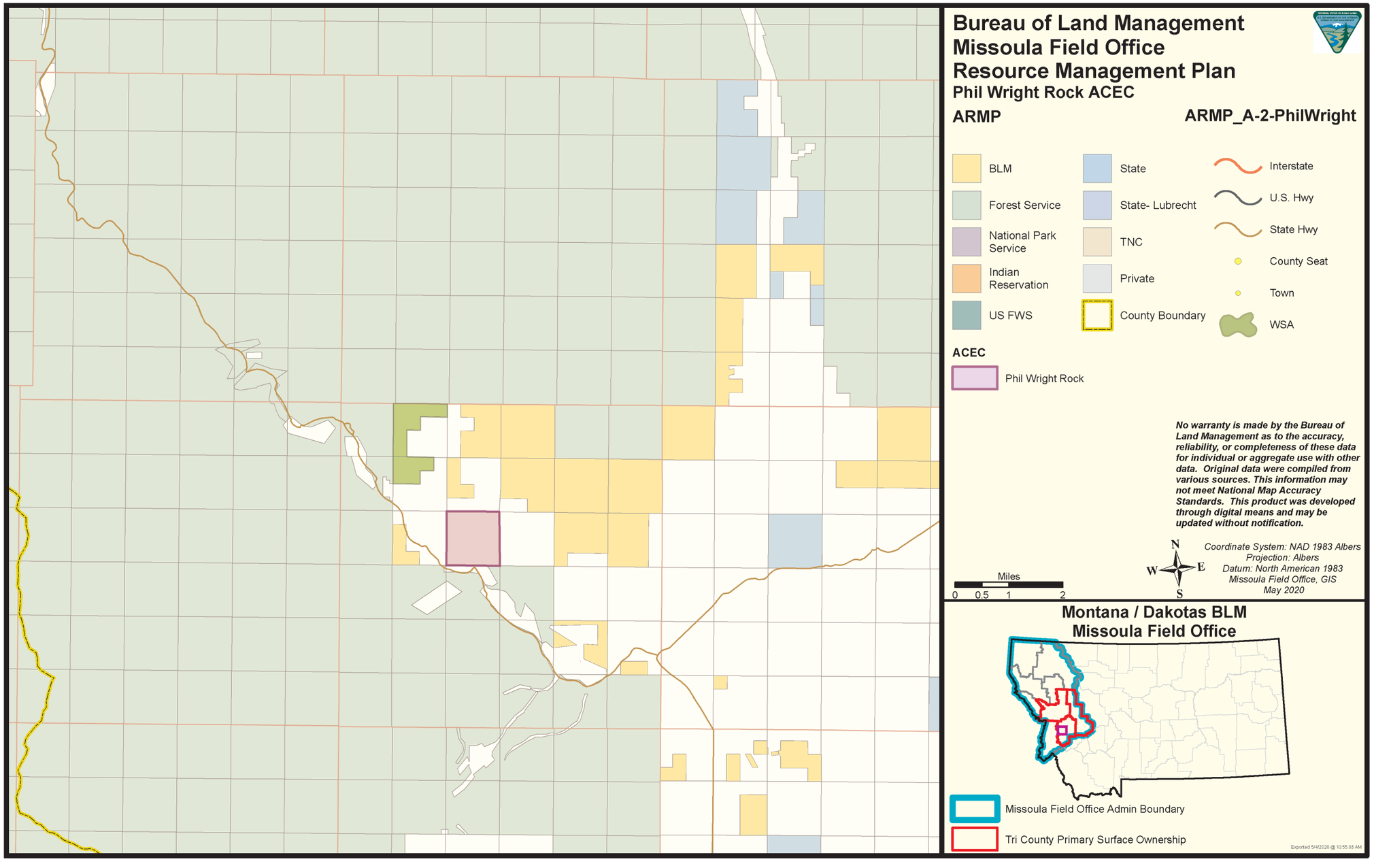
Bureau of Land Management
Missoula Field Office
Resource Management Plan
Phil Wright Rock ACEC
ARMP
ARMP_A-2-PhilWright
BLM
Forest Service
National Park Service
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State
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Phil Wright Rock
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.
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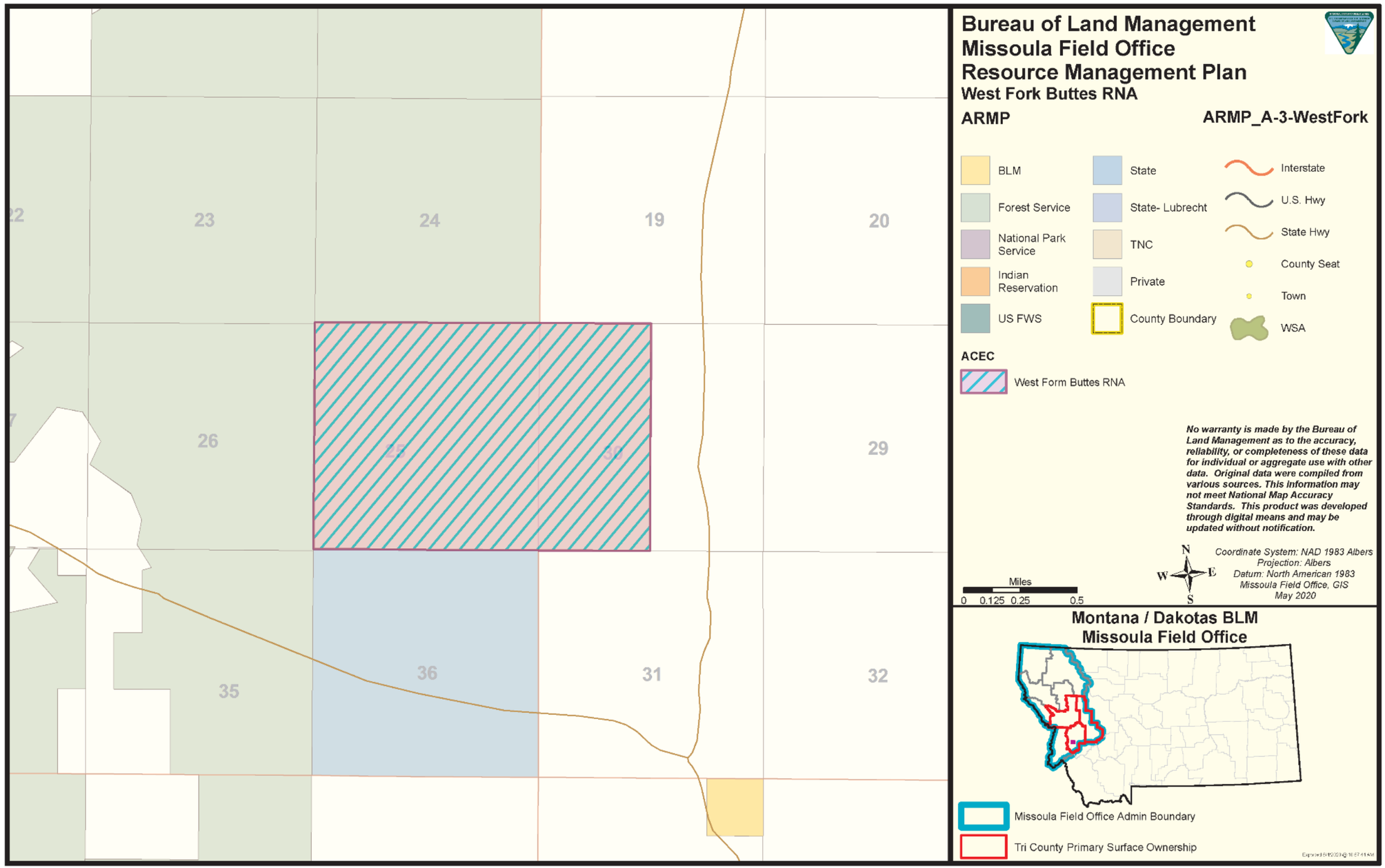
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Bureau of Land Management
Missoula Field Office
Resource Management Plan
West Fork Buttes RNA
ARMP
ARMP_A-3-WestFork
BLM
Forest Service
National Park Service
Indian Reservation
US FWS
State
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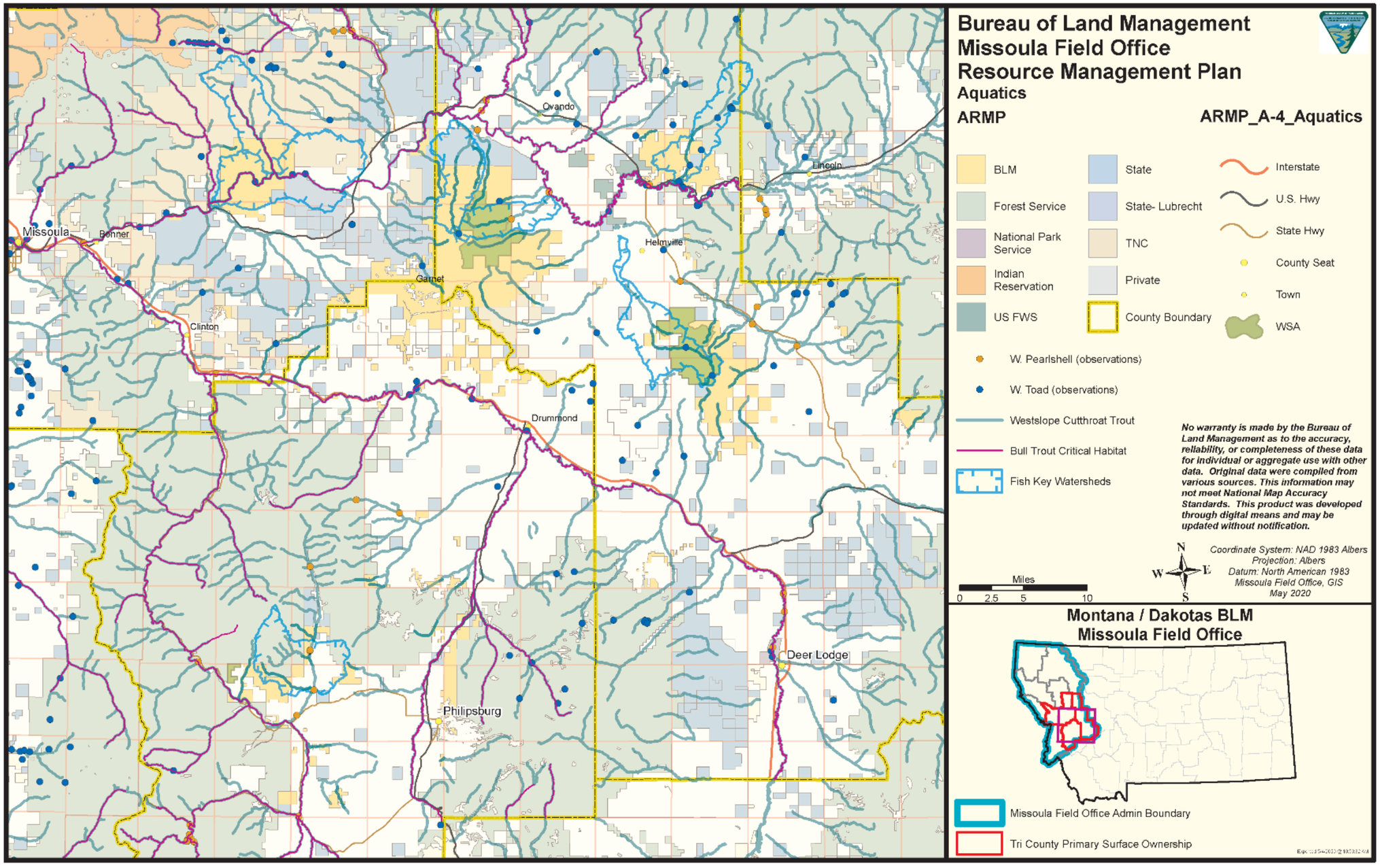
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Aquatics
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National Park Service
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W. Pearlshell (observations)
W. Toad (observations)
Westslope Cutthroat Trout
Bull Trout Critical Habitat
Fish Key Watersheds
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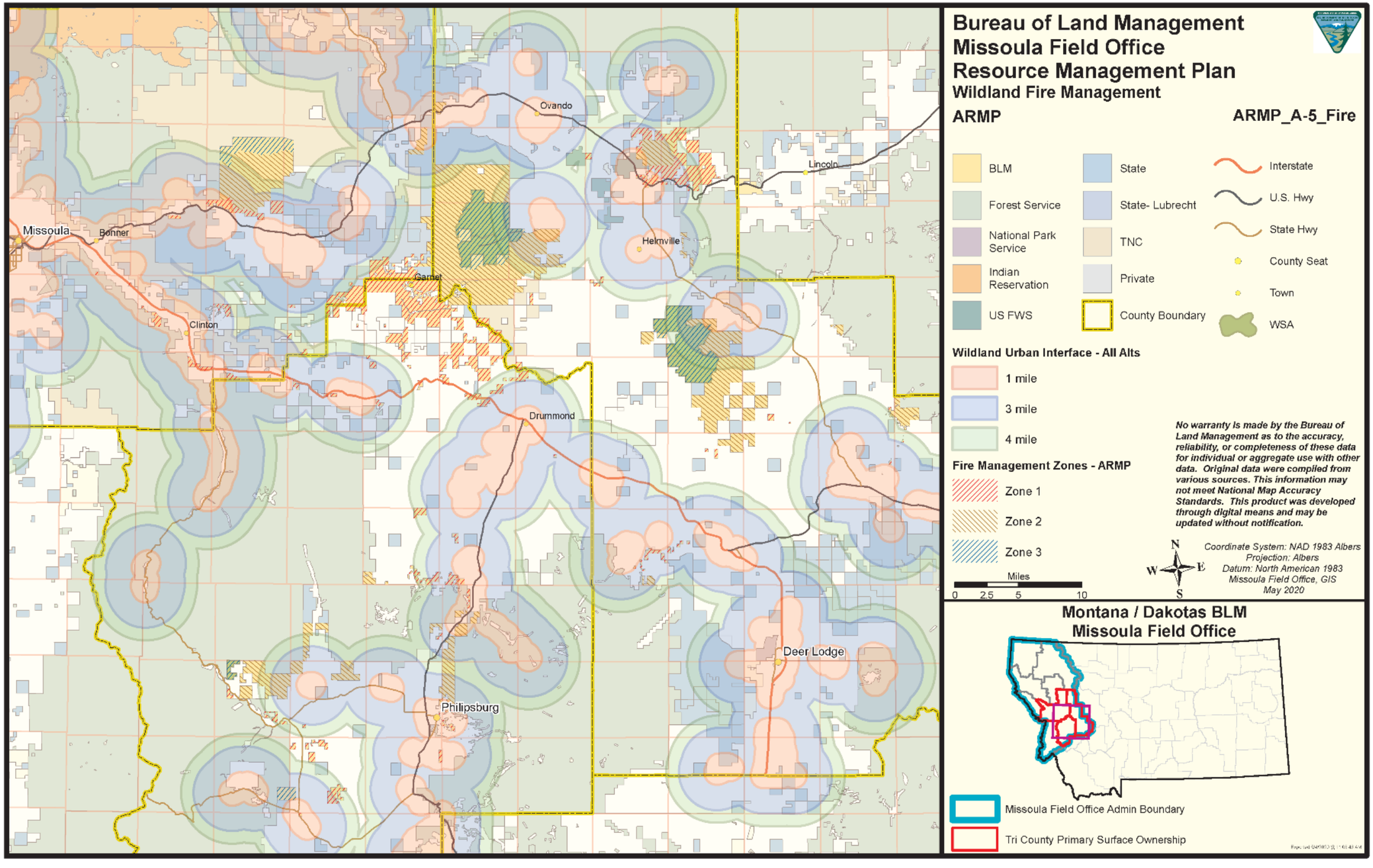
Bureau of Land Management
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Resource Management Plan
Wildland Fire Management
ARMP
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Forest Service
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Wildland Urban Interface - All Alts
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Fire Management Zones - ARMP
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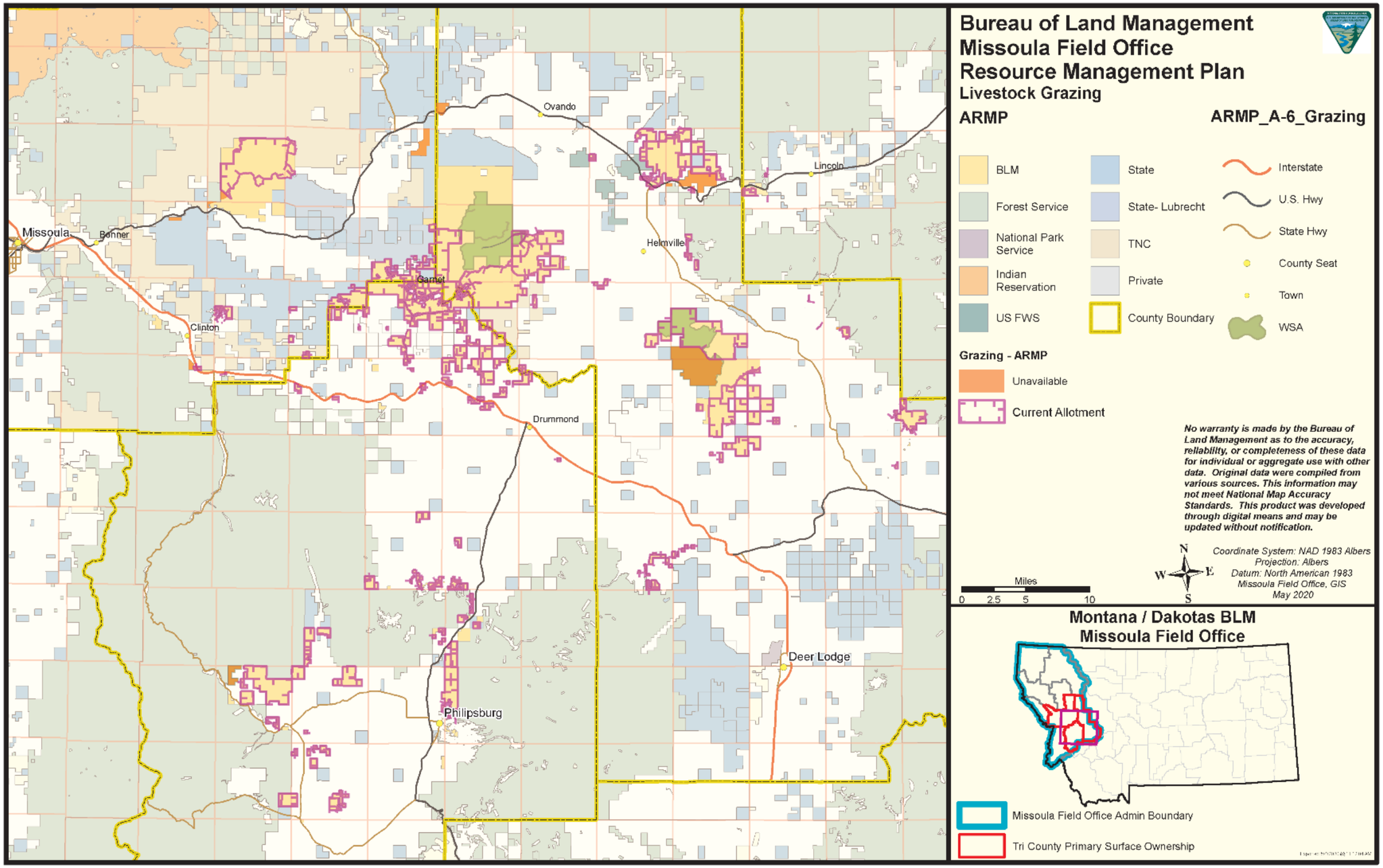
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Livestock Grazing
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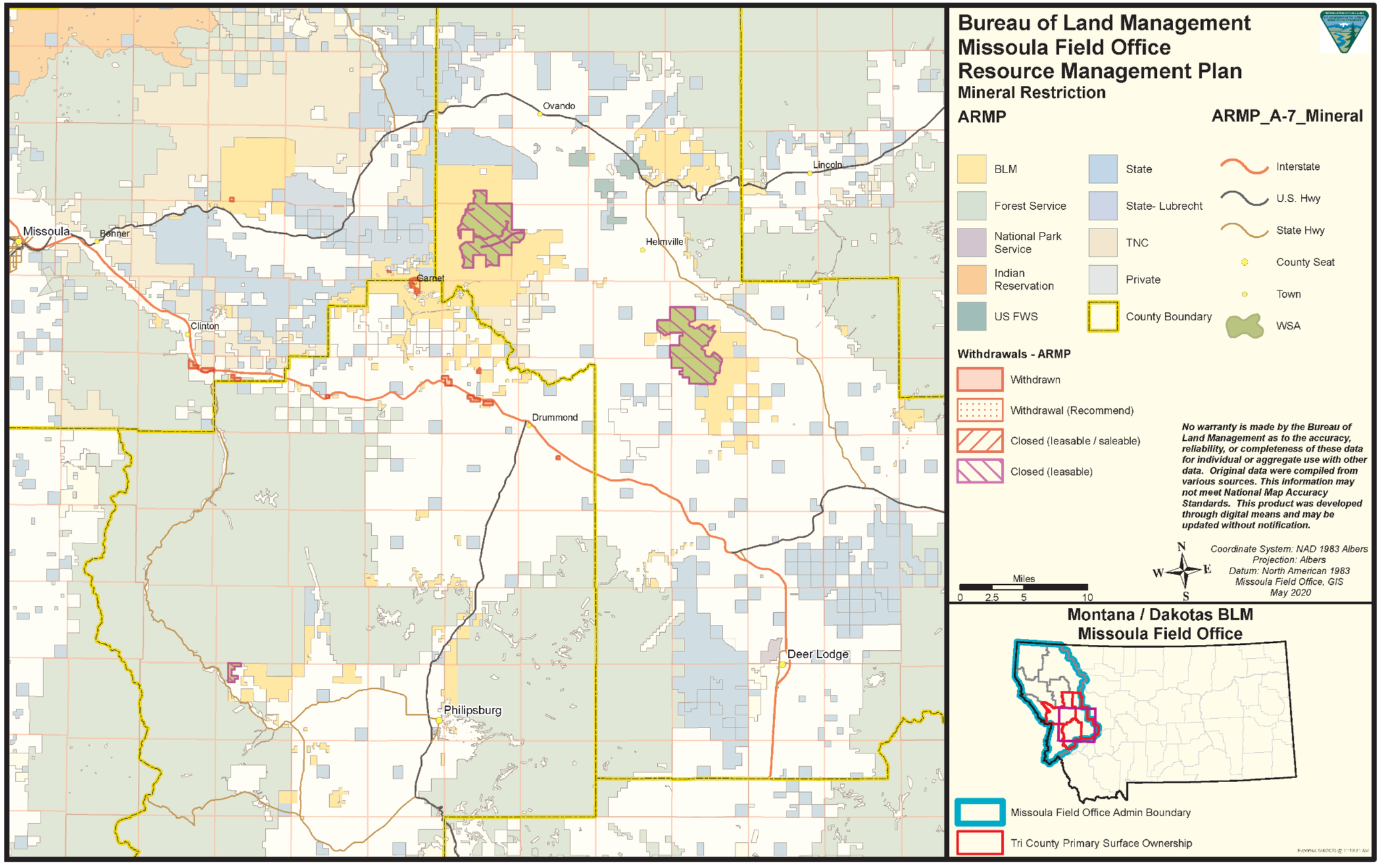
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Withdrawals - ARMP
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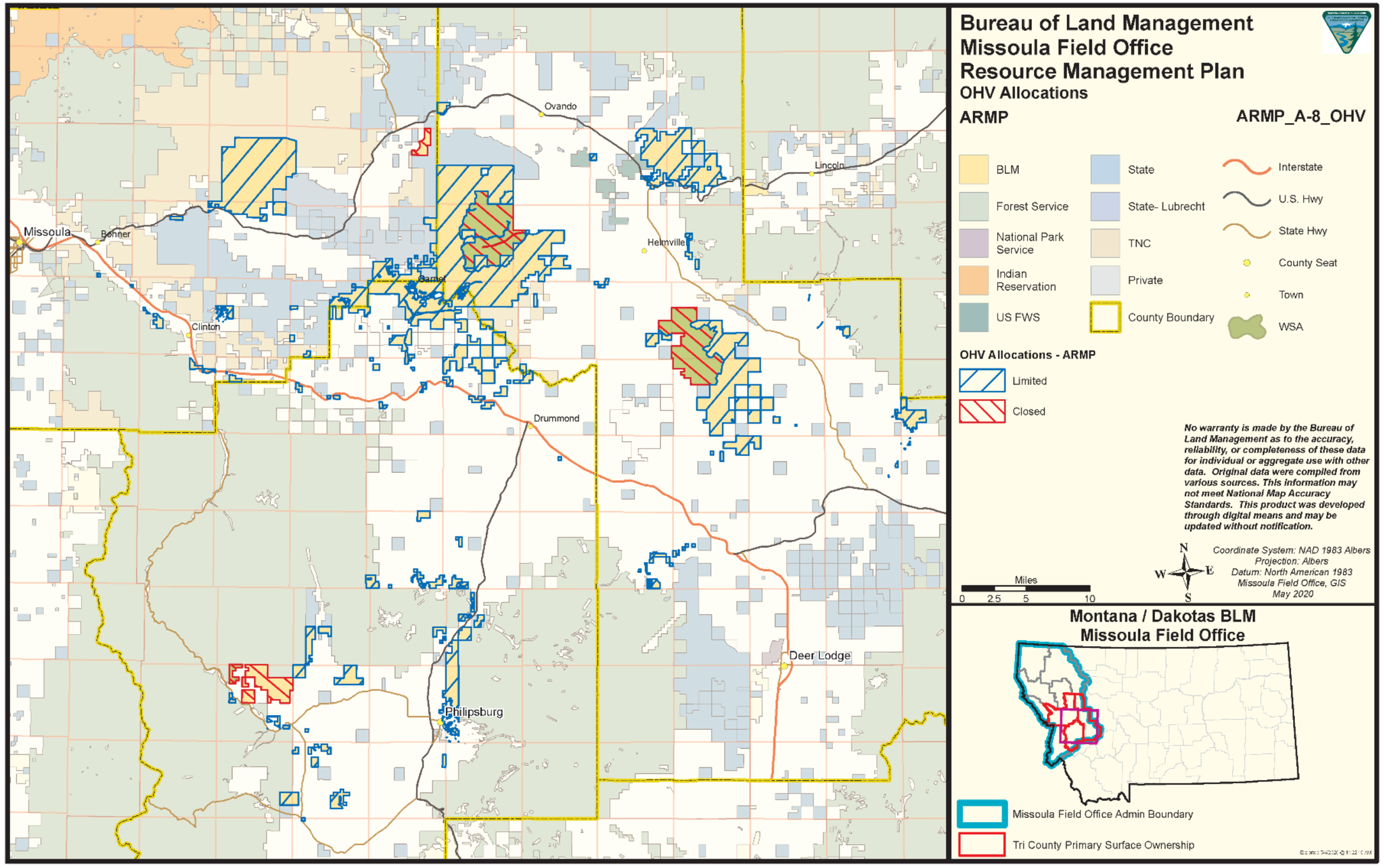
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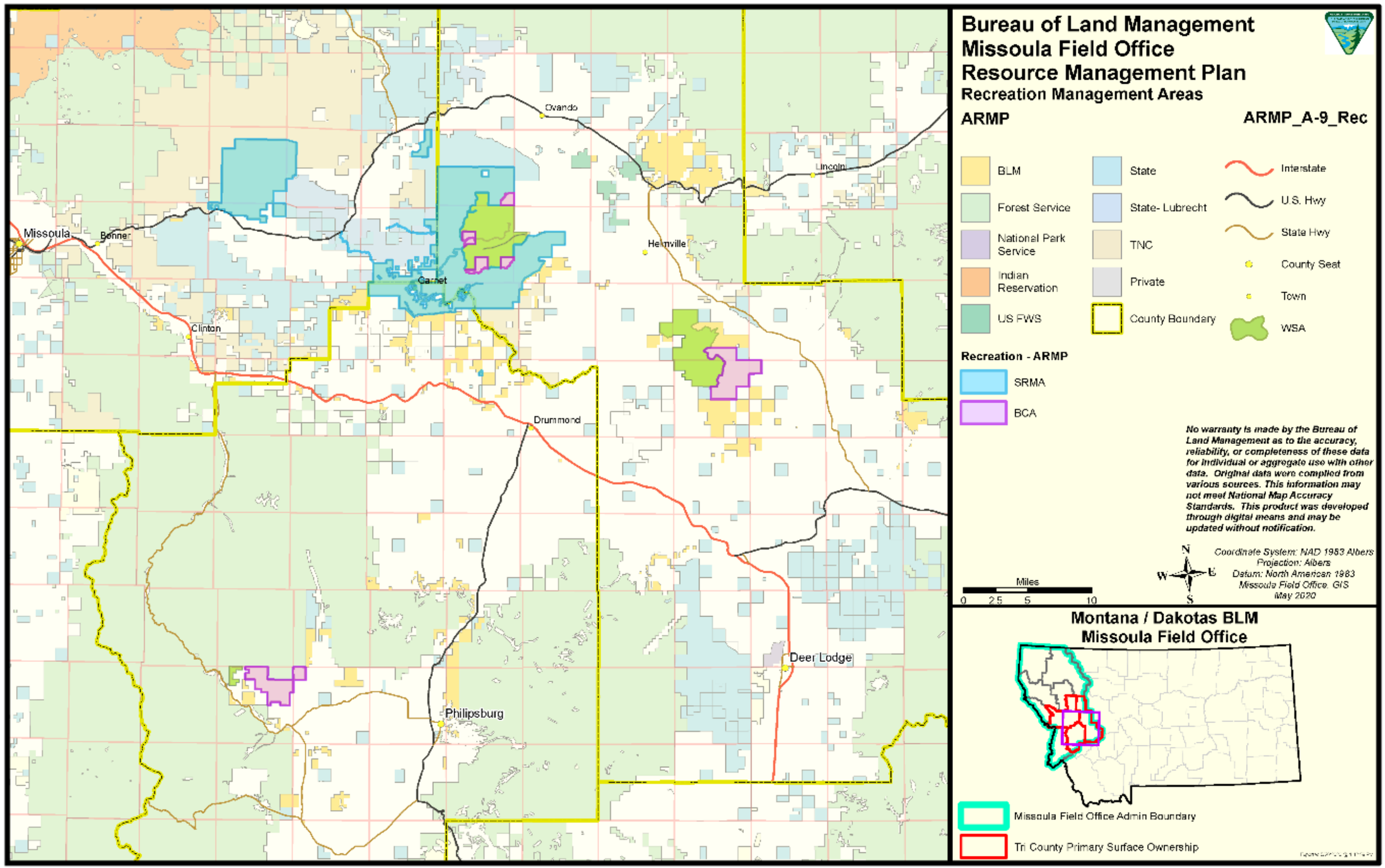
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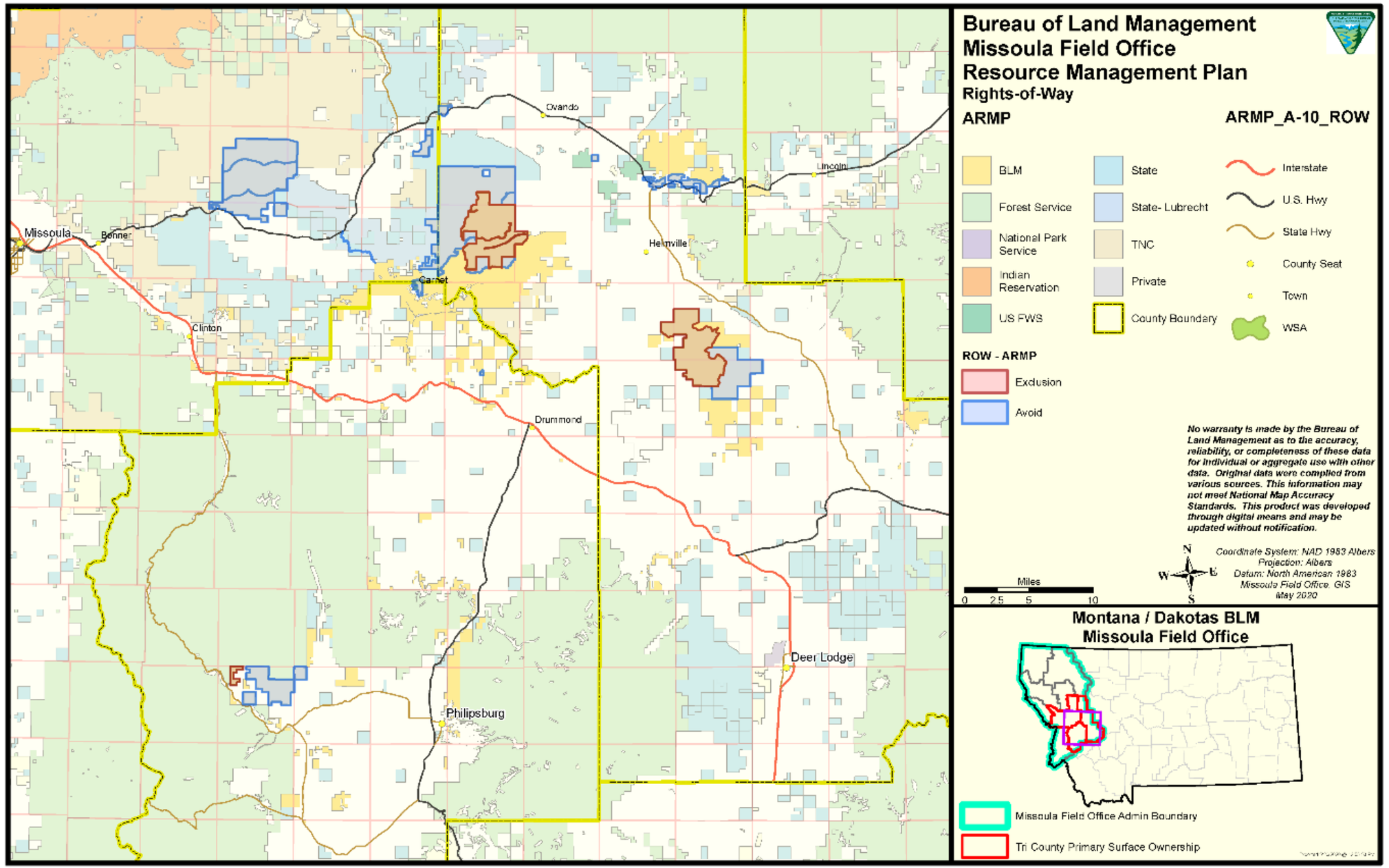
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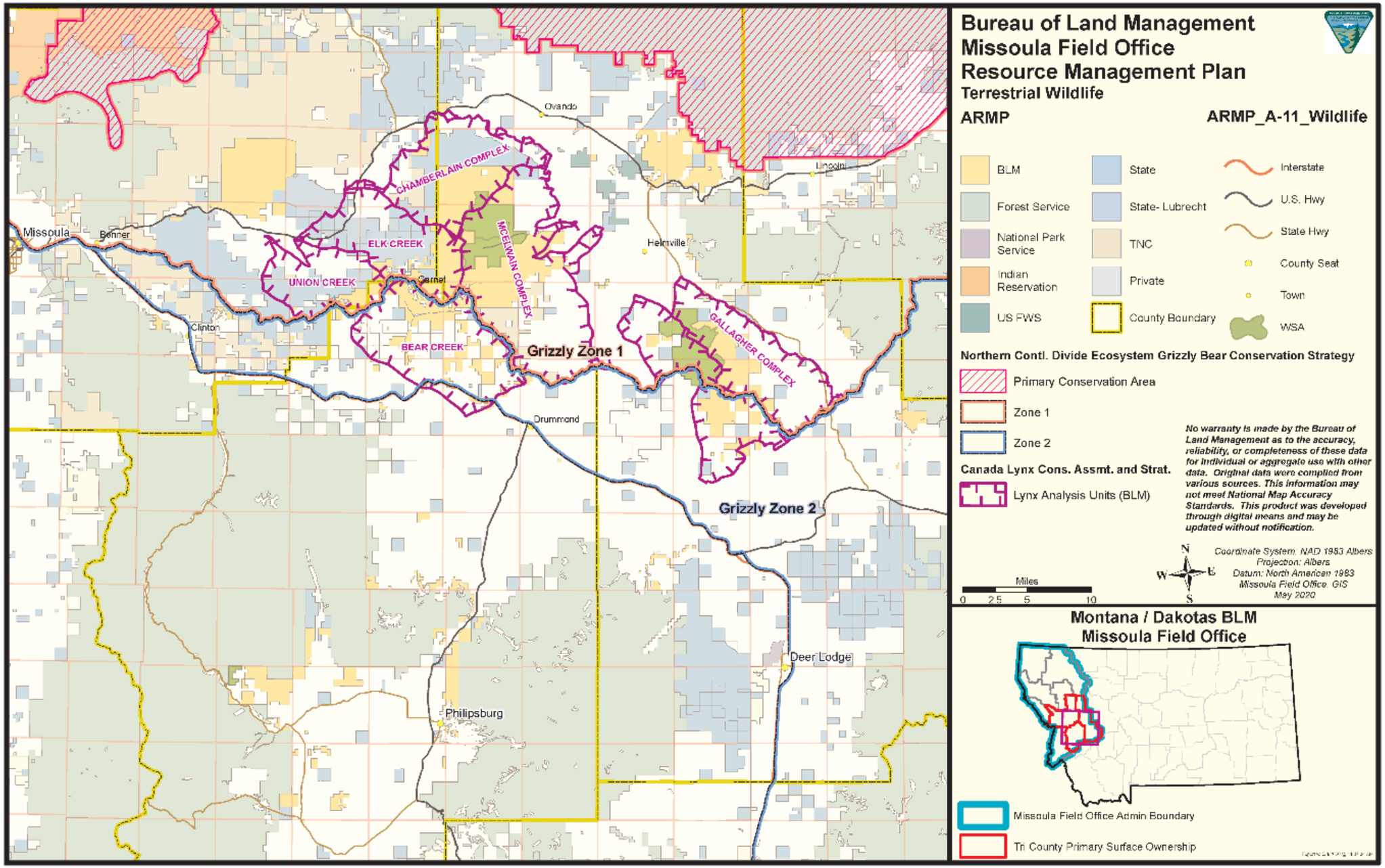
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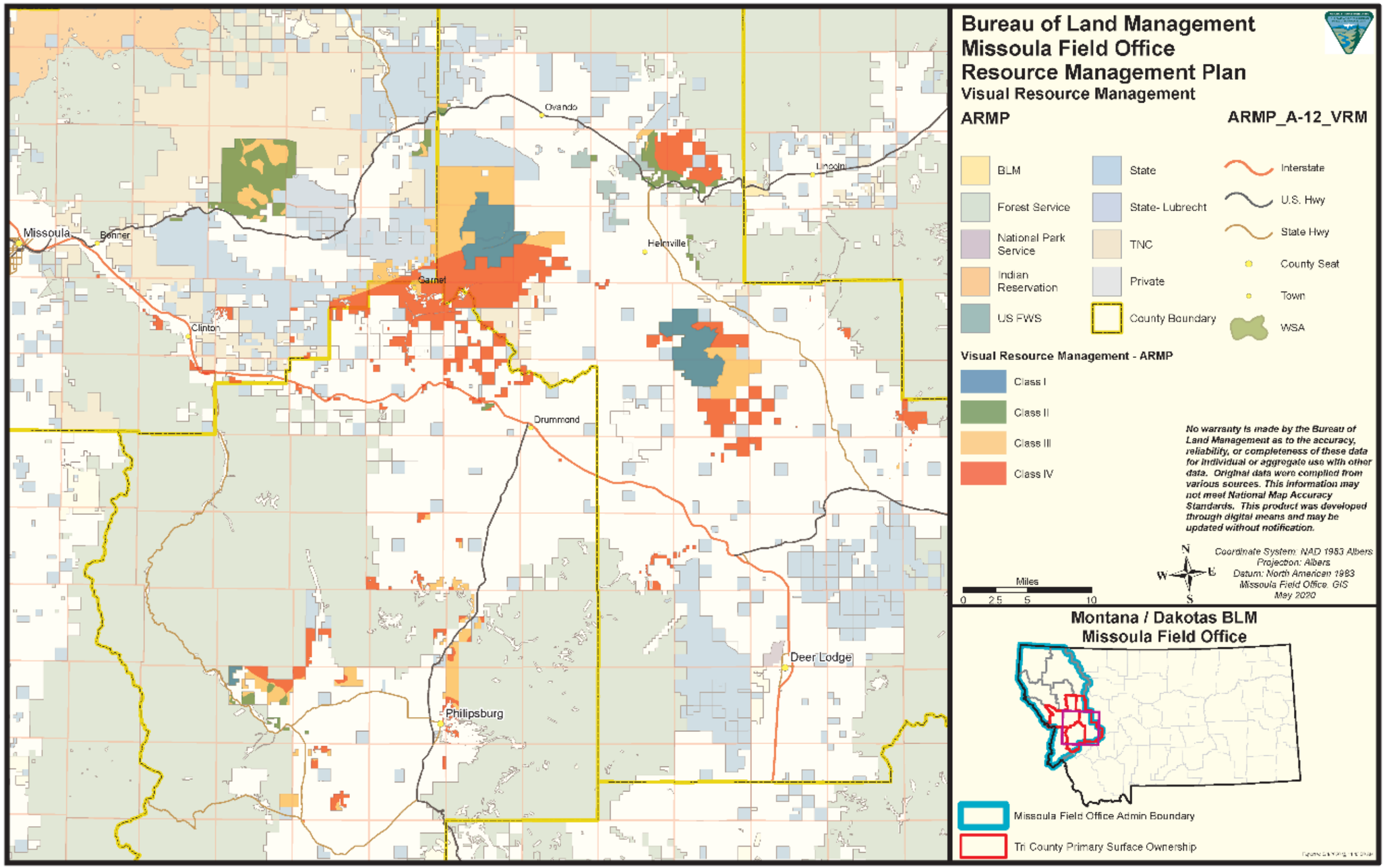
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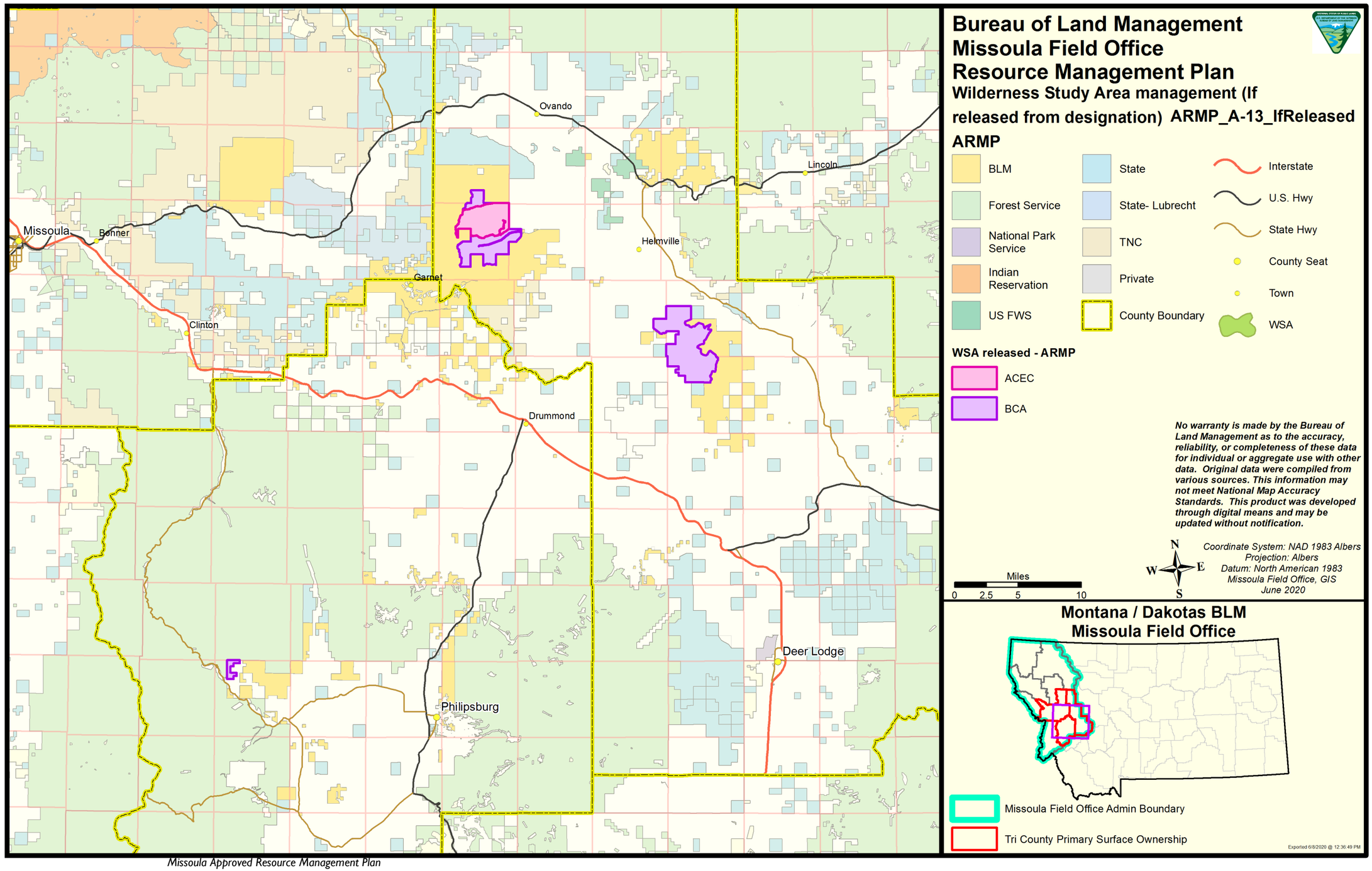
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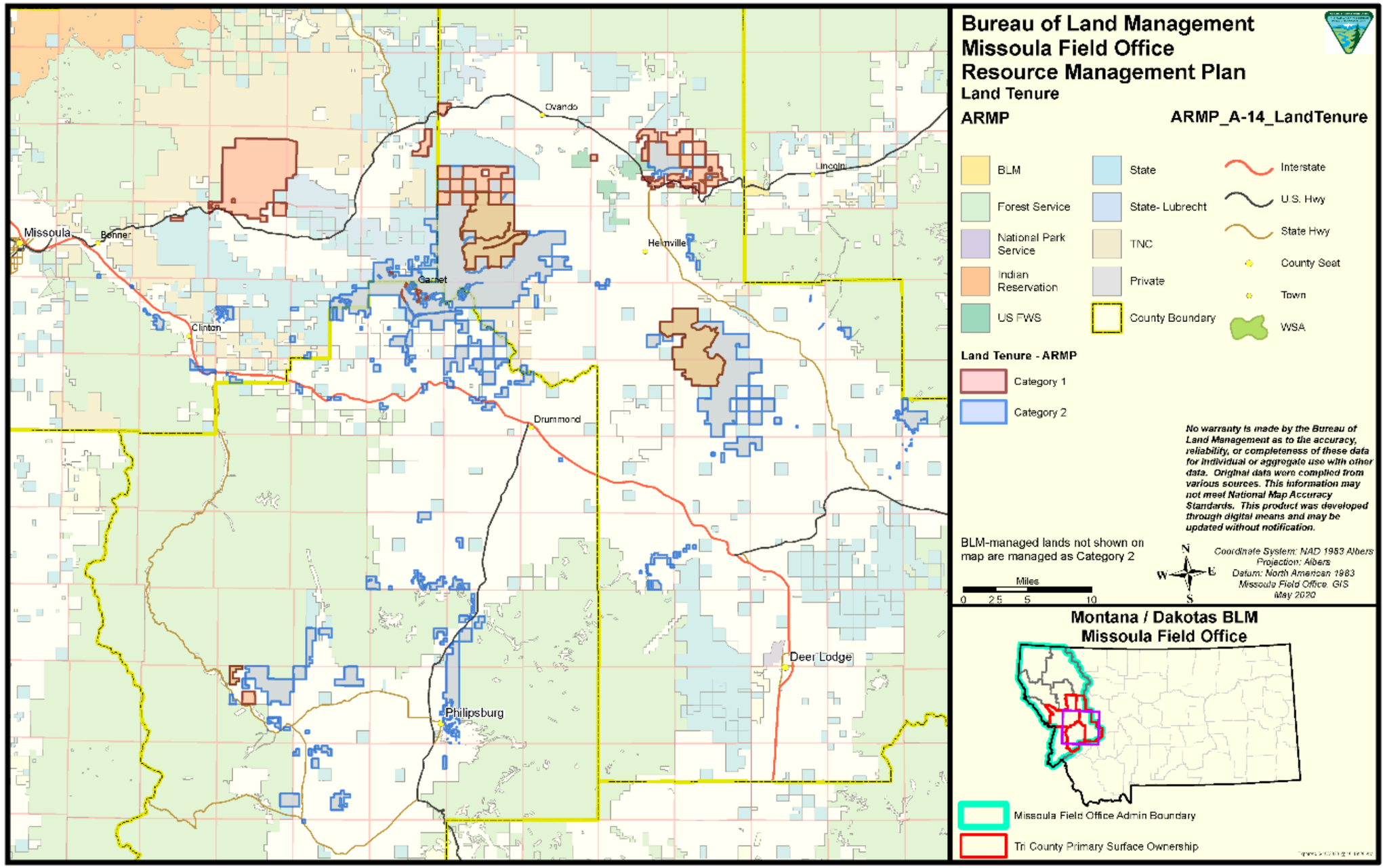
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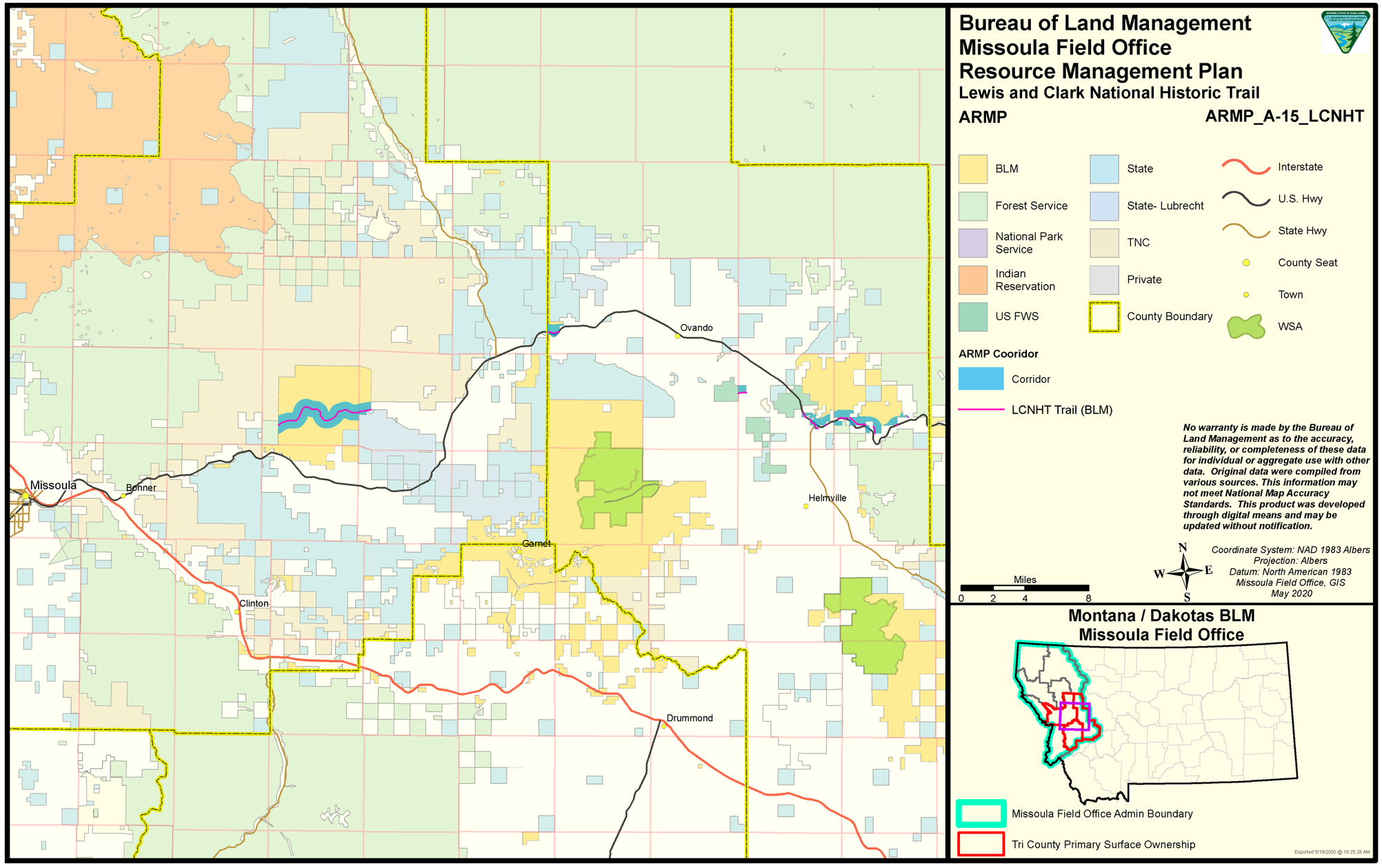
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APPENDIX L. APPROVED RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREAS

This appendix provides the supporting information, recreation character setting, and the management direction that would apply to Special Recreation Management Areas and Backcountry Conservation Areas.

Special Recreation Management Areas are an identified area of BLM land managed to provide entire recreation products (i.e., services, settings, and activity and outcome opportunities) in response to identifiable significant customer desires. Investments in facilities and/or visitor assistance are authorized within SRMAs. These areas place priority on the identified recreation values above other resource uses.

Backcountry Conservation Areas are defined as BLM-managed lands in a specific planning area which promote public access to support wildlife-dependent recreation and hunting opportunities and facilitate the long-term maintenance of big game wildlife populations. These areas are primarily contiguous and intact. Management of BCAs may include activities such as active forest and rangeland management, grazing, motorized access on designated routes and other areas for game retrieval, fluid and solids leasable minerals, and other actions consistent with the BLM's multiple use, sustained yield mission.

In considering what qualified as generally intact and undeveloped lands, the BLM considered the presence of large development features (livestock grazing infrastructure was not included in the criteria) and road density both total and open-motorized. The Total Road density is calculated by taking the total miles of known roads and dividing by the total miles within the specific area. Open Road density is calculated by taking the number of miles of open roads and dividing by the number of square miles within the area. For this analysis, "Open Road" is any road that is open during the Grizzly bear non-denning season; April 1 thru November 30th.

Allocation	**Approved RMP Recreation Areas**
SRMAs	4 SRMAs totally approximately 67,083 acres: 1) Blackfoot SRMA (19,543 acres) 2) Chamberlain SRMA (18,145 acres) 3) Garnet SRMA (28,183 acres) – includes Garnet Ghost Town RMZ and Garnet Winter Trails RMZ 4) Limestone Cliffs SRMA (50 acres)
BCAs	3 BCAs totally approximately 13,014 acres: 1) Hoodoos (6,100 acres) 2) Ram Mountain (4,559 acres) 3) Wales Creek (2,365 acres)

This section describes the supporting information, management direction for SRMAs and BCAs in the Approved RMP.

BLACKFOOT SRMA

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Blackfoot area contains outstanding opportunities for river related and land-based recreation as well as high scenic values. Over 40,000 visitors frequent this area to enjoy the camping, boating, rafting, kayaking, and other river-related opportunities in addition to the hunting, mountain biking, and hiking. Visitors can also experience the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in this area.

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC DESCRIPTIONS

The following physical, social, and operational recreation setting qualities will be maintained or enhanced:

Physical Components

- Remoteness: Backcountry, middle country, and front country
- Naturalness: Backcountry and middle country
- Facilities: Backcountry and rural

Social Components

- Contacts: Backcountry and front country
- Group size: Primitive, backcountry and middle country
- Evidence of use: Backcountry and middle country

Operational Components

- Access: Backcountry, middle country, and front country
- Visitor service: Backcountry and middle country
- Management controls: Front country

OBJECTIVE(S)

Objective Statement: Provide a wide array of outcome focused recreation opportunities for all skill levels and users while maintaining the scenic values. May include but not limited to rafting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, hunting, scenic driving, and snowmobiling.

Visitor's targeted: local and regional

Activities: Rafting, fishing, camping, hiking, biking, hunting, scenic driving, and snowmobiling.

Experiences: Developing skills and abilities, enjoying the closeness of friends and family, enjoying easy access to natural landscapes, enjoying access to close-to-home outdoor amenities

Benefits: Restore mind from unwanted stress, greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature's art and its elegance, a more outdoor oriented lifestyle, more positive contributions to local and regional economy.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND ALLOWABLE USES

Recreation and Visitor Services Program:

- Continue working with partners to manage recreation and to develop recreation opportunities; continue working with landowners in management of the River Recreation Corridor;
- Continue support of Block Management with MT FWP;
- Consider developing a Scenic Driving loop;
- Work with partners to develop a regional connecting trail or trails; work with partners to develop biking trails; Consider developing float in camp sites;
- SRPs: No outfitter and guide permits will be issued for hunting except in conjunction with adjoining Forest Service lands. Otherwise, issue special recreation permits, as appropriate and on a case by case basis, for commercial, competitive, and special events subject to guidelines in BLM Handbook 2930, resource capabilities, social conflict concerns, professional qualifications, public safety and public need. Water based SRPs continue working with MFWP to administer the SRP program including determining numbers and group sizes

Other Programs:

- VRM Class: Class II and III
- Lands and Realty: avoidance area, consider whether the function or suitability of the recreation experience and benefits will be impaired
- Minerals: Leasable – Open; Locatable – Open;
- Mineral Materials – Open, consider whether the function or suitability of the recreation experience and benefits will be impaired
- TTM: Limited Motorized
- Forestry – Utilize forest management practices including but not limited to commercial timber harvest, prescribed burning, pre-commercial thinning, and planting to accomplish SRMA goals and objectives related to vegetation management and to maintain the recreation setting characteristics. Determine timing restrictions as the project level if needed to accomplish SRMA goals and objectives.
- Grazing – To provide visitors with a quality recreation experience and for public safety, no grazing within the River Recreation Corridor.

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. •

- Continue existing supplementary rules and no jumping off of bridges;
- No collection of firewood for other than on site use with the River Recreation Corridor and only dead and down wood can be burned; In the River Recreation Corridor, no discharging of firearms or projectiles (except for legal game hunting purposes as established by MFWP) or engaging in other recreational shooting including, but not limited to, plinking, target shooting, or shooting varmints, etc.;
- Outside of the River Recreation Corridor, no firearm restrictions; Improve access to the river at the day use sites.
- *Administration*: Supported by MFWP, pursue partnerships to develop and maintain trails

- *Information and Education*: Post rules and regulations
- *Monitoring*: Supported by MFWP, local community, law enforcement, BLM law enforcement and staff
- *Camping Restrictions*: In the River Recreation Corridor camping in designated areas only – see Supplementary rules; outside of the River Recreation Corridor dispersed camping limits set by supplementary rules of the Montana/Dakotas State Office, Western District or local office
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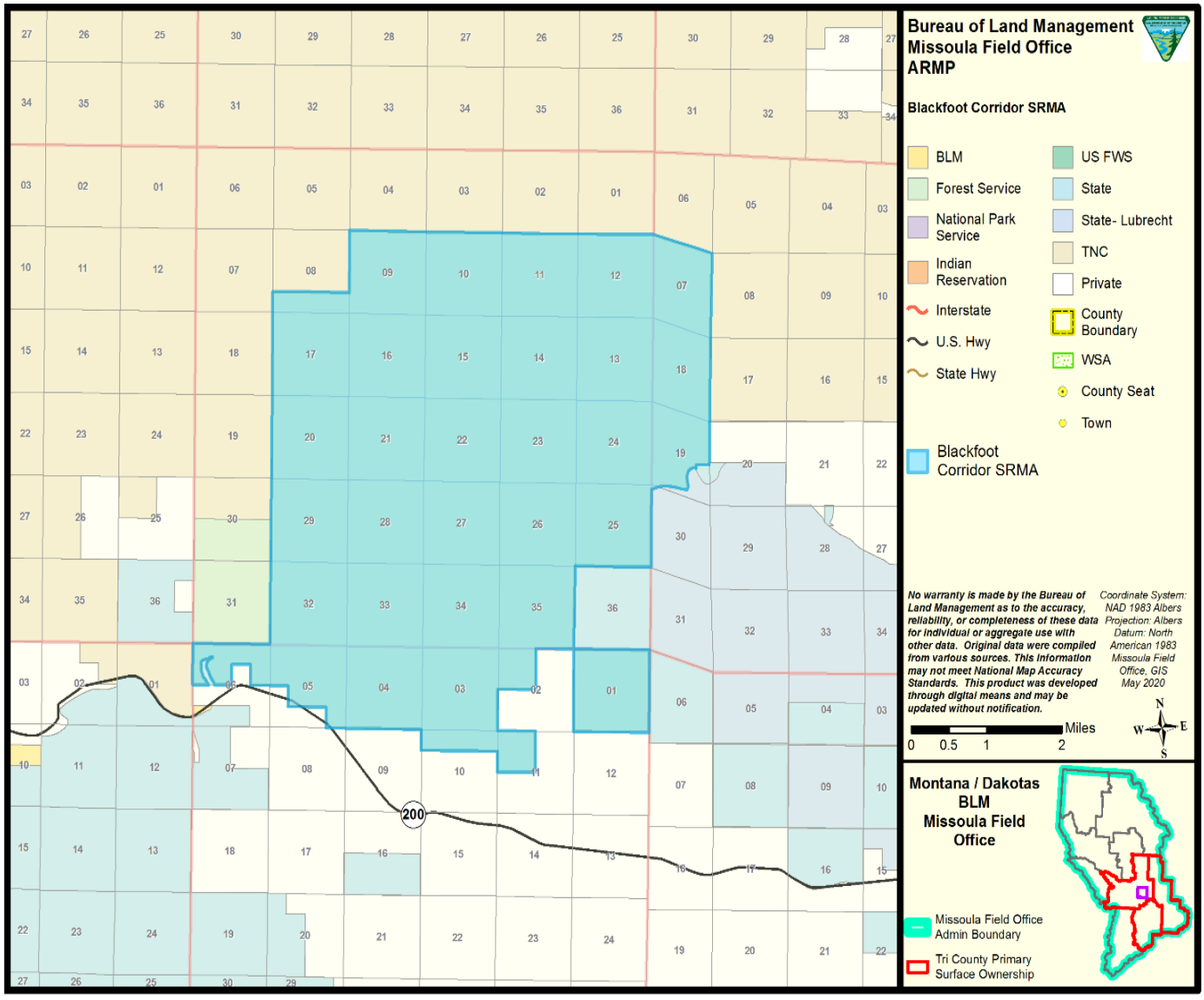


Chamberlain SRMA

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Chamberlain Area is part of the broader Blackfoot Block Management Area, which is a community based, multi-landowner, walk-in hunting area established in the 1970s. It provides a unique and quality hunting experience for multiple big game species. This area provides high quality opportunities for winter recreation including snowmobiling and backcountry cross-country skiing.

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC DESCRIPTIONS

The following physical, social, and operational recreation setting qualities will be maintained or enhanced:

Physical Components

- Remoteness: Backcountry and middle country
- Naturalness: Middle and front country
- Facilities: Primitive and backcountry

Social Components

- Social: Primitive and backcountry
- Group Size: Primitive and backcountry
- Evidence of use: Backcountry and middle country

Operational Components

- Access: Primitive and backcountry
- Visitor service: Primitive and backcountry
- Management controls: Backcountry and middle country

OBJECTIVE(S)

Objective Statement: Continue to offer a quality walk-in hunting experience for the public including the local community, continue working with MFWP and the landowners in support of this experience and allow for snowmobile riding.

Visitor's targeted: local and regional

Activities: Walk-in hunting, camping, wildlife viewing, snowmobile riding

Experiences: Developing skills and abilities, testing endurance, family/friend's togetherness, enjoying ability to frequently participate in desired activities in preferred settings, feeling good about the way our cultural heritage is being protected

Benefits: Greater self-reliance, improved outdoor skills, more outdoor oriented lifestyle, greater respect for private property and local lifestyles, greater community ownership and stewardship.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND ALLOWABLE USES

Recreation and Visitor Services Program:

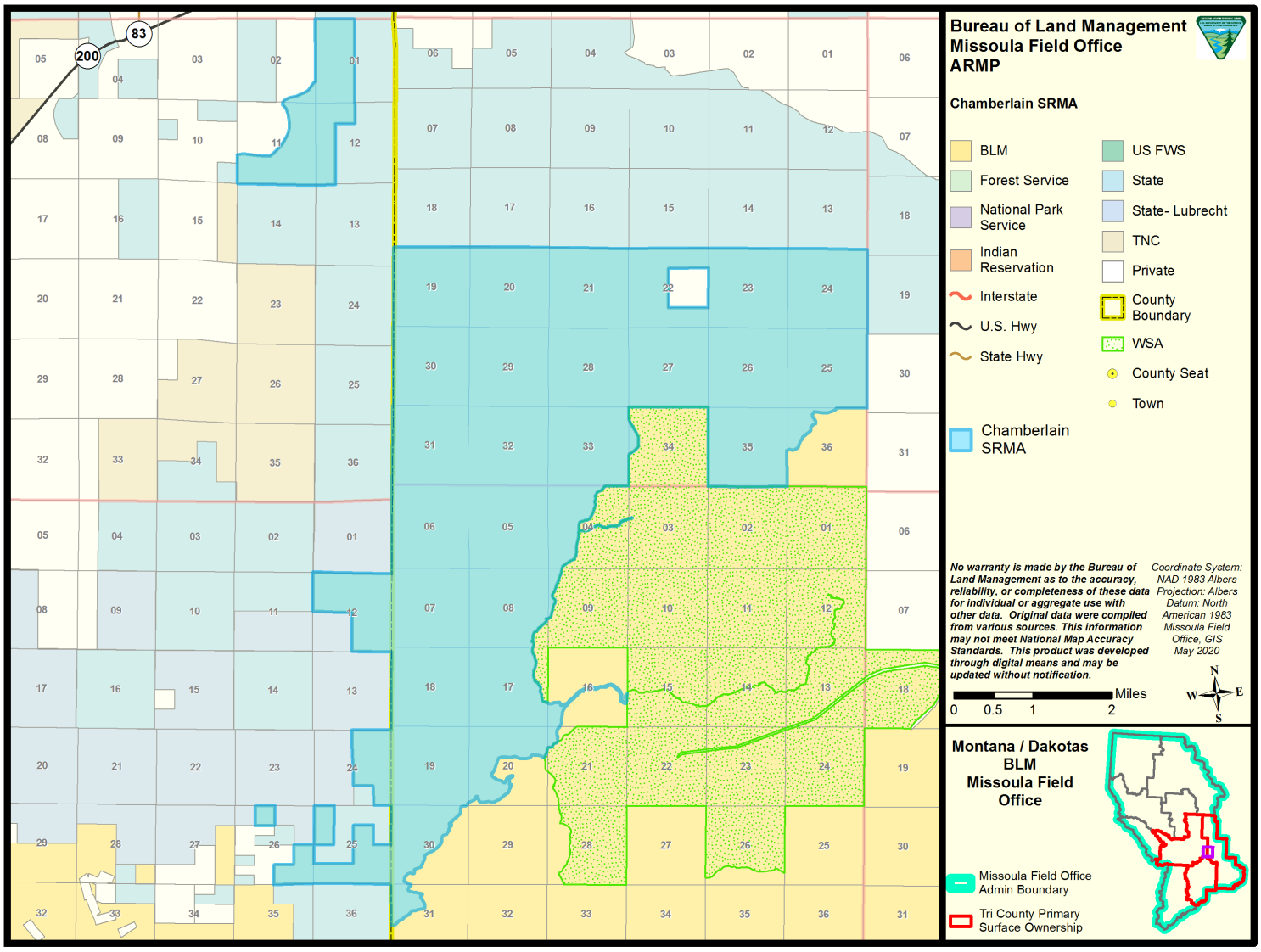
- Work with partners to manage for dispersed and unstructured recreation, continue use of snowmobile trails and possibly expand trail.
- SRPs: No outfitter and guide permits will be issued for hunting except in conjunction with adjoining Forest Service lands. Otherwise, issue special recreation permits, as appropriate and on a case by case basis, for commercial, competitive and special events subject to guidelines in BLM Handbook 2930, resource capabilities, social conflict concerns, professional qualifications, public safety and public need.

Other Programs:

- VRM Class II and III
- Lands and Realty: avoidance area, consider whether the function or suitability of the recreation experience and benefits will be impaired, reduce user conflicts. Retain public access.
- Minerals: Leasable – Open; Minerals: Locatable – Open; Mineral materials – Open
- TTM: Limited Motorized except Closed to Motorized on the DuPont property and Bear Creek Flats
- Forestry: Utilize forest management practices including but not limited to commercial timber harvest, prescribed burning, pre-commercial thinning, and planting to accomplish SRMA goals and objectives related to vegetation management and to maintain the recreation setting characteristics. Determine timing restrictions at the project level if needed to accomplish SRMA goals and objectives

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions.

- *Management:* Continue working with MFWP and landowners to support the Block Management area; manage for projects to maintain and improve big game habitat; restrict construction of new improved permanent roads within designated area
- Pursue opportunities to expand the snowmobile trail system
- Administration: continue existing partnership with MFWP to support hunting opportunities, manage issues with public safety and user conflicts
- *Information and Education:* continue existing partnership with MFWP to provide Block Management maps and other information
- *Monitoring*: supported by BLM law enforcement and field staff, in conjunction with collaborating partnerships and agencies
- *Camping Restrictions*: overnight use, limits set by supplemental rules of the Montana/Dakotas State Office, Western District or local office
    - DuPont Property – no overnight camping
    - Bear Creek Flats – See Supplementary Rule (Appendix O)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GARNET SRMA (2 RMZS)

GARNET GHOST TOWN RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Garnet Ghost Town is a historic (1860s – 1940s) mining town with over 25 historic buildings provides unique experience for visitors all over the world. Approximately 20,000 visitors frequent Garnet Ghost town every year to experience a glimpse of this historic experience.

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC DESCRIPTIONS

The following physical, social, and operational recreation setting qualities will be maintained or enhanced:

Physical Components

- Remoteness: Front Country and Rural
- Naturalness: Front Country
- Facilities: Front Country

Social Components

- Contacts: Front Country and Rural
- Group size: Backcountry and middle country
- Evidence of use: Front Country

Operational Components

- Access: Front country
- Visitor service: Rural
- Management controls: Front country and Rural

OBJECTIVE(S)

Objective Statement: Enable visitors to step back in time and learn about the history of the area and western Montana.

Visitor's targeted: local, regional, national and international

Activities: day use, guided and self-guided tours, interpretation and education, hiking, picnicking, viewing preservation of cultural resources, cabin rental in the winter only

Experiences: Learning more about a specific area, bringing back the past, feeling good about the way our cultural heritage is being protected, sharing our cultural heritage with people.

Benefits: Enhanced awareness and understanding of cultural resources, greater freedom from urban living, stronger ties with family and friends, more positive contributions to local-regional economy,

greater protection of area historic structures and archaeological sites, reduced looting/vandalism of historic sites.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND ALLOWABLE USES

Recreation and Visitor Services Program:

- Allow compatible uses that do not detract from the Garnet Experience; Continue working with Partners for recreation opportunities and historic preservation;
- Continue in cooperation with Garnet Preservation Association in implementing the Garnet Ghost Town Management Plan; Update Garnet Ghost Town Management Plan, as needed;
- SRPs: No outfitter and guide permits will be issued for hunting except in conjunction with adjoining Forest Service lands. Otherwise, issue special recreation permits, as appropriate and on a case by case basis, for commercial, competitive and special events subject to guidelines in BLM Handbook 2930, resource capabilities, social conflict concerns, professional qualifications, public safety and public need.

Other Programs:

- VRM Class: Class III
- Lands and Realty: avoidance area, consider whether the function or suitability of the recreation experience and benefits will be impaired; film permits for educational, interpretation only and consider whether the recreation experience and benefits will be impaired
- Minerals: Leasable- Closed, Locatable – recommend withdrawal, Mineral Materials - Closed
- TTM: Limited Motorized
- Forestry: Utilize forest management practices including but not limited to commercial timber harvest, prescribed burning, pre-commercial thinning, and planting to accomplish SRMA goals and objectives related to vegetation management and to maintain the recreation setting characteristics. Continue fuel reduction efforts.
- Grazing: To preserve the historic buildings and features and for public safety, no livestock grazing allowed.

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions.

- *Management*: No digging for, removing, destroying, damaging, or possessing artifacts, or other cultural resources, or using any device for detecting metal, except when allowed by permit; Firewood collection will not be authorized unless compatible with management goals; No discharging or using firearms, other weapons, or fireworks; No lighting or maintaining a fire except in designated areas or established by government fire rings; and animals must be on a leash not longer than 6 feet and secured to an object or under control of a person or is otherwise physically restricted at all times.
- *Administration*: Staffed by BLM Park Ranger, BLM seasonal employees, and volunteers. Continue working with partners.
- *Information and Education*: Posted signs, Guided tours, self-guided brochures, interpretive panels, Visitor Center
- *Monitoring*: BLM Law Enforcement, Recreation staff, seasonal employees, volunteers
- *Camping*: No camping ½ mile around Garnet – see Supplementary Rules

GARNET TRAILS RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ)

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

This area includes the National Winter Recreation Trail (32 miles) and the Backcountry Byway (12 miles). This trail system includes over 80 miles of snowmobile trails, 60 of which are groomed with help from partners, with a destination point of Garnet Ghost Town and two warming shelters.

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC DESCRIPTIONS

The following physical, social, and operational recreation setting qualities will be maintained or enhanced:

Physical Components

- Remoteness: Middle country
- Naturalness: Middle country
- Facilities: Middle country

Social Components

- Contacts: Primitive and backcountry
- Group size: Primitive and backcountry
- Evidence of use: Middle country

Operational Components

- Access: Middle country
- Visitor service: Backcountry
- Management controls: Middle country

OBJECTIVE(S)

Objective Statement:: Manage, maintain and expand the existing network of snowmobile trails (approximately 80 miles) in the Garnet Range, including the Garnet National Winter Recreation Trail (32 miles) and Garnet Winter Backcountry Byway (12 miles) to provide opportunities for visitors to get outdoors.

Visitor's targeted: local and regional

Activities: cross country skiing, dog sledding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing

Experiences: enjoying natural surroundings, scenery and solitude, reducing stress, enjoying the closeness of family/friends.

Benefits: Developing a closer relationship with the natural world, improving/maintaining health and fitness, reducing stress/tension/anxiety, stronger ties with family, recreation opportunities for family.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND ALLOWABLE USES

Recreation and Visitor Services Program:

- Maintain the existing network of snowmobile trails in the Garnet Range, including the Garnet National Winter Recreation Trail as described in the Garnet Range Winter Trails Management

Plan. Continue working with Partners to expand recreation opportunities, keep the existing trails and develop more trails. Pursue road/trail use agreements and/or easements;

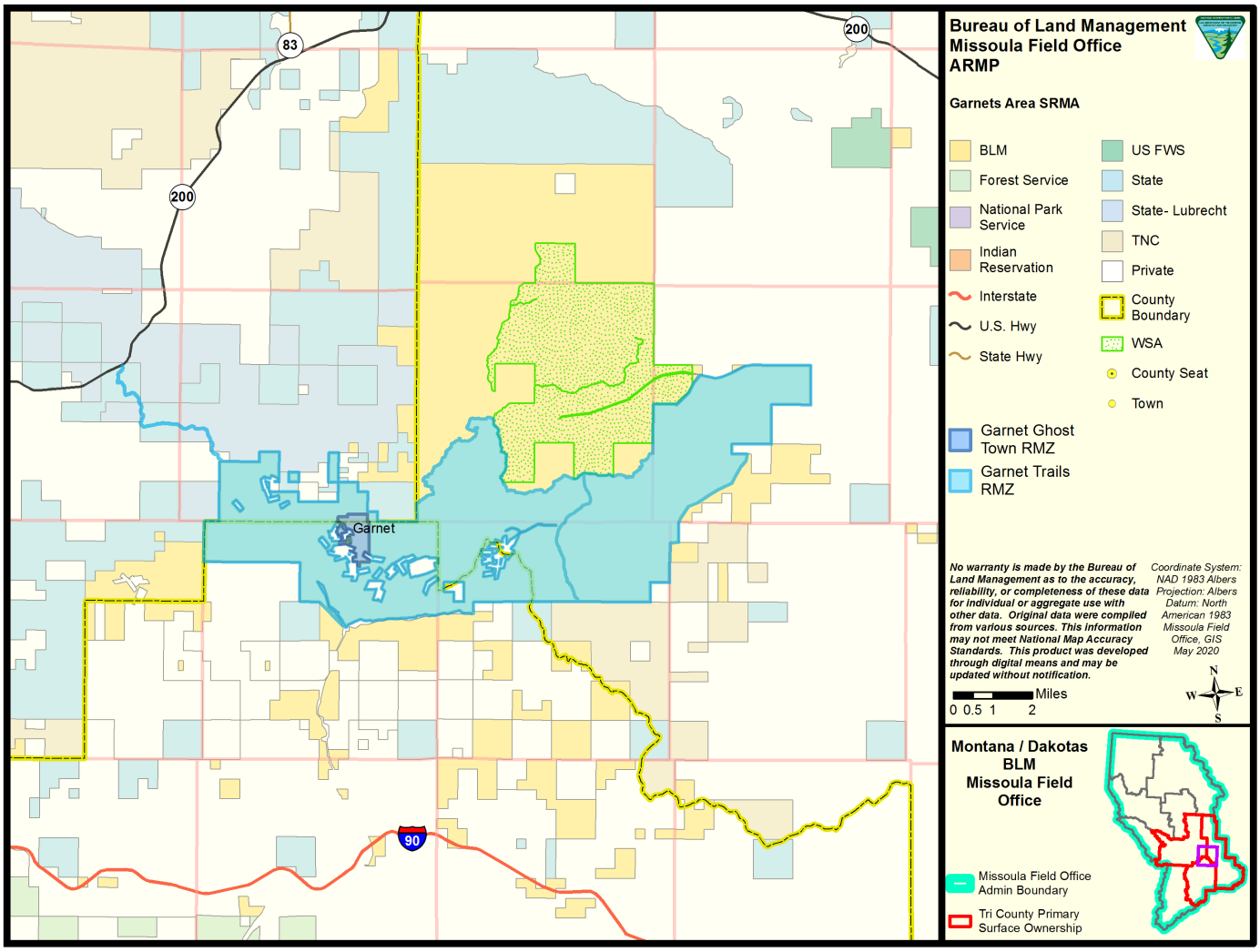
- SRPs: No outfitter and guide permits will be issued for hunting except in conjunction with adjoining Forest Service lands. Otherwise, issue special recreation permits, as appropriate and on a case by case basis, for commercial, competitive and special events subject to guidelines in BLM Handbook 2930, resource capabilities, social conflict concerns, professional qualifications, public safety and public need.

Other Programs:

- VRM Class: Class III and IV
- Lands and Realty: rights-of-way - consider whether compatible with the recreation experience and benefits. Pursue road/trail use agreements or/or easements
- Minerals: Leasable - open, Locatable – open, Mineral materials - open
- TTM: Limited Motorized to roads and trails, snowmobiles may be an exception
- Forestry: Utilize forest management practices including but not limited to commercial timber harvest, prescribed burning, pre-commercial thinning, and planting to accomplish SRMA goals and objectives related to vegetation management and to maintain the recreation setting characteristics.

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions.

- *Management*: Continue working with partners to groom trails, create maps and information about the trail system; Continue and possibly expand trail opportunities; maintain warming shelters; Winter cabin rental program at Garnet Ghost Town;
- *Administration*: Continue working with partners including supporting grant opportunities for trail grooming;
- *Information and Education*: Trail maps, trail markers
- *Monitoring*: Supported by BLM law enforcement and Recreation Staff
- *Camping*: dispersed camping limits set by supplemental rules of the Montana/Dakotas State Office, Western District or local office; cabins available for rent in Garnet from December through April.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Garnet Trails RMZ
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.
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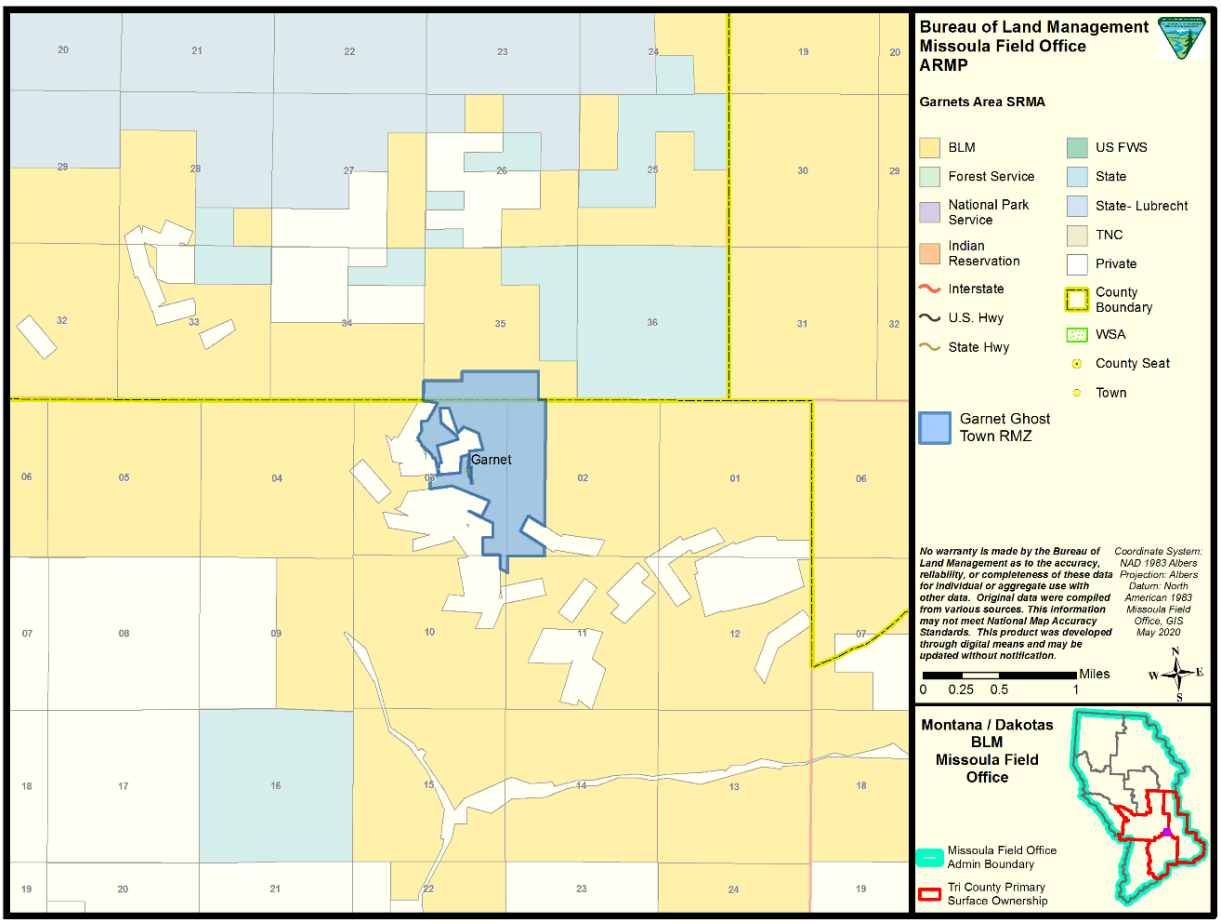
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Tri County Primary Surface Ownership

Garnet Limestone Cliffs SRMA

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

This area contains outstanding opportunities for rock climbing and associated partnerships interested in recreational climbing. This area also contains important education opportunities in partnership with universities and local schools for geological interpretation and education.

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC DESCRIPTIONS

The following physical, social, and operational recreation setting qualities will be maintained or enhanced:

Physical Components

- Remoteness: Front country
- Naturalness: Middle country
- Facilities: Backcountry

Social Components

- Contacts: Primitive to backcountry
- Group size: Primitive
- Evidence of use: Backcountry and middle country

Operational Components

- Access: Front country
- Visitor service: Backcountry and middle country
- Management controls: Front country

OBJECTIVE(S)

Objective Statement:

- Provide rock climbing opportunities while maintaining the educational and interpretive value of the cliffs.
- Provide educational opportunities and scientific interpretation for the Limestone Cliffs area.

Visitor's targeted: local and regional

Activities: Rock climbing, Geology education and interpretation

Experiences: Developing skills and abilities, experiencing a sense of greater independence, enjoying needed physical exercise. Enhance understanding of geology, and further skills in mapping and scientific interpretation.

Benefits: Greater self-reliance, improved outdoor recreation skills, a more outdoor-oriented lifestyle, improve physical fitness, health maintenance.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND ALLOWABLE USES

Recreation and Visitor Services Program:

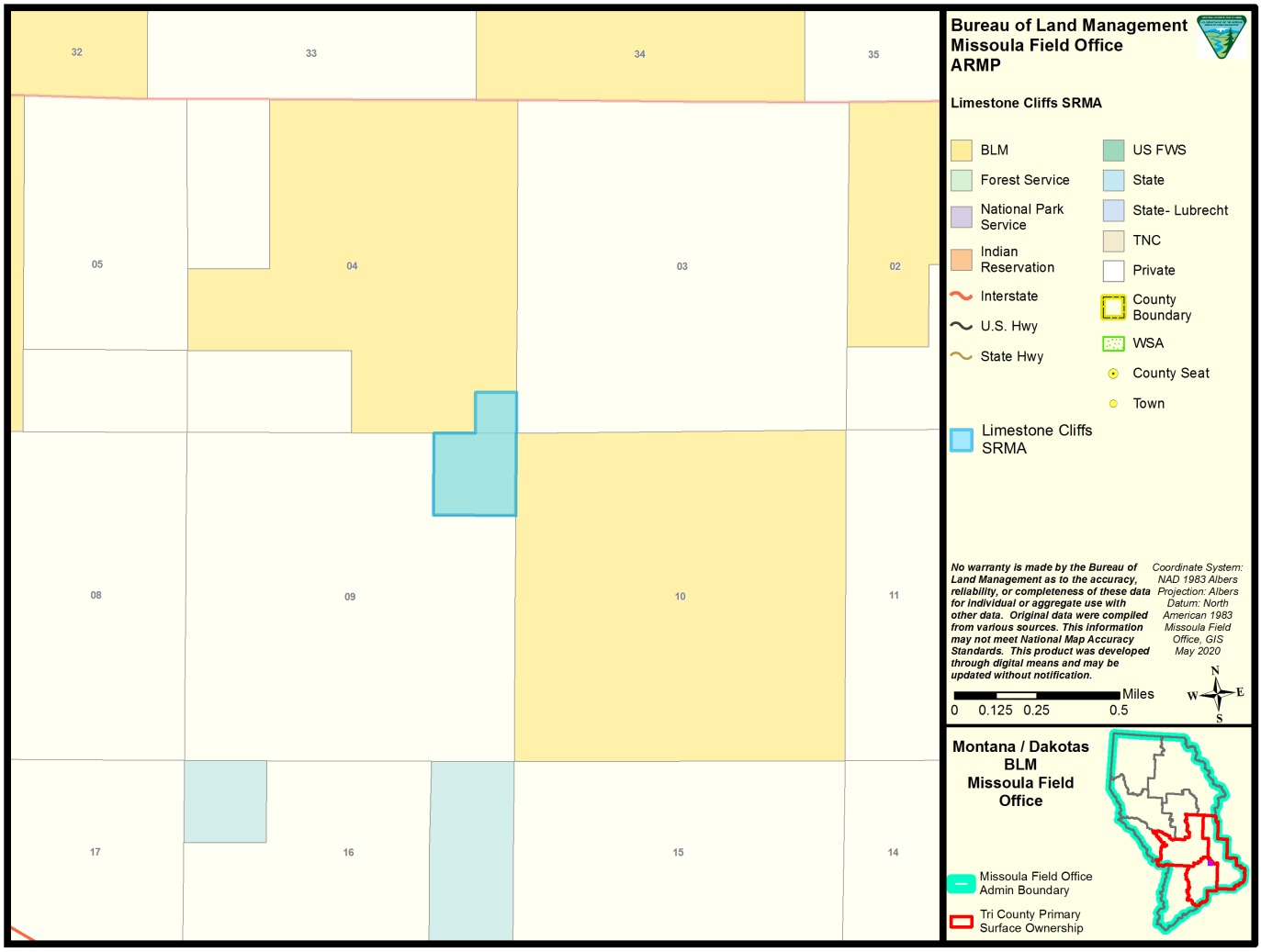
- Work with partners to manage access trails and climbing routes;
- Provide opportunities for universities, local schools, and other groups for education and scientific interpretation;
- SRPs: No outfitter and guide permits will be issued for hunting except in conjunction with adjoining Forest Service lands. Otherwise, issue special recreation permits, as appropriate and on a case by case basis, for commercial, competitive and special events subject to guidelines in BLM Handbook 2930, resource capabilities, social conflict concerns, professional qualifications, public safety and public need.

Other Programs:

- VRM Class: Class III
- Lands and Realty: avoidance area
- Minerals: Leasable - close 50 acres, Locatable – continue existing withdrawal of 20 acres; Mineral materials - close 50 acres;
- TTM: Limited Motorized to roads and trails
- Forestry: Utilize forest management practices including but not limited to commercial timber harvest, prescribed burning, pre-commercial thinning, and planting to accomplish SRMA goals and objectives related to vegetation management and to maintain the recreation setting characteristics.

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions.

- *Management*:
    - Supplementary rules – Within the SRMA boundary you must not: Install new, permanent climbing hardware for new or existing routes unless approved by the authorized officer; Discharge a firearm or projectile (except for legal game hunting purposes as established by the Montana Fish and Wildlife and Parks) or engage in other recreational shooting including but not limited to plinking, target shooting, or shooting varmints etc.; and bring an animal into such an area unless the animal is on a leash not longer than 6 feet and secured to an object or under control of a person or is otherwise physically restricted at all times.
- *Administration*: Pursue partnerships to develop and maintain trails to climbing areas
- *Information and Education*: Provide information about climbing ethics including staying away from raptors and raptor nesting
- *Monitoring*: Supported by BLM law enforcement, field staff and partners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Limestone Cliffs SRMA
BLM
Forest Service
National Park Service
Indian Reservation
Interstate
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Limestone Cliffs SRMA
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State- Lubrecht
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Missoula Field Office
Missoula Field Office Admin Boundary
Tri County Primary Surface Ownership

HOODOOS BCA

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Habitat and high-quality recreation: This area contains high quality habitat for elk, moose, and black bear. This area provides walk-in hunting opportunities since the 1970's and in the 1986 Garnet RMP for elk and moose. This area is adjacent BLM Hoodoos WSA and State lands.

Generally, in-tact and undeveloped:

Total Road Density	Open motorized road density	Major develop
1.24	0.47	None

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC DESCRIPTIONS

The following physical, social, and operational recreation setting qualities will be maintained or enhanced:

Physical Components

- Remoteness: Backcountry and middle country
- Naturalness: Middle country
- Facilities: Backcountry

Social Components

- Contacts: Primitive and backcountry
- Group size: Primitive and backcountry
- Evidence of use: Primitive and backcountry

Operational Components

- Access: Primitive, backcountry and middle country
- Visitor service: Primitive
- Management controls: Middle country

OBJECTIVE(S)

Objective Statement: Provide dispersed wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities including but not limited to hunting, camping, wildlife viewing, and hiking. Conserve, restore and enhance habitat for recreationally important wildlife species.

Visitor's targeted: local and regional

Activities: Hunting, camping, wildlife viewing, and other wildlife dependent recreation

Experiences: Developing skills and abilities, testing endurance, family/friends togetherness, enjoying ability to frequently participate in desired activities in preferred settings, feeling good about the way our cultural heritage is being protected; enjoying being outdoors in nature interacting with wildlife.

Benefits: Greater self-reliance, improved outdoor skills, more outdoor oriented lifestyle, greater respect for private property and local lifestyles, greater community ownership and stewardship, greater respect for wildlife.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND ALLOWABLE USES

Recreation and Visitor Services Program:

- Continue working with MFWP to provide hunting opportunities;
- SRPs: No outfitter and guide permits will be issued for hunting except in conjunction with adjoining Forest Service lands. Otherwise, issue special recreation permits, as appropriate and on a case by case basis, for commercial, competitive and special events subject to guidelines in BLM Handbook 2930, resource capabilities, social conflict concerns, professional qualifications, public safety and public need.

Other Programs:

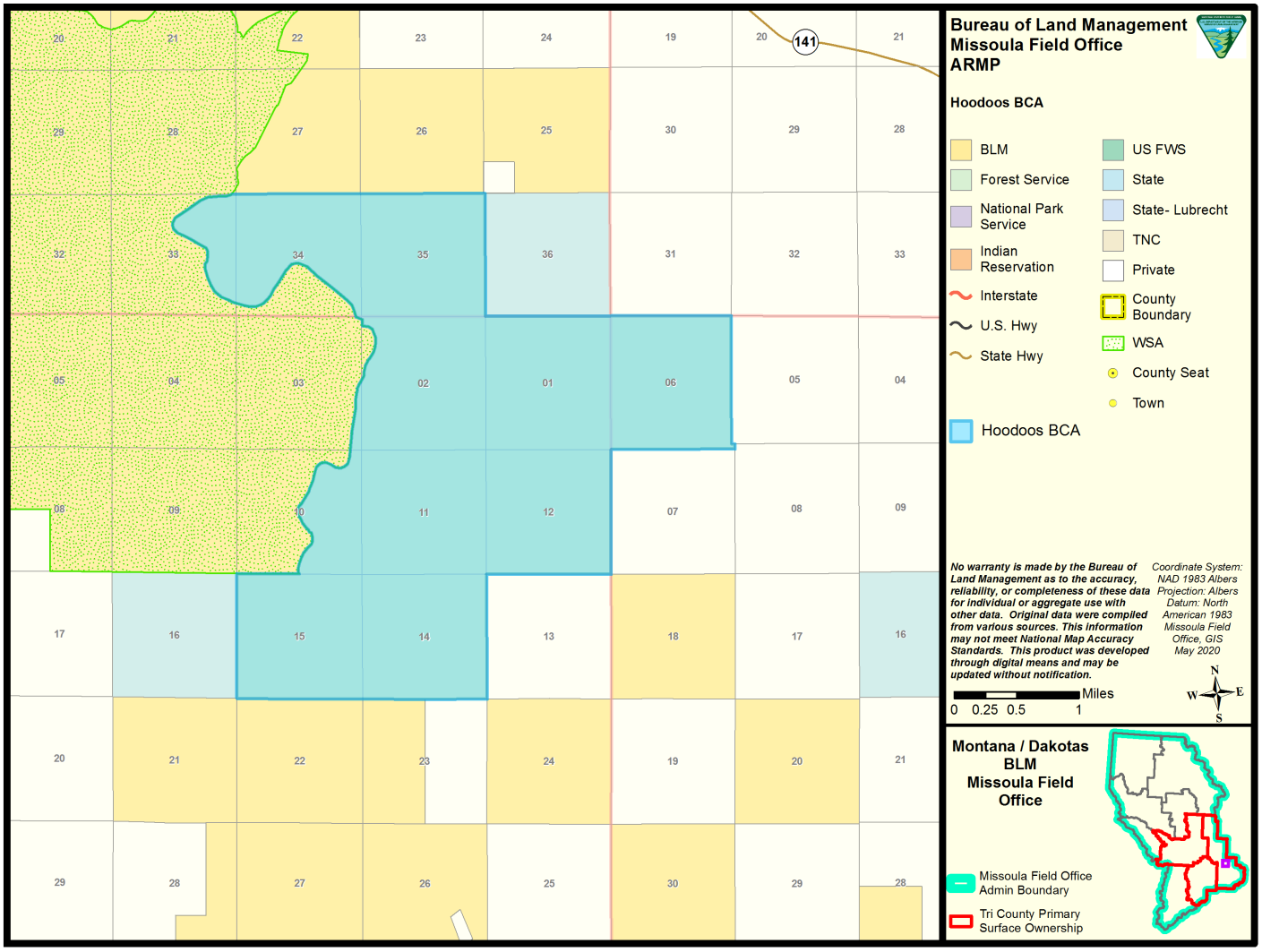
- VRM Class: Class III
- Lands and Realty: avoidance area, consider whether the function or suitability of the wildlife dependent recreation experience will be impaired. Retain public access. And see Implementation Decisions – Management below.
- Minerals:
    - Leasable Materials – case by case basis if compatible with BCA objectives
    - Locatable - Open, determine timing restrictions and mitigation measures to reduce user conflicts
    - Mineral Materials – case by case basis if compatible with BCA objectives
- TTM: Limited Motorized to roads and trails
- Forestry: Utilize forest management practices including but not limited to commercial timber harvest, prescribed burning, pre-commercial thinning, and planting to accomplish BCA goals and objectives related to vegetation management and to maintain the recreation setting characteristics. Wildlife habitat objectives will be included in forest management planning and determined at the project level.
- Wildland Fire – Minimum impact suppression tactics would be use for wildland fire management. However, the use of heavy equipment would be allowed on a case-by-case basis.
- Grazing: allow for grazing management practices and maintenance of improvements

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions.

- *Management*: Evaluate road system to determine access needs, pursue easements to ensure access, evaluate north eastern portion of BCA for developing additional motorized access during hunting season, manage for projects to maintain and improve big game habitat, manage for projects to restore riparian and stream functions, minimize construction of new permanent roads, utilize forest management to create or maintain a mosaic of differing successional

pathways across the landscape consistent with natural disturbance regimes that shift over space and time to create and maintain wildlife habitat, hunting and fishing opportunities.

- *Administration*: continue existing partnership with MFWP to support hunting opportunities, manage issues with public safety and user conflicts.
- *Monitoring*: supported by BLM field staff, in conjunction with collaborating partnerships and agencies.
- *Camping*: overnight use, limits set by supplemental rules of the Montana/Dakotas State Office, Western District or local office.



RAM MOUNTAIN BCA

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Habitat and high-quality recreation: This area contains high quality habitat for bighorn sheep including lambing areas and habitat, and elk winter range. This area provides walk-in hunting for primarily elk and bighorn sheep.

Generally, in-tact and undeveloped:

Total Road Density	Open motorized road density	Major develop
2.59	0.51	Minor ROWs

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC DESCRIPTIONS

The following physical, social, and operational recreation setting qualities will be maintained or enhanced:

Physical Components

- Remoteness: Backcountry and middle country
- Naturalness: Middle country
- Facilities: Primitive and backcountry

Social Components

- Contacts: Primitive and backcountry
- Group size: Primitive and backcountry
- Evidence of use: Primitive and backcountry

Operational Components

- Access: Primitive and backcountry
- Visitor service: Primitive
- Management controls: Backcountry

OBJECTIVE(S)

Objective Statement: Provide dispersed walk-in recreational opportunities including but not limited to hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking adjacent to USFS roadless area. Conserve, maintain, restore and enhance high quality habitat for recreationally dependent fish and wildlife species.

Visitor's targeted: local and regional

Activities: Hunting, fishing, camping, wildlife viewing, hiking, horseback riding

Experiences: Developing skills and abilities, testing endurance, family/friends togetherness, enjoying ability to frequently participate in desired activities in preferred settings, feeling good about the way our cultural heritage is being protected, enjoying being outdoors in nature interacting with wildlife.

Benefits: Greater self-reliance, improved outdoor skills, more outdoor oriented lifestyle, greater respect for private property and local lifestyles, greater community ownership and stewardship, greater respect for wildlife.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND ALLOWABLE USES

Recreation and Visitor Services Program:

- Manage for dispersed recreation
- Continue working with MFWP to provide hunting opportunities;
- SRPs: No outfitter and guide permits will be issued for hunting except in conjunction with adjoining Forest Service lands. Otherwise, issue special recreation permits, as appropriate and on a case by case basis, for commercial, competitive and special events subject to guidelines in BLM Handbook 2930, resource capabilities, social conflict concerns, professional qualifications, public safety and public need.

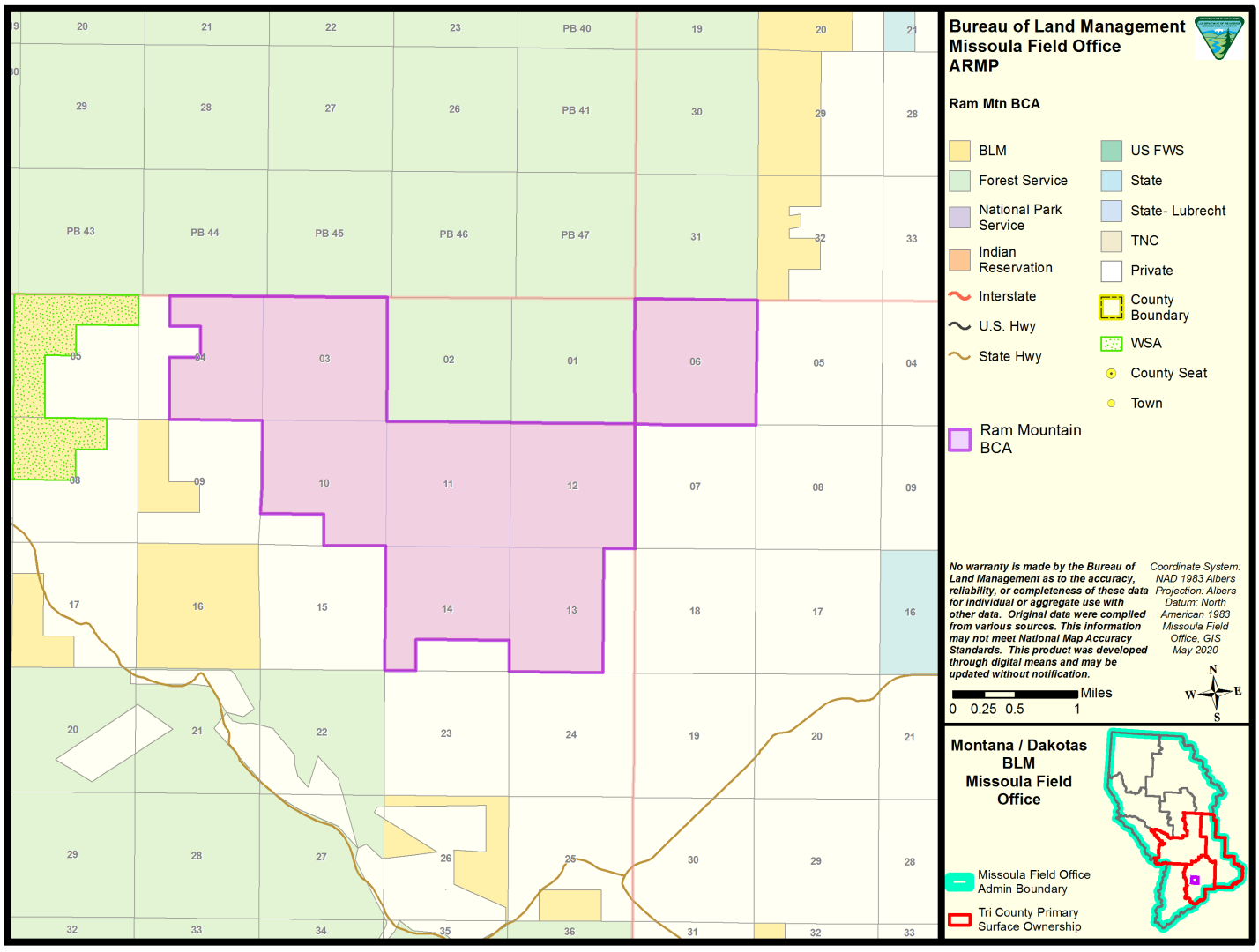
Other Programs:

- VRM Class: Class II, III and IV
- Lands and Realty: avoidance area, consider whether the function or suitability of the wildlife-dependent recreation experience and benefits will be impaired. Retain public access.
- Minerals:
    - Leasable Materials – Open, determine timing restrictions and mitigation measures to reduce user conflicts
    - Locatable - Open, determine timing restrictions and mitigation measures to reduce user conflicts
    - Mineral Materials – case by case basis if compatible with BCA objectives
- TTM: Limited Motorized to roads and trails in some areas and closed to motorized vehicles in others.
- Forestry: Utilize forest management practices including but not limited to commercial timber harvest, prescribed burning, pre-commercial thinning, and planting to accomplish BCA goals and objectives related to vegetation management and to maintain the recreation setting characteristics. Wildlife habitat objectives will be included in forest management planning and determined at the project level.
- Grazing: allow for grazing management practices and maintenance of improvements

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions.

- *Management*: Manage primarily for non-motorized activities, manage for projects to maintain and improve big game habitat, manage for projects to restore riparian and stream functions, minimize construction of new permanent roads, utilize forest management to create or maintain a mosaic of differing successional pathways across the landscape consistent with natural disturbance regimes that shift over space and time to create and maintain wildlife habitat, hunting and fishing opportunities.

- *Administration*: manage issues with public safety and user conflicts.
- *Information and Education:* Post signs
- *Monitoring*: supported by BLM field staff and BLM law enforcement
- *Camping*: overnight use, limits set by supplemental rules of the Montana/Dakotas State Office, Western District or local office.



WALES CREEK BCA

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Habitat and high-quality recreation: This area contains high quality habitat for multiple big game species including elk, moose, black bear & mountain lion. This area is mostly unroaded tracts of land adjacent to the Wales Creek WSA. This area provides walk-in hunting opportunities for multiple big-game species.

Generally, in-tact and undeveloped:

Total Road Density	Open motorized road density	Major develop
1.21	0.44	Minor ROWs

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC DESCRIPTIONS

The following physical, social, and operational recreation setting qualities will be maintained or enhanced:

Physical Components

- Remoteness: Backcountry and middle country
- Naturalness: Backcountry, middle country and front country
- Facilities: Backcountry

Social Components

- Contacts: Primitive and backcountry
- Group size: Primitive and backcountry
- Evidence of use: Backcountry to middle country

Operational Components

- Access: Primitive, backcountry and middle country
- Visitor service: Primitive to backcountry
- Management controls: Backcountry to middle country

OBJECTIVE(S)

Objective Statement: Provide dispersed wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities including but not limited to hunting, camping, wildlife viewing and hiking. Conserve, maintain, restore and enhance high quality habitat for recreationally dependent fish and wildlife species.

Visitor's targeted: local and regional

Activities: Hunting, fishing, camping, wildlife viewing, hiking, horseback riding

Experiences: Developing skills and abilities, testing endurance, family/friends togetherness, enjoying ability to frequently participate in desired activities in preferred settings, feeling good about the way our cultural heritage is being protected, enjoying being outdoors in nature interacting with wildlife.

Benefits: Greater self-reliance, improved outdoor skills, more outdoor oriented lifestyle, greater community ownership and stewardship, greater respect for wildlife.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND ALLOWABLE USES

Recreation and Visitor Services Program:

- Manage for dispersed recreation including but not limited to hunting, wildlife viewing
- SRPs: No outfitter and guide permits will be issued for hunting except in conjunction with adjoining Forest Service lands. Otherwise, issue special recreation permits, as appropriate and on a case by case basis, for commercial, competitive and special events subject to guidelines in BLM Handbook 2930, resource capabilities, social conflict concerns, professional qualifications, public safety and public need.

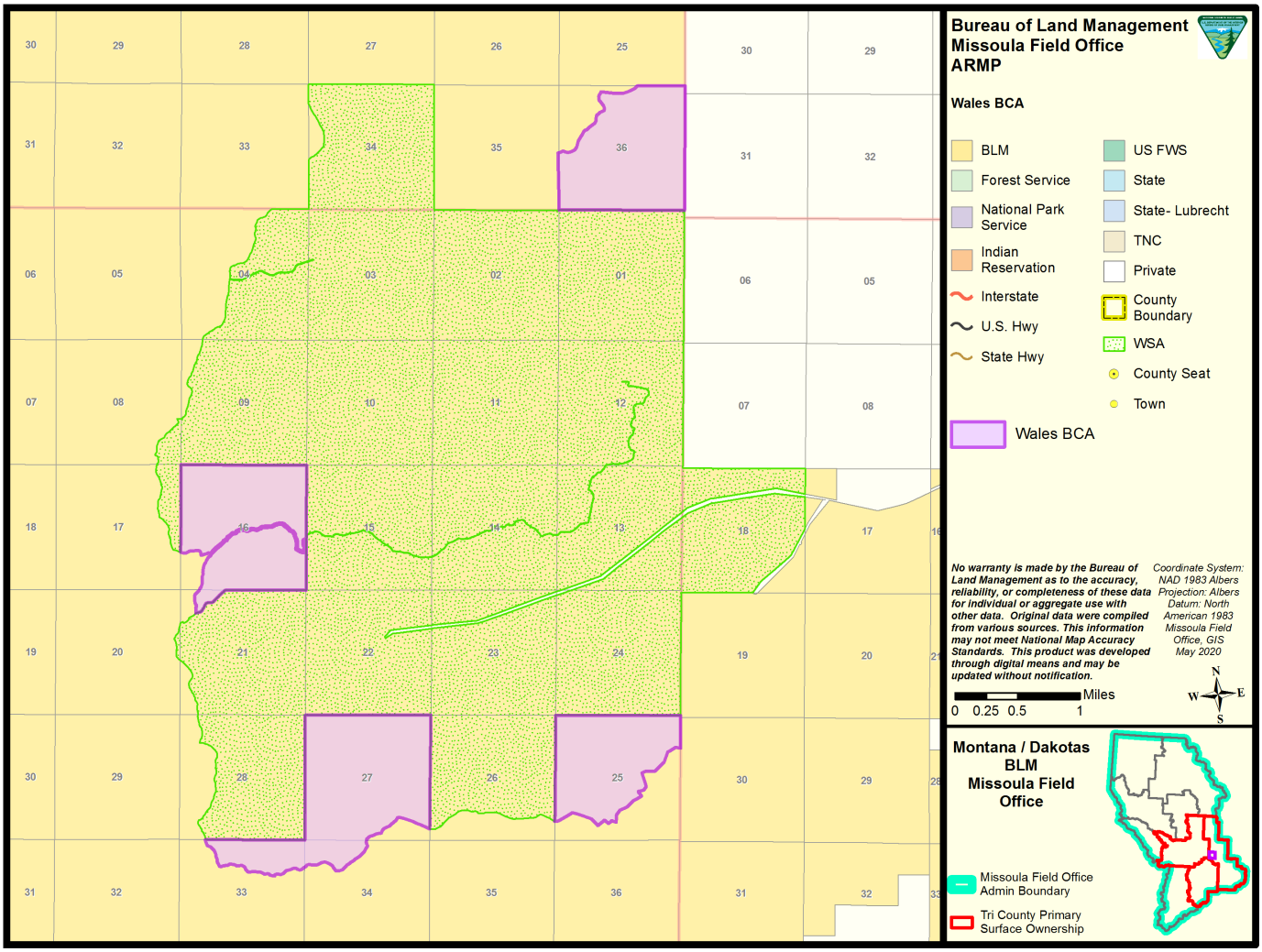
Other Programs:

- VRM Class: Class II, III and IV
- Lands and Realty: avoidance area, consider whether the function or suitability of the wildlife-dependent recreation experience and benefits will be impaired. Retain public access.
- Minerals:
    - Leasable Materials – Open, determine timing restrictions and mitigation measures to reduce user conflicts
    - Locatable - Open, determine timing restrictions and mitigation measures to reduce user conflicts
    - Mineral Materials – case by case basis if compatible with BCA objectives
- TTM: Limited Motorized to roads and trails
- Forestry: Utilize forest management practices including but not limited to commercial timber harvest, prescribed burning, pre-commercial thinning, and planting to accomplish BCA goals and objectives related to vegetation management and to maintain the recreation setting characteristics. Wildlife habitat objectives will be included in forest management planning and determined at the project level.
- Wildland Fire – Minimum impact suppression tactics would be use for wildland fire management. The use of heavy equipment would not be allowed unless approved by a line officer.
- Grazing: allow for grazing management practices and maintenance of improvements

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions.

- *Management*: Manage for projects to maintain and improve big game habitat, manage for projects to restore riparian and stream functions, minimize construction of new permanent roads, utilize forest management to create or maintain a mosaic of differing successional pathways across the landscape consistent with natural disturbance regimes that shift over space and time to create and maintain wildlife habitat, hunting and fishing opportunities.
- *Administration*: manage issues with public safety and user conflicts.

- *Information and Education:* Post signs
- *Monitoring*: supported by BLM field staff and BLM law enforcement
- *Camping*: overnight use, limits set by supplemental rules of the Montana/Dakotas State Office, Western District or local office.



APPENDIX O. SUPPLEMENTAL RULES

Appendix O of the Proposed RMP/FEIS contains the summary, authority, process, public process, and the rule creation. These are located: https://go.usa.gov/xmyyG This appendix includes the Supplemental Rules also included in the Proposed RMP/FEIS.

The following constitute the supplementary rules, closures, and restriction orders and special rules to be enacted concurrently with the ROD/Approved RMP. For clarity and ease of understanding, the rules are broken down into subsections by geographic area. Definitions used throughout the rules are provided first.

DEFINITIONS

a) Public lands mean any lands owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management without regard to how the United States acquired ownership. This includes paved or unpaved parking lot or other paved or unpaved area where vehicles are parked or areas where the public may drive a motorized vehicle, paved or unpaved roads, roads, routes, or trails.
b) Firearms means any weapon capable of firing a projectile, including but not limited to a rifle, shotgun, handgun, BB-gun, pellet gun, or paintball gun.
c) Airsoft and Paintball activities mean any recreational activity that involves the use of replica firearms to fire non-lethal, plastic or form pellets, or paint-laden capsule, through the use of compressed gas or electric and/or spring driven pistons. Activities may include shooting targets or games/combat situations involving multiple people

PROHIBITED ACTS ON ALL BLM-ADMINISTERED LANDS IN THE PLANNING AREA

On all public lands, you must not:

a) Burn treated lumber and woody materials containing hardware (nails and screws) on public lands unless approved by the authorized officer.
b) Use Airsoft and paintball across any designated route of travel or across any body of water, including flowing rivers and streams, lakes, and ponds; Use Airsoft and paintball within 150 yards of any man-made object, structure, camp, or dwelling, unless such structure is specifically designed and permitted for use in those activities; Use anything other than Biodegradable ammunition; leave materials associated with air-soft and paintball after completion of the activities.
c) Establish, erect, or define a memorial site on public lands without prior written authorization from the BLM. Memorial sites include the erection of religious symbols, creation of shrines, the placement of placards or other items identifying persons, events, animals, or other things that may be memorialized.
d) Leave personal property unattended without prior authorization for 72 hours or longer. At that time, it is deemed abandoned and can be duly removed and disposed of by the United States Government, the Bureau of Land Management, or any person acting on its behalf.

SEASONAL CLOSURE AT SPERRY GRADE AREA

In union with the rules Montana Fish and Wildlife and Parks in which have been established for the Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range, the public lands in T. 15 N., R. 13 W., P.M.M., sec. 30, lots 1 to 6, inclusive, N½NE¼, NE¼NW¼, E½SW¼, N½SE¼, SE¼SE¼, SW¼SE¼, Less that portion conveyed in 56 Deeds, at page 448: Less SE¼NE¼(Lot 7) and NE¼SE¼ conveyed in 57 Deeds at page 404: and less that portion conveyed in 81 Deeds, at page 79 (COS No. 331), P.M.M.,

A) Are closed to all public use from November 11 to May 14.

PROHIBITED ACTS WITHIN THE DUPONT ACQUIRED LANDS

On public lands in Government Lots 3 and 4, S ½ NW ¼ of Section 1, Township 14 North, Range 14 West, P.M.M., of Missoula County, Montana and Tract A of Certificate of Survey No. 3396 located in the SW ¼ of Section 1, Township 14 North, Range 14 West, P.M.M., you must not:

a) Camp within the described area.
b) Light or maintain a warming fire or campfire.
c) Operate a motor vehicle within the described area unless for administrative purposes.
d) Collect firewood except for predetermined authorized use established by the authorizing officer.
e) Discharge a firearm or projectile (except for legal game hunting purposes as established by the Montana Fish and Wildlife and Parks) or engage in other recreational shooting including but not limited to plinking, target shooting, or shooting varmints etc.

PROHIBITED ACTS WITHIN BEAR CREEK FLATS

On public lands in Sec 1, 2 and 11 T. 14N., R.14W., P.M.M., that are within one-quarter mile on the south side of the Blackfoot River, you must not:

a) Camp outside of designated sites or areas.
b) Light or maintain a fire except in designated areas or established by government fire rings.
c) Collection of firewood except for other than onsite use. You may only burn dead and down wood.
d) Discharge a firearm or projectile (except for legal game hunting purposes as established by the Montana Fish and Wildlife and Parks) or engage in other recreational shooting including but not limited to plinking, target shooting, or shooting varmints etc.
e) Violate a posted regulation pertaining to the protection of natural resources or public safety

PROHIBITED ACTS WITHIN GARNET GHOST TOWN

On public lands in Secs. 2 and 3 of T. 12 N., R. 14W., P.M.M., within one-half of a mile of the town site, you must not:

a) Dig for, remove, destroy, damage, disturb, or possess artifacts, or other cultural resources, or use any device for detecting metal, except when allowed by permit.
b) Camp unless permitted by an authorized officer.
c) Discharge of firearms, other weapons and fireworks.
d) Bring an animal into such an area unless the animal is on a leash not longer than 6 feet and secured to an object or under control of a person or is otherwise physically restricted at all times.

e) Light or maintain a fire except in designated areas or established by government fire rings
f) Smoke in the buildings

PROHIBITED ACTS WITHIN BLACKFOOT RIVER RECREATION CORRIDOR

On public lands in Secs. 18 and 19 of T. 14N., R. 15W., Secs. 4, 5 and 6 of T. 13N., R. 16W., and Secs. 13 and 14, 20 to 29, inclusive, 32 and 33 of T. 14N., R.16W., P.M.M, that are within one-quarter mile on either side of the Blackfoot River or McNamara Road, or both, you must not:

a) Occupy Daigles Eddy Day Use Site from the hours of 10:00 pm to 5:00 am
b) Occupy Sheep Flats Day Use Site from the hours of 10:00 pm to 5:00 am
c) Occupy Thibodeau Rapids Day Use Site from the hours of 10:00 pm to 5:00 am
d) Occupy Whitaker Bridge Day Use Site from the hours of 10:00 pm to 5:00 am
e) Occupy Red Rock Day Use Site from the hours of 10:00 pm to 5:00 am
f) Occupy Belmont Day Use Site from the hours of 10:00 pm to 5:00 am
g) Occupy River Bend Day Use Site from the hours of 10:00 pm to 5:00 am
h) Jump from any bridge over the Blackfoot River

PROHIBITED ACTS WITHIN LIMESTONE CLIFFS AREA

On public lands in Sec. 9 of T. 11N., R. 13W., P.M.M. within the Limestone Cliffs area, you must not:

a) Install new, permanent climbing hardware for new or existing routes unless approved by the authorized officer.
b) Discharge a firearm or projectile (except for legal game hunting purposes as established by the Montana Fish and Wildlife and Parks) or engage in other recreational shooting including but not limited to plinking, target shooting, or shooting varmints etc.
c) Bring an animal into such an area unless the animal is on a leash not longer than 6 feet and secured to an object or under control of a person or is otherwise physically restricted at all times.

PENALTIES

Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C., 1733(a), if you violate or fail to comply with these supplementary rules, you may be subjected to imprisonment for not more than 12 months, or a fine in accordance with 18 U.S.C. 3571, other penalties in accordance with 43 U.S.C., 1733, or both.

APPENDIX P. PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

INTRODUCTION

The following Design Features and Conservation Actions are a compilation of design features, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and/or operating procedures used by the BLM to meet statutory requirements for environmental protection and comply with resource specific Goals and Objectives set forward in this land use plan. The BLM will apply design features, mitigation measures, and conservation actions to modify the operations of authorized lands uses or activities to meet these obligations.

These measures and actions will be applied to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, and compensate for impacts if an evaluation of the authorization area indicates the presence of resources of concern which include, but are not limited to air, water, soils, cultural resources, national historic trails, recreation values and important wildlife habitat in order to reduce impacts associated with authorized land uses or activities such as road, pipeline, or powerline construction, mineral development, range improvements, and recreational activities. The mitigation measures and conservation actions for authorizations will be identified as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, through interdisciplinary analysis involving resource specialists, project proponents, government entities, landowners or other Surface Management Agencies. Those measures selected for implementation will be identified in the Record of Decision (ROD) or Decision Record (DR) for those authorizations and will inform a potential lessee, permittee, or operator of the requirements that must be met when using BLM-administered public lands and minerals to mitigate impacts from those authorizations. Because these actions create a clear obligation for the BLM to ensure any proposed mitigation action adopted in the environmental review process is performed, there is assurance that mitigation will lead to a reduction of environmental impacts in the implementation stage and include binding mechanisms for enforcement (CEQ Memorandum for Heads of Federal Departments and Agencies 2011).

Because of site-specific circumstances and localized resource conditions, some mitigation measures and conservation actions may not apply to some or all activities (e.g., a resource or conflict is not present on a given site) and/or may require slight variations from what is described in this appendix. The BLM may add additional measures as deemed necessary through the environmental analysis and as developed through coordination with other federal, state, and local regulatory and resource agencies. Application of mitigation measures and conservation actions is subject to valid existing rights, technical and economic feasibility.

Implementation and effectiveness of design features and conservation actions would be monitored to determine whether the practices are achieving resource objectives and accomplishing desired goals. Timely adjustments would be made as necessary to meet the resource goals and objectives.

The list included in this appendix is not limiting but references the most frequently used sources. The BLM may add additional site-specific restrictions as deemed necessary by further environmental analysis and as developed through coordination with other federal, state, and local regulatory and resource agencies. Because mitigation measures and conservation actions change or are modified, based on new information, the guidelines will be updated periodically. As new publications are developed; the BLM may consider those BMPs. In addition, many BLM handbooks (such as BLM Manual 9113-Roads and 9213-Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operation) also contain BMP-type measures for minimizing impacts. These BLM-specific guidance and direction documents are not referenced in this appendix. The EIS for this RMP does not decide or dictate the exact wording or inclusion of these mitigation measures and conservation actions. Rather, they are used in the RMP and EIS process as a

tool to help demonstrate at the land use plan scale how they will be applied in considering subsequent activity plans and site-specific authorizations. These mitigation measures and conservation actions and their wording are matters of policy. As such, specific wording is subject to change, primarily through administrative review, not through the RMP and EIS process. Any further changes that may be made in the continuing refinement of these mitigation measures and conservation actions and any development of program-specific standard procedures will be handled in another forum, including appropriate public involvement and input.

Table I: Implementation level design features

Resource	Design Features	Objective
Source Water Protection	DF-1. For any surface-disturbing activities located in State-designated source water protection areas, the BLM will complete a Source Water Protection Plan.	To protect human health by minimizing the potential contamination of public water systems. Source water is untreated water from streams, rivers, lakes, or aquifers used to supply public water systems. Ensuring that source water is protected from contamination can reduce the costs of treatment and risks to public health. This practice would protect the State designated source water protection areas that protect public water systems from potential contamination.
WSAs	DF-2. Avoid using retardant in WSAs, protected lands with wilderness characteristics, Exemptions will require line officer approval.	To avoid impacts to wilderness values from wildfire suppression impacts
Historic Sites	DF-3. The use of heavy equipment for wildland fire management would not be allowed in historic properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places unless approved by line officer due to extraordinary circumstances (e.g. wildfire imminent in Garnet Ghost Town or Coloma). DF-4. Select fire suppression methods to minimize or eliminate the impact on historical site values.	To protect historic properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places from wildfire suppression impacts.
ACECs	DF-5. Avoid using retardant in ACECs. Exemptions will require line officer approval. DF-6. Select fire suppression methods to minimize or eliminate the impact on ACEC values.	To protect relevant and important values of the ACECs.
Forest Products	DF-7. Timber salvage project areas would have some areas that are left untreated as retention patches to maintain wildlife habitat.	To provide important habitat components and features for wildlife.

	Only standing dead and dying trees would be allowed to be taken as firewood unless live trees cutting area are designated. The BLM could designate specific areas for firewood cutting of live trees to meet resource objectives or BLM authorized uses such as leases and right-of-way. DF-8. To protect snag habitat for wildlife, dead trees greater than 24 inches d.b.h. would not be permitted to be cut for firewood unless they are within two tree lengths of an open road. An exception to this is if there is a high density of dead trees creating a public safety hazard and the needs for snag dependent wildlife habitat have been met, dead trees greater than 24 inches d.b.h can be harvested.	
Special Status Species, Aquatics	DF-9. Management actions within Riparian Conservation Areas will not retard or prevent the attainment of Riparian Management Objectives DF-10. Fish key watersheds receive restoration priority	To ensure healthy aquatic and riparian habitats are maintained in and along streams with the potential for native fish reintroductions and restoration.
Special Status Species, Aquatics & Riparian - Grazing	DF-11. Design livestock grazing management (allotments, animal unit months (AUMs), suspension, etc.) to minimize negative impacts to and retain resiliency of riparian vegetation and aquatic habitat (GM-1) DF-12. Develop and implement grazing practices to avoid or restrict trampling of developing young (eggs or individuals) in areas of known or suspected aquatic special status species breeding habitat. (GM-1) DF-13. Locate livestock handling and/or management facilities (corrals, etc.) outside of RCAs if they are preventing the attainment of RMOs (GM-2)	To ensure healthy aquatic and riparian habitats are maintained in and along streams with the potential for native fish reintroductions and restoration
Special Status Species, Aquatics & Riparian - Minerals	DF-14. Management actions within Riparian Conservation Areas will not retard or prevent the attainment of Riparian Management Objectives DF-15. Avoid locating mineral project-related infrastructure within the RCAs Where no	To ensure healthy aquatic and riparian habitats are maintained in and along streams with the potential for native fish reintroductions and restoration.

	alternative to placing facilities in RCAs exists, locate and construct facilities in ways that avoid impacts to RCAs and streams and adverse effects on native fish and sensitive aquatic species. Where no alternative to road construction exists, keep roads to the minimum necessary for the approved mineral activity. Close, revegetate, and obliterate any roads within the RCAs that are no longer required for mineral or land management activities. (MM-1, MM-2) DF-16. Solid and sanitary waste facilities in RCAs are prohibited. If no alternative to locating mine waste (waste rock, spent ore, tailings) facilities in RCAs exists, prevent releases, and ensure stability, then apply BMPs and project design features, and make adjustments based on site-specific information and riparian management objectives. (MM-3) DF-17. Maintain, protect, and rehabilitate aquatic habitat affected by mineral activity within an RCA. Final reclamation will meet the objectives of the RCA. If the proposed activity and reclamation cannot meet the RMOs of the RCA, BLM Missoula Field Office will not recommend the project. (MM-1)	
Special Status Species, Aquatics & Riparian – Recreation	DF-18. Design, construct, and operate recreation facilities, including trails and dispersed sites, in a manner that does not retard or prevent attainment of the desired RMOs and avoids adverse effects on aquatic special status species. (RM-1, RM-2) DF-19. Avoid placing new facilities or infrastructure within an RCA to extent practicable. Where new facilities must occur in an RCA (e.g., road stream crossings, boat ramps, docks, trails), complete watershed or site-specific analysis so as to assure location does not retard or prevent attainment of RMOs. (RM-1)	To protect riparian conservation areas and riparian management objectives. And to ensure healthy aquatic and riparian habitats are maintained in and along streams with the potential for native fish reintroductions and restoration.
Special Status Species, Aquatics & Riparian – Roads	DF-20. Provide and maintain fish passage at new, replacement, and reconstructed road crossings of existing and potential fish-bearing streams, unless barriers are determined beneficial for native fish and/or sensitive aquatic species conservation.	To protect riparian conservation areas and riparian management objectives. And to ensure healthy aquatic and riparian habitats are maintained in and along streams with the

	DF-21. Avoid locating new roads or road-related facilities in RCAs. Exceptions may be granted upon watershed or site-specific analysis focused on how road design features would minimize or avoid adverse effects to aquatic and riparian resources at site-specific, reach, and watershed scales. (RF-2a, b, c) DF-22. Avoid side-casting of road surface material into areas where it may reach RHCAs.	potential for native fish reintroductions and restoration.
Special Status Species, Aquatics & Riparian – Fire	DF-23. Apply silvicultural practices in RHCAs to acquire desired vegetation characteristics where needed to attain RMOs. Apply practices in a way that does not retard attainment of RMOs and avoids adverse effects to native fish. (TM-1b) DF-24. Design prescribed burns to contribute to the attainment of RMOs. (FM-4) DF-24. \Avoid placing wildland fire operations within the RHCAs to the extent practicable. Exceptions may be granted following a review and recommendation by a resource advisor, and the line officer will prescribe the location, use conditions, and rehabilitation requirements with avoidance of adverse effects to native fish and sensitive aquatic species as a primary goal. (FM-1, FM-2) DF-25. Avoid delivery of chemical retardant, foam, or additives to surface waters. If an exception is granted by resource advisor or fishery biologist or a misapplication occurs, monitor water quality and aquatic resources as soon as possible. (FM-3) DF-26. Immediately establish an emergency or BAER team and develop a rehabilitation treatment plan to attain RMOs whenever RHCAs have been significantly damaged by a wildfire. (FM-5)	To protect riparian conservation areas and riparian management objectives. And to ensure healthy aquatic and riparian habitats are maintained in and along streams with the potential for native fish reintroductions and restoration.
Terrestrial wildlife: Big Game, Sensitive species	DF-27. Retain snags at a level appropriate for multiple species and create large-diameter snags for cavity nesters, if feasible. DF-28. Identify maintenance or replacement of features that maintain continuous representation of mature forest components.	To improve wildlife habitat and specific habitat components for priority wildlife habitat (big game, T&E species, Bureau sensitive species, raptors)

	Examples of features that should be retained include dead trees (snags), downed wood (coarse woody debris), and diverse stand structures located across landscapes that shift in location over time. DF-29. Scatter fine materials not utilized (seedlings, saplings, tops, branches, cull logs, and some down woody material) on the forest floor where and when it would not contribute to fire hazard in order to maintain nutrient cycling, provide for wildlife features, and discourage cross-country motorized travel. DF-30. Whenever possible, plant openings larger than 20 acres in size resulting from forest treatment or large-scale events in forested habitats when natural regeneration does not become established to desired levels within 15 years or cannot be reasonably expected in 15 years. DF-31. Design treatments to maintain wildlife corridors within home ranges, between seasonal home ranges, and for dispersal. Wildlife travel corridors typically follow ridges, saddles, and riparian corridors.	
Migratory Birds	DF-32. If migratory birds are present, implement project design features to avoid or minimize impacts from ground disturbing activities.	To avoid or minimize impacts to migratory bird nesting.
Soils – all programs	DF-33. Implement these measures at project-level planning and through stipulations in leases, permits, and other authorizations. DF-34. Revegetate disturbed soils to stabilize and reduce the introduction or spread of invasive or noxious weed species. DF-35. Provide for conservation and protection of soil and vegetation during periods of drought. DF-36. Consider the intensity of the disturbance for activities proposed on unstable slopes or soils. DF-37. Evaluate hazard and risk and apply special BMPs or design features to avoid or lessen hazard and risk.	To minimize and reduce potential soil erosion, and to provide for soil stability.

	DF-38. Apply seasonal or other criteria-based restrictions on activities authorized by BLM in areas with higher soil compaction or erosion hazards. DF-39. Manage activities and uses to maintain normal surface infiltration, with normal ranges of organic matter and water-holding capacity based on site-specific conditions and capability. DF-40. Manage BLM resource activities and uses to minimize soil erosion, mass wasting, and compaction from multiple-use management activities. DF-41. For general planning purposes, use riparian-wetland inventories and mapping products. DF-42. For project-level planning: Identify potentially affected riparian-wetland areas. Develop riparian management objectives for desired riparian, stream channel, and habitat characteristics. Define RCAs wherein riparian-dependent species receive primary emphasis, and maintenance and/or enhancement of riparian values will be emphasized as per 43 CFR 4180.	
Visual Resources – Forest Management	DF-43. Design forest management activities in undeveloped and developed recreation areas to maintain or improve visual qualities. DF-44. Disposal of thinning and timber harvest slash will be required in accordance with scenic quality and recreation opportunities.	To maintain or reduce impacts from forest management to visual resources and recreation experience.

GENERAL MITIGATION MEASURES AND CONSERVATION ACTIONS

AIR RESOURCE BMPS

Developed by: Bureau of Land Management

Publication reference: BLM/WO

Updated May 9, 2011

Available from: Online at:
http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/oil_and_gas/best_management_practices/technical_information.html

Description: Identifies a range of typical Best Management Practices for protecting air resources during oil and gas development and production operations. Missoula Resource Management Plan FEIS P-7

- See WLF

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL BMPS

Field Manual
Developed by: Prepared for the Montana Department of Transportation

Publication reference: FHWA/MT-030003/8165

Available from: National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA 21161

Description: The Erosion and Sediment Control Best Management Practices Construction Field Manual was developed to assist in design, construction, and post-construction phases of MDT projects. This manual provides background to concepts of Erosion and Sediment Control. Most of MDTs Best Management Practices are listed within the manual based on application categories. Each BMP is described; its applications and limitations are listed, as well as its design criteria. Construction phase and post-construction phase BMPs are described. This manual is a field guide and condensed version of the Erosion and Sediment Control Design Construction Best Management Practices Manual. For more detailed discussion on topic found within, refer to the Erosion and Sediment Control Construction Best Management Practices Manual.

Reference Manual
Developed by: Prepared for the Montana Department of Transportation

Publication reference: FHWA/MT-030003/8165 Available from: National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA 21161

Description: The Erosion and Sediment Control Construction Best Management Practices Manual was developed to assist in the design, construction, and post-construction phases of Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) projects. This manual provides background to State and Federal regulations associated with erosion and sediment control practices including a general overview of the erosion and sediment processes. Best management practices are listed within the manual based on application categories. Each BMP is described; its applications and limitations are listed, as well as its design criteria. The design phase includes development of construction plans, notice of intent (NOI), and stormwater

pollution prevention plan (SWPPP). Construction phase includes the finalization of the SWPPP, NOI, and the implementation of BMPs. Post-construction phase includes monitoring, maintenance, and removal activities.

MONTANA GUIDE TO THE STREAMSIDE MANAGEMENT ZONE LAW

Developed by: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Service Forestry Bureau, in cooperation with Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Montana Logging Association, Montana Wood Products Association, Plum Creek Timber LP, USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management

Publication reference: Revised November 2006 Available from: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, 2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula MT 59801-3199, (406)542-4300, or local MT DNRC field office.

Description: The Montana Guide to the Streamside Management Zone Law is a field guide to compliance with State of Montana Law 77-5-301[1] MCA.) Complementary BMPs are found in the Water Quality BMPs for Montana Forests (also referenced in this appendix). Provides definitions, stream classifications, and guidelines on the seven forest practices prohibited by Montana law in SMZs (broadcast burning, operation of wheeled or tracked vehicles except on established roads, the forest practice of clearcutting, the construction of roads except when necessary to cross a stream or wetland; the handling, storage, application, or disposal of hazardous or toxic materials in a manner that pollutes streams, lakes, or wetlands, or that may cause damage or injury to humans, land, animals, or plants; the side casting of road material into a stream, lake, wetland, or watercourse; and the deposit of slash in streams, lakes, or other water bodies.

MONTANA NON-POINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Developed by: Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Planning Bureau, Watershed Protection Section Publication reference: 2012

Available from: Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Planning Bureau, Watershed Protection Section, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901.

Online at:
http://deq.mt.gov/Portals/112/Water/WPB/Nonpoint/Publications/NPSPlan_Complete_07162012.pdf

Description: This document describes the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) updated strategy for controlling nonpoint source (NPS) water pollution, which is the state's single largest source of water quality impairment. NPS pollution is contaminated runoff from the land surface that can be generated by most land use activities, including agriculture, forestry, urban and suburban development, mining, and others. Common NPS pollutants include sediment, nutrients, temperature, heavy metals, pesticides, pathogens, and salt. The purpose of the Montana NPS Pollution Management Plan (Plan) is: 1) to inform the state's citizens about NPS pollution problems; and 2) to establish goals, objectives, and both long-term and short-term strategies for controlling NPS pollution on a statewide basis. The goal of Montana's NPS Management Program is to protect and restore water quality from the impacts of nonpoint sources of pollution in order to provide a clean and healthy environment.

MONTANA PLACER MINING BMPS

Developed by: Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology

Publication reference: Special Publication 106, October 1993

Available from: Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Main Hall, Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, Butte MT 59701

Description: Provides guidelines for planning, erosion control, and reclamation in arid to semi-arid, alpine, and subalpine environments, to prevent or decrease environmental damage and degradation of water quality.

MONTANA FORESTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Developed by: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Publication reference: Montana DNRC, 2015. Montana Forestry Best Management Practices. 2015. Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Forestry Division. Montana 64 p.

Available from: MSU Extension Forestry, 32 Campus Dr., Missoula MT 59812, OR MSU Extension Publications, PO Box 172040 Bozeman MT 59717 OR Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/docs/assistance/practices/mt-forestry-managementbest-practices-guide.pdf

Description: Discusses methods for managing forest land while protecting water quality and forest soils. Intended for all forest land in Montana, including non-industrial private, forest industry, and state or federally owned forests. These are preferred (but voluntary) methods that go beyond Montana State Law (Streamside Management Zones). Includes definitions, basic biological information, and BMPs for Streamside Management Zones; road design, use, planning and locating, construction, drainage, and closure; stream crossings, soil, timber harvesting methods, reforestation, winter planning, and clean-up.

BLM BMPS

The website below provides an introduction to BLM BMPs with links to BLM contacts, General BMP Information, BMP Frequently Asked Questions, BMP Technical Information, Oil and Gas Exploration—The Gold Book, Specific Resource BMPs, and, other BLM links.

- http://www.blm.gov/bmp/

COMMUNICATION TOWER BMPS

Developed by: United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Publication reference: Service Guidance on the Siting, Construction, Operation and Decommissioning of Communications Towers

Available from: http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/com_tow_guidelines.pdf

Description: These guidelines were developed by Service personnel from research conducted in several eastern, midwestern, and southern States, and have been refined through Regional review. They are based on the best information available at this time and are the most prudent and effective measures for avoiding bird strikes at towers.

- Any company/applicant/licensee proposing to construct a new communications tower should be strongly encouraged to collocate the communications equipment on an existing communication tower or other structure (e.g., billboard, water tower, or building mount). Depending on tower load factors, from 6 to 10 providers may collocate on an existing tower.
- If collocation is not feasible and a new tower or towers are to be constructed, communications service providers should be strongly encouraged to construct towers no more than 199 feet above ground level, using construction techniques which do not require guy wires (e.g., use a lattice structure, monopole, etc.). Such towers should be unlighted if Federal Aviation Administration regulations permit.
- If constructing multiple towers, providers should consider the cumulative impacts of all of those towers to migratory birds and threatened and endangered species as well as the impacts of each individual tower.
- If at all possible, new towers should be sited within existing "antenna farms" (clusters of towers). Towers should not be sited in or near wetlands, other known bird concentration areas (e.g., State or Federal refuges, staging areas, rookeries), in known migratory or daily movement flyways, or in habitat of threatened or endangered species. Towers should not be sited in areas with a high incidence of fog, mist, and low ceilings.
- If taller (>199 feet AGL) towers requiring lights for aviation safety must be constructed, the minimum amount of pilot warning and obstruction avoidance lighting required by the FAA should be used. Unless otherwise required by the FAA, only white (preferable) or red strobe lights should be used at night, and these should be the minimum number, minimum intensity, and minimum number of flashes per minute (longest duration between flashes) allowable by the FAA. The use of solid red or pulsating red warning lights at night should be avoided. Current research indicates that solid or pulsating (beacon) red lights attract night-migrating birds at a much higher rate than white strobe lights. Red strobe lights have not yet been studied.
- Tower designs using guy wires for support which are proposed to be located in known raptor or water bird concentration areas or daily movement routes, or in major diurnal migratory bird movement routes or stopover sites, should have daytime visual markers on the wires to prevent collisions by these diurnally moving species. (For guidance on markers, see Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC). 1994. Mitigating Bird Collisions with Power Lines: The State of the Art in 1994. Edison Electric Institute, Washington, D.C., 78 pp, and Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC). 1996. Suggested Practices/or Raptor Protection on Power Lines. Edison Electric Institute by Raptor Research Foundation, Washington, D.C; 128 pp. Copies can be obtained via the Internet at http://www.eei.org/resources/pubcat/enviro/ or by calling 1-800/334- 5453).
- Towers and appendant facilities should be sited, designed and constructed so as to avoid or minimize habitat loss within and adjacent to the tower "footprint." However, a larger tower footprint is preferable to the use of guy wires in construction. Road access and fencing should be minimized to reduce or prevent habitat fragmentation and disturbance, and to reduce above ground obstacles to birds in flight.
- If significant numbers of breeding, feeding, or roosting birds are known to habitually use the proposed tower construction area, relocation to an alternate site should be recommended. If this is not an option, seasonal restrictions on construction may be advisable in order to avoid disturbance during periods of high bird activity.

- In order to reduce the number of towers needed in the future, providers should be encouraged to design new towers structurally and electrically to accommodate the applicant/licensee's antennas and comparable antennas for at least two additional users (minimum of three users for each tower structure), unless this design would require the addition of lights or guy wires to an otherwise unlighted and/or unguyed tower.
- Security lighting for on-ground facilities and equipment should be down-shielded to keep light within the boundaries of the site.
- If a tower is constructed or proposed for construction, Service personnel or researchers from the Communication Tower Working Group should be allowed access to the site to evaluate bird use, conduct dead-bird searches, to place net catchments below the towers but above the ground, and to place radar, Global Positioning System, infrared, thermal imagery, and acoustical monitoring equipment as necessary to assess and verify bird movements and to gain information on the impacts of various tower sizes, configurations, and lighting systems.
- Towers no longer in use or determined to be obsolete should be removed within 12 months of cessation of use.

GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Guidelines for grazing management are the types of grazing management methods and practices determined to be appropriate to ensure that rangeland health standards can be met, or significant progress can be made toward meeting the standards. Guidelines are best management practices (BMP), treatments, and techniques and implementation of range improvements that will help achieve rangeland health standards. Guidelines are flexible and are applied on site specific situations.

Montana/Dakotas Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management. USDI BLM, Montana State Office. August 1997. 22 pp.

STORM WATER BMPS

The website below provides BMPs designed to meet the minimum requirements for six control measures specified by the EPA's Phase II Stormwater Program.

- http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/index.cfm

NATIONAL RANGE AND PASTURE HANDBOOK

The website below provides procedures in support of NRCS policy for the inventory, analysis, treatment, and management of grazing land resources.

- http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/landuse/rangepasture/?cid=stelprdb1043084

MONTANA NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The website below provides links to information on funding for implementing nonpoint source controls, examples of control projects, and Montana's current Nonpoint Source Management Plan. This plan identifies and provides details for BMPs to improve and maintain water quality.

- http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/nonpoint/nonpointsourceprogram.mcpx

The following would be applied, if warranted, to any BLM authorized activity.

- The total disturbance area would be minimized and to the extent possible.
- Surface disturbances would be co-located in areas of previous or existing disturbance to the extent technically feasible.
- Linear facilities would be located in the same trenches (or immediately parallel to) and when possible, installed during the same period of time.
- Plans of development would be required for major ROWs, renewable energy and minerals development. Such plans would identify measures for reducing impacts.
- Where the federal government owns the surface and the mineral estate is in nonfederal ownership, the BLM would apply appropriate fluid mineral BMPs to surface development.
- Remove facilities and infrastructure when use is completed.
- Vegetation would be removed only when necessary. Mowing would be preferred. If mowed, when possible work would be performed when vegetation is dormant.
- Two-track (primitive) roads would be used when possible.
- Utilization of the Surface Operating Standards and Guidelines for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development (i.e., The Gold Book) shall be utilized for the design of roads, utilities, and oil and gas operations. • Directional drilling, drilling multiple wells from the same pad, co-mingling, recompletion, or the use of existing well pads would be employed to the extent technically feasible to minimize surface impacts from oil and gas development.
- Utilities would be ripped or wheel-trenched whenever practical.
- Remote telemetry would be used to reduce vehicle traffic to the extent technically feasible (e.g., monitoring oil and gas operations).
- Perennial streams would be crossed using bore crossing (directional drill) or other environmentally sound method.
- For activities resulting in major surface-disturbance as determined by the AO, a mitigation monitoring and reporting strategy would be developed and implemented (see the Reclamation Appendix for further guidance).
- Operations would avoid sensitive resources including riparian areas, wetlands, floodplains, waterbodies and areas subject to erosion and soil degradation. • The BLM would, on a case-by-case basis, use temporary or permanent enclosures (e.g., in woody draw or riparian areas) to promote species diversity, recruitment, and structure.
- Accelerated erosion, soil loss, and impacts to water quality would be reduced by diverting stormwater and trapping sediment during activity.
- Pitless or aboveground closed-loop drilling technology would be used to the extent technically feasible. Recycle drilling mud and completion fluids for use in future drilling activities.
- Where needed, pits would be lined with an impermeable liner. Pits would not be placed in fill material or natural watercourses, and pits may not be cut or trenched.
- Fertilizer would not be applied within 500 feet of wetlands and waterbodies.
- Vehicle and equipment servicing and refueling activities would take place 500 feet from the outer edge of riparian areas, wet areas, and drainages.
- Activity may be restricted during wet conditions. Mechanized equipment use would be avoided if the equipment causes rutting to a depth of 4 inches or greater.

- Vehicle wash stations would be used prior to entering or leaving disturbance to reduce the transport and establishment of invasive species.
- Invasive species plant parts would not be transported off site without appropriate disposal measures.
- Use alternative energy (solar or wind power) to power new water source developments.
- Overhead power lines, where authorized would follow the recommendations in the most recent guidance from the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (1994, as amended 2006, 2012).
- Weed management prescriptions would be included in all new treatment projects and incorporated into existing contracts, agreements, task forces, designated weed-free management areas, and land use authorizations that resulted in ground-disturbing activities.
- Whenever possible, ROWs would be constructed within or next to compatible ROWs, such as roads, pipelines, communications sites, and railroads.
- The operator shall be responsible for locating and protecting existing pipelines, power lines, communication lines, and other related infrastructure.
- Potential changes in climate would be considered when proposing restoration seedings when using native plants. Collection from the warmer component of the species current range would be considered when selecting native species.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

- When Minimum Impacts Suppression Tactics (MIST) are used during wildfire suppression operations, follow guidance on pages 97-98 in the 2018 Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG) (PMS 461/NFES 001077) or most current version of the IRPG.
- BLM is a member and participates in the Montana Idaho Airshed Group, which through the Airshed Management System, manages smoke impacts from prescribed fires.

APPENDIX Q. LANDS AND REALTY

RMP LAND TENURE ALLOCATION CATEGORIES

To provide transparency and assist with discussion and analysis in this land use planning effort, the BLM has identified three land tenure categories:

Category 1(Retention):

- BLM managed lands identified for retention and include lands with high resource values.
- These lands tend to be fairly blocked in terms of land pattern.
- Included are areas such as WSAs, NHTs, ACEC's., and Lands acquired with LWCF funding.
- These lands do not meet the FLPMA Section 203 sales criteria and are not suitable for exchange out of Federal ownership under section 206 of FLPMA.
- Acquisition of lands or interest in lands will receive priority if located within and /or adjacent to BLM managed lands in Category 1 provided such acquisition is consistent with one or more of the criteria in the *Criteria for Land Tenure Adjustment* listed below for criteria.

Category 2 (Limited Exchange):

- These lands are generally identified for retention in public ownership and are not available for sale under section 203 FLPMA. However, BLM-administered lands within Category 2 may be exchanged for lands or interests in lands under limited circumstances.
- Exchanges consistent with section 206 of FLPMA are permitted only when such exchange would enhance public resource values, improve management capabilities, or reduce the potential for land use conflict.
- In addition, parcels of BLM-administered land within Category 2 are available to be identified for transfer under the R&PP Act, or for transfer of administrative jurisdiction to another Federal agency, on a case-by-case basis.
- BLM-administered lands in Category 2 may contain significant resource values protected by law or policy, and any exchange or transfer action is contingent upon prior review and approval. If actions cannot be taken to adequately manage impacts from exchange or transfer of those lands, the parcels would be retained.
- The BLM would consider exchanges or land tenure actions on a case-by-case basis consistent with Section 206 of FLPMA and the *Criteria of Land Tenure Adjustments* listed below.

Category 3 (Disposal):

- No acres are identified in Category 3; see Missoula Proposed RMP/Final EIS for a description of this category.

CRITERIA FOR LAND TENURE ADJUSTMENTS

Criteria listed herein are not in order or priority and all land tenure decisions must be in the public's interest to proceed. The BLM shall prioritize the retention or acquisition of lands that contain or provide one or more of the following:

Areas of National Significance

- Areas that have national environmental significance include wilderness, wilderness study areas, former wilderness studied for protective management
- ACECs
- Areas that have national cultural and recreational significance include lands nominated or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or designated as National Scenic and Historic Trails.
- Areas that have important wildlife features such as threatened and endangered species habitat, prime fisheries habitat, big game seasonal habitat, waterfowl and upland game bird habitat and habitat for sensitive species including raptors and other nongame species.
- Areas that have important watershed features such as strategic tracts along rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and springs.

Areas Important to BLM Programs

- Areas that have important recreational and cultural features such as hunting and fishing sites, snowmobile trails, and areas that contribute significantly to the interpretive potential of cultural resources already in public ownership.
- Areas include tracts of public land that are consolidated enough to make management of their resources cost effective and have physical and legal access.
- Access generally should allow for public use but, at the least, should allow administrative access to manage the resources.
- Provides access to other public lands with high resource values (including but not limited to recreation activities such as hunting, biking, and snowmobiling).
- Areas usually contain a combination of multiple use values and have characteristics that facilitate BLM priorities on the national, state, and local level.
- Areas may have improvements that represent public investments; be encumbered by R&PP leases, withdrawals, mining claims, etc.; or be managed by cooperative agreements with other agencies.

Areas Important to the Economy

- These areas include tracts having mineral potential, forestlands, rangelands and others that contribute to the stability of the local economy by virtue of federal ownership and preservation of working lands.

Other Criteria

- Federal minerals underlying nonfederal surface would generally be retained in federal ownership. However, an exchange of this type of mineral estate may be considered on a case-by-case basis if found to be in the public interest. The sale of this type of mineral interest under section 209(b) of FLPMA could be considered only if the requirements of this same section were met. Conversely, the acquisition of patented mining claims would also be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- Difficulty or cost of administration (manageability)
- Suitability of the land for management by another federal agency
- Significance of the decision in stabilizing business, social and economic conditions, and/or lifestyles

- Encumbrances, including but not limited to,
    - R&PP and small tract leases
    - Other leases and permits
    - Consistency of the decision with cooperative agreements and plans or policies of other agencies
    - Suitability need for change in land ownership or use for purposes including but not limited to: community expansion or economic development, such as industrial, residential or agricultural (other than grazing) developments

APPENDIX T. SUMMARY OF USFWS BIOLOGICAL OPINIONS

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) prepared and analyzed the effects of the revised Missoula Resource Management Plan (revised RMP) for the BLM on grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos horribilis*), Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), and lynx critical habitat. A separate biological opinion has concurrently been prepared for bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) and bull trout critical habitat. Formal consultation was initiated on October 16, 2019; the date the Service received the biological assessments (BLM 2019).

Section 7(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) requires that the Secretary of Interior issue biological opinions on federal agency actions that may adversely affect listed species or critical habitat. Biological opinions determine if the action proposed by the action agency is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. Section 7(b)(3)(A) of the Act also requires the Secretary to suggest reasonable and prudent alternatives to any action that is found likely to result in jeopardy or adverse modification of critical habitat, if any has been designated. If the Secretary determines no jeopardy, then regulations implementing the Act further require the Director to specify reasonable and prudent measures and terms and conditions necessary or appropriate to minimize the impact of any incidental take resulting from the action(s). This biological opinion addresses only impacts to federally listed species.

The Biological Opinion on the Effects of the BLM Missoula revised RMP on Grizzly Bears, Canada Lynx, and Designated Lynx Critical Habitat and the Biological Opinion on the Effects of the BLM Missoula revised RMP on Bull Trout and designated Bull Trout Critical Habitat are incorporated by reference into the Approved RMP and are available here: https://eplanning.blm.gov.

USFWS CONCLUSION

In the Biological Opinions on the Effects of the BLM Missoula revised RMP on Grizzly Bears, Canada Lynx, and Designated Lynx Critical Habitat, the USFWS concluded that the BLM's proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the Canada lynx or the grizzly bear; and is not likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated Canada lynx critical habitat. The Biological Opinions are located here: https://eplanning.blm.gov. Key provisions of the Biological Opinions are summarized below:

USFWS INCIDENTAL TAKE STATEMENTS

Section 9 of the Act, and Federal regulations pursuant to section 4(d) of the Act, prohibit the take of endangered and threatened species, respectively without special exemption. Take is defined as harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Harm is further defined by the Service to include significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering. Harass is defined by the Service as actions that create the likelihood of injury to listed species to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavior patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding or sheltering. Incidental take is defined as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity. Under the terms

of section 7(b)(4) and section 7(o)(2), taking that is incidental to and not intended as part of the agency action is not considered to be prohibited taking under the Act provided that such taking is in compliance with this Incidental Take Statement.

Subsequence consultation and reporting requirements are described below.

USFWS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Bull Trout - Subsequent consultation, as appropriate, on the specific actions developed pursuant to the Revised Resource Management Plan will serve as the basis for determining if an exemption from the section 9 take prohibitions is warranted. If so, the Service will provide Reasonable and Prudent Measures, Terms and Conditions, and reporting requirements as appropriate, to minimize the impacts of the take on bull trout in accordance with 50 CFR 402.14(i).

Grizzly bears, Canada Lynx, Canada Lynx Critical Habitat:

To demonstrate that the revised RMP is adequately reducing the potential for and minimizing the effect of any incidental take that may result, the Missoula FO shall complete a report with the information listed below and submit it to the Service's Montana FO by May 1 of each year for the preceding calendar year for the life of the revised RMP. The report shall include:

1. In relation to the first surrogate measure of incidental take of grizzly bears, an up to date record of the existing, ongoing access conditions including the existing miles of open motorized routes and the open and total linear motorized route density within the five geographic areas of the action area (reference Table 4 in this incidental take statement).
2. In relation to the second surrogate measure of incidental take of grizzly bears, an up-to-date record of the amount and duration of new temporary roads constructed and used within NCDE zone 1, NCDE zone 2, and the remaining portion of the action area (outside of NCDE zones 1 and 2).
3. In relation to the third surrogate measure of incidental take of grizzly bears, an up to date record of grizzly bear/livestock conflicts and management removals of grizzly bears related to livestock grazing in the action area. The MiFO shall notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Montana Field Office within 72 hours of any livestock depredation by grizzly bears.
4. The MiFO shall notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Montana Field Office if a change in the status of sheep grazing in the action area is being considered.
5. In relation to the surrogate measure of incidental take of Canada lynx, an up to date record of the total amount of snowshoe hare habitat treated within FMZ1 and the WUI 1-mile buffer.

USFWS CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Sections 7(a)(1) of the Act directs federal agencies to use their authorities to further the purposes of the Act by carrying out conservation programs for the benefit of endangered and threatened species. Conservation recommendations are discretionary agency activities to minimize or avoid adverse effects of a proposed action on listed species or critical habitat, to help implement recovery plans or to develop information. The recommendations provided here relate only to the proposed action and do not necessarily represent complete fulfillment of the agency's section 7(a)(1) responsibilities. This biological opinion identifies the following conservation recommendations that, in addition to the proposed action and other ongoing conservation actions, will support recovery of listed species. These conservation

recommendations are discretionary agency activities meant to minimize or avoid adverse effects to listed species. The conservation recommendations are listed below:

Grizzly Bear, Canada Lynx, and Canada Lynx Critical Habitat

1. Continue to manage access on the MiFO to achieve lower road densities. By managing motorized access, several grizzly bear management objectives could be met including: (1) minimizing human interaction and potential grizzly bear mortality; (2) minimizing displacement from important habitats; (3) minimizing habituation to humans; and (4) providing relatively secure habitat where energetic requirements can be met (Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee 1998). Additionally, lower road densities would also benefit other wildlife and public resources.
2. Motorized access management is only one of several factors influencing grizzly bear habitat and grizzly bear security. The presence of attractants is a major factor leading to the food conditioning and habituation, and the eventual direct mortality or management removal of grizzly bears. The Service supports the MiFO's continued efforts to manage food storage. Management of garbage, food and livestock feed storage, to prevent access to bears, benefits grizzly bears as well as black bears and other carnivores. Human/carnivore interactions would also be reduced, leading to a public safety benefit.
3. Grizzly bears concentrate in certain areas during specific time periods to take advantage of concentrated food sources or because the area provides a high seasonal food value due to diversity in vegetation and plant phenology (e.g., important spring for fall range). Where grizzly bear use is known or likely to occur and where practicable, delay disturbing activities during the spring in spring habitats to minimize displacement of grizzly bears.
4. Winter is the most constraining season for lynx and snowshoe hares. Dense horizontal cover of conifers above the snow level is critical to support snowshoe hares in winter. Vegetation management should be designed to provide for winter snowshoe hare habitat as forest stands develop successionally over time.
5. Provide a mosaic of lynx habitat that includes dense early-successional coniferous and mixed-coniferous-deciduous stands, along with a component of mature multistory coniferous stands to produce the desired snowshoe hare density within each LAU.
6. Use fire and mechanical vegetation treatments as tools to maintain a mosaic of lynx habitat, in varying successional stages, distributed across the LAU in a landscape pattern that is consistent with historical disturbance processes.
7. Provide for continuing availability of lynx foraging habitat (snowshoe hare habitat) in proximity to denning habitat and retain patches of untreated areas of dense horizontal cover within treated areas where possible.

Conservation Recommendations – Bull Trout

1. When planning future projects, consider actions designed to improve the functional condition of habitat baseline conditions (e.g., FUR to FAR) for bull trout.
2. Work cooperatively with private landowners on all MiFO BLM adjacent lands to (1) minimize (to the extent practicable) the take of water via diversion structures in FMO and SR habitat; (2) identify water diversion structures in need of fish screens and aid in the installation of said fish screens to eliminate entrainment of bull trout.

3. Work cooperatively with other state and federal agencies to address the potential impacts of non-native fish species (e.g., brook trout and brown trout) in the Upper Clark Fork River, Blackfoot River, Rock Creek and Clearwater River and Lakes core areas. Consider actions that include suppression and removal of non-native fish species.
4. Consider implementation of recovery actions identified in the Service's Bull Trout Recovery Plan and the associated Columbia River Headwaters Recovery Unit Implementation Plan (USFWS 2015, 2015b)

USFWS REINITIATION NOTICE

As provided in 50 C.F.R. § 402.16, reinitiation of consultation is required and shall be requested by the federal agency or by the Service where discretionary federal involvement or control over the action has been retained or is authorized by law and: (1) if the amount or extent of taking specified in the incidental take statement is exceeded; (2) if new information reveals effects of the action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; (3) if the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat that was not considered in the biological opinion or written concurrence; or (4) if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action**.**