

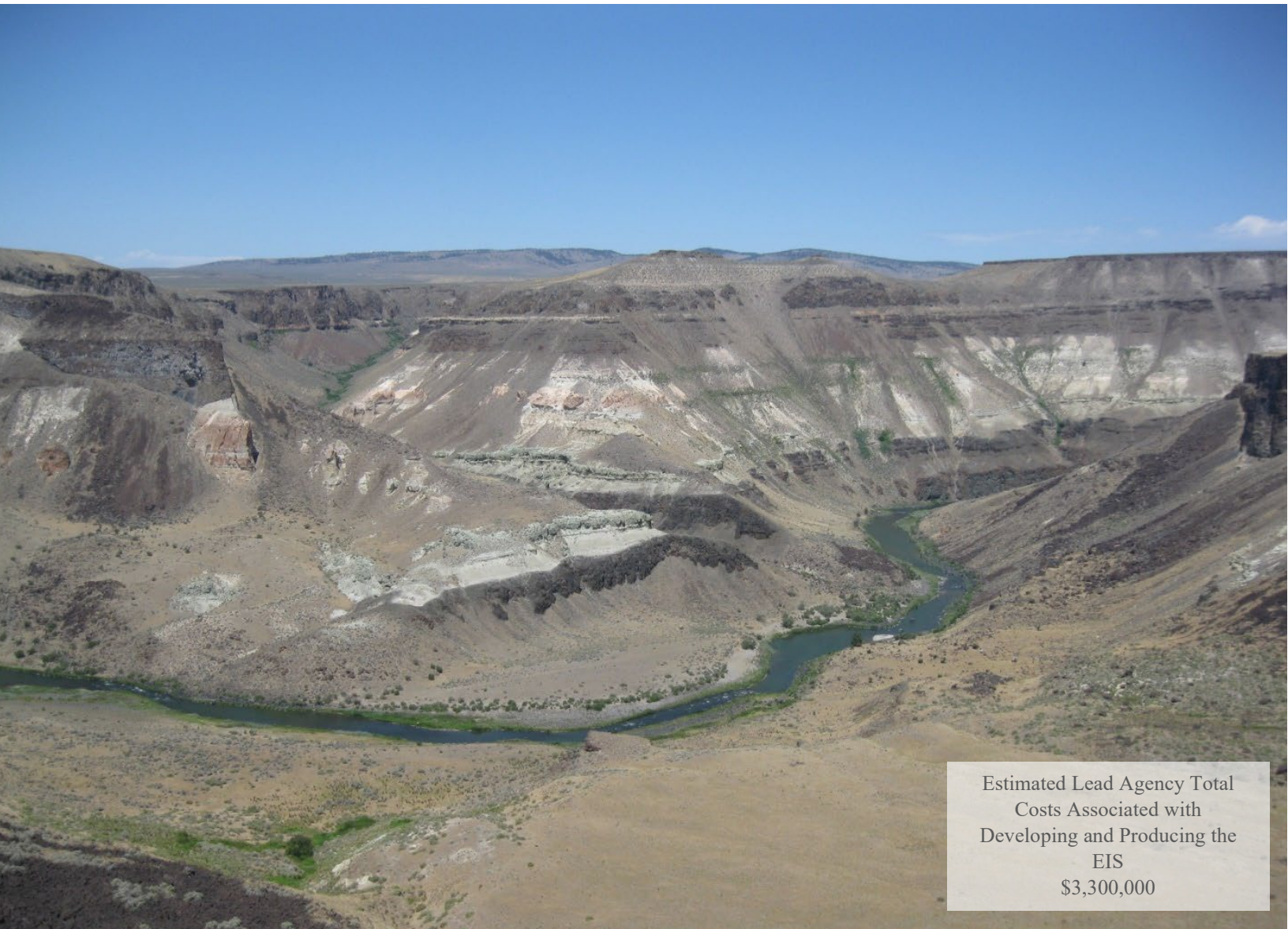
**US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Vale District Office
100 Oregon Street
Vale, Oregon 97918

June 2023

Southeastern Oregon Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement

*Volume 1 (of 2)—Text
Executive Summary*



Estimated Lead Agency Total
Costs Associated with
Developing and Producing the
EIS
\$3,300,000

June 2023

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Southeastern Oregon
Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final
Environmental Impact Statement
Vale District, Oregon

June 2023

Cooperating Agencies and Consulting Tribe:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Burns Paiute Tribe

Abstract:

The Southeastern Oregon Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement (Proposed RMP Amendment/Final EIS) describes and evaluates a range of potential management approaches for approximately 4.6 million acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered lands in the Vale District, Malheur Field Office. The BLM prepared this document in coordination with cooperating agencies and consulting tribes and with input from the public. The Proposed RMP Amendment would amend the 2002 Southeastern Oregon RMP.

The purpose for this RMP amendment is to comply with provisions of a 2010 Settlement Agreement, which requires the BLM to undertake a RMP amendment to address wilderness characteristics, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, and two specific components of livestock grazing management. The BLM analyzed five alternatives, including the No Action Alternative and the Proposed RMP Amendment.

Under the No Action Alternative, the planning area would continue to be managed under the 2002 RMP as amended and would continue to provide interim protections on approximately 1.2 million acres—outside of existing Wilderness Study Areas—that were determined by BLM to possess wilderness characteristics. The interim protections are identified in the provisions of the 2010 Settlement.

Under the Proposed RMP Amendment, BLM would prioritize protection of wilderness characteristics in thirty-three areas (417,190 acres). Management of public lands in these areas would emphasize the maintenance and/or enhancement of the wilderness resource: roadless size of the unit, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The Proposed RMP Amendment would also carry forward the existing Travel Management objectives for off-highway vehicle (OHV) area designations (open, limited and closed), and would designate approximately 319,501 acres that are currently open to motorized use as limited to existing roads and primitive routes. This would bring the total of OHV Limited acres in the planning area to 4,585,249. Two areas, totaling approximately 40,368 acres, would continue to be designated as OHV Open to recreational motorized and non-motorized

use. The current 15,829 acres that are closed to motorized use under the 2002 SEORMP/ROD would remain OHV Closed.

The Proposed RMP Amendment would also maintain existing Management Objectives for livestock grazing and rangeland management, and would establish the following additional management direction:

BLM would continue to follow livestock grazing administration regulations found in 43 CFR § 4180 and manage in accordance with “Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the States of Oregon and Washington” (BLM 1997) and would continue to implement the 2002 SEORMP/ROD management direction for livestock grazing. In addition, under the Proposed RMP Amendment the BLM would consider taking action to make progress toward achieving land health standards, regardless of causal factor(s) in cases where standards are not being attained. BLM would also not permit increases to animal unit months (AUM) if existing rangeland health assessments and evaluations are not available or do not reflect current conditions.

BLM would continue to follow existing guidance should BLM receive a voluntary relinquishment of a grazing permit. Under this guidance, BLM would continue to be required to accept all voluntary relinquishments. Resource considerations in the relinquished area, and the degree to which grazing is compatible or in conflict with other resources or uses, would be evaluated through a NEPA analysis. The BLM would provide the rationale for how these resource considerations were addressed in an allocation decision. This decision would establish the allocation of forage resources for the life of the plan; additional land use planning-level analysis would not be required. If livestock grazing is found to be incompatible, the forage allocation could be made to another resource. If grazing is found to be compatible with the other resource considerations, then the area would remain available to livestock grazing and/or be designated as a reserve common allotment.

The Proposed RMP/Final EIS is open for a 30-day protest period beginning with the date the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS in the Federal Register. Protests must be filed with the Director of the BLM as described in the letter to the Interested Public.

For more information, contact:

Vale District, Malheur Field Office
100 Oregon Street
Vale, Oregon 97918
Phone: (541) 473-3144

Email: blm_or_vl_seormp@blm.gov



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Malheur Field Office
100 Oregon Street
Vale, OR 97918



1

2 Dear Interested Public:

3 This letter announces the availability of the Southeastern Oregon Proposed Resource Management
4 Plan (RMP) Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This document responds
5 to commitments the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) made in a 2010 settlement agreement to
6 analyze, through an RMP amendment, a range of alternatives that address three key issues:

- 7 • *lands with wilderness characteristics;*
- 8 • *off-highway vehicle area designations (Open, Limited, and Closed); and*
- 9 • *livestock grazing issues related to meeting Standards for Rangeland Health and*
10 *voluntary grazing permit/lease relinquishment processes.*

11 The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) provides that the BLM shall manage the
12 public lands under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. Under the Proposed RMP
13 Amendment, the BLM would protect 33 of the 76 areas identified by BLM as having wilderness
14 characteristics. These 33 areas total 417,190 acres. The Proposed RMP Amendment also proposes
15 to limit OHV use to existing motorized routes in 319,501 acres that are currently open to cross-
16 country OHV use. This brings the total of OHV limited acres in the planning area to 4.5 million. All
17 33 of the protected lands with wilderness characteristic areas are within this OHV limited category.
18 Two OHV areas within the planning area, totaling 40,368 acres, would remain open to cross-
19 country OHV use. The 15,829 acres that are currently closed to motorized use would remain closed.
20 The Proposed RMP Amendment also provides additional guidance on the implementation of
21 Standards for Rangeland Health and the processing of voluntary livestock grazing permit
22 relinquishments.

23 The Proposed RMP Amendment/Final EIS is posted on the BLM's National Environmental Policy
24 Act Register website, under "Documents & Reports" at [https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-
25 ui/project/87435/510](https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/87435/510). If you do not have access to the internet, you may request the digital file by
26 contacting the BLM Vale District Office.

27 The release of this document initiates a 30-day protest period. All protests must be in writing and
28 filed with the BLM Director, either as a hard copy or electronically via the NEPA Register for this
29 project by the close of the protest period. The close of the protest period is 30 days from the date
30 that the Final EIS Notice of Availability is published by the Environmental Protection Agency in
31 the Federal Register. The only electronic protests the BLM will accept are those filed through
32 BLM's National NEPA Register. All protest letters sent to the BLM via fax or e-mail will be
33 considered invalid unless a properly filed protest is also submitted.

1 Instructions for filing a protest can be found online at [https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-](https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/public-participation/filing-a-planprotest)
2 [and-nepa/public-participation/filing-a-planprotest](https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/public-participation/filing-a-planprotest) and also at [43 CFR 1610.5-2](#). If you do not
3 have the ability to file your protest electronically, hard copy protests must be mailed to one of the
4 following addresses:

- 5 • *Regular Mail: BLM Director (210), Attention: Protest Coordinator, P.O. Box 261117,*
6 *Lakewood, CO 80226*
- 7 • *Overnight Delivery: BLM Director (210), Attention: Protest Coordinator, Denver*
8 *Federal Center, Building 40, Lakewood, CO 80215.*

9 I appreciate your input to this planning process and look forward to your continued interest and
10 participation. For additional information or clarification regarding this document, please contact
11 project lead Brent Grasty at 541-473-3144. Interested parties may also communicate
12 electronically via the project email BLM_OR_VL_SEORMP@blm.gov.

Sincerely,



Darrel W Monger
Vale District Manager
Oregon/Washington BLM

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Note: Refer to the list below for abbreviations or acronyms that may have been used in this document.

ACEC—Area of Critical Environmental Concern	GDP—Geothermal Drilling Permit
AIM—Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring	GeoBob—Geographic Biotic Observations
AML—appropriate management level	GHG—greenhouse gas
AMR—appropriate management response	GHMA—General Habitat Management Area
APD—Application for Permit to Drill	GIS—geographic information system
ARMPA—Approved RMP Amendment (GRSG)	GMA— Geographic Management Area
ATV—all-terrain vehicle	GRSG—Greater Sage-grouse
AUM—animal unit month	HAs—herd area
B2H—Boardman to Hemingway	HMA—herd management area
BA—biological assessment	HUC—hydrologic unit code
BCA—Backcountry Conservation Areas	ICBEMP—Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project
BIA—Bureau of Indian Affairs	IDFG—Idaho Fish and Game
BLM—Bureau of Land Management	IDT—interdisciplinary team
BMP—best management practice	IIPM—Integrated Invasive Plant Management
BO—biological opinion	ILAP—Integrated Landscape Assessment Project
CCC—consultation, coordination, and cooperation	IM—Instruction Memorandum
CEQ—Council on Environmental Quality	IMP—Interim Management Policy
CFR—Code of Federal Regulations	IMPLWR—Interim Management Policy for Land Under Wilderness Review
COA—Conditions of Approval	JRA—Jordan Resource Area (combined into the Malheur Field Office with the MRA)
CSU—controlled surface use	INFISH—Inland Native Fish Strategy
CWA— <i>Clean Water Act</i>	KGRA—Known Geothermic Resource Area
DEQ—Department of Environmental Quality	LCGMA—Louse Canyon Geographic Management Area
DLCD—Department of Land Conservation and Development	LCT—Lahontan Cutthroat Trout
DOI—Department of the Interior	LTZ—Land tenure zones
DPC—desired plant community	LUP—Land Use Planning
DRFCs—desired range of future conditions	MDPs—Master Development Plans
DRMPA—Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment	MFO—Malheur Field Office
EA—environmental assessment	MOU—Memorandum of Understanding
EDRR—Early Detection and Rapid Response	MRA—Malheur Resource Area (now MFO)
EGS—enhanced geothermal systems	NARA—National Archives and Records Administration
EIS—environmental impact statement, Draft or Final (DEIS, FEIS)	NASA—National Aeronautics and Space Administration
ERMA—Extensive Recreation Management Area	NCA—National Conservation Area
ESA— <i>Endangered Species Act</i>	NCL—National Conservation Lands
ESI—ecological site inventory	NCRIMS—National Cultural Resources Information Management System
ESR—Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation	ND—No data available to determine riparian condition
FAMS—Facility Asset Management System	NEPA— <i>National Environmental Policy Act</i>
FARD—Functioning at Risk, trend not apparent	NF—Riparian area not functioning
FARN—Riparian Function at Risk, trend not apparent	NFESRP—Normal Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan
FARU—Riparian Functioning at Risk, upward trend	NFMA—National Forest Management Act
FIAT—Fire and Invasive Assessment Team	NLCS—National Landscape Conservation System (also known as NCL)
FLPMA—Federal Land Policy and Management Act	NHOT—National Historic Oregon Trail
FMP—fire management plan	
FOFEM—First Order Fire Effects Model	
FRCC—fire regime condition class	
FRG—fire regime group	
FWS—US Fish and Wildlife Service	
GCM—global climate models	

NHPA— <i>National Historic Preservation Act</i>	ROD—Record of Decision
NIDIS—National Integrated Drought Information System	ROW—Rights-of-way
NL—no leasing	S&Gs—Standards and Guidelines
NOA—Notice of Availability	SC-GHG—social cost of greenhouse gases
NOAA—National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration	SEORAC—Southeastern Oregon Resource Advisory Council
NOI—Notice of Intent	SEORMP—Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan
NR—No Riparian	SFA—Sage-grouse Focal Area
NPRPA— <i>National Petroleum Reserve Production Act</i>	SHPO—State Historic Preservation Office
NPS—National Park Service	SMA—Designated Special Management Area
NPSP—nonpoint source pollution	SMCMPA—Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area
NRCS—Natural Resources Conservation Service	SNOTEL—snow telemetry stations
NREL—National Renewable Energy Laboratory	SRMAs—Special Recreation Management Areas
NRHP—National Register of Historic Places	SSAS—Special Status Animal Species
NSO—no surface occupancy	SSS—Special status species
NTS—National Trails System	SWE—snow water equivalent
NWSRA— <i>National Wild and Scenic River Act</i>	TGA— <i>Taylor Grazing Act</i>
NWSRS—National Wild and Scenic River System	TMDL—Total Maximum Daily Load
OBSMP—Oregon’s Bighorn Sheep Management Plan	TMP—Travel Management Plan
<i>O&C Lands Act—Oregon and California</i>	TNC—The Nature Conservancy
OCCRI—Oregon Climate Change Research Institute	TRCP—Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
ODA—Oregon Department of Agriculture	TTM—Travel and Transportation Management
ODEQ—Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	TVCC—Treasure Valley Community College
ODF—Oregon Department of Forestry	UDD—unnecessary or undue degradation
ODFW—Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	UDRMP—Upper Deschutes RMP
OHV—off-highway vehicle	USC—United States Code
ONDA—Oregon Natural Desert Association	USDI—US Department of the Interior
ONHP—Oregon Natural Heritage Program	USEPA—US Environmental Protection Agency
ORV—outstandingly remarkable value	USFWS—US Fish and Wildlife Service
OSO—Oregon State Office	USGS—US Geological Survey
OSP&R—Oregon State Parks and Recreation	UTV—Utility Type (or Terrain Vehicle)
OSU—Oregon State University	VCC—vegetation condition class
PAC—Priority Areas of Conservation	VDEP—vegetation departure
PFC—riparian system in proper functioning condition	VRA—Visual Resource Inventories
PHMA—Priority Habitat Management Area	VRM—Visual Resource Management
PRMPA—Proposed Resources Management Plan Amendment	WFRHBA— <i>Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burrow Act</i>
PRPA— <i>Paleontological Resources Preservation Act</i>	WFDSS—Wildland Fire Decision Support System
PSEORMP/FEIS—Proposed SEORMP and Final EIS	WIU—wilderness characteristics inventory unit
R&PP— <i>Recreation and Public Purpose Act</i>	WMU—Wildlife Management Unit
R&R—Resistance and Resilience	WQMP—Water Quality Management Plan
RAS—Range Administration System	WQRPs—Water Quality Restoration Plans
RCA—Reserve Common Allotments	WSA—Wilderness Study Area
RDF—Required Design Feature	WSR—Wild and Scenic River
ReGAP—Regional Gap (analysis)	WSRA— <i>Wild and Scenic River Act</i>
Rel.—Release	WUI—wildland urban interface
RFFA—Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions	
RHCAs—Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas	
RMP—Resource Management Plan	
RNA—Research Natural Area	

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4 *(See Volume 2)*

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1 **Southeastern Oregon**
2 **Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment**
3 **and**
4 **Final Environmental Impact Statement**

5 **Executive Summary**

6 **Background and Introduction**

7 This Southeastern Oregon (SEO) Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment and Final
8 Environmental Impact Statement (PRMPA/FEIS) is a focused amendment, limited to addressing issues
9 and alternatives required by a 2010 Settlement Agreement. The proposed amendment provides options for
10 future management of lands with wilderness characteristics, off-highway vehicles, and specific aspects of
11 grazing management on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in
12 Southeastern Oregon. This 4.6-million-acre planning area encompasses all public lands within the
13 Malheur Field Office of the Vale District. Within the planning area there are 1.3 million acres of
14 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). In 2012, the BLM completed an inventory update of lands with
15 wilderness characteristics outside of WSAs, as agreed to in the 2010 Settlement Agreement. The BLM
16 reassessed the inventory update in 2017. Through this inventory update, the BLM determined that there
17 are an additional 1.2 million acres that meet the criteria of possessing wilderness characteristics.

18 BLM's Draft RMP Amendment and Draft EIS (DRMPA)/DEIS analyzed five alternatives and was
19 published in May 2019, beginning a 90-day public review period (BLM 2019a). Over 4,000 comments
20 were received on the DRMPA/DEIS, reflecting a broad cross-section of local, state, and federal entities,
21 and the general public interests and issues that the BLM then considered in developing this
22 PRMPA/FEIS. The PRMPA/FEIS also incorporates updates and revisions.

23 The PRMPA/FEIS is prepared in accordance with the *Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976*
24 (43 CFR 1610) and the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1976*. It is an amendment to the 2002 RMP,
25 as amended by the 2015 and 2019 Oregon Greater Sage-grouse Approved RMP Amendments and
26 Records of Decision.

27 **Purpose and Need for this RMP Amendment and**
28 **Environmental Impact Statement**

29 The Purpose and Need (Chapter 1) for this SEORMP Amendment is to comply with the provisions of the
30 2010 Settlement Agreement (Appendix R). Specifically, this amendment is limited to addressing: future
31 management of lands with wilderness characteristics, off-highway vehicle (OHV) allocations (open,
32 limited, and closed), and livestock grazing as it relates to (a) implementation of management responses
33 when Standards for Rangeland Health are not met as a result of existing livestock grazing and (b) analysis
34 of processes used when the BLM receives a voluntary relinquishment of a grazing permit. The BLM
35 developed a full range of alternatives to consider these three issues and published these in the Draft RMP
36 Amendment/EIS.

37 The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that the BLM prepare an EIS for all actions that
38 significantly affect the quality of the human environment. In this case, the RMP Amendment is a "federal
39 action" that triggers preparation of an EIS. The NEPA requires analysis of a reasonable range of
40 alternatives, including a "No Action" Alternative and a description of the environmental effects of the
41 alternatives.

BLM’s Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement in the Development of this Proposed RMP/Final EIS

The BLM’s development of the PRMPA/FEIS entailed an extensive consultation and coordination process, which included Tribal governments, federal, state, and local governments, and cooperating agencies. Chapter 4 and Appendix H detail this coordination.

Tribal Governments

There are five potentially affected federally recognized Tribes who have interest in the planning area: the Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. The BLM is coordinating with all the Tribes on the planning effort. The BLM consulted per BLM Manual 8130 (BLM 2004) and Handbook 1780 (BLM 2016c) and sent copies of documents to tribal officials for review and comment. The BLM contacted the Tribes by mail, email, or phone at multiple stages in the planning process, (direct outreach, official Scoping period, DRMPA/DEIS comment period, and during administrative review periods) and did not receive any response from five of the Tribes. The Burns Paiute Tribe and BLM entered into formal government-to-government consultation on the planning effort. The BLM contacted the Burns Paiute Tribe at multiple stages through email, mail, face-to-face meetings, and phone calls; to discuss the RMPA, provide updates, and to accept and address comments and questions.

State Historic Preservation Office Consultation

The BLM coordinates with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on BLM management planning processes in conformance with Section III.A. of the 2015 BLM-SHPO State Protocol. To date, the BLM has provided the SHPO a copy of the DRMPA/DEIS for their review and comment and will provide the SHPO with the PRMPA/Final EIS.

Regulatory Agency Consultation

The *Endangered Species Act* (ESA), Section 7(a)(2), requires the BLM to consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on the effects of the PRMPA/FEIS on species listed as threatened or endangered. The BLM prepared a biological evaluation regarding three species and conducted informal consultation with the USFWS. In the biological evaluation, the BLM found that the PRMPA may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*), as the effects of this action are insignificant, discountable, or wholly beneficial. The BLM also determined that implementation of the PRMPA will have no effect on bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) and yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), or their critical habitat. The USFWS concurred with the BLM determination on December 2, 2023, thereby completing Section 7 Consultation. See Chapter 4 and Appendix H.3 for more details.

Cooperating Agencies

On February 28, 2018, the BLM invited Tribal governments and State and local agencies with jurisdiction by either law or special expertise, or both, to participate as cooperating agencies in the planning process. A cooperating agency can be a Tribe, federal, state, or local government agency with jurisdiction by law or special expertise that assists a lead federal agency in developing an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (40 CFR, Sec. 1508.5).

1 The US Fish and Wildlife Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife signed a Memoranda of
2 Understanding (MOU) and became formal cooperating agencies. Throughout the planning process, the
3 BLM solicited input from these cooperating agencies. Both agencies provided comments on the
4 DRMPA/DEIS (See Appendix S). The BLM also held resource-specific conference calls and meetings
5 with the cooperating agencies (See PRMPA/FEIS, Appendix H).

6 Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Committee

7 The BLM worked closely with the Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Committee (referred to as
8 SEORAC or RAC throughout this document). The BLM managers engaged early in the process (2014–
9 2016) with the RAC to obtain their input and recommendations on processes for identifying lands with
10 wilderness characteristics for protection. The BLM requested the RAC’s recommendations for potential
11 management allocations for protected units. The RAC’s recommendations were a foundation for the
12 development of Alternative D and the PRMPA (SEORAC 2014).

13 Public Involvement

14 This process was initiated with publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register on April 8,
15 2010 (75 FR 17950), followed by a series of five public scoping meetings. The BLM distributed press
16 releases and letters to a complete list of interested publics. Comments were received throughout the 30-
17 day comment period, culminating in the publication of a Scoping Report in 2012 (BLM 2012i).

18 The BLM managers and staff met individually with members of the public, non-governmental
19 organizations, and local governments to continue to identify potential alternatives and issues associated
20 with the amendment.

21 The DRMPA/DEIS was published in May 2019, initiating a 90-day public review and comment period
22 (BLM 2019a). The BLM received over 4000 letters, emails, and postcards as part of the comments on the
23 draft document. During the comment period, the BLM held two public meetings in Malheur County, and
24 one meeting in McDermitt, NV, providing opportunities for input on the amendment. Over 60 members
25 of the public attended the three meetings. The BLM considered these comments on the DRMPA/DEIS
26 when developing the PRMPA/FEIS. Updates and revisions are shown in blue text in Chapter 3 and select
27 Appendices; notable changes between Draft and Proposed Amendments are summarized in Appendix Q.
28 Responses to the public comments received can be found in Appendix P.

29 **The Alternatives and Proposed SEORMP Amendment**

30 The BLM developed a range of approaches—or alternatives—for managing wilderness characteristics,
31 off-highway vehicles and two specific grazing processes related to Standards for Rangeland Health and
32 the voluntary relinquishment of a livestock grazing permit. The alternatives were developed with input
33 from the public, the Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Committee, cooperating agencies (USFWS and
34 the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife), the Burns-Paiute and other Tribal governments, and BLM
35 managers and resource specialists at the Vale District and Oregon/Washington State Office.

36 Appendix A *Alternatives* describes a No Action Alternative (i.e., continuation of current management)
37 and four action alternatives (Alternatives A, B, C, and D). The BLM developed the DRMPA/DEIS
38 alternatives, pursuant to the requirements of the FLPMA and the NEPA with the objective of meeting the
39 Purpose and Need, Chapter 1. The BLM’s PRMPA has been developed based on public comments and
40 internal input on the DRMPA/DEIS, is described in Chapter 2 and includes elements from the range of
41 alternatives that were analyzed in the DRMPA/DEIS.

42 The alternatives and PRMPA are summarized below. The No Action Alternative and Alternative A
43 represent a continuation of current management direction under the 2002 SEORMP, as amended. In
44 addition, the No Action Alternative reflects BLM’s commitment under the 2010 Settlement Agreement to

1 authorize no actions that could diminish the size of, or cause an entire wilderness characteristics inventory
2 unit to no longer possess those characteristics, until BLM completes the NEPA analysis and RMP
3 Amendment.

4 Alternatives B, C, and D, and the PRMPA would incorporate a new objective and management direction
5 for lands that are prioritized for protection of wilderness characteristics. These three alternatives and the
6 PRMPA would establish a 250' road setback (buffer) area at the boundary of the lands with wilderness
7 characteristic units that are proposed for protection. The setbacks would be managed separately from
8 those areas prioritized for protection, permitting other activities or uses, and thereby affording greater
9 management flexibility adjacent to the protected area.

10 Alternatives B, C and D and the PRMPA also analyze a range of off-highway vehicle (OHV) area
11 designations and propose livestock grazing management direction as it relates to: (a) implementation of
12 management responses when Standards for Rangeland Health are not attained as a result of existing
13 livestock grazing, and (b) processes used when the BLM receives a voluntary relinquishment of a grazing
14 permit. Table ES-1, below, summarizes notable differences among the alternatives and the PRMPA.

15 The BLM considered several additional alternatives that were not carried forward for detailed analysis.
16 The alternatives, along with the rationale for not analyzing them in detail, are presented in Appendix D.

17 No Action Alternative

18 In accordance with the 2010 Settlement Agreement, interim protections for the 76 units identified by
19 BLM as having wilderness characteristics would continue. Actions that could diminish the size—or cause
20 the entire BLM inventory unit to no longer meet the criteria—of lands with wilderness characteristics are
21 prohibited. The BLM would continue to implement the OHV allocations and livestock grazing
22 management direction of the 2002 Southeastern Oregon RMP, as amended by the 2015 Oregon Greater
23 Sage-Grouse Approved RMP Amendments¹ (BLM 2015d).

24 Alternative A (Preferred Alternative in the DEIS)

25 There would be no land use plan-level management direction for, or protective measures of, the 76 units
26 identified as having wilderness characteristics. Under Alternative A, the BLM would continue to
27 implement the OHV allocations and livestock grazing management direction of the 2002 Southeastern
28 Oregon RMP, as amended by the 2015 Oregon Greater Sage-grouse Approved RMP Amendments.

29 Alternative B

30 All 76 wilderness characteristic units (1,206,780 acres), excluding applicable boundary road setbacks,
31 would be managed to protect those characteristics. These units, in addition to all WSAs would be Closed
32 to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. All currently Open OHV areas outside of WSAs and wilderness
33 characteristics units would limit OHV use to existing routes. Grazing permits would be suspended for the
34 life of the RMPA where existing livestock grazing is determined to be a significant factor in not meeting
35 Standards for Rangeland Health. Voluntary relinquishment of a grazing permit would result in certain
36 identified areas (set forth in Provision 29(2) of the 2010 Settlement Agreement; also see Appendix A

¹ In March 2019, the BLM amended its 2015 Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment (ARMPA) for Greater Sage-grouse habitat management, issuing an additional Record of Decision (BLM 2019d). The March 2019 amendment retained the 2015 GRSG ARMPA allocations, objectives, and management direction, with the exception of allowing grazing to continue in the Key RNAs.

The March 2019 amendment was appealed (*Western Watersheds Project v. Schneider, Case No. 1:16-cv-00083-BLW* [D. Id. Oct. 16, 2019]) and in October 2019, the District Court of Idaho issued a preliminary injunction suspending implementation all of BLM's 2019 Sage-grouse ARMPAs (1:16-CV-00083-BLW). During this injunction, the 2015 GRSG ARMPA ROD remains in effect.

1 *Alternatives*, Table A-2, and Appendix G *Permit Relinquishment Processes by Alternative*) no longer
2 being available for livestock grazing for the life of the RMP Amendment.

3 Alternative C

4 Twenty-seven wilderness characteristic units (167,550 acres), excluding applicable boundary road
5 setbacks, would be identified for protection of wilderness characteristics. OHV Open management
6 continues in eight specific areas. These eight OHV Open areas (107,075 acres) would continue to be
7 available for cross-country motorized travel. For all other areas currently designated as OHV Open
8 (252,794 acres), management would change to OHV Limited to existing routes for motorized vehicle use.
9 Current management direction would continue regarding how the BLM evaluates and conducts Standards
10 for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Management. BLM would continue to follow
11 guidance under Washington Office Instruction Memorandum WO IM 2013-184 for processing a
12 voluntarily relinquished grazing permit, and would require that NEPA analysis and a subsequent
13 planning-level decision be issued to change a permitted area's forage allocation from livestock grazing to
14 another resource or resource use if grazing is determined through analysis to be incompatible with other
15 resources or resource uses. Alternative C identifies a set of specific resource values and resource uses
16 (Table 2-3, Chapter 2) to considered when a voluntary permit relinquishment is received. Under
17 Alternative C, if livestock grazing was determined through analysis, to be incompatible with one or more
18 of these other resources or uses, the permitted area could become unavailable to livestock grazing pending
19 land use planning-level analysis and decision.

20 Alternative D

21 Thirty-three wilderness characteristic units (417,190 acres), excluding applicable boundary road setbacks,
22 would be prioritized for protection of wilderness characteristics. All lands with wilderness characteristics
23 in the 33 units would be managed as OHV Limited to existing routes for motorized vehicles, unless
24 currently closed to OHV access. The OHV allocations under this alternative are similar to the No Action
25 Alternative and Alternative A, with 34,183 fewer acres Open to cross-country OHV use.

26 Where existing grazing practices are determined by the BLM to be a significant causal factor for
27 nonattainment of the Standards for Rangeland Health, the BLM would suspend term grazing permits for
28 the duration of the permit (generally up to 10 years) or until monitoring indicates that significant progress
29 is made toward attaining standards. This alternative would designate as unavailable to grazing (or reduced
30 where common use by multiple permittees occurs) those areas of a relinquished permit that overlap lands
31 set forth in Provision 29(1) of the 2010 Settlement Agreement (see Appendix A, Table A-4 and Appendix
32 G *Permit Relinquishment Processes by Alternative*) for the life of the RMPA.

33 PRMPA

34 Thirty-three lands with wilderness characteristics units (417,190 acres) would be prioritized for
35 protection. These 33 areas reflect those units proposed for protection under Alternative D. A new
36 objective would be established for protected lands with wilderness characteristics, as would management
37 direction to prioritize protection of these areas, including the following land use plan-level direction.

38 The BLM would protect the 33 units by designating them as visual resource management (VRM) Class II
39 (the level of allowable change to the landscape in Class II areas is low) unless already VRM Class I.
40 These areas would also be designated as Land Tenure Zone 1 (retain in federal ownership). Major Rights-
41 of-way projects such as large-scale renewable energy projects would be prohibited as would surface
42 occupancy for saleable minerals and the development of new mineral material sites. Protected units would
43 be designated as no surface occupancy for leasable minerals, unless currently closed.

1 The PRMPA would reduce the number of acres currently designated as open to OHV use by
2 approximately 320,000 and would limit vehicle use in these areas to existing routes. The total OHV
3 Limited areas in the planning area would be 4.5 million acres. Two areas totaling 40,000 acres, that are
4 near the town of Vale, Oregon, would remain open to cross-country OHV use. The 15,829 acres that are
5 currently closed to motor vehicle use would remain closed.

6 Under the PRMPA, BLM would continue to implement Oregon-Washington Standards for Rangeland
7 Health and Guidelines for Livestock Management, in accordance with 43 CFR 4180.2, under which BLM
8 must take appropriate action to address where standards are not achieved, if BLM determines that existing
9 livestock grazing is a significant causal factor. In addition, the PRMPA proposes that BLM will consider
10 taking action to address circumstances where Standards for Rangeland Health are not being achieved,
11 regardless of causal factor. Actions could include changes to livestock grazing management. The PRMPA
12 also proposes to not increase AUMs in areas where an updated Rangeland Health Assessment and
13 Evaluation has either not been prepared or does not reflect current conditions.

14 Under the PRMPA, the BLM would continue to follow guidance under Washington Office Instruction
15 Memorandum WO IM 2013-184 for processing a voluntarily relinquished grazing permit, and would
16 require that NEPA analysis and a subsequent decision be issued to change a permitted area's forage
17 allocation from livestock grazing to another resource or resource use if grazing is determined through
18 analysis to be incompatible with other resources or resource uses. The PRMPA identifies the same set of
19 specific resource values and resource uses (Table 2-3, Chapter 2) to be considered when a voluntary
20 permit relinquishment is received as identified under Alternative C. Under the PRMPA, the permitted
21 area could become unavailable to grazing through project-level NEPA analysis and subsequent decision;
22 no additional land use planning-level analysis or decision would be required.

23 **Changes Made to the Alternatives as a Result of Public** 24 **Comment on the Draft RMP Amendment and Draft** 25 **Environmental Impact Statement**

26 Notable changes between the Draft and Final EIS can be found in Appendix Q and in blue text in the
27 document.

28 **Effects of the Alternatives and Proposed RMP** 29 **Amendment**

30 The effects analysis is a description of the impacts on the human environment from the alternatives and
31 the PRMPA. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the *National*
32 *Environmental Policy Act* state that the human environment is the natural and physical environment and
33 the relationship of people to that environment (40 CFR 1508.14).

34 Chapter 3, Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences, describes the existing resource
35 conditions and trends in the planning area. It also describes the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of
36 the PRMPA and each of the alternatives. This includes descriptions of the environmental, social, and
37 economic consequences of implementing the alternatives. The purpose of this document is to provide the
38 BLM decision-makers and the public with an analysis of the environmental consequences of the PRMPA
39 and the alternatives. Table ES-1, below, provides Land Use Planning Allocations by Alternative.

40 **Next Steps**

41 The publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register by the US Environmental Protection
42 Agency initiates a 30-day protest period and a 60-day Oregon Governor consistency review. Protests must
43 be postmarked or received no later than 30 calendar days following publication of the Notice of

1 Availability. Please refer to the instructions in the “Dear Reader Letter” at the beginning of this document
2 for additional information on how to submit a protest. The close of the protest period will be 30-days after
3 the publication of the Federal Register Notice of Availability and announced on the Southeastern Oregon
4 Resource Management Plan Amendment website [DOI-BLM-ORWA-V000-2017-0038-EIS](https://www.doi.gov/BLM-ORWA-V000-2017-0038-EIS) on the
5 BLM’s National NEPA Register for this project. Following resolution of any protests and the completion
6 of the consistency review by the Governor of Oregon, the Approved Southeastern Oregon RMP
7 Amendment and Record of Decision will be announced via news release and made available
8 electronically on the national NEPA register website.

9

Table ES-1. Acres of land use planning allocations by alternative.²

Land Use Allocation or Management Action	No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment
Summary	Continuation of existing management under the 2002 SEORMP and ROD, as amended, and as required by the 2010 Settlement Agreement. All proposed actions are analyzed to avoid diminishing or eliminating wilderness characteristics.	Reflects management under the 2002 SEORMP and ROD, as amended. The 2002 ROD did not provide specific management or protection of lands with wilderness characteristics. Alternative A would not propose additional land use planning-level resource protection for the wilderness characteristics resources. OHV Area Designations and Grazing Management are not amended.	Emphasize protection of all 76 wilderness characteristics units (excluding road boundary setbacks). All 76 wilderness characteristics units and all WSAs would be managed as Closed to OHV use.	Emphasize protection of twenty-seven (27) identified lands with wilderness characteristics (excluding boundary road setbacks)) units). See Appendix C Alternatives C and D Methodologies for details on identifying units for protection under Alternative C. The twenty-seven (27) wilderness characteristics units would be managed as OHV Limited to existing roads and primitive routes for OHV.	Emphasize protection of thirty-three (33) identified lands with wilderness characteristics (excluding road boundary setbacks) units. See Appendix C - Alternatives C and D Methodologies for details on identifying units for protection under Alternative D. The thirty-three (33) wilderness characteristics units would be managed as OHV Limited to existing roads and primitive routes for OHV.	Emphasize protection of the thirty-three (33) identified lands with wilderness characteristics (excluding road boundary setbacks) units. The 33 units analyzed under Alternative D would be managed to emphasize protection of wilderness characteristics under this PRMPA. The thirty-three (33) wilderness characteristics units would be managed as OHV Limited to existing roads and primitive routes. Two areas near the city of Vale, Oregon would be retained as OHV Open.

² Unless otherwise specified, numbers refer to acres by land use allocation.

Land Use Allocation or Management Action	No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment
<p>Summary (Cont. 'd)</p>		<p>Livestock management would be carried forward as identified under the 2002 SEORMP/ROD, as amended.</p>	<p>Where the BLM determines existing livestock grazing practices are a significant causal factor in not meeting Standards for Rangeland Health, the BLM would suspend the grazing permit for the life of the RMP.</p> <p>When a grazing permit is voluntarily relinquished and pastures are within 2010 Settlement Agreement-specified management areas (Appendix A, Table A-2), the BLM would not re-allocate use to livestock grazing for the life of the RMP.</p>	<p>Permit renewal regarding existing livestock grazing practices as a significant causal factor would be managed as under the 2002 SEORMP/ROD.</p> <p>Processing voluntary relinquishment of a grazing permit same as the No Action Alternative. The BLM has clarified this process in this Alternative.</p>	<p>Where the BLM determines livestock grazing practices are a significant causal factor in not meeting Standards for Rangeland Health, the BLM would suspend the grazing permit until monitoring identifies the area is making significant progress toward meeting the standard.</p> <p>When a permit is voluntarily relinquished, and pastures overlap 2010 Settlement Agreement-specified management areas (Appendix A, Table A-4), the BLM would not re-allocate use to livestock grazing for the life of the RMP.</p>	<p>Permit renewal regarding existing livestock grazing practices as a significant causal factor would be managed as under the 2002 SEORMP/ROD.</p> <p>Processing voluntary relinquishment of a grazing permit and implementation of Oregon/Washington BLM implementation of Standards for Rangeland Health remain the same as the No Action Alternative.</p>

Land Use Allocation or Management Action	No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment
<p>Units Identified to Prioritize Protection of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics³</p> <p><i>(See Appendix B of the DRMPA/DEIS for protected unit summaries and maps)</i></p>	<p>Management under the 2010 Settlement Agreement would continue: all 76 units found to possess wilderness characteristics are managed to not permit any actions that would, “diminish the size or cause the entire BLM inventory unit to no longer meet the criteria for wilderness characteristics.”</p> <p>Boundary Road Setbacks: None</p> <p>Seventy-six (76) units protected for wilderness characteristics: 1,236,907 acres</p> <p>(Map WC 2: DEIS)</p>	<p>Management would not establish new land use planning-level direction to prioritize protection of wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>Boundary Road Setbacks: None</p> <p>No additional land use planning protections for wilderness characteristics</p> <p>(Map WC 1: DEIS)</p>	<p>All 76 units (excluding setbacks) determined by the BLM to possess wilderness characteristics would be managed to prioritize protection of those characteristics.</p> <p>Alternative A prioritizes all units with wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>Boundary Road Setbacks: 30,127 acres</p> <p>Seventy-six (76) units protected for wilderness characteristics: 1,206,780 acres</p> <p>(Map WC 3: DEIS)</p>	<p>27 identified units determined by the BLM to possess wilderness characteristics would be managed for those characteristics.</p> <p>Protection of units identified by applying BLM’s 2017 analysis methodology (see Appendix C Methodology).</p> <p>Boundary Road Setbacks: 5,714 acres</p> <p>Twenty-seven (27) units protected for wilderness characteristics: 167,709 acres</p> <p>(Map WC 4: DEIS)</p>	<p>33 units identified areas determined by the BLM to possess wilderness characteristics would be managed for those characteristics.</p> <p>Protection of units identified based on recommendations of the SEORAC (see Appendix C Methodology).</p> <p>Boundary Road Setbacks: 9,247 acres</p> <p>Thirty-three (33) units protected for wilderness characteristics: 417,196 acres</p> <p>(Map WC 5: DEIS)</p>	<p>33 units identified areas determined by the BLM to possess wilderness characteristics would be managed for those characteristics.</p> <p>Units analyzed for prioritized protection under Alternative D carried forward into the PRMPA.</p> <p>Boundary Road Setbacks: 9,247 acres</p> <p>Thirty-three (33) units protected for wilderness characteristics: 417,190 acres</p> <p>(Map WC 6)</p>

³Appendix B in this RMPA/DEIS provides unit summaries for each protected unit.

Land Use Allocation or Management Action	No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment
<p>Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Motorized Use</p>	<p>Continuation of existing management.</p>	<p>All wilderness characteristics units, including setbacks, and all WSAs, including Lands Adjacent (2002 SEORMP and ROD) would be assigned an OHV area designation of Closed to motorized vehicles. All existing primitive routes in these areas would be Closed to OHV use. Motorized access for authorized and administrative uses would be allowed.</p>	<p>All other areas currently managed as Open (cross-country motorized travel allowed) to OHV use would be managed as OHV Limited to existing roads and primitive routes.</p>	<p>Protected wilderness characteristics units, excluding setbacks, would be managed as Limited to existing routes, unless already managed as Closed to motorized vehicles. Existing OHV management under the 2002 SEORMP/ROD in setbacks would continue.</p> <p>Eight discrete areas in the northern portion of the planning area which are currently Open to OHV use would be retained as Open.</p> <p>All other areas currently managed as Open (cross-country motorized travel allowed) to OHV use would be managed as OHV Limited to existing roads and primitive routes.</p>	<p>Protected wilderness characteristics units, including setbacks, would be managed as Limited to existing primitive routes, unless already managed as Closed to motorized vehicles. OHV area designations in WSAs are unchanged (currently Limited in the 2002 SEORMP/ROD).</p> <p>All other public lands in the planning area would retain their current OHV designation as identified in the 2002 SEORMP, as amended.</p>	<p>Except as noted below, all currently OHV Open areas would be designated as OHV Limited, including protected wilderness characteristics units and their respective setbacks, unless already managed as Closed to motorized vehicles.</p> <p>40,368 acres would continue to be managed as OHV Open as identified in the 2002 SEORMP, as amended.</p>

Land Use Allocation or Management Action	No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment
Off-highway Vehicle Motorized Use (Cont.'d)	OHV Area Allocations (acres) <i>Open: 359,869</i> <i>Limited: 4,265,748</i> <i>Closed to motorized vehicles: 15,829</i> Map OHV 1: DEIS)	OHV Area Allocations (acres) <i>Open: 0</i> <i>Limited: 2,127,604</i> <i>Closed to motorized vehicles: 2,513,842</i> Map OHV 2: DEIS)	OHV Area Allocations (acres) <i>Open: 107,075</i> <i>Limited: 4,518,539</i> <i>Closed to motorized vehicles: 15,829</i> Map OHV 3: DEIS)	OHV Area Allocations (acres) <i>Open: 325,686</i> <i>Limited: 4,299,928</i> <i>Closed to motorized vehicles: 15,829</i> Map OHV 4: DEIS)	OHV Area Allocations (acres) <i>Open: 40,368</i> <i>Limited: 4,585,249</i> <i>Closed to motorized vehicles: 15,829</i> Map OHV 5)	
Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classification	Continuation of existing management ⁴ Acres of Visual Resource Management by Classification (acres) VRM Class I: 1,310,702 VRM Class II: 219,040 VRM Class III: 639,284	All lands with wilderness characteristics units (excluding setback areas) would be designated as Visual Resource Management Class II (unless currently managed as VRM Class I). Acres of Visual Resource Management by Classification (acres) VRM Class I: 1,310,702 VRM Class II: 1,291,381 VRM Class III: 490,445	Identified lands for prioritized protection of wilderness characteristics units (excluding setback areas) would be designated as Visual Resource Management Class II (unless currently managed as VRM Class I). Acres of Visual Resource Management by Classification (acres) VRM Class I: 1,310,702 VRM Class II: 350,315 VRM Class III: 617,779	Identified lands for prioritized protection of wilderness characteristics units (excluding setback areas) would be designated as Visual Resource Management Class II (unless currently managed as VRM Class I). Acres of Visual Resource Management by Classification (acres) VRM Class I: 1,310,702 VRM Class II: 578,361 VRM Class III: 600,543	Identified lands for prioritized protection of wilderness characteristics units (excluding setback areas) would be designated as Visual Resource Management Class II (unless currently managed as VRM Class I). Acres of Visual Resource Management by Classification (acres) VRM Class I: 1,310,702 VRM Class II: 578,361 VRM Class III: 600,543	Identified lands for prioritized protection of wilderness characteristics units (excluding setback areas) would be designated as Visual Resource Management Class II (unless currently managed as VRM Class I). Acres of Visual Resource Management by Classification (acres) VRM Class I: 1,310,702 VRM Class II: 578,361 VRM Class III: 600,543

⁴ VRM Class II objectives are defined as, “Retain the existing character of the landscape. Allow a low level of change that should not attract the attention of a casual observer.” All VRM class objectives are presented in the Visual Resource Management Section 3.7.16 of Chapter 3.

Land Use Allocation or Management Action	No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment
VRM Class <i>(Cont.,d)</i>	VRM Class IV: 2,472,520 (Map VRM 1: DEIS)		VRM Class IV: 1,549, 018 (Map VRM 2: DEIS)	VRM Class IV: 2,362,750 (Map VRM 3: DEIS)	VRM Class IV: 2,151,940 (Map VRM 4: DEIS)	VRM Class IV: 2,151,940 (Map VRM 5)
Minerals -Leasable Minerals <i>CSU: Controlled Surface Use</i> <i>NSO: No Surface Occupancy</i>	<p><i>Unleased Minerals</i> Until the Amendment is completed, proposals for new leasable mineral development will not be implemented if the proposed action is deemed by the BLM to diminish the size or cause an entire BLM inventory unit to no longer meet the criteria for wilderness characteristics.</p> <p><i>Leased Minerals</i> Continuation of existing management under the 2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended.</p>	<p><i>Unleased Minerals</i> Continuation of existing management under the 2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended.</p> <p><i>Leased Minerals</i> Continuation of existing management under the 2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended.</p>	<p><i>Unleased Minerals</i> Where leasable minerals are currently unleased, identified areas managed to protect wilderness characteristics would have no surface occupancy (NSO) unless otherwise more restrictive (Closed to leasing). Continuation of existing management (2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended) within the setbacks.</p> <p><i>Leased Minerals</i> Where leasable minerals are currently leased, apply the following stipulations to all areas protected for wilderness characteristics: Apply reasonable conservation measures consistent with management of wilderness characteristics. Implement design features for management of wilderness characteristics to meet VRM Class II objectives. Require Master Development Plans for fluid minerals processing within areas managed for wilderness characteristics. Require unitization for fluid minerals when necessary for proper development.</p>			<p><i>Unleased Minerals</i> Same as Alternatives B, C and D for the 33 protected wilderness characteristics units proposed for protection under the PRMPA would be designated as NSO unless otherwise more restrictive (Closed to leasing). Continuation of existing management (2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended) within the setbacks. Approximately 148,420 additional acres in the planning area would be NSO above NA and A.</p> <p><i>Leased Minerals</i> Same as Alternatives B, C and D in areas protected for wilderness characteristics under the PRMPA. The same stipulations would apply in these areas.</p>

Land Use Allocation or Management Action	No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment
<p>Leasable Minerals CSU: Controlled Surface Use NSO: No Surface Occupancy <i>(Cont. 'd)</i></p>	<p>Geophysical Exploration Until the Amendment is completed, proposals for new leasable mineral development will not be implemented if the proposed action is deemed by the BLM to diminish the size or cause an entire BLM inventory unit to no longer meet the criteria for wilderness characteristics.</p>	<p>Geophysical Exploration Continuation of existing management under the 2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended.</p>	<p>Identify areas where land acquisitions, including nonfederal mineral rights, may benefit management of wilderness characteristics. If such acquisition is determined to provide a benefit, proceed with acquisition process where appropriate. Continuation of existing management (2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended) within the setbacks.</p> <p>Geophysical Exploration The BLM would allow geophysical exploration in units managed to emphasize protection of their wilderness characteristics, with appropriate design features to meet VRM Class II objectives and in a manner consistent with the new objective for wilderness characteristics. Continuation of existing management (2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended) within the setbacks.</p>			<p>Geophysical Exploration Same as Alternatives B, C, and D in areas protected for wilderness characteristics under the PRMPA/FEIS.</p>
	<p>Leasable Mineral Allocations (acres) No Lease: 1,288,440 NSO: 1,767,976 CSU: 1,800,450 Open: 145,411 (MAP MIN 7: DEIS)</p>	<p>Leasable Mineral Allocations (acres) No Lease: 1,288,440 NSO: 1,767,976 CSU: 1,800,450 Open: 145,411 (MAP MIN 7: DEIS)</p>	<p>Leasable Mineral Allocations (acres) No Lease: 1,288,440 NSO: 2,246,378 CSU: 1,339,355 Open: 128,104 (MAP MIN 12: DEIS)</p>	<p>Leasable Mineral Allocations (acres) No Lease: 1,288,440 NSO: 1,853,091 CSU: 1,715,378 Open: 145,368 (MAP MIN 8: DEIS)</p>	<p>Leasable Mineral Allocations (acres) No Lease: 1,288,440 NSO: 1,916,396 CSU: 1,662,995 Open: 134,446 (MAP MIN 13: DEIS)</p>	<p>Leasable Mineral Allocations (acres) No Lease: 1,288, 440 NSO: 1,916,396 CSU: 1,662,995 Open: 134,446 (MAP MIN 17)</p>

Land Use Allocation or Management Action	No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment
<p>Saleable Minerals</p> <p><i>CSU: Controlled Surface Use</i></p>	<p>Until the Amendment is completed, proposals for new saleable mineral development will not be implemented if the proposed action is deemed by the BLM to diminish the size or cause an entire BLM inventory unit to no longer meet the criteria for wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>If visual impairment criteria are met, these areas would remain open to free use permits and sales in existing designated pits and common use areas.</p>	<p>Continuation of existing management under the 2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended.</p>	<p>All identified units managed to prioritize protection of their wilderness characteristics would be Closed to new mineral material sales. If visual impairment criteria are met, these areas would remain open to free use permits as well as sales in existing designated pits and common use areas.</p> <p>Continuation of existing management (2002 SEORMP and ROD as amended) within the setbacks.</p>			
	<p>Saleable Mineral Allocations (acres): Closed: 3,033,405 Open, CSU: 1,399,733 Open: 540,739</p> <p>(MAP MIN 9: DEIS)</p>	<p>Saleable Mineral Allocations (acres): Closed: 3,033,405 Open CSU: 1,399,733 Open: 540,739</p> <p>(MAP MIN 9: DEIS)</p>	<p>Saleable Mineral Allocations (acres) Closed: 3,511,664 Open CSU: 962,901 Open: 499,312</p> <p>(MAP MIN 14: DEIS)</p>	<p>Saleable Mineral Allocations (acres): Closed: 3,120,353 Open CSU: 1,314,045 Open: 539,480</p> <p>(MAP MIN 10: DEIS)</p>	<p>Saleable Mineral Allocations (acres): Closed: 3,183,104 Open CSU: 1,262,725 Open: 528,048</p> <p>(MAP MIN 15: DEIS)</p>	<p>Saleable Mineral Allocations (acres): Closed: 3,183,104 Open CSU: 1,262,725 Open: 528,048</p> <p>(MAP MIN 18)</p>

Land Use Allocation or Management Action	No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment
<p>Land Tenure Zone Category</p>	<p>Continuation of existing management</p> <p>Land Tenure Zone (acres)</p> <p>Zone 1—(Retention/Acquisition): 4,578,352</p> <p>Zone 2—(Exchange): 52,302</p> <p>Zone 3—(Disposal): 10,785</p> <p>(MAP LAND 1: DEIS)</p>	<p>Continuation of existing management</p> <p>Land Tenure Zone (acres)</p> <p>Same as No Action</p> <p>(MAP LAND 1: DEIS)</p>	<p>76 units prioritized for protection of wilderness characteristics would be categorized as Land Tenure Zone 1 (Retention in Public Ownership)</p> <p>Land Tenure Zone (acres)</p> <p>Zone 1—(Retention/Acquisition): 4,578,556</p> <p>Zone 2—(Exchange): 52,302</p> <p>Zone 3—(Disposal): 10,581</p> <p>(MAP LAND 2: DEIS)</p>	<p>27 units prioritized for protection of wilderness characteristics would be categorized as Land Tenure Zone 1 (Retention in Public Ownership)</p> <p>Land Tenure Zone (acres)</p> <p>Same as No Action</p> <p>(MAP LAND 1: DEIS)</p>	<p>33 units prioritized for protection of wilderness characteristics would be categorized as Land Tenure Zone 1 (Retention in Public Ownership)</p> <p>Land Tenure Zone (acres)</p> <p>Same as No Action</p> <p>(MAP LAND 1: DEIS)</p>	<p>33 units prioritized for protection of wilderness characteristics would be categorized as Land Tenure Zone 1 (Retention in Public Ownership)</p> <p>Land Tenure Zone (acres)</p> <p>Same as No Action</p> <p>(MAP LAND 19)</p>
<p>Rights-of-way (ROW) Authorizations</p>	<p>New surface disturbing ROWs would not be allowed in lands with wilderness characteristics units if the action would diminish or eliminate the characteristics. New ROWs could be co-located within existing authorized</p>	<p>Continuation of existing management</p>	<p>76 units managed to prioritize protection of wilderness characteristics would be designated as Exclusion Areas for new ROWs for “major” ROWs, and commercial solar and wind development.</p>	<p>27 units managed to prioritize protection of wilderness characteristics would be designated as Exclusion Areas for new ROWs for “major” (as defined by the 2015 GRSG ARMPA) ROWs, and commercial solar and wind development.</p>	<p>33 units managed to prioritize protection of wilderness characteristics would be designated as Exclusion Areas for new ROWs for “major” (as defined by the 2015 GRSG ARMPA) ROWs, and commercial solar and wind development.</p>	<p>33 units managed to prioritize protection of wilderness characteristics would be designated as Exclusion Areas for new ROWs for “major” (as defined by the 2015 GRSG ARMPA) ROWs, and commercial solar and wind development.</p>

Land Use Allocation or Management Action	No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment
<p>Rights-of-way Authorizations (Cont.'d)</p>	<p>ROWs with design features (for example, buried utilities) along boundaries of the unit.</p> <p>Rights-of-way Allocations (acres) <i>Major Rights-of-way</i> Open: 436,569</p> <p>Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967</p> <p>Avoidance Areas: 4,065,070</p> <p>Exclusion Areas: 44,839</p> <p>(MAP LAND 3: DEIS)</p> <p><i>Minor Rights-of-way</i> Open: 1,584,022</p> <p>Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967</p> <p>Avoidance Areas: 2,917,617</p> <p>Exclusion Areas: 44,839</p>	<p>Rights-of-way Allocations (acres) <i>Major Rights-of-way</i> Open: 436,569</p> <p>Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967</p> <p>Avoidance Areas: 4,065,070</p> <p>Exclusion Areas: 44,839</p> <p>(MAP LAND 3: DEIS)</p> <p><i>Minor Rights-of-way</i> Open: 1,584,022</p> <p>Existing Corridor Designation: 94,967</p> <p>Avoidance Areas: 2,917,617</p> <p>Exclusion Areas: 44,839</p>	<p>Designate these units as Avoidance Areas for “minor” ROWs and communication sites.</p> <p>Rights-of-way Allocations (acres) <i>Major Rights-of-way</i> Open: 391,287</p> <p>Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967</p> <p>Avoidance Areas: 2,875,699</p> <p>Exclusion Areas: 1,279,492</p> <p>(MAP LAND 4: DEIS)</p> <p><i>Minor Rights-of-way</i> Open: 1,101,635</p> <p>Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967</p> <p>Avoidance Areas: 3,400,004</p> <p>Exclusion Areas: 44,839</p>	<p>Designate these units as Avoidance Areas for “minor” ROWs and communication sites.</p> <p>Rights-of-way Allocations (acres) <i>Major Rights-of-way:</i> Open: 435,284</p> <p>Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967</p> <p>Avoidance Areas: 3,894,027</p> <p>Exclusion Areas: 217,166</p> <p>(MAP LAND 5: DEIS)</p> <p><i>Minor Rights-of-way</i> Open: 1,499,019</p> <p>Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967</p> <p>Avoidance Areas: 3,002,619</p> <p>Exclusion Areas: 44,839</p>	<p>Designate these units as Avoidance Areas for “minor” ROWs and communication sites.</p> <p>Rights-of-way Allocations (acres) <i>Major Rights-of-way:</i> Open: 423,275</p> <p>Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967</p> <p>Avoidance Areas: 3,652,854</p> <p>Exclusion Areas: 470,349</p> <p>(MAP LAND 6: DEIS)</p> <p><i>Minor Rights-of-way</i> Open: 1,428,928</p> <p>Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967</p> <p>Avoidance Areas: 3,072,711</p> <p>Exclusion Areas: 44,839</p>	<p>Designate these units as Avoidance Areas for “minor” ROWs and communication sites.</p> <p>Rights-of-way Allocations (acres) <i>Major Rights-of-way:</i> Open: 423,275</p> <p>Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967</p> <p>Avoidance Areas: 3,652,854</p> <p>Exclusion Areas: 470,349</p> <p>(MAP LAND 20)</p> <p><i>Minor Rights-of-way</i> Open: 1,428,928</p> <p>Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967</p> <p>Avoidance Areas: 3,072,711</p> <p>Exclusion Areas: 44,839</p>

Land Use Allocation or Management Action	No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment
Rights-of-way Authorizations <i>(Cont. 'd)</i>	(MAP LAND 7: DEIS) <i>Commercial Solar Development</i> Open: 436,569 Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967 Avoidance Areas: 3,073,267 Exclusion Areas: 1,036,642	(MAP LAND 7: DEIS) <i>Commercial Solar Development</i> Open: 436,569 Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967 Avoidance Areas: 3,073,267 Exclusion Areas: 1,036,642	(MAP LAND 8: DEIS) <i>Commercial Solar Development</i> Open: 436,569 Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967 Avoidance Areas: 3,073,267 Exclusion Areas: 1,036,642	(MAP LAND 9: DEIS) <i>Commercial Solar Development</i> Open: 435,284 Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967 Avoidance Areas: 2,939,802 Exclusion Areas: 1,171,392	(MAP LAND 10: DEIS) <i>Commercial Solar Development</i> Open: 423,275 Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967 Avoidance Areas: 2,852,432 Exclusion Areas: 1,270,771	(MAP LAND 21) <i>Commercial Solar Development</i> Open: 423,275 Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967 Avoidance Areas: 2,852,432 Exclusion Areas: 1,270,771
	(MAP LAND 11: DEIS) <i>Commercial Wind Development</i> Open: 436,565 Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967 Avoidance Areas: 2,240,892 Exclusion Areas: 1,869,021	(MAP LAND 11: DEIS) <i>Commercial Wind Development</i> Open: 436,565 Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967 Avoidance Areas: 2,240,892 Exclusion Areas: 1,869,021	(MAP LAND 12: DEIS) <i>Commercial Wind Development</i> Open: 391,283 Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967 Avoidance Areas: 1,406,133 Exclusion Areas: 2,749,062	(MAP LAND 13: DEIS) <i>Commercial Wind Development</i> Open: 435,281 Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967 Avoidance Areas: 2,107,428 Exclusion Areas: 2,003,769	(MAP LAND 14: DEIS) <i>Commercial Wind Development</i> Open: 423,272 Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967 Avoidance Areas: 2,020,059 Exclusion Areas: 2,103,148	(MAP LAND 22) <i>Commercial Wind Development</i> Open: 423,272 Existing designated ROW corridor: 94,967 Avoidance Areas: 2,020,059 Exclusion Areas: 2,103,148
	(MAP LAND 15: DEIS)	(MAP LAND 15: DEIS)	(MAP LAND 16: DEIS)	(MAP LAND 17: DEIS)	(MAP LAND 18: DEIS)	(MAP LAND 23)

Land Use Allocation or Management Action	No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment
Standards for Rangeland Health	Continuation of Existing Management Standards for Rangeland Health: the BLM shall take appropriate action in accordance with 43 CFR § 4180.2 upon determining that existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on public lands are significant factors in failing to achieve the standards and conform with the guidelines for livestock grazing management for public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the states of Oregon and Washington.		Where existing grazing practices are determined by the BLM to be a significant causal factor for nonattainment of the Standards for Rangeland Health, the BLM would suspend term grazing permits, either at the allotment or pasture scale, for the <u>duration of the plan.</u>	Same as the No Action Alternative and Alternative A.	Where existing grazing practices are determined by the BLM to be a significant causal factor for nonattainment of the Standards for Rangeland Health, the BLM would suspend term grazing permits, either at the allotment or pasture scale, for the <u>duration of the term permit (10 years) or until monitoring indicates significant progress toward meeting Standards for Rangeland Health.</u>	Same as the No Action Alternative and Alternatives A and C with additional Management Direction incorporated to address both when Standards are not being achieved regardless of causal factor(s) and when a current Rangeland Health Assessment/Evaluation is not available.

Land Use Allocation or Management Action	No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment
<p>Receipt of Voluntary Permit Relinquishment from Permittee</p>	<p>Continuation of Existing Management: Relinquishment by a permittee of any grazing permit within the planning area would be processed in accordance with WO IM 2013-184 (BLM 2013b) or subsequent IMs, handbooks, or manual guidance.</p>		<p>When a grazing permit is voluntarily relinquished and any part of the permitted area overlaps one or more 2010 Settlement Agreement-identified management areas (listed below), grazing use would not be re-allocated for the permitted portion of the affected pasture(s) and therefore not authorized for the duration of the plan. The permit would only be affected for pasture(s) overlapping the listed areas. Grazing would be reduced by the total AUMs of the affected pasture(s) in the relinquished permit(s) when such actions occur in common allotments.</p>	<p>Same as No Action and Alternative A with the addition of further management direction that the permit relinquishment process uses an identified set of resource considerations as a baseline (see Table A-3, Appendix A) when evaluating the compatibility of continuing to permit livestock grazing if a grazing permit is relinquished.</p>	<p>When a grazing permit is voluntarily relinquished and any part of the permitted area overlaps one or more 2010 Settlement Agreement-identified management areas listed below, grazing use would not be re-allocated for the permitted part of the affected pasture(s) and therefore would not authorize for the duration of the plan. The permit would only be affected for pasture(s) overlapping of the listed area(s). Grazing would be reduced by the total AUMs of the affected pasture(s) in the relinquished permit(s) when such actions occur in common allotments.</p>	<p>As with the No Action Alternative and Alternatives A and C, relinquishment by a permittee of any grazing permit within the planning area would be processed in accordance with WO IM 2013-184 (BLM 2013b) or subsequent IMs, handbooks, or manual guidance. The PRMPA also incorporates specific resources and resource uses identified under Alternative C for consideration upon receipt of a relinquished permit. Further, upon receipt of a voluntary permit relinquishment, BLM would review compatibility of livestock grazing use with other existing resources in the permitted area. Based on competing resources or other opportunities (see Table 2-3 and resource list which follows), the BLM could wholly or partially: designate an area as unavailable to livestock grazing, create a reserve common allotment, and/or only allow livestock grazing for vegetation treatments (e.g., targeted, or prescriptive grazing). This management direction would apply across the entire planning area. The resource considerations in Table 2-3 would be evaluated in all cases where a voluntary relinquishment of a grazing permit is received by the BLM. National BLM guidance on processing permit relinquishments requires the BLM to consider “other resource uses”. See Appendix G, Figure G-4 for a summary of this process under the PRMPA.</p>

Land Use Allocation or Management Action	No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment
<p>Receipt of Voluntary Permit Relinquishment from Permittee (Cont. 'd)</p>			<p><u>2010 Settlement Agreement-identified management areas:</u> National Conservation Lands: - -Wild and Scenic Rivers --Wilderness Study Areas --National Historic Trails Other Identified Areas: --Areas of Critical Environmental Concern --Research Natural Areas --Designated Critical Habitat (Endangered Species Act, ESA) --Lands with wilderness characteristics</p>		<p><u>2010 Settlement Agreement-identified management areas:</u> National Conservation Lands: --Wild and Scenic Rivers --Wilderness Study Areas --National Historic Trails</p>	<p>The resource considerations, and the degree to which grazing is compatible or in conflict with these resources, would be evaluated through a NEPA analysis. The BLM would provide the rationale for how these resource considerations were addressed in an allocation decision. This decision would establish the allocation of forage resources for the life of the plan; additional land use planning-level analysis would not be required. If livestock grazing is found to be incompatible, the forage allocation could be made to another resource. If grazing is found to be compatible with the other resource considerations, then the area would remain available to livestock grazing and/or be designated as a reserve common allotment.</p>

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