BLM

Jarbidge Field Office, Idaho



Jarbidge
Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Volume 1: Executive Summary & Chapters 1-3



August 2010

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS

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

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United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Idaho State Office
1387 South Vinnell Way
Boise, Idaho 83709-1657

In Reply Refer To:
1610 (210)

JUL 28 2010

Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the Jarbidge Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Draft RMP/EIS proposes and analyzes six alternatives for future management of approximately 1.4 million acres of Federal land in south-central Idaho and northern Nevada, which are administered by the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Jarbidge Field Office.

You are invited to review the document and provide written comments, which will be used to prepare the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. Comments regarding the Draft RMP/EIS can be sent to:

Jarbidge Planning Team
BLM Jarbidge Field Office
2536 Kimberly Road
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Sent via fax to:
Jarbidge Planning Team at (208) 736-2375

or sent via email to:
ID_Jarbidge_RMP@blm.gov

Comment letters, faxes, and emails must include your complete name, address, and phone number. Anonymous comments will not be considered. Comments that include specific suggested changes, mention page numbers or management action codes (where appropriate), or cite sources are most helpful. Comments for this document must be received within 90 days from the date of the Environmental Protection Agency's publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register.

In developing the Draft RMP/EIS, the BLM considered issues raised throughout the planning process through: consultation with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes; recommendations from cooperating agencies and BLM resource specialists; planning criteria; and options to resolve resource conflicts. Based on the alternatives described and the associated analysis of impacts, Alternative IV is identified as the Preferred Alternative. Alternative IV contains two sub-alternatives with regard to Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC); with the preferred management for ACECs described in Alternative IV-B.

Designation of a Preferred Alternative does not represent a BLM decision and should not be viewed as the final outcome. Information received during the public comment period on the Draft RMP/EIS, new information, or changes in BLM policies or priorities may lead to a new or modified alternative being selected in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. For these reasons, it is essential that you carefully review all alternatives and consider the components of alternatives, rather than the alternatives in their entirety, when commenting.

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11; OPLMA) was signed into law on March 30, 2009. Title I, Subtitle F of this Act, entitled *Owyhee Public Land Management*, affects portions of the planning area by identifying new Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River (WSR) segments and releasing from further consideration areas previously identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in Owyhee County, Idaho. Because the enactment occurred as the BLM was finalizing this Draft RMP/EIS, the Draft RMP/EIS includes descriptions of the new designations and released areas in a separately marked errata sheet at the front of Volume 1. Management for the No Action Alternative and all action alternatives described in the Draft RMP/EIS for WSAs and WSR suitable segments would be consistent with management for the newly designated Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers Wilderness and designated WSRs. With several minor exceptions, the areas within the Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers Wilderness and designated WSRs were formerly within WSAs and WSR suitable segments prior to their designation. For this reason and to avoid further delay in its release, the Draft RMP/EIS does not reflect or quantify the distinction between WSAs and the Wilderness or between suitable and designated WSRs. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS will incorporate the designations and management direction contained in OPLMA. More detail, including a reprint of the Title 1, Subtitle F, is contained in the errata sheet at the front of Volume 1.

To further assist the readers in providing comments, I would like to address two applicant-driven projects with specific EISs currently underway in the Jarbidge planning area: the China Mountain Wind Energy and Gateway West Transmission Line Projects. While related, these projects are being analyzed separately from the RMP through specific project-level EISs. Identification of a Preferred Alternative in the RMP process will not affect the agency's decision to proceed with separate analyses of these proposed projects. Each project will have a Draft EIS with specific public comment periods.

Comments to the Draft RMP/EIS should not include comments specific to either the China Mountain Wind Energy or Gateway West Transmission Line Projects. Comments should address the goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions across the entire planning areas described in the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS.

The BLM will hold several public meetings to discuss the Draft RMP/EIS. Dates, times, and locations of these meetings will be distributed in newsletters, announced in the local news media, and posted on the project website:

http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/planning/jarbidge_resource.html.

Thank you for your participation in this planning effort. For additional information or clarification regarding this document or the planning process, please contact Aimee Betts, RMP Project Manager, at (208) 732-7405.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Ditton
Acting State Director

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ERRATA SHEET FOR THE JARBIDGE DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP)/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

Omnibus Public Lands Management Act

The Omnibus Public Lands Management Act (OPLMA; Public Law 111-11) was signed by the President on March 30, 2009. Within the planning area, Title I, Subtitle F of this act, entitled *Owyhee Public Land Management*, designates the Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers Wilderness and releases from consideration for Wilderness areas previously identified as the Bruneau River-Sheep Creek Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and the Jarbidge River WSA that are not contained in the newly designated Wilderness. In addition, OPLMA designates four Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs) within the planning area and contains additional management direction for cultural resources and transportation in the portions of the planning area within Owyhee County, Idaho. This subtitle is reprinted in its entirety following this errata sheet.

Provisions of the Act Relevant to the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS

Wilderness Designation

OPLMA designates 89,780 acres[1] as the Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers Wilderness (Figure 1). Of this, 60,320 acres are in the planning area (Table 1); the remaining acres are outside the planning area within the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Bruneau Field Office. Of the acres within the planning area, 46,170 acres were formerly in the Jarbidge River WSA, 13,980 acres were formerly in the Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA, and 170 acres were not in either WSA.

Table 1. OPLMA Changes in Wilderness and WSA Management Affecting the Planning Area

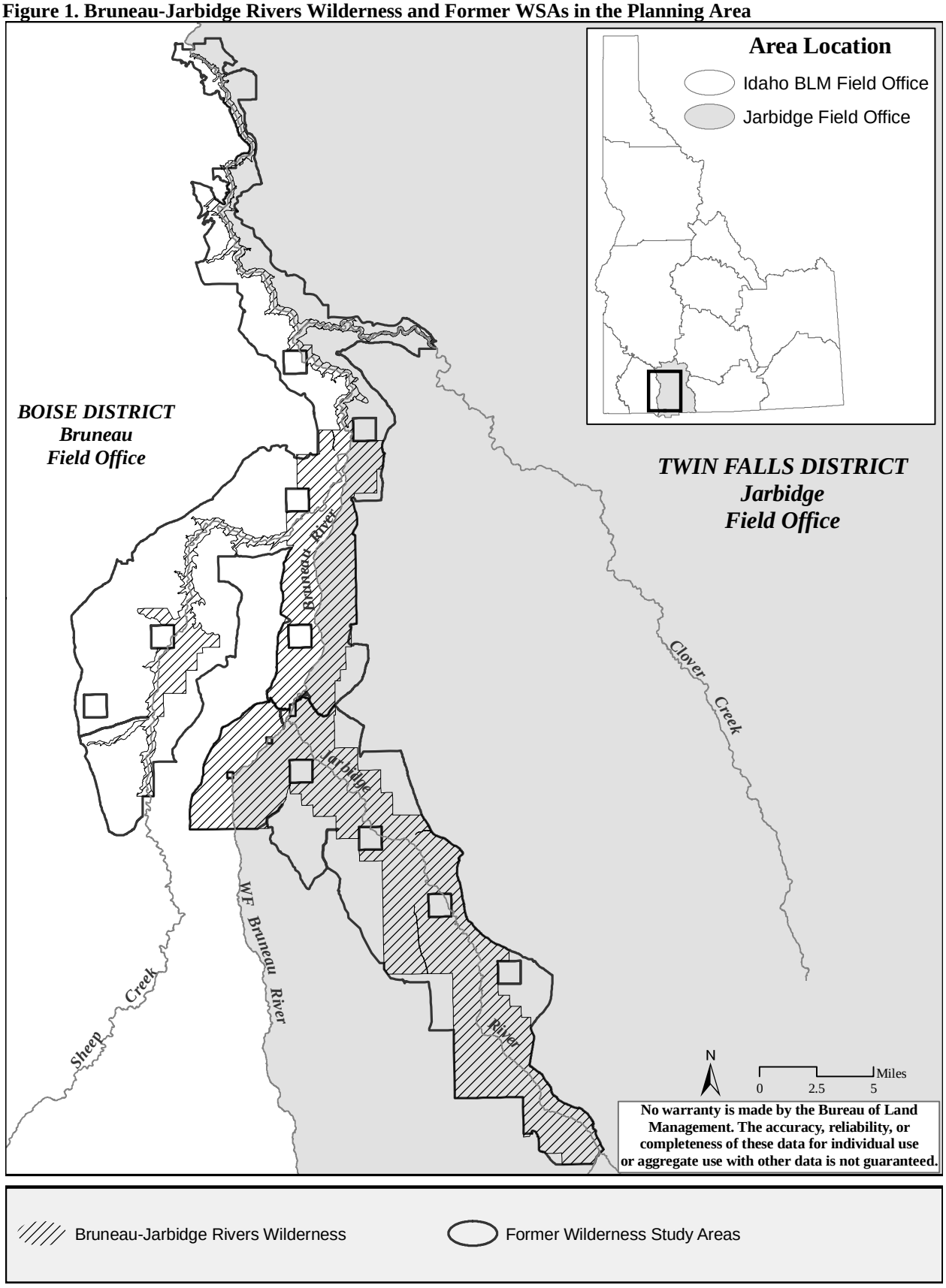
Former Management		Management Following OPLMA	
Field Office	**Acres**	**Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers Wilderness**	**Released from WSA Management**
Jarbidge River WSA			
Jarbidge FO	64,110	46,170	17,940
Bruneau FO	6,840	6,820	20
Total	***70,950***	***52,990***	***17,960***
Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA			
Jarbidge FO	28,120	13,980	14,140
Bruneau FO	72,860	22,490	50,370
Total	***100,980***	***36,470***	***64,510***
Not within any WSA			
Jarbidge FO	170	170	0
Bruneau FO	150	150	0
Total	***320***	***320***	***0***
GRAND TOTAL	**172,250**	**89,780**	**82,470**

OPLMA also contains management provisions for the new Wilderness designations. Management specified by the Act relevant to the Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers Wilderness is as follows:

- Subject to valid existing rights, the Wilderness shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Wilderness Act.
- Subject to valid existing rights, the Wilderness is withdrawn from all forms of:
  - Entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;
  - Location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

[1] Acres and miles were calculated using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and include only BLM-managed lands. All acres have been rounded to the nearest 10 acres. As a result, some acres and miles are slightly different from those contained in the Act.

Figure 1. Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers Wilderness and Former WSAs in the Planning Area



  - Disposition under the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.
- Livestock grazing established as of the passage of the Act shall be allowed to continue, subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary of the Interior considers necessary, consistent with section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act and the guidelines described in Appendix A of House Report 101-405.
- Fences may be constructed and maintained around the Wilderness as determined to be appropriate to enhance Wilderness values.
- The Secretary of the Interior shall accept the donation of any valid existing grazing permits or leases, all or a portion of which is within the Wilderness; for each permit or lease donated, the permit or lease shall be terminated and grazing on the land covered by the permit or lease shall be ended permanently. If the land is also covered by another valid existing permit or lease that is not donated, the authorized grazing level on that land shall be reduced to reflect the donated permit or lease. If less than the full amount of grazing use under a permit or lease is donated, the authorized grazing level shall be reduced to reflect the donation and the permit or lease shall be modified to reflect the revised use levels.
- Land or interests in land may be acquired within the boundaries of the Wilderness through purchase, donation, or exchange. Any land or interest in land acquired in, or adjoining the boundary of, the Wilderness shall be added to and administered as part of the Wilderness.
- A trail plan addressing hiking and equestrian trails will be developed.
- Commercial services, including authorized outfitting and guide activities, are authorized in the Wilderness to the extent necessary for activities that fulfill recreational or other Wilderness purposes.
- Adequate access shall be provided to any owner of private property within the Wilderness boundary.
- Management activities necessary to maintain or restore fish and wildlife populations and habitats in Wilderness may be conducted if the activities are consistent with relevant Wilderness management plans and conducted in accordance with appropriate policies, such as those established in Appendix B of House Report 101-405. These management activities may include the occasional and temporary use of motorized vehicles, if the use, would promote healthy viable, and more naturally distributed wildlife populations that would enhance Wilderness values while causing the minimum impact necessary to accomplish those tasks.
- Any measures that the Secretary determines to be necessary may be taken to control fire, insects, and diseases.
- No protective perimeter or buffer zone shall be created around the Wilderness.
- Non-Wilderness activities or uses outside the Wilderness that can be seen or heard from within the Wilderness shall not be precluded.

Release of Areas from WSA Management

OPLMA releases the remaining portions of the Jarbidge River and Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSAs from consideration as Wilderness. Within the planning area,17,940 acres of the Jarbidge River WSA and 14,140 acres of the Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA were released (Figure 1; Table 1). The released lands are to be managed in accordance with the applicable land use plan adopted under section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). Within the planning area, the applicable land use plan is the 1987 Jarbidge Resource Management Plan (RMP).

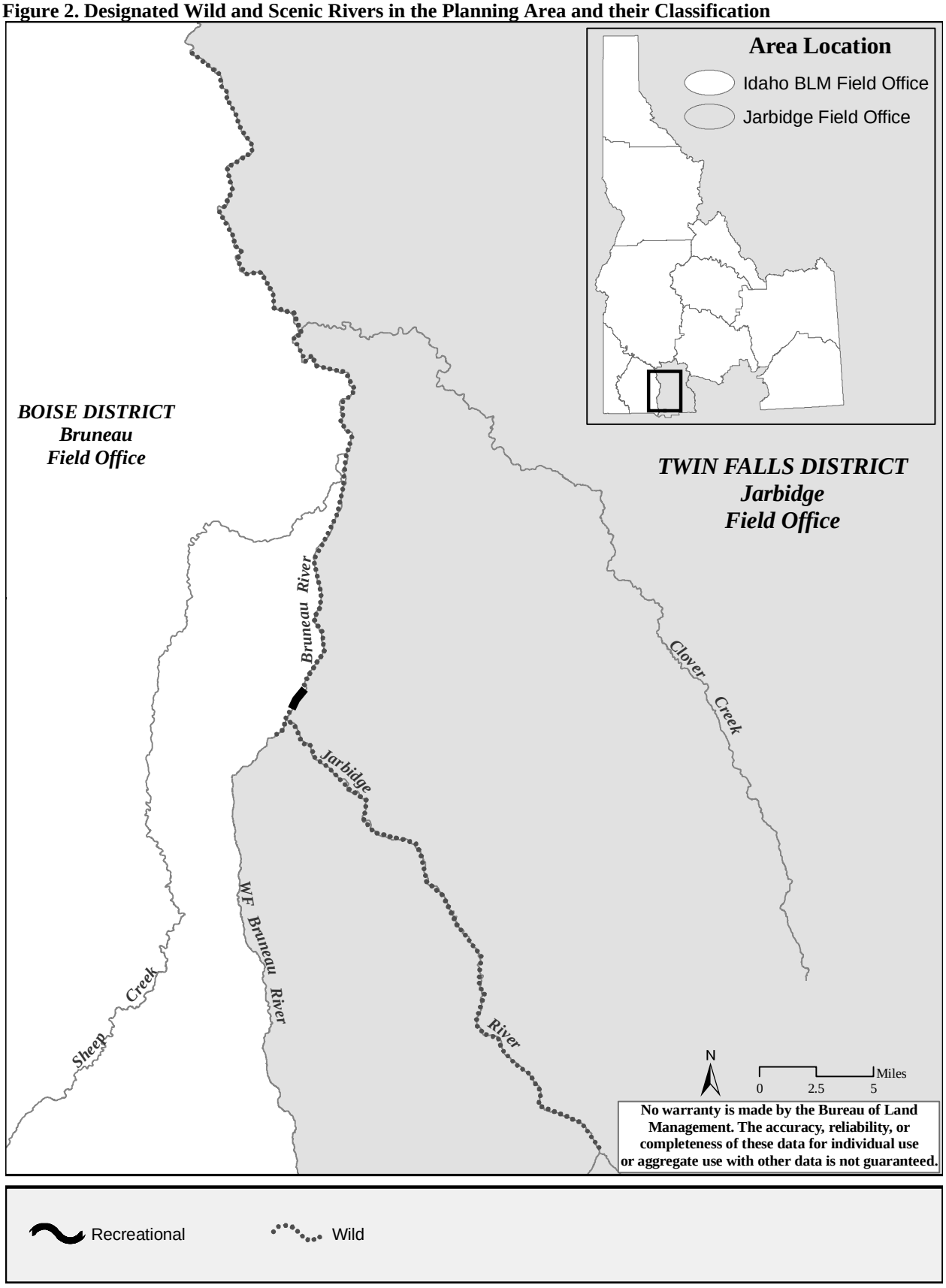
Wild and Scenic River (WSR) Designations

OPLMA designates the following WSRs in the planning area (Figure 2):

- A 38.1-mile segment of the Bruneau River from the downstream boundary of the Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers Wilderness to the confluence with the West Fork of the Bruneau River, except for a 0.5-mile segment at the Indian Hot Springs public road access, to be administered as a wild river[2]
- A 0.5-mile segment of the Bruneau River at the Indian Hot Springs public road access to be administered as a recreational river

[2] 37.8 miles of the wild segment are downstream from Indian Hot Springs, while 0.3 miles of the wild segment are upstream from Indian Hot Springs.

Figure 2. Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Planning Area and their Classification



- A 0.3-mile segment of the West Fork of the Bruneau River from the confluence with the Jarbidge River to the downstream boundary of the Bruneau Canyon Grazing Allotment to be administered as a wild river
- A 27.9-mile segment of the Jarbidge River from the confluence with the West Fork of the Bruneau River to the upstream boundary of the Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers Wilderness to be administered as a wild river

All four of these river segments were identified as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) in the 1976 Bruneau Wild and Scenic River Study Report. That report assigned these segments a tentative classification as wild and identified scenic, recreational, geological, fish, wildlife, cultural, and vegetation outstandingly remarkable values.

Transportation Management

OPLMA directs the Secretary to prepare a travel management plan for motorized and mechanized off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation on BLM-managed lands in Owyhee County. In general, the plan will limit recreational motorized and mechanized OHV use to a system of designated roads and trails; this limitation will not apply to snowmobiles. Until the plan is completed, all recreational motorized and mechanized off-highway vehicle use (excluding snowmobiles) shall be limited to roads and trails lawfully in existence on the day before the enactment of the Act.

Implications for the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS

When OPLMA passed in March 2009, the Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) was in the process of finalizing the impact analysis for the Jarbidge Draft RMP/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). To incorporate OPLMA into the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS, the BLM determined numerous acreage changes would be necessary in the document; however, these minor changes would not likely affect the ultimate conclusions of the analysis. Updating the acres in the document would require changes to the description of the No Action Alternative in Chapter 2, 14 sections of the action alternatives in Chapter 2, 6 sections of Chapter 3, and every section of Chapter 4 except the *Wild Horses*, *Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*, and *National Historic Trails* sections. These changes would be extensive due to the structure of the alternatives and analysis. For example, the new mineral withdrawals within the Wilderness designation would affect the *Leasable Minerals*, *Salable Minerals*, and *Locatable Minerals* sections of Chapter 2 and their associated GIS layers. These changes, in turn, would affect the 12 sections of Chapter 4 in which impacts from minerals actions are analyzed.

The ID Team determined this workload would delay publication of the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS by approximately one year. Due to the timeline specified in the September 30, 2005, Stipulated Settlement Agreement (SSA) in the case of *Western Watersheds Project v. Bennett et al. (Case No. CV-04-181-S-BLW) (D. Idaho)* (Appendix A), BLM decided to publish the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS without full incorporation of the designations and management contained in the Act and incorporate them before publication of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

Though the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS does not incorporate the OPLMA, the analysis contained in Chapter 4 is still valid. BLM does not expect these changes to affect the ultimate conclusions of the analysis; rather, most changes will only appear as minor variations in acreages or changes in wording. The implications of the provisions of the Act for the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS are described in more detail below.

Implications from Wilderness Designation

The new Wilderness designation will change the acres discussed in Chapters 2, 3, and 4, but is not likely to affect the ultimate conclusions of the analyses. Generally, any management or impacts relevant to the former Jarbidge River WSA or Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA are relevant to the Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers Wilderness and discussed accordingly in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. A new *Wilderness* section of Chapter 4 will be added as well. The analysis contained in the *Wilderness Study Areas* section of Chapter 4 will still apply to the Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA, which is not affected by the Act.

Implications from Release of Areas from WSA Management

Management for lands released from WSA management for the No Action Alternative has already been described in detail in the *Wilderness Study Area* section of Chapter 2. Impacts to released WSA lands due to this management have already been analyzed in the *Wilderness Study Area* section of Chapter 4.

In an inventory conducted in 1981, lands released from Wilderness review under OPLMA were found to have Wilderness characteristics. In the intervening years, these Wilderness characteristics were protected until Congress could act on them. The Wilderness inventory for lands that were not designated as Wilderness but have been released under OPLMA will be updated to make a determination regarding Wilderness characteristics. Lands determined to have Wilderness characteristics will be incorporated into the *Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics* sections in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS as appropriate to each action alternative. That is, under Alternatives I, IV, and V, these lands would be managed for Wilderness characteristics, and under Alternatives II and II, they would be managed for other values. Under all alternatives, proposals regarding the use of these lands would need to analyze impacts to Wilderness characteristics. Accordingly, the *Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics* section of Chapter 4 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS will be updated to analyze impacts to Wilderness characteristics on these lands.

Should any of the released lands be found to not have Wilderness characteristics, those lands would be managed the same as adjacent non-Wilderness lands as appropriate to each action alternative, and proposals regarding their use would not need to analyze impacts to Wilderness characteristics.

Impacts to released WSA lands that would be managed for Wilderness characteristics or managed for other values have already been analyzed in the Draft RMP/EIS in the *Wilderness Study Areas* section of Chapter 4.

Implications from Wild and Scenic River Designations

While the text of the *Wild and Scenic Rivers* section of Chapters 3 and 4 will be revised to show portions of the rivers designated as WSR segments, the management described in Chapter 2 and analysis in Chapter 4 is not affected because Chapter 2 includes identical management for suitable and designated WSRs. The new WSR designations will not change the analyses contained in Chapter 4 as those river segments designated WSRs by OPLMA were all previously identified as suitable WSRs.

Implications from Transportation Management

OPLMA's transportation designations represent an important change to the description of the No Action Alternative, but not to any of the action alternatives. Table 2 displays the travel designations identified in the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS for the No Action Alternative for the Owyhee County portion of the planning area and how those acres would change under OPLMA.

Table 2. Travel Designations in Owyhee County under the No Action Alternative and OPLMA

Travel Designation	No Action Alternative	OPLMA
Open to Cross-Country Motorized Vehicle Use	719,160	0
Limited to Designated Routes	113,270	864,460
Limited to Inventoried Ways	70,170	0
Closed to Motorized Vehicle Use	22,180	60,320

OPLMA changes all open areas to limited to designated routes, with a limited to existing routes designation in effect until a transportation plan is completed. The 32,080 acres released from WSA management are no longer limited to inventoried ways and, instead, are limited to designated routes under OPLMA, with a limited to existing routes designation in effect until a transportation plan is completed. Any acres within the Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers Wilderness are closed to motorized and mechanized vehicle use under OPLMA.

The needed changes to the No Action Alternative in Chapter 2 would also affect sections of Chapter 4 in which impacts from transportation and travel are analyzed. In general, impacts due to transportation and

travel management under the No Action Alternative would be more similar to impacts under the action alternatives than they were prior to passage of the Act as the management would be more similar. Due to the major reduction in acres open to cross-country motorized vehicle use under OPLMA, impacts from transportation and travel management under the No Action Alternative to resources such as upland vegetation and wildlife would generally decrease; impacts to resource uses would generally increase due to the potential for decreased levels of motorized access.

In contrast, none of the action alternatives contain any areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use within the Owyhee County portion of the planning area. The needed changes in the limited to inventoried ways and closed designations in Alternatives I, II, III, and IV are the same as described for the No Action Alternative. In Alternative V, the 32,080 acres released from WSA management would no longer be closed and instead would be limited to designated routes, with a limited to existing routes designation in effect until a transportation plan is completed. Impacts from transportation and travel management under the action alternatives to resources or resource uses are not expected to differ substantially from those already portrayed in Chapter 4.

Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan Amendments for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States

This Record of Decision (ROD; referred to as the "Geothermal Leasing ROD") was signed in December 2008. This document contains plan amendments evaluated in the *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States* (BLM, 2008). These amendments and the accompanying Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) were prepared in response to Section 225 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This decision amends the 1987 Jarbidge RMP by:

- Identifying public lands that are administratively and legally closed or open to leasing, and
- Adopting a comprehensive list of stipulations, best management practices (BMPs), and procedures to serve as consistent guidance for future geothermal leasing and development on public lands.

Provisions of the ROD Relevant to the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS

Allocations for Geothermal Leasing

The plan amendments make the following geothermal leasing allocation decisions for the Jarbidge Field Office (FO):

- Allocate 1,565,165 acres as open for geothermal leasing subject to existing laws, regulations, formal orders, stipulations attached to the lease form, and the terms and conditions of the standard lease form.
- Allocate 131,547 acres as closed for geothermal leasing, including WSAs, the Oregon National Historic Trail (NHT), designated Wild Rivers under the Wild and Scenic River Act (WSRA), and areas previously closed to mineral leasing in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP.

Stipulations for Geothermal Leasing

The plan amendments adopt the stipulations for geothermal leasing listed below. These stipulations were developed to address a wide variety of landscapes, climates, and ecosystems; where the BLM determines particular stipulations may be inappropriate for a planning area, the procedures for waivers, exception, and modifications would be followed as discussed in the Final PEIS (BLM, 2008). The authorized officer retains the discretion to issue stipulations in order to mitigate the impacts on other land uses or resource objectives as defined in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP. If an existing land use plan offers more protective measures or has resource-specific commitments, those more protective measures would apply instead.

No Surface Occupancy Stipulations

Areas with No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulations include:

- Bruneau-Jarbidge, Sand Point, and Salmon Falls Creek Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs);
- Designated or proposed critical habitat for listed species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) if geothermal leasing would adversely modify the habitat; for listed or proposed species without designated habitat, NSO would be implemented to the extent necessary to avoid jeopardy;
- Within the boundary of properties designated or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, including National Landmarks and National Register Districts and Sites, and additional lands outside the designated boundaries to the extent necessary to protect values where the setting and integrity is critical to their designation or eligibility;
- Areas with important cultural and archaeological resources, such as traditional cultural properties (TCPs) and Native American sacred sites, as identified through consultation;
- Water bodies, riparian areas, wetlands, playas, and 100-year floodplains;
- Developed recreational facilities, special-use permit recreation sites (e.g., ski resorts and camps), and areas with significant recreational use with which geothermal development is deemed incompatible, excluding direct use applications;
- Designated National Scenic and Recreational Rivers under the WSRA;
- Segments of rivers determined to be potentially eligible for WSR status by virtue of a WSR inventory, including a corridor of 0.25 mile from the high water mark on either side of the bank;
- Designated important viewsheds, including public lands designated as Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class I; and
- Slopes in excess of 40% and/or soils with high erosion potential.

Additional NSO stipulations could be applied in conformance with the 1987 Jarbidge RMP to address site-specific resource concerns.

Timing Limitations and Controlled Surface Use Stipulations

Where standard lease terms and permit-level decisions are deemed insufficient to protect sensitive resources, but where an NSO stipulation is deemed overly restrictive, the BLM would apply seasonal or time-limited stipulations or controlled surface use stipulations to leases. In general, timing limitations are used to protect resources sensitive to disturbance during certain periods. Such stipulations are generally applicable to specific areas, seasons, and resources. They are commonly applied to wildlife activities and habitat, such as winter range for deer, elk, and moose; nesting habitat for raptors and migratory birds; and breeding areas. Buffer zones are also used to further mitigate impacts from any human activities. The size of buffers can also be specific to species and location, and can change based on findings of science or movement of species. Therefore, timing limitations would be applied by the authorizing officer as appropriate for the specific lease areas and in compliance with the FO's RMP. The BLM would consult with the appropriate agencies (e.g., State wildlife agencies) in establishing the periods and extent of area for timing limitations.

A controlled surface use stipulation allows the BLM to require that any future activity or development be modified or relocated from the proposed location if necessary to achieve resource protection. The project applicant will be required to submit a plan to meet the resource management objectives through special design, construction, operation, mitigation, or reclamation measures, and/or relocation. Unless the plan is approved, surface occupancy would not be allowed on the lease. The following controlled surface use stipulations would be applied by the authorizing officer as appropriate for the specific area and site conditions.

- **Protection of riparian and wetland habitat** – This stipulation would be applied within 500 feet of riparian or wetland vegetation to protect the values and functions of these areas. Measures required will be based on the nature, extent, and value of the area potentially affected.
- **Protection of visual resources** – This stipulation would be applied to VRM Class II areas (VRM Class III management objectives would be met through conditions of approval applied during the permit approval process, and may be referenced in a lease notice) and other sensitive viewsheds such as within the visual setting of National Scenic and Historic Trails or near residential areas.

- **Protection of recreational areas** – This stipulation would be applied to minimize the potential for adverse impacts to recreational values, both motorized and non-motorized, and the natural settings associated with the recreational activity.
- **Compatibility with urban interface** – This stipulation would be applied to minimize the potential for adverse impacts to residential areas, schools, or other adjacent urban land uses.
- **Protection of erosive soils and soils on slopes greater than 30%** – This stipulation would be applied to minimize the potential for adverse impacts to erosive soils as defined as severe or very severe erosion classes based on Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) mapping.
- **Protection of important habitat and migration corridors** – This stipulation would be applied to protect the continuity of migration corridors and important habitat.

Other Lease Stipulations

Protection of Geothermal Features

Under the following situations, the BLM would apply stipulations to protect the integrity of geothermal resource features, such as springs and geysers. If it is determined that geothermal operations are reasonably likely to result in a significant adverse effect to such a feature, then BLM would decline to issue the lease.

- The BLM would include stipulations to protect any significant thermal features of a National Park System unit that could be adversely affected by geothermal development. These stipulations will be added, if necessary, when the lease or permit is issued, extended, renewed, or modified (43 CFR 3201.10[b]).
- Any leases that contain thermal features (e.g., springs or surface expressions) would have a stipulation requiring monitoring of the thermal features during any exploration, development, and production of the lease to ensure that there are no impacts to water quality or quantity.

ESA Stipulation

In accordance with *BLM Instruction Memorandum No. 2002-174, Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations*, the BLM will apply the following stipulation on any leases where Threatened, Endangered, or other special status species or critical habitat is known or strongly suspected:

> "The lease area may now or hereafter contain plants, animals, or their habitats determined to be Threatened, Endangered, or other special status species. BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further its conservation and management objective to avoid BLM-approved activity that will contribute to a need to list such a species or their habitat. BLM may require modifications to or disapprove proposed activity that is likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat. BLM will not approve any ground-disturbing activity that may affect any such species or critical habitat until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the Endangered Species Act as amended, 16 USC 1531 et seq., including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation."

Additionally, the BLM will provide a separate notification through a lease notice to prospective lessees identifying the particular special status species that are present on the lease parcel offered.

Sensitive Species Stipulation

For agency-designated sensitive species (e.g., sage-grouse), a lease stipulation (NSO, controlled surface use, or timing limitations) would be imposed for those portions of high value, key, or crucial species habitat where other existing measures are inadequate to meet agency management objectives.

Cultural Resources Stipulation

In accordance with *BLM Instruction Memorandum No. 2005-003, Cultural Resources and Tribal Consultation for Fluid Minerals Leasing*, the BLM will apply the following stipulation to protect cultural resources:

> "This lease may be found to contain historic properties and/or resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native

American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Executive Order 13007, or other statutes and executive orders. The BLM will not approve any ground-disturbing activities that may affect any such properties or resources until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the NHPA and other authorities. The BLM may require modification to exploration or development proposals to protect such properties, or disapprove any activity that is likely to result in adverse effects that cannot be successfully avoided, minimized or mitigated."

BMPs for Geothermal Leasing

The plan amendments contain BMPs that could be applied to subsequent applications for geothermal exploration, drilling, utilization, and reclamation to aid in achieving desired outcomes for safe, environmentally responsible resource development, by preventing, minimizing, or mitigating adverse impacts and reducing conflicts. Appendix B of the ROD, which can be viewed on the Internet at http://www.blm.gov/geothermal_eis, provides a list of recommended BMPs that would be incorporated as appropriate into the permit application by the lessee or would be included in the approved use authorization by the BLM as conditions of approval. The BMPs contained in Appendix B of the ROD provide a menu of improved practices for developing geothermal energy and minimize impacts to the biophysical and cultural landscape. The list is extensive but is not meant to be all inclusive given the constant development of improved practices, diversity of the western States, and potential for unique site-specific conditions. Not all of the individual mitigation measures will apply in most situations, and selection of appropriate BMPs and mitigation measures should be dependent on factors such as the project size, location, site specific characteristics, and potential resource impacts.

Management Procedures for Geothermal Leasing

To ensure compliance with regulations and Federal laws, the plan amendments contain procedures to be implemented prior to any lands being included in a competitive lease sale. Stipulations listed above would also be used to help achieve resource protection in accordance with laws and regulations and the guiding land use plan. A summary of these management procedures is listed below; the full text of the management procedures in the ROD can be viewed on the Internet at http://www.blm.gov/geothermal_eis.

- The authorized officer of the BLM would consult with the appropriate Native American tribal governments to identify tribal interests and traditional cultural resources or properties that may be affected by the Federal land leases and potential for geothermal energy development.
- The authorized officer of the BLM would consult with the appropriate Native American Tribes and State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) regarding historic and cultural resources per NHPA Section 106.
- The authorized officer of the BLM would determine if any listed or proposed Threatened or Endangered species or critical habitat is present on nominated lease parcels. If so, the authorized officer would comply with ESA Section 7.
- The authorized officer of the BLM would review the lands for any other sensitive resources (e.g., paleontological or BLM sensitive status species) and provide for the necessary stipulations to protect these resources and ensure compliance with the land use plan.
- Prior to making a leasing decision on lands in proximity to a National Park System unit, the BLM would coordinate with the National Park Service to determine if there would be any impacts to thermal or hydrological features within the unit.
- Prior to making leasing decisions, the BLM will assess the adequacy of existing National Environmental Policy Act of 1696 (NEPA) documentation and ensure that the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan (i.e., through completion of a Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy, or DNA) to determine if there is new information or new circumstances that warrant further analysis.
- The level of environmental analysis to be required under NEPA for subsequent individual exploration, development, and production permits will be determined at the FO level.
- The authorized officer of the BLM would collaborate with appropriate State agencies, especially in the case of geothermal energy, as the states manage and typically have regulatory authority for water quality, water rights, and wildlife.

- Applicants for geothermal development and production on public lands will develop a project-specific operations plan that incorporates the applicable mitigation and best management practices provided in ROD Appendix B and, as appropriate, the requirements of other existing and relevant BLM mitigation guidance.

Implications for the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS

When the Geothermal Leasing ROD was signed in December 2008, the ID Team was well into the process of conducting the impact analysis for the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS. The ID Team determined the workload associated with incorporating the decisions in this ROD into the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS would delay publication of the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS. Due to the timeline specified in the SSA (Appendix A), BLM decided to publish the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS without full incorporation of the decisions in this ROD and incorporate them before publication of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

Impacts of the decisions contained in the Geothermal Leasing ROD were analyzed in the *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States* (BLM, 2008). As stated in the PEIS, the stipulations, BMPs, and procedures would be adopted to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts associated with geothermal leasing, exploration, drilling, utilization, and reclamation and abandonment.

The implications of the decisions in the Geothermal Leasing ROD for the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS are described in more detail below.

Implications for the No Action Alternative

Some of the decisions in the Geothermal Leasing ROD were already included and analyzed in the No Action Alternative in the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS; those portions of the No Action Alternative would not be modified in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. Modifications to the No Action Alternative necessary for consistency with the Geothermal Leasing ROD will be incorporated into the Proposed RMP/Final EIS and include the following:

- Allocate WSAs, the Oregon NHT, and designated Wild Rivers as closed to geothermal leasing;
- Include designated or proposed critical habitat; developed recreational facilities and areas with significant recreational use with which geothermal development is deemed incompatible; designated Scenic or Recreational Rivers; eligible WSRs; areas allocated as VRM Class I; slopes in excess of 40%; and soils with high erosion potential as open to geothermal leasing with NSO;
- Include controlled surface use stipulations for protection of visual resources, protection of recreational areas, compatibility with urban interface, protection of erosive soils and soils on slopes greater than 30%, and protection of important habitat and migration corridors; and
- Include the other lease stipulations included in the Geothermal Leasing ROD (i.e., the Protection of Geothermal Features, ESA, Sensitive Species, and Cultural Resource Stipulations), the BMPs for geothermal leasing, or the management procedures for geothermal leasing.

Implications for the Action Alternatives

Most of the decisions in the Geothermal Leasing ROD were already included and analyzed in some or all of the action alternatives in the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS. Thus, the mineral leasing allocations and other related management in Alternatives I through V as described in the Draft RMP/EIS would not be modified as a result of the Geothermal Leasing ROD, except as described below.

The action alternatives in the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS do not include the Protection of Geothermal Resources Stipulation, the Sensitive Species Stipulation, and the BMPs and management procedures for geothermal leasing. These stipulations, BMPs, and procedures would be incorporated into all action alternatives in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

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

This ROD (referred to as the "Energy Corridor ROD") was signed in January 2009. This document contains plan amendments evaluated in the *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, Designation of Energy Corridors on Federal Land in the 11 Western States* (DOE & DOI, 2008). These amendments and the accompanying PEIS were prepared in response to Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The decision amends the 1987 Jarbidge RMP by:

- Identifying specific Section 368 energy corridors by centerline, width, and compatible energy uses and restrictions; and
- Adopting mandatory interagency operating procedures (IOPs) that would be implemented on a corridor- and project-specific basis.

Provisions of the ROD Relevant to the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS

Section 368 Energy Corridors

The plan amendments designated four Section 368 energy corridors in the Jarbidge FO: 29-36, 36-112, 36-226, and 36-228. All are 3,500 feet wide and are for compatible multimodal uses (e.g., oil, gas, or hydrogen pipelines or electrical transmission or distribution facilities).

Interagency Operating Procedures (IOPs)

The plan amendments included the adoption of mandatory IOPs that would be implemented for projects proposed within the Section 368 corridors on a corridor- and project-specific basis. These IOPs are practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from future project development that may occur within the designated corridors. The IOPs are not intended and should not be construed to alter applicable provisions of law or regulation or to reduce the protections afforded thereby to the resources addressed in the IOPs. The IOPs can be found in Appendix B of the Energy Corridor ROD, which can be viewed on the Internet at http://corridoreis.anl.gov.

Implications for the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS

When the Energy Corridor ROD was signed in January 2009, the ID Team was well into the process of conducting the impact analysis for the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS. The ID Team determined the workload associated with incorporating the decisions in this ROD into the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS would delay publication of the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS. Due to the timeline specified in the SSA (Appendix A), BLM decided to publish the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS without full incorporation of the decisions in this ROD and incorporate them before publication of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

Impacts of the decisions contained in the Energy Corridor ROD were analyzed in the *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, Designation of Energy Corridors on Federal Land in the 11 Western States* (DOE & DOI, 2008). As stated in the PEIS, consolidation of right-of-way (ROW) development is expected to help reduce the proliferation of separate ROWs across the landscape. IOPs are anticipated to foster long-term, systematic planning for energy transport development in the West, provide industry with a coordinated and consistent interagency permitting process, and provide practicable measures to avoid or minimize environmental harm from future development within the corridors. In addition, impacts of adopting the IOPs on land use authorizations were analyzed in the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS; as stated in the *Land Use Authorizations* section of Chapter 4, the IOPs decrease the amount of constraint on land use authorizations within the ROW corridors by specifying standardized procedures and identifying requirements up front.

The implications of the decisions in the Energy Corridor ROD for the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS are described in more detail below.

Implications for the No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative in the Draft RMP/EIS does not include the Section 368 energy corridors or the IOPs; therefore, the No Action Alternative in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS would be updated to reflect these amendments to the 1987 Jarbidge RMP.

Implications for the Action Alternatives

The Energy Corridor ROD states that plans currently undergoing revisions for reasons unrelated to Section 368, but not scheduled for completion until after the ROD is signed, will incorporate the corridor designations into their ongoing plan revisions upon signature of the ROD. This provision applies to the revision of the 1987 Jarbidge RMP described in the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS.

All four Section 368 energy corridors identified in the Jarbidge FO correspond to energy corridors that would be designated under the action alternatives in the Draft RMP/EIS; the locations of these corridors are depicted in Map 77 in Volume 3 of the Draft RMP/EIS. In the Draft RMP/EIS, Alternatives I, II, III, and IV would designate energy corridors corresponding to all four Section 368 energy corridors (Table 3), with a one-mile width instead of 3,500 feet; no modification to these alternatives in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS is necessary.

Alternative V in the Draft RMP/EIS would designate energy corridors corresponding to only three of the four Section 368 energy corridors (Table 3); therefore, Alternative V in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS would be modified to include the Section 368 energy corridor 36-228 (corresponding to the Saylor Creek corridor) at the 3,500-foot width prescribed in the plan amendments.

Table 3. Section 368 Energy Corridors in the Jarbidge Field Office and Corresponding Corridor Identified in the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS.

Section 368 Energy Corridor	Corresponding Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS Corridor	Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS Alternatives in which Corresponding Corridor would be Designated
29-36	Pilgrim Gulch	I, II, III, IV, V
36-112	Shoestring	I, II, III, IV, V
36-226	Balanced Rock	I, II, III, IV, V
36-228	Saylor Creek	I, II, III, IV

None of the action alternatives in the Draft RMP/EIS include the IOPs; therefore, the IOPs would also be incorporated into all action alternatives in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

Works Cited

BLM. (2008). *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States*. Washington, D.C.: USDI, Bureau of Land Management and USDA, Forest Service.

DOE, & DOI. (2008). *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, Designation of Energy Corridors on Federal Land in the 11 Western States* (No. DOE/EIS-0386). Washington, D.C.: DOE and USDI, Bureau of Land Management.

States, an Indian tribe, a State, or a private individual, partnership, or corporation.

Idaho.

Subtitle F—Owyhee Public Land Management

SEC. 1501. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ACCOUNT.—The term "account" means the Owyhee Land Acquisition Account established by section 1505(b)(1).

(2) COUNTY.—The term "County" means Owyhee County, Idaho.

(3) OWYHEE FRONT.—The term "Owyhee Front" means the area of the County from Jump Creek on the west to Mud Flat Road on the east and draining north from the crest of the Silver City Range to the Snake River.

(4) PLAN.—The term "plan" means a travel management plan for motorized and mechanized off-highway vehicle recreation prepared under section 1507.

(5) PUBLIC LAND.—The term "public land" has the meaning given the term in section 103(e) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702(e)).

(6) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(7) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of Idaho.

(8) TRIBES.—The term "Tribes" means the Shoshone Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation.

SEC. 1502. OWYHEE SCIENCE REVIEW AND CONSERVATION CENTER.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Tribes, State, and County, and in consultation with the University of Idaho, Federal grazing permittees, and public, shall establish the Owyhee Science Review and Conservation Center in the County to conduct research projects to address natural resources management issues affecting public and private rangeland in the County.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the center established under subsection (a) shall be to facilitate the collection and analysis of information to provide Federal and State agencies, the Tribes, the County, private landowners, and the public with information on improved rangeland management.

SEC. 1503. WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) WILDERNESS AREAS DESIGNATION.—

16 USC 1132 note.

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(A) BIG JACKS CREEK WILDERNESS.—Certain land comprising approximately 52,826 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Little Jacks Creek and Big Jacks Creek Wilderness" and dated May 5, 2008, which shall be known as the "Big Jacks Creek Wilderness".

(B) BRUNEAU-JARBIDGE RIVERS WILDERNESS.—Certain land comprising approximately 89,996 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers

Wilderness" and dated December 15, 2008, which shall be known as the "Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers Wilderness".

(C) LITTLE JACKS CREEK WILDERNESS.—Certain land comprising approximately 50,929 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Little Jacks Creek and Big Jacks Creek Wilderness" and dated May 5, 2008, which shall be known as the "Little Jacks Creek Wilderness".

(D) NORTH FORK OWYHEE WILDERNESS.—Certain land comprising approximately 43,413 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "North Fork Owyhee and Pole Creek Wilderness" and dated May 5, 2008, which shall be known as the "North Fork Owyhee Wilderness".

(E) OWYHEE RIVER WILDERNESS.—Certain land comprising approximately 267,328 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Owyhee River Wilderness" and dated May 5, 2008, which shall be known as the "Owyhee River Wilderness".

(F) POLE CREEK WILDERNESS.—Certain land comprising approximately 12,533 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "North Fork Owyhee and Pole Creek Wilderness" and dated May 5, 2008, which shall be known as the "Pole Creek Wilderness".

(2) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a map and legal description for each area designated as wilderness by this subtitle.

(B) EFFECT.—Each map and legal description submitted under subparagraph (A) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this subtitle, except that the Secretary may correct minor errors in the map or legal description.

(C) AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description submitted under subparagraph (A) shall be available in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(3) RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Congress finds that, for the purposes of section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)), the public land in the County administered by the Bureau of Land Management has been adequately studied for wilderness designation.

(B) RELEASE.—Any public land referred to in subparagraph (A) that is not designated as wilderness by this subtitle—

(i) is no longer subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)); and

(ii) shall be managed in accordance with the applicable land use plan adopted under section 202 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1712).

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, each area designated as wilderness by this subtitle shall be administered

by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that—

(A) any reference in that Act to the effective date shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) any reference in that Act to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be considered to be a reference to the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal land designated as wilderness by this subtitle is withdrawn from all forms of—

(A) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(B) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(C) disposition under the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(3) LIVESTOCK.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the wilderness areas designated by this subtitle, the grazing of livestock in areas in which grazing is established as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be allowed to continue, subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary considers necessary, consistent with section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)) and the guidelines described in Appendix A of House Report 101–405.

Deadline.

(B) INVENTORY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct an inventory of existing facilities and improvements associated with grazing activities in the wilderness areas and wild and scenic rivers designated by this subtitle.

(C) FENCING.—The Secretary may construct and maintain fencing around wilderness areas designated by this subtitle as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to enhance wilderness values.

(D) DONATION OF GRAZING PERMITS OR LEASES.—

(i) ACCEPTANCE BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall accept the donation of any valid existing permits or leases authorizing grazing on public land, all or a portion of which is within the wilderness areas designated by this subtitle.

(ii) TERMINATION.—With respect to each permit or lease donated under clause (i), the Secretary shall—

(I) terminate the grazing permit or lease; and

(II) except as provided in clause (iii), ensure a permanent end to grazing on the land covered by the permit or lease.

(iii) COMMON ALLOTMENTS.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—If the land covered by a permit or lease donated under clause (i) is also covered by another valid existing permit or lease that is not donated under clause (i), the Secretary shall reduce the authorized grazing level on the land covered by the permit or lease to reflect the donation of the permit or lease under clause (i).

(II) AUTHORIZED LEVEL.—To ensure that there is a permanent reduction in the level of grazing

on the land covered by a permit or lease donated under clause (i), the Secretary shall not allow grazing use to exceed the authorized level established under subclause (I).

(iv) PARTIAL DONATION.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—If a person holding a valid grazing permit or lease donates less than the full amount of grazing use authorized under the permit or lease, the Secretary shall—

(aa) reduce the authorized grazing level to reflect the donation; and

(bb) modify the permit or lease to reflect the revised level of use.

(II) AUTHORIZED LEVEL.—To ensure that there is a permanent reduction in the authorized level of grazing on the land covered by a permit or lease donated under subclause (I), the Secretary shall not allow grazing use to exceed the authorized level established under that subclause.

(4) ACQUISITION OF LAND AND INTERESTS IN LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with applicable law, the Secretary may acquire land or interests in land within the boundaries of the wilderness areas designated by this subtitle by purchase, donation, or exchange.

(B) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND.—Any land or interest in land in, or adjoining the boundary of, a wilderness area designated by this subtitle that is acquired by the United States shall be added to, and administered as part of, the wilderness area in which the acquired land or interest in land is located.

(5) TRAIL PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, after providing opportunities for public comment, shall establish a trail plan that addresses hiking and equestrian trails on the land designated as wilderness by this subtitle, in a manner consistent with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes the implementation of the trail plan.

(6) OUTFITTING AND GUIDE ACTIVITIES.—Consistent with section 4(d)(5) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(5)), commercial services (including authorized outfitting and guide activities) are authorized in wilderness areas designated by this subtitle to the extent necessary for activities that fulfill the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas.

(7) ACCESS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY.—In accordance with section 5(a) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1134(a)), the Secretary shall provide any owner of private property within the boundary of a wilderness area designated by this subtitle adequate access to the property.

(8) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subtitle affects the jurisdiction of the State with respect to fish and wildlife on public land in the State.

(B) MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the Secretary may conduct any management activities that are necessary to maintain or restore fish and wildlife populations and habitats in the wilderness areas designated by this subtitle, if the management activities are—

(I) consistent with relevant wilderness management plans; and

(II) conducted in accordance with appropriate policies, such as the policies established in Appendix B of House Report 101–405.

(ii) INCLUSIONS.—Management activities under clause (i) may include the occasional and temporary use of motorized vehicles, if the use, as determined by the Secretary, would promote healthy, viable, and more naturally distributed wildlife populations that would enhance wilderness values while causing the minimum impact necessary to accomplish those tasks.

(C) EXISTING ACTIVITIES.—Consistent with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)) and in accordance with appropriate policies, such as those established in Appendix B of House Report 101–405, the State may use aircraft (including helicopters) in the wilderness areas designated by this subtitle to survey, capture, transplant, monitor, and provide water for wildlife populations, including bighorn sheep, and feral stock, feral horses, and feral burros.

(9) WILDFIRE, INSECT, AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT.—Consistent with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)), the Secretary may take any measures that the Secretary determines to be necessary to control fire, insects, and diseases, including, as the Secretary determines appropriate, the coordination of those activities with a State or local agency.

(10) ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The designation of a wilderness area by this subtitle shall not create any protective perimeter or buffer zone around the wilderness area.

(B) NONWILDERNESS ACTIVITIES.—The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from areas within a wilderness area designated by this subtitle shall not preclude the conduct of those activities or uses outside the boundary of the wilderness area.

(11) MILITARY OVERFLIGHTS.—Nothing in this subtitle restricts or precludes—

(A) low-level overflights of military aircraft over the areas designated as wilderness by this subtitle, including military overflights that can be seen or heard within the wilderness areas;

(B) flight testing and evaluation; or

(C) the designation or creation of new units of special use airspace, or the establishment of military flight training routes, over the wilderness areas.

(12) WATER RIGHTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The designation of areas as wilderness by subsection (a) shall not create an express or implied

reservation by the United States of any water or water rights for wilderness purposes with respect to such areas.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—This paragraph does not apply to any components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System designated by section 1504.

SEC. 1504. DESIGNATION OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) (as amended by section 1203(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(180) BATTLE CREEK, IDAHO.—The 23.4 miles of Battle Creek from the confluence of the Owyhee River to the upstream boundary of the Owyhee River Wilderness, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

"(181) BIG JACKS CREEK, IDAHO.—The 35.0 miles of Big Jacks Creek from the downstream border of the Big Jacks Creek Wilderness in sec. 8, T. 8 S., R. 4 E., to the point at which it enters the NW ¼ of sec. 26, T. 10 S., R. 2 E., Boise Meridian, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

"(182) BRUNEAU RIVER, IDAHO.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the 39.3-mile segment of the Bruneau River from the downstream boundary of the Bruneau-Jarbidge Wilderness to the upstream confluence with the west fork of the Bruneau River, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

"(B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the 0.6-mile segment of the Bruneau River at the Indian Hot Springs public road access shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a recreational river.

"(183) WEST FORK BRUNEAU RIVER, IDAHO.—The approximately 0.35 miles of the West Fork of the Bruneau River from the confluence with the Jarbidge River to the downstream boundary of the Bruneau Canyon Grazing Allotment in the SE/NE of sec. 5, T. 13 S., R. 7 E., Boise Meridian, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

"(184) COTTONWOOD CREEK, IDAHO.—The 2.6 miles of Cottonwood Creek from the confluence with Big Jacks Creek to the upstream boundary of the Big Jacks Creek Wilderness, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

"(185) DEEP CREEK, IDAHO.—The 13.1-mile segment of Deep Creek from the confluence with the Owyhee River to the upstream boundary of the Owyhee River Wilderness in sec. 30, T. 12 S., R. 2 W., Boise Meridian, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

"(186) DICKSHOOTER CREEK, IDAHO.—The 9.25 miles of Dickshooter Creek from the confluence with Deep Creek to a point on the stream ¼ mile due west of the east boundary of sec. 16, T. 12 S., R. 2 W., Boise Meridian, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

"(187) DUNCAN CREEK, IDAHO.—The 0.9-mile segment of Duncan Creek from the confluence with Big Jacks Creek upstream to the east boundary of sec. 18, T. 10 S., R. 4 E., Boise Meridian, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

"(188) JARBIDGE RIVER, IDAHO.—The 28.8 miles of the Jarbidge River from the confluence with the West Fork Bruneau River to the upstream boundary of the Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers Wilderness, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

"(189) LITTLE JACKS CREEK, IDAHO.—The 12.4 miles of Little Jacks Creek from the downstream boundary of the Little Jacks Creek Wilderness, upstream to the mouth of OX Prong Creek, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

"(190) NORTH FORK OWYHEE RIVER, IDAHO.—The following segments of the North Fork of the Owyhee River, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior:

"(A) The 5.7-mile segment from the Idaho-Oregon State border to the upstream boundary of the private land at the Juniper Mt. Road crossing, as a recreational river.

"(B) The 15.1-mile segment from the upstream boundary of the North Fork Owyhee River recreational segment designated in paragraph (A) to the upstream boundary of the North Fork Owyhee River Wilderness, as a wild river.

"(191) OWYHEE RIVER, IDAHO.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the 67.3 miles of the Owyhee River from the Idaho-Oregon State border to the upstream boundary of the Owyhee River Wilderness, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

"(B) ACCESS.—The Secretary of the Interior shall allow for continued access across the Owyhee River at Crutchers Crossing, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary of the Interior determines to be necessary.

"(192) RED CANYON, IDAHO.—The 4.6 miles of Red Canyon from the confluence of the Owyhee River to the upstream boundary of the Owyhee River Wilderness, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

"(193) SHEEP CREEK, IDAHO.—The 25.6 miles of Sheep Creek from the confluence with the Bruneau River to the upstream boundary of the Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers Wilderness, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

"(194) SOUTH FORK OWYHEE RIVER, IDAHO.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the 31.4-mile segment of the South Fork of the Owyhee River upstream from the confluence with the Owyhee River to the upstream boundary of the Owyhee River Wilderness at the Idaho–Nevada State border, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.

"(B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the 1.2-mile segment of the South Fork of the Owyhee River from the point at which the river enters the southernmost boundary to the point at which the river exits the northernmost boundary of private land in sec. 25 and 26, T. 14 S., R. 5 W., Boise Meridian, shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a recreational river.

"(195) WICKAHONEY CREEK, IDAHO.—The 1.5 miles of Wickahoney Creek from the confluence of Big Jacks Creek to the upstream boundary of the Big Jacks Creek Wilderness,

to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a wild river.".

(b) BOUNDARIES.—Notwithstanding section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(b)), the boundary of a river segment designated as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System under this subtitle shall extend not more than the shorter of— 16 USC 1274 note.

(1) an average distance of ¼ mile from the high water mark on both sides of the river segment; or

(2) the distance to the nearest confined canyon rim.

(c) LAND ACQUISITION.—The Secretary shall not acquire any private land within the exterior boundary of a wild and scenic river corridor without the consent of the owner. 16 USC 1274 note.

SEC. 1505. LAND IDENTIFIED FOR DISPOSAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with applicable law, the Secretary may sell public land located within the Boise District of the Bureau of Land Management that, as of July 25, 2000, has been identified for disposal in appropriate resource management plans.

(b) USE OF PROCEEDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (other than a law that specifically provides for a proportion of the proceeds of a land sale to be distributed to any trust fund of the State), proceeds from the sale of public land under subsection (a) shall be deposited in a separate account in the Treasury of the United States to be known as the "Owyhee Land Acquisition Account".

(2) AVAILABILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts in the account shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, to purchase land or interests in land in, or adjacent to, the wilderness areas designated by this subtitle, including land identified as "Proposed for Acquisition" on the maps described in section 1503(a)(1).

(B) APPLICABLE LAW.—Any purchase of land or interest in land under subparagraph (A) shall be in accordance with applicable law.

(3) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection applies to public land within the Boise District of the Bureau of Land Management sold on or after January 1, 2008.

(4) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—If necessary, the Secretary may use additional amounts appropriated to the Department of the Interior, subject to applicable reprogramming guidelines.

(c) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The authority provided under this section terminates on the earlier of—

(A) the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(B) the date on which a total of $8,000,000 from the account is expended.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Any amounts remaining in the account on the termination of authority under this section shall be—

(A) credited as sales of public land in the State;

(B) transferred to the Federal Land Disposal Account established under section 206(a) of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C. 2305(a)); and

(C) used in accordance with that subtitle.

SEC. 1506. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES.

(a) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the Tribes in the implementation of the Shoshone Paiute Cultural Resource Protection Plan.

(b) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary shall seek to enter into agreements with the Tribes to implement the Shoshone Paiute Cultural Resource Protection Plan to protect cultural sites and resources important to the continuation of the traditions and beliefs of the Tribes.

SEC. 1507. RECREATIONAL TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the Secretary shall, in coordination with the Tribes, State, and County, prepare 1 or more travel management plans for motorized and mechanized off-highway vehicle recreation for the land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the County.

(b) INVENTORY.—Before preparing the plan under subsection (a), the Secretary shall conduct resource and route inventories of the area covered by the plan.

(c) LIMITATION TO DESIGNATED ROUTES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the plan shall limit recreational motorized and mechanized off-highway vehicle use to a system of designated roads and trails established by the plan.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to snowmobiles.

(d) TEMPORARY LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), until the date on which the Secretary completes the plan, all recreational motorized and mechanized off-highway vehicle use shall be limited to roads and trails lawfully in existence on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to—

(A) snowmobiles; or

(B) areas specifically identified as open, closed, or limited in the Owyhee Resource Management Plan.

(e) SCHEDULE.—

Deadline. Transportation plan.

(1) OWYHEE FRONT.—It is the intent of Congress that, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete a transportation plan for the Owyhee Front.

Deadline. Transportation plan.

(2) OTHER BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND IN THE COUNTY.—It is the intent of Congress that, not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete a transportation plan for Bureau of Land Management land in the County outside the Owyhee Front.

SEC. 1508. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this subtitle.

Executive Summary

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Jarbidge Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) is to provide direction for managing public lands in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Jarbidge Field Office (FO) for the next 15 to 20 years. The approved plan will provide the framework for making decisions about managing resources, resource uses, and special designations within the planning area.

The planning area boundary coincides with the boundary of the BLM Jarbidge FO. The boundary extends from the Bruneau River on the west to Salmon Falls Creek on the east, and from the Snake River on the north to the northern boundaries of the BLM Elko FO and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest on the south (Map 1). It includes parts of Elmore, Owyhee, and Twin Falls Counties in south-central Idaho and Elko County in northern Nevada. Although these counties have a combined population of approximately 160,000 (US Census Bureau, 2009), Hot Springs, Indian Cove, Murphy Hot Springs, Three Creek, and Roseworth are the only communities within the planning area; all have populations of less than 100 people. The majority of the planning area supports sagebrush steppe and seeded grasslands, mostly from fire rehabilitation projects.

Introduction

An RMP guides land and resource management decisions for land managed by the BLM. The preparation and adoption of an RMP by BLM is a Federal action subject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). NEPA requires that an EIS be prepared for any Federal action that may significantly affect the human environment.

The Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS describes and analyzes a reasonable range of management alternatives for the public lands and resources managed by the BLM Twin Falls District, Jarbidge FO in south-central Idaho and northern Nevada. Within the planning area, BLM manages approximately 1,374,000 acres of public land surface (Map 1) and 1,613,000 acres of Federal mineral estate (Map 2) in Elmore, Twin Falls, and Owyhee Counties in Idaho and Elko County in Nevada. Decisions made and management direction described in the Jarbidge RMP apply to land and resources in the planning area according to BLM's administrative authority and responsibility for those lands and resources. Management direction includes: long- and short-term goals, objectives, management actions, resource use allocation decisions, mitigation to reduce impacts of authorized uses, and the means for assessing the effectiveness of management actions and mitigation.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of an RMP is to provide management direction for Federal land and resources managed by the BLM while maintaining consistency with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands and, where appropriate, preserves and protects lands in their natural condition; provides food and habitat for fish, wildlife, and domestic animals; and provides for outdoor recreation, human occupancy and use, while observing the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.

A 2001 evaluation of the 1987 Jarbidge RMP (BLM, 2001) identified a need for new or revised decisions for several resource management activities and recommended a plan revision to achieve consistency with tribal, Federal, State, and local agency plans and with BLM policy. A revision is also needed to address new information and changed circumstances with respect to resource conditions and demands for resource uses. Completion of an RMP revision will satisfy a portion of the Stipulated Settlement Agreement (SSA) entered into by parties affiliated with *Western Watersheds Project v. K Lynn Bennett, et. al.* (CV-04-181-S-BLW), United States District Court, District of Idaho (Appendix A).

The purpose of the Jarbidge RMP revision is to provide appropriate management direction for the Twin Falls District, Jarbidge FO that responds to the 2001 evaluation (BLM, 2001), new information, changes in resource condition and user demands and the SSA while maintaining consistency with FLPMA.

Planning Issues

The following planning issues were identified through scoping and used to develop the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS:

- Vegetation (Upland and Riparian)
  - Fuels treatments, fire rehabilitation, and fire suppression
  - Habitat for fish, wildlife, and special status plants and animals
  - Livestock forage
- Livestock Grazing
- Recreation
- Energy Development
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

Consultation and Coordination

BLM consulted with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes in development of the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS. BLM also participated in intergovernmental and interagency coordination and conducted briefings and presentations for interested stakeholders.

Alternatives

Chapter 2 discusses the alternatives that describe different approaches for management of the resources and uses managed by the BLM in the Jarbidge FO. This chapter begins with an explanation of the alternative development process. Each alternative is a complete and reasonable set of desired future conditions based upon:

- Resource management goals and objectives,
- Management actions to meet goals and objectives, and, where appropriate,
- The allocations of land and resources to facilitate multiple resource management.

These components of each alternative are integral in guiding future management of the public land resources and uses in the planning area.

Six management alternatives (the No Action Alternative and five "action" alternatives) are presented in detail in this chapter and provide a range of choices for achieving the purpose and need, meeting the multiple-use mandate of FLPMA, and resolving the planning issues identified in Chapter 1:

- **The No Action Alternative** continues to implement the objectives and management actions provided in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP and its amendments. Lands in poor ecological condition would be improved, while lands in good and excellent ecological condition in the Bruneau River-Sheep Creek and Jarbidge River Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) would be maintained. Vegetation treatments could use native or non-native species. The majority of the planning area would remain available for resource uses, including livestock grazing, cross-country motorized vehicle use, and land use authorizations.
- **Alternative I** focuses on enhancing and sustaining existing and historic uses of the planning area. This alternative would have the largest component of active recreation management, including Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) for motorized recreation, hunting and fishing, hiking, and water-based recreation. Livestock grazing would be maintained near 2009 levels. This alternative would focus more on implementing management to benefit mule deer than other alternatives. Restoration projects would focus on providing habitat for mule deer and special status species, including treatments in some non-native perennial communities. Annual communities would also be a focus for vegetation treatments. Vegetation treatments could use native or non-native species depending on vegetation objectives. Reducing the amount of wildland fire in the planning area would be addressed through treatments to move vegetation toward Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) 1, treatments for noxious weeds and invasive plants, and construction of fuel breaks.
- **Alternative II** focuses on increasing commercial uses throughout the planning area. Livestock grazing would be increased substantially. Non-native perennial communities would be actively maintained for livestock, and treatments in non-native annual communities would focus on converting

these areas to a non-native, more fire-tolerant, forage-producing perennial community. Native plant communities would be maintained. Other commercial uses, including energy development, would be allowed throughout most areas and have the fewest restrictions compared to the other alternatives. Vegetation treatments could use native or non-native species depending on vegetation and resource use objectives. Reducing the amount of wildland fire in the planning area would be addressed through treatments to move native vegetation toward FRCC 1, treatments for noxious weeds and invasive plants, construction of fuel breaks, and fuels reduction through increased permitted livestock grazing.

- **Alternative III** focuses on restoring the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function through intensive management of fuels and enhanced fire suppression capabilities throughout the planning area. This alternative would provide for the highest amount of fuels treatments. Non-native perennial plant communities would be actively managed to contribute to wildland fire prevention and suppression efforts, including increased levels of permitted livestock grazing. Treatments of annual communities would focus on converting these areas to a non-native perennial fire-tolerant community. Native plant communities would be restored to move toward their historic fire regime; intensive fuels reduction measures may be taken to manage native plant communities. Vegetation treatments may use both native and non-native species, with fire-tolerant and fire-resistant species having a high priority. Other uses would be allowed to the extent they do not contribute to an increase in wildland fire size and intensity. The quality and quantity of infrastructure such as roads and water would be increased to support fire suppression activities more in this alternative than in other alternatives.
- **Alternative IV** focuses on actively restoring the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function through restoration projects and managing uses. Priorities would be to treat at-risk or fragmented habitats and non-native perennial and annual communities. This alternative would provide for active restoration using more tools and more intensive approaches in more areas than in Alternative V. Vegetation treatments could use native or non-native species depending on vegetation objectives. Reducing the amount of wildland fire in the planning area would be addressed through treatments to move vegetation toward FRCC 1, treatments for noxious weeds and invasive plants, and construction of fuel breaks. Alternative IV has been split into two sub-alternatives. The only difference between the sub-alternatives is the size of the Inside Desert and Jarbidge Foothills Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs); these ACECs would have larger boundaries in Alternative IV-A than in Alternative IV-B. Differences between Alternatives IV-A and IV-B also appear in sections in which ACEC management is a factor.
- **Alternative V** focuses on the restoration of habitats toward historic vegetation communities. In native plant communities, passive restoration approaches would be preferred. Active restoration would take place in non-native perennial and annual communities; treatments in non-native perennial communities would minimize soil disturbance. Restoration projects would focus on habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species as well as special designations. Vegetation treatments would use only native species. Reducing the amount of wildland fire in the planning area would be addressed through treatments to move vegetation toward FRCC 1, treatments for noxious weeds and invasive plants, and construction of fuel breaks.

Each alternative, as developed, provides a different emphasis for managing public lands and resources within the planning area, and each action alternative represents a complete and reasonable land use plan that meets the purpose and need described in Chapter 1.

The Preferred Alternative

The BLM used the impact analysis, along with knowledge of specific issues raised throughout the planning process, recommendations from the tribes, cooperating agencies, and BLM resource specialists, consideration of planning criteria, and anticipated resolution of resource conflicts to select Alternative IV as the Preferred Alternative. When differences are specified between Sub-Alternatives IV-A and IV-B, Alternative IV-B is the Preferred Alternative. Selection of the Preferred Alternative was based on the following criteria:

- Satisfaction of statutory requirements
- Achievement of BLM goals and policies
- Achievement of the purpose and need

- Provision of an acceptable approach to addressing key planning issues
- Consideration of cooperating agencies and BLM specialists' recommendations

The Preferred Alternative indicates the agency's preliminary preference. However, identification of this alternative as Preferred does not represent a final BLM decision and may change between publication of the Draft and Final EIS based on comments received on the Draft EIS, new information, or changes in BLM policies or priorities. The Proposed RMP may reflect changes or adjustments and may include objectives and actions described as portions of other analyzed alternatives based on information received during public comment on the Draft RMP/EIS, new information, or changes in BLM policies or priorities. BLM has the discretion to select an alternative in its entirety or to combine aspects of the various alternatives presented in this draft to develop the Proposed RMP and Final EIS.

Differences Among Alternatives

The following table identifies differences among the alternatives for each of the planning issues. Chapter 2 contains the full suite of management actions for each alternative.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Vegetation (Upland and Riparian)					
Fuels Treatments, Fire Rehabilitation, and Fire Suppression					
No goal stated.	***Goal WFM-CA-G- 1. Fire management strategies would result in firefighter and public safety and protection of property and natural and cultural resources, while considering suppression and rehabilitation costs.***				
No objective stated.	Objective WFM-I-O- 1. Strive to reduce average wildland fire size and number of human-caused fire starts within wildland urban interface (WUI). Objective WFM-I-O- 2. Reduce acres burned in vegetation types outside WUI where more wildland fires have burned than desired/historic.	Objective WFM-II-O-1. Same as Alternative I. Objective WFM-II-O-2. Same as Alternative I.	Objective WFM-III-O-1. Strive to reduce average wildland fire size, number of human-caused fire starts, and number of acres burned within and outside WUI throughout the planning area.	Objective WFM-IV-O-1. Same as Alternative I. Objective WFM-IV-O-2. Same as Alternative I.	Objective WFM-V-O-1. Same as Alternative I. Objective WFM-V-O-2. Same as Alternative I.
Manage the entire planning area (1,374,000 acres) for full suppression.	Critical Suppression Areas would include **481,000 acres**: • WUI • Bruneau-Jarbidge, Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs • Key sage-grouse habitat	Critical Suppression Areas would include **172,000 acres**: • WUI	Critical Suppression Areas would include **469,000 acres**: • WUI • Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs • Key sage-grouse habitat	Critical Suppression Areas would include **594,000 acres** in Alternative IV-A and **555,000 acres** in Alternative IV-B: • WUI • Bruneau-Jarbidge, Inside Desert, Jarbidge Foothills, and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs • Key sage-grouse habitat	Critical Suppression Areas would include **1,067,000 acres**: • WUI • Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Sagebrush Sea ACECs • Key sage-grouse habitat
No similar management action.	Improve water availability for fire suppression **in high recreational use areas**, in accordance with Idaho and Nevada State Law regarding the appropriation and use of water.	Improve water availability for fire suppression **in native plant communities and WUI**, in accordance with Idaho and Nevada State Law regarding the use of water.	Improve water availability for fire suppression **throughout the planning area**, in accordance with Idaho and Nevada State Law regarding the appropriation and use of water.	Same as Alternative III.	**Maintain water availability for fire suppression at 2009 levels**.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
No similar management action.	Consistent with other resource objectives, implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities.	Consistent with resource use objectives, implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities.	Implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.
No similar management action.	*No similar management action.*	*No similar management action.*	Authorized uses may be limited/prohibited to reduce wildland fire.	Same as Alternative III.	Same as Alternative III.
No goal stated.	***Goal FFE-CA-G- 1. Reduce fire hazard to WUI.***				
No goal stated.	***Goal FFE-I-G- 1. Manage vegetation communities outside WUI to maintain or restore their fire regimes and mosaic of successional classes to within their historic range.***	***Goal FFE-II-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.***	***Goal FFE-III-G- 1. Manage vegetation communities to lengthen the fire return interval.***	***Goal FFE-IV-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.***	***Goal FFE-V-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.***
No objective stated.	Objective FFE-CA-O- 1. Manage plant communities within WUI to reduce Relative Risk Rating as identified in the 2007 *Idaho Interagency Assessment of Wildland Fire Risk to Communities*.				
No objective stated.	Objective FFE-I-O- 1. Manage plant communities outside WUI to move toward FRCC 1.	Objective FFE-II-O- 1. Manage native plant communities outside WUI, excluding Sandberg/non-native areas, to move toward FRCC 1 .Manage non-native plant communities and Sandberg/non-native areas for commodity use, which may not be toward FRCC 1	Objective FFE-III-O-1. Manage native plant communities outside WUI to move toward FRCC 1. Manage non-native plant communities to reduce wildland fire size and intensity, which may not be toward FRCC 1.	Objective FFE-IV-O-1. Same as Alternative I.	Objective FFE-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.
No objective stated.	Objective FFE-I-O- 2. Implement fuels treatments to protect Critical Suppression Areas; limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire; and maintain or improve vegetation.	Objective FFE-II-O- 2. Same as Alternative I.	Objective FFE-III-O-2. Implement fuels treatments to protect Critical Suppression Areas and limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire.	Objective FFE-IV-O-2. Same as Alternative I.	Objective FFE-V-O- 2. Same as Alternative I.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
No similar management action.	Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads with consideration for other resource and resource use objectives.	Same as Alternative I.	Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads as appropriate to reduce wildland fire size and intensity.	Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads with consideration for other resource objectives.	Same as Alternative IV.
No similar management action.	Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on areas with high and high/moderate Relative Risk Ratings **in the northern portion of the planning area.**	Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on areas with high, high/moderate, and moderate Relative Risk Ratings **in the northern portion of the planning area and near Roseworth**.	Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on areas with high, high/moderate, and moderate Relative Risk Ratings **in the northern portion of the planning area and near Roseworth and Three Creek**.	Same as Alternative I.	Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on areas with high Relative Risk Ratings **in the northern portion of the planning area.**
No similar management action.	Outside SRMAs, fuel breaks would follow disturbance corridors or would protect restoration and Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Recovery (ES&BAR) treatments; fuel breaks for SRMAs could be used to protect adjacent areas, protect facilities, and protect high-use areas.	Fuel breaks would focus on protecting commercial facilities; fuel breaks would also be placed in non-native communities to protect native communities.	Fuel breaks would focus on strategic locations to disrupt the continuity of fuels and to protect structures and important resources such as habitat for sage-grouse and slickspot peppergrass.	Fuel breaks would follow disturbance corridors or would protect restoration or ES&BAR treatments.	Fuel breaks would only follow designated roads and designated primitive roads.
No similar management action.	*No similar management action.*	Landscape-scale fuels reduction would occur primarily through increased allocation of vegetation for permitted livestock grazing and through increased livestock grazing utilization.	Landscape-scale fuels reduction would occur primarily through increased allocation of annual and non-native perennial vegetation for permitted livestock grazing and through increased livestock grazing utilization in annual and non-native perennial communities.	*No similar management action.*	*No similar management action.*

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Objective FFE-NA-O- 1. Rehabilitate public lands affected by wildland fires to accomplish multiple use objectives and designed to reduce fire size.	Objective FFE-I-O- 3. Rehabilitate and stabilize areas to help stabilize soils, promote natural recovery, and establish pre-fire or historic vegetation communities.	Objective FFE-II-O- 3. Same as Alternative I.	Objective FFE-III-O-3. Rehabilitate and stabilize areas to help stabilize soils, promote natural recovery, and establish fire-tolerant vegetation communities.	Objective FFE-IV-O-3. Same as Alternative I.	Objective FFE-V-O- 3. Same as Alternative I.
No similar management action.	Rest burned areas from uses, including but not limited to livestock and wild horse grazing and recreational use, until ES&BAR objectives are met and are predicted to be sustainable or if the treatment is determined to be unsuccessful. This guideline would not apply to uses that do not conflict with the treatment objectives. Use seed mixes that would help stabilize soils and achieve objectives in the *Upland Vegetation, Riparian Areas and Wetlands, Fish and Wildlife,* and *Special Status Species* sections.				
Consider using temporary fences on a case-by-case basis.	Consider using temporary fences on a case-by-case basis. Temporary fences may only be considered when there are at least 2,000 unburned acres in the pasture.	Same as the No Action Alternative.	Same as Alternative II.	Consider using temporary fences on a case-by-case basis; however, **temporary fences would not be allowed in pastures with native plant communities**. Temporary fences may only be considered when there are at least 2,000 unburned acres in the pasture.	**Temporary fences would not be used**. Livestock grazing would be pulled back to pasture fences.
Habitat for Fish, Wildlife, and Special Status Plants and Animals					
No goal stated.	***Goal UV-CA-G- 1. Manage upland vegetation communities to promote soil stability, water infiltration, nutrient cycling, and energy flow; provide habitat for sage-grouse and other sagebrush steppe obligates; and provide for multiple use.***				
	Goal UV-I-G- 1. Manage vegetation to enhance and sustain existing and historic uses and to improve big game winter range and habitat for sage-grouse.	***Goal UV-II-G- 1. Manage vegetation to increase commercial uses while maintaining native plant communities and habitat for sage-grouse.***	***Goal UV-III-G- 1. Manage vegetation to reduce fire size and intensity while maintaining habitat for sage-grouse.***	***Goal UV-IV-G- 1. Manage vegetation to restore the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function and reduce fragmentation of habitat for sage-grouse and other native species.***	***Goal UV-V-G- 1. Manage vegetation to move toward historic vegetation communities by sustaining, improving, or increasing native plant communities that provide habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.***

No Action Alternative

- Objective UV-NA-O- 1. Improve lands in poor ecological condition across the planning area. Improve lands in Salmon Falls Creek Canyon through natural plant succession and removal of livestock. Maintain lands that are in good and excellent ecological condition in the Bruneau-Sheep Creek and Jarbidge WSAs.
- Objective UV-NA-O- 2. Maintain non-native perennial communities.

Maintain non-native perennial communities for livestock on 349,000 acres throughout the planning area.

Implement seeding treatments for livestock on 11,000 acres in the Jarbidge Foothills and Diamond A Desert.

Implement brush control and seeding treatments for livestock on 13,000 acres in the middle third of the planning area.

Implement brush control treatments for livestock on 32,000 acres, primarily in the southern half of the planning area.

Alternative I

- Objective UV-I-O- 1. Manage vegetation in Vegetation Management Area (VMA) A to achieve the vegetation sub-group (VSG) acres below:

VSG	Acres
Annual	50,000
Non-Native Perennial	97,500
Non-Native Understory	5,000
Native Grassland	32,500
Native Shrubland	32,500
Unvegetated Areas	2,500

- Objective UV-I-O- 2. Manage vegetation in VMA B to achieve the VSG acres below:

VSG	Acres
Annual	17,500
Non-Native Perennial	147,500
Non-Native Understory	17,500
Native Grassland	97,500
Native Shrubland	335,000
Unvegetated Areas	15,000

Alternative II

- Objective UV-II-O- 1. Manage vegetation in VMA A to achieve the VSG acres below:

VSG	Acres
Annual	30,000
Non-Native Perennial	140,000
Non-Native Understory	5,000
Native Grassland	25,000
Native Shrubland	17,500
Unvegetated Areas	2,500

- Objective UV-II-O- 2. Manage vegetation in VMA B to achieve the VSG acres below:

VSG	Acres
Annual	7,500
Non-Native Perennial	220,000
Non-Native Understory	17,500
Native Grassland	195,000
Native Shrubland	175,000
Unvegetated Areas	15,000

Alternative III

- Objective UV-III-O- 1. Manage vegetation in VMA A to achieve the VSG acres below:

VSG	Acres
Annual	37,500
Non-Native Perennial	130,000
Non-Native Understory	5,000
Native Grassland	25,000
Native Shrubland	17,500
Unvegetated Areas	5,000

- Objective UV-III-O- 2. Manage vegetation in VMA B to achieve the VSG acres below:

VSG	Acres
Annual	10,000
Non-Native Perennial	215,000
Non-Native Understory	25,000
Native Grassland	90,000
Native Shrubland	270,000
Unvegetated Areas	20,000

Alternative IV

- Objective UV-IV-O- 1. Manage vegetation in VMA A to achieve the VSG acres below:

Annual	30,000
Non-Native Perennial	87,500
Non-Native Understory	5,000
Native Grassland	12,500
Native Shrubland	82,500
Unvegetated Areas	2,500

- Objective UV-IV-O- 2. Manage vegetation in VMA B to achieve the VSG acres below:

VSG	Acres
Annual	7,500
Non-Native Perennial	65,000
Non-Native Understory	72,500
Native Grassland	97,500
Native Shrubland	372,500
Unvegetated Areas	15,000

Alternative V

- Objective UV-V-O- 1. Manage vegetation in VMA A to achieve the VSG acres below:

VSG	Acres
Annual	55,000
Non-Native Perennial	72,500
Non-Native Understory	30,000
Native Grassland	25,000
Native Shrubland	35,000
Unvegetated Areas	2,500

- Objective UV-V-O- 2. Manage vegetation in VMA B to achieve the VSG acres below:

VSG	Acres
Annual	17,500
Non-Native Perennial	60,000
Non-Native Understory	150,000
Native Grassland	130,000
Native Shrubland	257,500
Unvegetated Areas	15,000

<table>
<tr><th>No Action Alternative</th><th>Alternative I</th><th>Alternative II</th><th>Alternative III</th><th>Alternative IV</th><th>Alternative V</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Implement interseeding or reseeding treatments for wildlife on 9,000 acres, primarily in the southern half of the planning area.</td><td>Objective UV-I-O- 3. Manage vegetation in VMA C to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>7,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>37,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>5,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>65,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>195,000</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>2,500</td></tr></table></td><td>Objective UV-II-O- 3. Manage vegetation in VMA C to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>7,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>67,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>10,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>132,500</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>92,500</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>2,500</td></tr></table></td><td>Objective UV-III-O- 3. Manage vegetation in VMA C to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>7,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>60,000</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>22,500</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>60,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>157,500</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>5,000</td></tr></table></td><td>Objective UV-IV-O- 3. Manage vegetation in VMA C to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>7,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>50,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>32,500</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>220,000</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>2,500</td></tr></table></td><td>Objective UV-V-O- 3. Manage vegetation in VMA C to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>7,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>17,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>62,500</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>65,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>157,500</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>2,500</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Objective UV-I-O- 4. Manage vegetation in VMA D to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>2,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>15,000</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>12,500</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>17,500</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>152,500</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>10,000</td></tr></table></td><td>Objective UV-II-O- 4. Manage vegetation in VMA D to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>2,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>20,000</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>72,500</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>105,000</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>10,000</td></tr></table></td><td>Objective UV-III-O- 4. Manage vegetation in VMA D to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>2,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>7,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>10,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>55,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>125,000</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>10,000</td></tr></table></td><td>Objective UV-IV-O- 4. Manage vegetation in VMA D to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>2,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>5,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>7,500</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>185,000</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>10,000</td></tr></table></td><td>Objective UV-V-O- 4. Manage vegetation in VMA D to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>2,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>2,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>15,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>25,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>155,000</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>10,000</td></tr></table></td></tr>
</table>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
The priority for vegetation treatments would be: • Areas with unacceptable soil loss. • Areas where grazing is at levels below preference. • Areas where excessive annual vegetation is causing management problems or economic burdens. • Areas where unacceptable wildlife habitat condition exists. • Area for overall multiple use improvement using seed mixtures for both wildlife and livestock.	Focus restoration treatments on habitat for sage-grouse, other special status species, and mule deer. The priority for vegetation treatments would be: • Treatments in VMA C to **improve habitat for mule deer and sage-grouse**. • Treatments in VMA A to **move toward perennial vegetation**.	Focus restoration treatments on habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species. The priority for vegetation treatments would be: • Treatments in VMA A to **increase perennial forage for livestock**. • Treatments in VMA B to **increase forage for livestock**.	Focus vegetation treatments on protecting or restoring habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species. The priority for vegetation treatments would be: • Treatments in VMA A to **help lengthen the fire return interval**. • Treatments in VMA D to **protect native shrubland communities**.	Focus restoration treatments on habitat for sage-grouse, other special status species, mule deer, and pronghorn. The priority for vegetation treatments would be: • Treatments in VMA D to **improve sage-grouse habitat**. • Treatments in VMA C to **reconnect and expand habitat for sage-grouse**.	Focus restoration treatments on habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species. The priority for vegetation treatments would be: • Treatments in VMA A to **move toward native perennial vegetation**. • Treatments in VMA C to **reconnect and expand habitat for sage-grouse**.
Targeted grazing and prescribed fire could be used as tools for vegetation treatments. Chemical control of sagebrush would not be allowed.	Targeted grazing could be used as a tool for vegetation treatments. Prescribed fire would not be allowed.	Targeted grazing could be used as a tool for vegetation treatments. Prescribed fire would not be allowed in native grassland or native shrubland communities.	Targeted grazing and prescribed fire could be used as tools for vegetation treatments.	Same as Alternative III.	Removal of grazing and prescribed fire could be used as tools for vegetation treatments. Targeted grazing would not be allowed. Chemical treatments could only be used after other methods have been exhausted.
Upland vegetation treatments **may use native species, including cultivars of native species, and non-native species** Projects to improve ecological condition to benefit wildlife or livestock will use seed mixtures that are normally found in that ecological zone.	Upland vegetation treatments **may use native species, including cultivars of native species, and non-native species**. Native species would be used when practical, with special emphasis on species of importance to the tribes.	**Non-native species** would be primarily used in upland vegetation treatments. **Fire-tolerant species would also be used**, primarily in annual communities.	**Fire-tolerant and fire-resistant species would have high priority** for upland vegetation treatments. Treatments **may also use other native species, including cultivars of native species, and non-native species**.	Same as Alternative I.	Upland vegetation treatments **may use only native species or cultivars of native species**.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
No similar management action.	Create **75** ungrazed reference areas (**12,000 acres**) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities.	Create **52** ungrazed reference areas (**2,000 acres**) in native grassland and native shrubland communities, as well as non-native perennial communities that have burned multiple times in the last 20 years.	Create **75** ungrazed reference areas (**3,000 acres**) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities.	Same as Alternative I.	Create **40** ungrazed reference areas (**193,000 acres**) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities.
No similar management action.	Implement drought management guidelines during periods of drought to maintain or achieve long-term resource productivity (Appendix F).				
No similar management action.	Rest vegetation treatment areas from uses, including but not limited to livestock and wild horse grazing and recreational use, until treatment objectives are met and are predicted to be sustainable. This guideline would not apply to uses that do not conflict with the treatment objectives.				
No goal stated.	***Goal RI-CA-G- 1. Provide healthy, functioning watersheds, riparian areas, and associated aquatic habitats.***				
Objective RI-NA-O- 1. Maintain 1987 condition of riparian habitat in the northern half of the planning area, as well as the Diamond A Desert. Improve **44 miles** of riparian habitat in the remainder of the planning area.	Objective RI-I-O- 1. Maintain **85 miles** of Priority 3 streams at proper functioning condition (PFC). Improve **60 miles** of Priority 1 streams to achieve PFC. Improve the remaining **17 miles** of Priority 1 streams and **63 miles** of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC.	Objective RI-II-O- 1. Maintain **85 miles** of Priority 3 streams at PFC. Improve **77 miles** of Priority 1 streams and **63 miles** of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC.	Objective RI-III-O- 1. Maintain **85 miles** of Priority 3 streams at PFC. Improve **77 miles** of Priority 1 streams and **21 miles** of Priority 2 streams to achieve PFC. Improve the remaining **42 miles** of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC.	Objective RI-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative III.	Objective RI-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative III.
Use a **100- to 300-foot** riparian buffer zone to protect riparian vegetation, fisheries, and water quality. Within the riparian buffer zone activities such as new road construction, use of herbicides and pesticides, and gravel extraction would be limited. Some activities would be excluded within **500 feet** of riparian areas.	Create Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) around riparian areas and wetlands that contain special status species or their habitat to protect riparian vegetation, fisheries, and water quality. RCA widths would be as follows: • Category 1 – Fish-bearing streams: approximately **300 feet** from the edge of the stream • Category 2 – Permanently flowing non-fish-bearing streams: approximately **150 feet** from the edge of the stream • Category 3 – Ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands greater than 1 acre: approximately **150 feet** from the edge of the wetland, pond, or lake • Category 4 – Seasonally flowing or intermittent streams, wetlands less than 1 acre, landslides, and landslide-prone areas: approximately **50 feet** from the edge of the stream, wetland, or landslide-prone area Implement the Aquatic and Riparian Management Strategy (ARMS; Appendix D) to achieve riparian management objectives in RCAs and other riparian areas and wetlands. Use adaptive management as outlined in the ARMS to reduce impacts on riparian areas and wetlands from uses and activities.				

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Riparian and wetland habitat would have a high priority for protection and improvement in accordance with national policy. Manage watersheds to maintain or improve stream channel stability and overall watershed conditions.	Riparian management priorities would include the following: • Priority 1 streams: streams rated as functioning-at-risk (FAR) or functioning-at-risk with a downward trend (FAR-DN; 77 miles); management emphasis for Priority 1 streams would be on restoration. • Priority 2 streams: streams rated as functioning-at-risk with an upward trend (FAR-UP) or non-functioning (NF;63 miles); management emphasis for Priority 2 streams would be on restoration. • Priority 3 streams: streams rated at PFC (85 miles); management emphasis for Priority 3 streams would be on maintaining proper function.				
	Stream reaches with **game fish or habitat suitable for game fish** would be a high priority for restoration.	**Fish-bearing stream reaches, including reaches containing game and non-game fish**, would be a high priority for restoration.	S**tream reaches/riparian areas with the potential to serve as fuel breaks** would be a high priority for restoration.	Stream reaches containing **special status species or their habitat** would be a high priority for restoration.	Stream reaches containing **special status species or their habitat** would be a high priority for restoration.
No similar management action.	Create **10** ungrazed riparian reference areas (**3,000 acres**).	Create **10** ungrazed riparian reference areas (**1,000 acres**).	Same as Alternative II.	Same as Alternative I.	Create **6** ungrazed riparian reference areas (**23,000 acres**).
Livestock Forage					
Continue allocating approximately 200,000 animal unit months (AUMs) for livestock. As the plan is implemented, between 160,000 and 260,000 AUMs could be issued for livestock depending on implementation of treatments described in the *Upland Vegetation* section.	Allocate vegetation production to livestock as follows: • **25-35%** of native perennial grass production • **30-40%** of non-native perennial grass production • **20-30%** of annual grass production • **8-11%** of shrub and forb production	Allocate vegetation production to livestock as follows: • **40-50%** of native perennial grass production • **50-60%** of non-native perennial grass production • **70-80%** of annual grass production • **12-16%** of shrub and forb production	Allocate vegetation production to livestock as follows: • **35-45%** of native perennial grass production • **40-50%** of non-native perennial grass production • **40-50%** of annual grass production • **11-14%** of shrub and forb production	Allocate vegetation production to livestock as follows: • **15-25%** of native perennial grass production • **20-30%** of non-native perennial grass production • **0%** of annual grass production • **0%** of shrub and forb production	Allocate vegetation production to livestock as follows: • **10-20**% of native perennial grass production • **10-20%** of non-native perennial grass production • **0%** of annual grass production • **0%** of shrub and forb production
Livestock Grazing					
Forage and Grazing Management Practices					
No goal stated. Objective LG-NA-O- 1. Design and establish grazing management practices to meet fisheries, riparian, and water quality needs.	***Goal LG-I-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to enhance and sustain existing and historic uses and to improve habitat for big game and sage-grouse.***	***Goal LG-II-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to maintain or improve the condition of forage resources while maintaining native plant communities and habitat for sage-grouse.***	***Goal LG-III-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to reduce wildland fire size and intensity while maintaining habitat for sage-grouse.***	***Goal LG-IV-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to support restoration of the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function and to reduce fragmentation of habitat for sage-grouse and***	***Goal LG-V-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to move vegetation toward historic plant communities that provide habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.***

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Objective LG-NA-O- 2. Establish livestock grazing systems and practices that recognize the physiological requirements of forbs and shrubs.	Objective LG-I-O- 1. In native plant communities excluding Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to help maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance, focusing on plant reproductive and physiological needs. Objective LG-I-O- 2. In non-native perennial communities including Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to maintain and improve perennial plant species diversity and abundance, taking into account sage-grouse and big game habitat needs.	Objective LG-II-O- 1. Same as Alternative I. Objective LG-II-O- 2. In non-native perennial communities including Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to sustain the perennial forage base and allow for other commercial uses.	Objective LG-III-O- 1. In native plant communities including the Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to help maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance, focusing on plant reproductive and physiological needs. Objective LG-III-O- 2. Manage livestock grazing to reduce fuels in non-native perennial communities.	***other native species.*** Objective LG-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative III. Objective LG-IV-O- 2. In non-native perennial communities, manage livestock grazing to achieve restoration objectives outlined in the *Upland Vegetation* section.	Objective LG-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative III. Objective LG-V-O- 2. In non-native perennial communities, manage livestock grazing to maintain and improve shrub cover for sage-grouse.
No similar objective.	Objective LG-CA-O- 1. Manage livestock grazing in annual communities to achieve objectives in the *Upland Vegetation* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.				
Allocate **1,414,000 acres** as available for livestock grazing and **51,000 acres** as not available for livestock grazing.	Allocate **1,381,000 acres** as available for livestock grazing and **84,000 acres** as not available for livestock grazing.	Allocate **1,406,000 acres** as available for livestock grazing and **59,000 acres** as not available for livestock grazing.	Allocate **1,404,000 acres** as available for livestock grazing and **61,000 acres** as not available for livestock grazing.	Allocate **1,320,000 acres** in Alternative IV-A and **1,352,000 acres** in Alt IV-B as available for livestock grazing and **145,000 acres** in Alternative IV-A and **113,000 acres** in Alternative IV-B as not available for livestock grazing.	Allocate **1,156,000 acres** as available for livestock grazing and **309,000 acres** as not available for livestock grazing.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
All areas not available to livestock grazing in this alternative are common to all alternatives.	Areas not available to livestock grazing in addition to those common to all alternatives include portions of the Middle Snake ACEC, Wildlife Tracts, reference areas, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use.	Areas not available to livestock grazing in addition to those common to all alternatives include Wildlife Tracts and reference areas.	Same as Alternative II.	Areas not available to livestock grazing in addition to those common to all alternatives include bull trout streams, the Inside Desert ACEC, Wildlife Tracts, and reference areas.	Areas not available to livestock grazing in addition to those common to all alternatives include bull trout and redband trout streams; the Middle Snake, Sand Point, and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs; the Browns Bench/China Mountain area, Wildlife Tracts, and reference areas.
Develop grazing systems to maintain condition in MUA 4. Develop grazing management systems on fair condition range in MUA 11 to improve to good or better condition. Additional grazing systems would be implemented elsewhere.	Implement adaptive management using grazing use indicators to meet resource and special designation area objectives as feasible and following BLM policy Grazing permit renewal following the Record of Decision (ROD) would follow the process outlined in Appendix L. Allotment-specific decisions for livestock grazing management, including grazing use indicators and grazing use criteria, and adjustments to an allotment's Selective Management Category would be made at that time. Implement drought management guidelines during periods of drought to maintain or achieve long-term resource productivity (Appendix F). Manage livestock grazing to follow BLM guidelines for managing sage-grouse habitat (e.g., 2006 *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-Grouse in Idaho*, Owyhee County and Jarbidge Local Working Group Sage-grouse Plans).				
Livestock season of use would be adjusted in Multiple Use Areas (MUAs) 10, 15, and 16, if necessary, to resolve any conflicts on mule deer, pronghorn and bighorn sheep ranges. These adjustments would entail the reduction in spring or fall livestock grazing use from a specific period(s) of a grazing year.	Livestock grazing may be allowed in big game winter range in native shrubland communities during the winter. Adjust livestock grazing in the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC so seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat.	No date restrictions on livestock grazing in winter range would be made.	Livestock grazing may be allowed in big game winter range in native shrubland communities during the winter. Adjust livestock grazing south of Sheep Creek so seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat.	Livestock grazing may be allowed in big game winter range in native shrubland communities during the winter. Adjust livestock grazing so seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat.	Livestock grazing would not be allowed in big game winter range during the winter. Adjust livestock grazing so seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Temporary Non-Renewable Authorizations (TNR) would be allowed.	TNR would be allowed except in pastures containing WSA, the riparian pasture in the Sand Point ACEC, pastures with >50% big game winter range, or pastures with >50% native communities.	TNR would be allowed except in pastures containing areas within a WSA boundary.	Same as Alternative I.	TNR would be allowed except in pastures containing WSA, the riparian pasture in the Sand Point ACEC, pastures with >50% big game winter range, or pastures with >25% native communities.	TNR would not be issued.
Range Infrastructure					
Objective LG-NA-O- 3. Design range infrastructure to achieve objectives in the *Vegetation Communities*, *Fish and Wildlife*, and *Livestock Grazing* objectives.	Objective LG-I-O- 3. Manage range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments, consistent with resource objectives.	Objective LG-II-O- 3. Manage range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments.	Objective LG-III-O- 3. Manage range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments and support fire suppression efforts.	Objective LG-IV-O- 3. Manage range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments and support resource objectives.	Objective LG-V-O- 3. Same as Alternative IV.
Install or construct new infrastructure as follows: • 161 miles of pipelines • 3 reservoirs, wells, or springs • 26 miles of fences	Consider installing or constructing new range infrastructure on a case-by-case basis where they would **help meet resource objectives**.	Consider installing or constructing new range infrastructure on a case-by-case basis **to promote livestock distribution or meet resource objectives**.	Consider installing or constructing new range infrastructure on a case-by-case basis where they would **help meet resource objectives or to aid in fire suppression**.	Same as Alternative I.	Consider installing or constructing new range infrastructure on a case-by-case basis where they would help meet resource objectives. **New pipelines and spring developments would not be authorized.**
Design new spring developments and modify selected existing spring developments to protect wetted areas.	Minimize disturbance at developed springs by using existing routes for access, redesigning the spring development, or limiting maintenance or reconstruction activities to areas disturbed during previous construction or to areas outside the wetland. Modify selected existing spring developments to improve wetland areas by protecting the spring source and ensuring adequate water to support spring hydrology and associated riparian vegetation. New spring developments must avoid or minimize ground disturbance, protect the spring source, and ensure adequate water to maintain the wetland. Other mitigation may be required to minimize impacts to cultural and natural resources and tribal rights, interests, and values.				
Recreation					
Recreation					
No goal stated.	***Goal REC-CA-G- 1. Provide a variety of dispersed and developed recreational opportunities and experiences for visitors and residents while sustaining the recreation resource base and avoiding, minimizing, or compensating for resource impacts.***				

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Objective REC-NA-O- 1. Protect the Salmon Falls Creek Canyon (rim-to-rim) for its natural and scenic values through special designation and management as an SRMA.	Objective REC-I-O- 1. Manage **341,800 acres** as SRMAs and **1,031,700 acres** as an Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA).	Objective REC-II-O- 1. Manage **21,300 acres** as SRMAs and **1,352,200 acres** as an ERMA.	Objective REC-III-O-1. Manage **55,800 acres** as SRMAs and **1,317,700 acres** as an ERMA.	Objective REC-IV-O-1. Manage **204,000 acres** as SRMAs and **1,169,570 acres** as an ERMA.	Objective REC-V-O- 1. Manage **19,000 acres** as SRMAs and **1,354,5000 acres** as an ERMA.
Continue managing the Hagerman-Owsley Bridge (Yahoo) SRMA (**2,700 acres**).	The Deadman/Yahoo SRMA (**36,000 acres**) would consist of four Recreation Management Zones (RMZs): • Deadman (**13,000 acres**), Pasadena (**2,000 acres**), and Yahoo (**3,000 acres**) RMZs: off-road ATV and motorcycle riding. • Rosevear Gulch RMZ (**18,000 acres**): motorized trail riding opportunities on a series of designated routes.	*No similar management action.*	The Deadman/Yahoo SRMA (**34,000 acres**) would consist of three RMZs: • Deadman (**13,000 acres**) and Yahoo (**3,000 acres**) RMZs: off-road ATV and motorcycle riding. • Rosevear Gulch RMZ (**18,000 acres**): motorized trail riding opportunities on a series of designated routes.	Same as Alternative III.	Manage the Yahoo SRMA (**3,000 acres**) for off-road ATV and motorcycle riding.
No similar management action.	Manage the Balanced Rock SRMA (**500 acres**) for visitors hiking, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, and non-motorized boating.	*No similar management action.*	Same as Alternative I.	*No similar management action.*	*No similar management action.*
No similar management action.	Manage the Little Pilgrim SRMA (**300 acres**) for sturgeon fishing and bird hunting.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	*No similar management action.*	*No similar management action.*
Continue managing the Bruneau-Jarbidge River SRMA (**57,000 acres**).	Manage the Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA (**14,000 acres**) for whitewater boating and primitive camping.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Continue managing the Jarbidge Forks SRMA (**4,000 acres**).	Manage the Jarbidge Forks SRMA (**2,000 acres**) for fishing, rafting, picnicking, camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.
No similar management action.	Manage the Canyonlands SRMA (**149,000 acres**) for non-motorized recreation experiences.	*No similar management action.*	*No similar management action.*	Same as Alternative I.	*No similar management action.*
No similar management action.	Manage the Jarbidge Foothills SRMA (**135,000 acres**) for non-motorized recreation experiences.	*No similar management action.*	*No similar management action.*	*No similar management action.*	*No similar management action.*
No similar management action.	The Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA (**5,000 acres**) would consist of three RMZs: • Antelope Bay RMZ (**2,000 acres**): hunting, fishing, camping, boating, water sports, and trail riding. • Cedar Creek RMZ (**1,000 acres**): fishing, camping, and boating. • Lud's Point RMZ (**2,000 acres**): hunting, fishing, primitive camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	*No similar management action.*
Continue managing the Oregon Trail SRMA (**7,000 acres**) and Salmon Falls Creek SRMA (**6,000 acres**).	*No similar management action.* *The Oregon Trail is managed as a National Historic Trail (NHT).* *Salmon Falls Creek is managed as a Wilderness Study Area and, in Alternatives I and III, as an ACEC as well.*				
Transportation and Travel Management					
The majority of the planning area (**1,062,000 acres**) would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use.	Designated areas in the Deadman/Yahoo SRMA would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use (**3,600 acres**).	**No areas would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use**.	Designated areas in the Deadman/Yahoo SRMA would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use (**3,570 acres**).	Same as Alternative III.	Designated areas in the Yahoo SRMA would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use (**700 acres**).

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Salmon Falls Creek ACEC and the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons (**25,000 acres**) would be closed to motorized vehicle use.	Salmon Falls Creek ACEC north and south of Lily Grade crossing, non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics, and the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons would be closed to motorized vehicle use (**57,000 acres**).	The Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons would be closed to motorized vehicle use (**21,000 acres**).	Salmon Falls Creek ACEC north and south of Lily Grade crossing and the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons would be closed to motorized vehicle use (**27,000 acres**).	Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics and the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons would be closed to motorized vehicle use (**74,000 acres**).	WSAs, **including inventoried ways**, and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics would be closed to motorized vehicle use (**147,000 acres**).
Portions of WSAs not closed to motorized vehicle use (**70,000 acres**) would be limited to inventoried ways.	Portions of WSAs not closed to motorized vehicle use (**72,000 acres**) would be limited to designated ways. Until the Comprehensive Transportation and Travel Management Plan (CTTMP) is completed, travel is limited to inventoried ways.	Portions of WSAs not closed to motorized vehicle use (**73,000 acres**) would be limited to designated ways. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel is limited to inventoried ways.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative II.	*No similar management action.*
Sand Point ACEC, the Oregon NHT, bighorn sheep habitat, and cultural resource complexes (**216,000 acres**) would be limited to designated routes.	Travel in the remainder of the planning area (**1,241,000 acres**) would be limited to designated routes. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel would be limited to existing routes.	Travel in the remainder of the planning area (**1,297,000 acres**) would be limited to designated routes. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel would be limited to existing routes.	Travel in the remainder of the planning area (**1,275,000 acres**) would be limited to designated routes. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel would be limited to existing routes.	Travel in the remainder of the planning area (**1,223,000 acres**) would be limited to designated routes. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel would be limited to existing routes.	Travel in the remainder of the planning (**1,226,000 acres**) would be limited to designated routes. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel would be limited to existing routes.
Energy Development					
Land Use Authorizations					
No goal stated.	***Goal LA-CA-G- 1. Public needs for land use authorizations would be met with consideration for other resource values.***				

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
No objective stated.	Objective LA-I-O- 1. Provide for the development of renewable energy resources, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, communication sites and other uses with consideration for resource objectives.	Objective LA-II-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.	Objective LA-III-O- 1. Provide for the development of renewable energy resources, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, communication sites and other uses with consideration for resource objectives and wildland fire prevention and suppression objectives.	Objective LA-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.	Objective LA-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.
The following areas would be utility avoidance/ restricted areas (**110,000 acres**): • Paleontological sites at Glenns Ferry and Pasadena Valley • Cultural resource complexes • Dove Springs • All rutted segments of Oregon Trail • Recommended suitable wilderness area • Bruneau-Jarbidge and Sand Point ACECs • Suitable Wild and Scenic River (WSR) corridors • Salmon Falls Creek Canyon.	The following areas would be right-of-way (ROW) avoidance areas (**896,000 acres**): • Areas within United States Air Force (USAF) Military Operating Areas (MOAs) • Oregon NHT protective corridor • Eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors • Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics • Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs	The following areas would be ROW avoidance areas (**878,000 acres**): • Areas within USAF MOAs • Oregon NHT protective corridor • Eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors	The following areas would be ROW avoidance areas (**880,000 acres**): • Areas within USAF MOAs • Oregon NHT protective corridor • Eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors • Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs	The following areas would be ROW avoidance areas (**896,000 acres**): • Areas within USAF MOAs • Oregon NHT protective corridor • Eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors • Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC	The following areas would be ROW avoidance areas (**1,229,000 acres**): • Areas within USAF MOAs • Oregon NHT protective corridor • Eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors • Sagebrush Sea ACEC

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
No similar management action.	The following areas would be ROW exclusion areas (**95,000 acres**): • Sand Point ACEC • WSAs	The following areas would be ROW exclusion areas (**94,000 acres**): • WSAs	Same as Alternative I.	The following areas would be ROW exclusion areas (**148,000 acres**): • Sand Point ACEC • WSAs • Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics	Same as Alternative IV.
No similar management action.	Designate the Pilgrim Gulch, Shoestring, Saylor Creek, Balanced Rock, and Jarbidge ROW corridors.	Designate the Pilgrim Gulch, Shoestring, Saylor Creek, Balanced Rock, Jarbidge, and China Mountain ROW corridors.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Designate the Pilgrim Gulch, Shoestring, Balanced Rock, and Jarbidge ROW corridors.
Implement the Programmatic Policies and Best Management Practices in the Wind Energy Development Program (Appendix N).					
No similar management action.	Wind farms could be considered in areas with annual or non-native vegetation communities, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.	Wind farms can be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.
Restrict wind energy development from wildlife habitat where adverse effects could not be mitigated.	Restrict wind energy site testing and monitoring and wind energy development from occupied habitat for special status plants and animals, and cultural resources where their direct and indirect adverse effects cannot be mitigated.	Restrict wind turbines and meteorological towers from occupied habitat for Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, and Candidate species where their direct adverse effects cannot be mitigated.	Same as Alternative I.	Restrict wind energy site testing and monitoring and wind energy development from occupied and suitable habitat for special status species, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources where their direct and indirect adverse effects cannot be mitigated.	Same as Alternative IV.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
No similar management action.	Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines **1 to 3 miles** away from active sage-grouse leks if the structure would not conflict with the lek. If this cannot be documented, structures must be >3 miles away.	Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines **>1 mile** from active sage-grouse leks.	Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines **>3 miles** from active sage-grouse leks.	Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines **>5 miles** from active sage-grouse leks.	Same as Alternative IV.
Leasable Minerals					
No goal stated.	***Goal LE-CA-G- 1 Provide leasable mineral development opportunities where they are compatible with other resources.***				
Objective LE-NA-O- 1. Make 1,307,000 acres of the area available for leasable mineral exploration and development across all MUAs.	Objective LE-I-O- 1. Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of leasable minerals where compatible with resource objectives.	Objective LE-II-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.	Objective LE-III-O- 1. Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of leasable minerals where compatible with resource and wildland fire prevention and suppression objectives.	Objective LE-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.	Objective LE-V-O- 11. Same as Alternative I.
	All mineral leases would be subject to laws, regulations, and formal orders, the terms and conditions of the standard lease form; and stipulations for Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) Section 7 Consultation and Cultural Resource Protection; allocations below outline what, if any, additional constraints would apply.				
Allocate **1,303,000 acres** as open to mineral leasing.	Allocate **670,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing with no additional constraints.	Allocate **1,355,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing with no additional constraints.	Allocate **1,355,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing with no additional constraints.	Allocate **634,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate in Alternative IV-A and **648,000 acres** in Alternative IV-B as open to mineral leasing with no additional constraints.	Allocate **1,034,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing with no additional constraints

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Allocate the following areas as open to mineral leasing, subject to moderate constraints: • Seasonal restrictions in big game winter range, pronghorn fawning range, key sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse habitats, raptor winter and nesting habitat	Allocate **633,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to moderate constraints: • Seasonal restrictions in big game winter range, key sage-grouse habitat, and bull trout and redband trout habitat • Controlled surface use restriction in RCAs	Allocate **17,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to moderate constraints: • Controlled surface use restriction in RCAs	Allocate **17,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to moderate constraints: • Controlled surface use restriction in RCAs	Allocate **586,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate in Alternative IV-A and **604,000 acres** in Alternative IV-B as open to mineral leasing, subject to moderate constraints: • Seasonal restrictions in big game winter range, key sage-grouse habitat, and bull trout and redband trout habitat • Controlled surface use restriction in RCAs	Allocate **264,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to moderate constraints: • Seasonal restrictions in key sage-grouse habitat and bull trout and redband trout habitat • Controlled surface use restriction in RCAs
Allocate **284,000 acres** as open to mineral leasing, subject to major constraints (no surface occupancy; NSO): • Oregon Trail • Sand Point ACEC and other paleontological sites and cultural resource complexes • WSAs; Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA; and bighorn sheep habitat • Bruneau, Jarbidge, Arch, and Salmon Falls Canyons • Within 500 feet of riparian areas	Allocate **32,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO): • The Oregon NHT protective corridor • The Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors	Allocate **29,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO): • The Oregon NHT protective corridor • Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs	Allocate **28,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO): • The Oregon NHT protective corridor • Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs	Allocate **32,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate in Alternative IV-A and **32,000 acres** in Alternative IV-B as open to mineral leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO): • The Oregon NHT protective corridor • The Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors	Allocate **32,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO): • The Oregon NHT protective corridor The Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Allocate **104,000 acres** as closed to mineral leasing.	Allocate **160,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as closed to mineral leasing in the following areas: • WSAs • Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs • Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics • Lower Bruneau Canyon, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Middle Snake, Salmon Falls Creek, and Sand Point ACECs	Allocate **94,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as closed to mineral leasing in the following areas: • WSAs	Allocate **96,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as closed to mineral leasing in the following areas: • WSAs • Bruneau-Jarbidge and Sand Point ACECs	Allocate **243,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate in Alternative IV-A and **210,872 acres** in Alternative IV-B as closed to mineral leasing in the following areas: • WSAs • Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs; the Inside Desert • Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics • Lower Bruneau Canyon, Bruneau-Jarbidge, and Sand Point ACECs	Allocate **165,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as closed to mineral leasing in the following areas: • WSAs • Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs • Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics • Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Sand Point ACECs
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)					
No goal stated.	***Goal ACEC-CA-G- 1. ACECs will be managed to protect the important biological, cultural, scenic, and historic resources that meet the criteria for relevance and importance.***				
Objective ACEC-NA-O- 1. Protect the cultural and scenic values of the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (**85,000 acres**). Objective ACEC-NA-O-2. Protect and enhance the Arch Canyon area, California bighorn sheep habitat, and the Jarbidge River system and protect and maintain the cultural, geologic, scenic, and natural values present in the area. Objective ACEC-NA-O-3. Protect the Salmon Falls Creek Canyon (**2,700 acres**) for its natural and scenic values through ACEC	Objective ACEC-I-O- 1. Manage the lands within the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC to protect their fish, wildlife, botanical, scenic, and cultural resource values (**85,000 acres**). Objective ACEC-I-O- 2. Manage the lands within the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC (**1,100 acres**) to protect their aquatic and botanical resources. Objective ACEC-I-O- 3. Manage the lands within the Middle Snake ACEC (**7,500 acres**) to protect	*No similar objectives.*	Objective ACEC-III-O-1. Manage the lands within the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC to protect their cultural, scenic, fish, wildlife, and botanical values (**57,000 acres**). Objective ACEC-III-O-2. Manage the lands within the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC (**2,700 acres**) to protect their scenic, fish, and botanical values. Objective ACEC-III-O-3. Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC (**950 acres**) to	Objective ACEC-IV-O- 1. Manage the lands within the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC to protect their cultural, scenic, fish, and botanical values (**123,000 acres**). Objective ACEC-IV-O- 2. Manage the lands within the Inside Desert ACEC (Alternative IV-A: **73,000 acres**; Alternative IV-B: **41,000 acres**) to protect their botanical values. Objective ACEC-IV-	Objective ACEC-V-O-1. Manage the lands within the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC (**1,100 acres**) to protect their aquatic and botanical resources. Objective ACEC-V-O-2. Manage the lands within the Middle Snake ACEC (**7,500 acres**) to protect their fish and botanical values. Objective ACEC-V-O-3. Manage the lands within the Sagebrush Sea ACEC (**958,000**

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
designation and management. Objective ACEC-NA-O- 4. Manage the Sand Point ACEC (**810 acres**) to protect its paleontological and cultural resources, protect the geologic features present, and ensure that its scenic and wildlife values are maintained.	their fish and botanical values. Objective ACEC-I-O- 4. Manage the lands within the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC (**2,700 acres**) to protect their scenic, fish, and botanical values. Objective ACEC-I-O- 5. Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC (**950 acres**) to protect their historic, cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.		protect their historic, cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.	O- 3. Manage the lands within the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC (Alt IV-A: **136,000 acres**) to protect their cultural, fish, wildlife, and botanical values. Objective ACEC-IV-O- 4. Manage the lands within the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC (Alternative IV-B: **66,000 acres**) to protect their cultural, wildlife, and botanical values. Objective ACEC-IV-O- 5. Manage the lands within the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC (**1,100 acres**) to protect their aquatic and botanical resources. Objective ACEC-IV-O- 6. Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC (**950 acres**) to protect their historic, cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.	**acres**) to protect their cultural, fish, wildlife, and botanical values. Objective ACEC-V-O-4. Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC (**950 acres**) to protect their historic, cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.

Affected Environment

The following sections describe the current condition of the resources in the planning area as related to the planning issues.

Vegetation (Upland and Riparian)

Fuels Treatments, Fire Rehabilitation, and Fire Suppression

Between 1987 and 2007, an average of 66,000 acres burned in the planning area each year, with a total of 1,394,000 acres burning during that 21-year period. The number of acres burned each year varied from a low of 700 acres in 1993 to high of 505,000 acres in 2007. The majority of the total acres (713,000) only burned once during this 21-year period. A total of 304,000 acres burned more than once; 750 acres burned five times between 1987 and 2007. These figures are based on fires greater than 10 acres and include all areas burned regardless of ownerships.

During this time there were 486 fires, an average of 23 fires per year. The majority of wildland fire ignitions in the planning area (61%) were caused by lightning, while human-caused fires comprised 39%. This includes all wildland fire ignitions and not just those that resulted in wildland fires greater than 10 acres.

National and State BLM fire policy requires current and desired resource conditions related to fire management to be described in terms of three condition classes. These condition classes are collectively referred to as FRCC and are delineated as FRCC 1, FRCC 2, and FRCC 3. FRCC is a classification of the amount of departure from the Historic Fire Regime (HFR) (Hann & Bunnell, 2001).

FRCC 1 (low departure) is considered to be within the historic range of variability of a given HFR, while FRCC 2 (moderate departure) and FRCC 3 (high departure) are outside the historic range of variability. HFR in the planning area was determined based on potential vegetation. Potential natural vegetation groups (PNVGs) in the planning area from the LANDFIRE[1] model are assigned to an HFR, a PNC (based on information from SSURGO), and a VSG.

Successional classes (S-Classes) within each PNVG correspond to the VSGs outlined in the *Upland Vegetation* section in Chapter 3. The reference condition for each S-Class indicates the proportion of each S-Class that would comprise the historical vegetation mosaic. This is compared to the existing proportions of each S-Class to determine S-Class Similarity and FRCC for each PNVG.

Table ES- 1 displays for each VMA the acres, S-Class similarity, and FRCC rating for each PNVG. A more detailed version containing existing and reference conditions for S-Classes within each PNVG by VMA can be found in Appendix S.

Fuels models are used to describe fuel characteristics based on quantity, type, and spatial arrangement of fuel. Fuel models are used as input in fire behavior modeling to estimate or predict potential fire behavior and effects such as flame length and rate of spread under various environmental parameters. Flame length corresponds to fireline intensity, while rate of spread relates to fire size. Fuel models do not account for fire return interval, changes in landscape patterns, or length of fire season. Fuel models were assigned to each PNVG S-Class using *Standard Fire Behavior Fuel Models* (Scott & Burgan, 2005). Because the size of wildland fire is a concern in the planning area, changes to rate of spread are an important characteristic in evaluating fire size. Table ES- 2 shows the acres of vegetation with each rate of spread rating by VMA.

The Twin Falls District of the BLM manages wildland fires on BLM, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and State lands by cooperative agreements. A contractual agreement also exists with Department of Defense (DOD) USAF, which requires suppression of fires on DOD lands by BLM. BLM will suppress wildland fires on private lands when those fires pose a threat to BLM lands. The fire management organization

[1] Current LANDFIRE nomenclature for PNVG is Biophysical Setting (BpS).

performs management tasks that include: preparing firefighting personnel and equipment for wildland fire activities; suppressing wildland fires; preventing and educating the public about wildland fire; planning and implementing fuel activities including prescribed fire, vegetation inventory, and mechanical and chemical treatments; providing funding to communities for education, fuels, and prevention activities through the community assistance program; and implementing ES&BAR measures such as seeding and restoring vegetation on a wildland fire to minimize soil loss.

Table ES- 1. Acres, S-Class Similarity, and FRCC Rating for PNVGs by VMA

PNVG	Acres of PNVG[A]	S-Class Similarity	FRCC Rating
VMA A			
Basin Big Sagebrush (R2SBBB)	600	2%	FRCC 3
Mountain Shrubland with Tree (R2MSHBwt)	<100	34%	FRCC 2
Salt Desert Shrub (R2DSH)	2,000	0%	FRCC 3
Wyoming Sagebrush Steppe (R2BWYse)	213,000	19%	FRCC 3
VMA B			
Basin Big Sagebrush (R2SBBB)	200	39%	FRCC 2
Black and Low Sagebrush (R2SBDW)	300	47%	FRCC 2
Mountain Shrubland with Tree (R2MSHBwt)	400	32%	FRCC 3
Salt Desert Shrub (R2DSH)	4,000	65%	FRCC 2
Wyoming Sagebrush Steppe (R2BWYse)	603,000	47%	FRCC 2
VMA C			
Basin Big Sagebrush (R2SBBB)	9,000	16%	FRCC 3
Black and Low Sagebrush (R2SBDW)	10,000	32%	FRCC 3
Mountain Big Sagebrush (R2SBMT)	800	33%	FRCC 2
Mountain Shrubland with Tree (R2MSHBwt)	<100	5%	FRCC 3
Stable Aspen (R2ASPN)	<100	20%	FRCC 2
Wyoming Sagebrush Steppe (R2BWYse)	285,000	48%	FRCC 2
VMA D			
Basin Big Sagebrush (R2SBBB)	18,000	16%	FRCC 3
Black and Low Sagebrush (R2SBDW)	101,000	34%	FRCC 2
Curlleaf Mountain Mahogany (R2SBMT)	3,000	18%	FRCC 3
Mountain Big Sagebrush (R2SBMT)	35,000	64%	FRCC 2
Mountain Shrubland with Tree (R2MSHBwt)	6,000	29%	FRCC 3
Stable Aspen (R2ASPN)	3,000	38%	FRCC 2
Wyoming Sagebrush Steppe (R2BWYse)	28,000	64%	FRCC 2

[A] Analysis was based on 2012 projected vegetation, used as the baseline vegetation composition for the RMP.

Table ES- 2. Fire Rate of Spread Rating by VMA

Rate of Spread Rating	VMA A	VMA B	VMA C	VMA D
Extreme	0	0	0	0
Very High	73,000	36,000	6,000	9,000
High	134,000	449,000	248,000	52,000
Moderate	0	<100	4,000	50,000
Low	9,000	119,000	41,000	34,000
Very Low	0	3,000	6,000	50,000
Non-Burnable	6,000	22,000	8,000	15,000

Every wildland fire is managed to protect firefighters and the public, protect values as defined in a land use plan, and minimize cost, in priority order. While human life is the single overriding priority, other values could include communities, property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources. Suppression strategy on wildland fires is in accordance with management objectives and based on fire location and current and expected conditions for weather, fuels, and fire behavior. The strategy, Appropriate Management Response (AMR), can vary from monitoring when fire spread and values are predicted to be very low to responding with all available suppression resources when spread and values

are predicted to be high. Allowing a wildland fire that has been caused by lightning to fulfill its role in the ecosystem and accomplish resource objectives, Wildland Fire Use, is not allowed under current land management direction.

Habitat for Fish, Wildlife, and Special Status Plants and Animals

Vegetation communities in the planning area are diverse and are primarily influenced by wildland fires, post-fire vegetation treatments, weather, livestock grazing, invasive plant introduction and spread, and cross-country motorized vehicle use. For management and analysis purposes, the 55 vegetation communities in the planning area were grouped into five VSGs. Vegetation communities were grouped into VSGs based on dominant vegetation and community structure, since communities with similar dominant vegetation and community structure were expected to have similar management objectives.

For management and analysis purposes, the 55 vegetation communities in the planning area were grouped into five VSGs; Map 9 displays VSGs present in 2008. Vegetation communities were grouped into VSGs based on the dominant vegetation and community structure as well as similarity in management objectives:

- **Annual communities** – dominated by invasive annual grasses; includes communities with and without a shrub overstory.
- **Non-native Perennial communities** – dominated by non-native perennial grasses; some also have an overstory of four-wing saltbush or rabbitbrush.
- **Non-native Understory communities** – dominated by non-native perennial grasses in the understory; have an overstory of Wyoming big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, black sagebrush, or low sage.
- **Native Grassland communities** – dominated by native grasses; do not have a shrub overstory.
- **Native Shrubland communities** – dominated by native grasses in the understory; have a shrub overstory; also includes aspen, juniper, and mountain mahogany communities which are present in small, scattered inclusions within other native shrubland communities.
- **Unvegetated areas** – include breaks, barren areas, sand dunes, and Recent Burn vegetation communities, which may be present for up to two years following a fire.

Large wildland fires occurred in 2007, following completion of a vegetation mapping effort in 2006, resulting in over 500,000 acres of burned vegetation that were re-mapped as Recent Burn (Appendix Q). In order to facilitate analysis of proposed management on upland vegetation communities, resource staff evaluated pre-burn vegetation conditions, impacts to vegetation resulting from fire, and vegetation treatments, and created a map projecting VSG composition in areas mapped as Recent Burn and depicted as Unvegetated VSG in 2012 (see Appendix R for protocol; Map 10). Vegetation composition following 2007 wildland fires (post-fire) and the 2012 projected vegetation composition (baseline) of the planning area by VSG are presented in Table ES- 3. The 2012 projected vegetation composition was used as the baseline composition throughout the RMP. Vegetation in the areas mapped as Recent Burn and depicted as Unvegetated VSG in Map 10 was re-mapped at the community level during the 2009 field season; updated information will be incorporated into the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

Table ES- 3. Post-Fire and Baseline Vegetation Composition in the Planning Area by VSG (Percent)

VSG	Post-Fire Vegetation Composition	Baseline Vegetation Composition
Annual	9	9
Non-Native Perennial	21	25
Non-Native Understory	5	5
Native Grassland	7	31
Native Shrubland	26	28
Unvegetated Areas	31	2
No Data	<1	<1
Data include vegetation as of Fall 2007 (Appendix Q) and projected vegetation in areas burned in 2007 (baseline; see Appendix R for protocol).		

Within the planning area, riparian areas and wetlands are generally associated with streams, rivers, and springs or seeps. There are approximately 316 miles of perennial streams and rivers on BLM-managed lands within the planning area. Approximately, 85 miles (35%) of riparian areas in the planning area are at PFC; 128 miles (52%) are FAR, and 12 miles (5%) are NF (Table 4-1). The FAR ratings includes FAR-UP (51 miles, 21%), FAR-DN (30 miles, 12%), and functioning with no apparent trend (FAR-NA; 47 miles, 19%). The condition of twenty miles (8%) of the reaches assessed was unknown.[2] The characteristics of riparian areas within each rating category are discussed in the sections below.

Livestock Forage

Currently, 188,802 AUMs of active use are authorized on the allotments within the planning area, including 12,154 AUMs in Saylor Creek Air Force Range (Appendix T). Interim grazing measures pursuant to stipulated settlement agreements (SSAs) govern 112,620 of these AUMs. In addition to permitted AUMs, a maximum of 17,071 AUMs of non-renewable use can be issued annually in 18 allotments in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.6-2 and the authority of DOI appropriations acts. The 28 allotments under the 2005 Winmill SSA (CV-04-181-S-BLW; Appendix A) and the 2 allotments under the 2003 Williams SSA (CV-02-521-S-MHW) are only allowed active use as described in the interim measures.

Actual use (grazing use that actually occurred) has varied annually based on factors such as forage production, resource conditions, wildfire, court decisions, and individual livestock grazing operations. Actual grazing use since the 1987 Jarbidge RMP has been as high as approximately 217,000 AUMs in 1997 (a high precipitation year) and as low as approximately 109,000 AUMs in 1988 (a low precipitation year). Between 2002 and 2006, the average actual use was approximately 173,000 AUMs.

Livestock Grazing

The planning area is divided into 93 grazing allotments on 1,323,000 acres of BLM-managed lands with about 70 permit holders (permittees). Additionally, livestock grazing on 92,000 acres of military withdrawal lands is managed by BLM in accordance with Public Land Order (PLO) 1027 as amended by PLO 4902.

Recreation

Recreation

There are six developed recreation sites within the planning area. None of the sites have potable water or trash service in the form of trashcans or dumpsters. The following list outlines these sites and their amenities:

- **Bruneau Canyon Overlook** – Parking area, interpretive kiosks, and protective fence structures
- **Bruneau River Launch Site, East** – Parking and information kiosk
- **Bruneau River Take-out** – Information kiosk
- **Cedar Creek Reservoir (Roseworth Reservoir)** – Parking area, vault restrooms, and docks
- **East Fork Jarbidge River Recreation Sites (4 sites)** – Vault restrooms, picnic tables, and fire rings with grills
- **Jarbidge River Recreation Site** – Parking area, launch facilities for whitewater boating, vault restrooms, and information kiosk

Hunting is the major dispersed recreation use across the entire planning area. The average number of visitor days in pursuit of mule deer and pronghorn in the planning area was 5,554 between 2002 and 2006 (IDFG, 2008a). In 2006, hunters spent more than 6,728 visitor days in pursuit of mule deer and pronghorn in the planning area (IDFG, 2008a).

Sport fishing in the Snake River along the northern boundary of the planning area and on the Salmon Falls Creek and Cedar Creek Reservoirs are also popular dispersed recreation activities. Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir is one of the most heavily used fisheries in the Magic Valley region. The average of

[2] Data for areas where PFC data contained discrepancies were classified as “unknown.”

annual angular effort between 1995 and 2006 was more than 72,000 hours. Peak months of fishing activity typically are April through October.

Only two recognized trails exist within the planning area. The Idaho Centennial Trail is used for both hiking and motorized vehicles; use of the segment within the planning area is generally low because much of the trail is in remote terrain with difficult access. The Roberson Trail is located in the Bruneau Canyon, and the general landscape dictates a non-motorized use. This trail is used in the spring and early summer by whitewater boaters accessing the Five Mile Rapids, a series of Class IV rapids on the Bruneau River.

Whitewater recreation activities on the Jarbidge and Bruneau River systems continue to be popular locally, regionally, and nationally. These rivers have a growing national reputation for those attracted to remote, wild, and spectacular canyons and a challenging whitewater boating experience. The float season lasts approximately one month, with the peak use occurring during the latter part of May. Water runoff from snowpack in the Jarbidge Mountains usually dictates the optimum flows for this activity. In 1983, the Jarbidge FO implemented a mandatory registration system for private boaters on the Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers, which provides some use data. While the Jarbidge FO administers outfitting on the Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers, maintenance of facilities and accountability for visitor use are currently shared with the Bruneau FO of the Boise District.

Transportation and Travel Management

All-terrain vehicle (ATV), utility vehicle (UTV), and off-road motorcycle use are some of the fastest growing recreation opportunities in the planning area. Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use has become a popular method of recreation as well as a means of transportation while pursuing other forms of recreation such as hunting, fishing, or camping. Antler gathering is an example of an increasing OHV use. Antlers shed by big game in their winter and spring ranges across most of the southern portion of the planning area are sought by collectors, as a recreational hobby and for art. Many people participating in this activity use OHVs to cover more ground than can be done on foot or horseback. The Jarbidge FO has received reports of people who “grid” areas to increase their success in finding antlers.

There are approximately 4,300 miles of mapped transportation routes (i.e., roads, primitive roads, and trails) in the planning area. Based on field observations and recent aerial photography, the actual amount of transportation routes could be twice as high as the amount mapped. The transportation system includes BLM and county system roads and primitive roads. Some BLM and county system roads receive regular maintenance. County roads are usually constructed and maintained to higher standards than BLM roads and provide the local road systems for access to and through BLM lands, supporting a higher volume of traffic than other roads in the planning area. These roads are maintained by the six local highway districts and, in some areas, by the USAF if higher standards are required for operations connected with training ranges.

Energy Development

Land Use Authorizations

Renewable energy includes geothermal,[3] wind, hydroelectric, and solar power. There are no renewable energy developments on public lands within the planning area; however, the Jarbidge FO has had several inquiries for wind energy-related interests on public land within the past several years. The only authorized use granted to date is the 2007 Renewable Energy Systems (RES) ROW for wind velocity test towers on China Mountain. The authorization allowed RES to construct four anemometer sites within the 13,000-acre ROW area. In May 2007, RES submitted an application to construct a wind farm in portions of the Jarbidge and Wells FOs. The proposed wind development project is being analyzed in a separate EIS and would produce 425 megawatts on approximately 30,000 acres; the proposed development would occur on approximately 13,000 acres managed by the Jarbidge FO.

[3] Geothermal resources are considered leasable minerals and are addressed in the Minerals section.

Additional ROW applications are being submitted for ancillary uses to energy-related facilities on private and public land. The Jarbidge FO received an application for an upgrade on a road that will support another wind farm on private land in the Bell Rapids area.

Under current conditions and technology, the planning area is not understood to have potential for commercial solar energy development. Solar resources in the planning area do not exceed 6 kWh/m^2/day (NREL, 2009a); therefore, the planning area is not currently identified as a high-priority state for solar energy development (NREL, 2009b) (BLM IM 2007-097).

Leasable Minerals

There is currently no leasable mineral activity within the planning area. As described in the Oil and Gas Potential Report (BLM, 2009a), three wells were drilled in 1950 for the purpose of exploring for oil and gas in the planning area, all in the extreme northwest corner; no showings of gas or oil were encountered at any interval in any of the three wells, the deepest of which was drilled to 3,808 feet. Another well approximately 8 miles north of the planning area was drilled to a depth of 9,678 feet, but did not encounter oil or gas. Based on the geology of the planning area and where interest in leasing has recently been expressed, the areas with potential for oil and gas leasing in the planning area include the Cedar Creek/China Mountain areas and the northwest corner of the planning area (Map 90); these areas are referred to as the potential oil and gas areas. However, even though the potential for leasing in these areas is slightly higher than the potential in the rest of the planning area, the potential is still considered to be low.

There are no wells in the planning area for geothermal power, only wells on private land for direct use for aquaculture, recreation, and heating. Other wells within the planning area that encountered geothermal water were drilled for other purposes, such as irrigation. As described in the Geothermal Potential Report (BLM, 2009b), the area near Bruneau Hot Springs, determined to have high potential for geothermal resources, has high potential for leasing. There is also potential for leasing in the northern third of the planning area, determined to have medium potential for geothermal resources (Map 91); these areas with high and medium potential are referred to as potential geothermal areas. The probability of full geothermal resource development and production occurring in the planning area during the next 20 years is higher than for oil and gas development but still considered low.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

The Jarbidge FO contains three ACECs:

- **The Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC** contains 85,000 acres of BLM-managed land in the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons and the surrounding uplands. The ACEC is located along the Bruneau River from near Crowbar Gulch upstream to the Jarbidge FO boundary, along the Jarbidge River from the Bruneau River confluence to the Buck Creek confluence, and along the East Fork of the Jarbidge River from the Jarbidge River confluence to the FO boundary. Portions of Clover, Deep, Cougar, Dorsey, Columbet, and Dave Creeks are within the ACEC. Values meeting relevance and importance criteria include cultural values, scenic values, fish and wildlife resources (bighorn sheep, bull trout, and redband trout), and natural systems or processes (Bruneau River phlox and the riparian system).
- **The Salmon Falls Creek ACEC** encompasses 2,700 acres of BLM-managed land. The ACEC is located along Salmon Falls Creek from the Jarbidge FO boundary to the west canyon rim, extending from Balanced Rock Crossing Park south to the private land near Salmon Falls Creek Dam. Values meeting relevance and importance criteria include scenic values, fish resources (redband trout), and natural systems or processes (upland vegetation).
- **The Sand Point ACEC** encompasses 810 acres of BLM-managed lands. The ACEC is located south of the Snake River near Hammett, Idaho. The ACEC extends from the high water mark along the Snake River about 0.5 to 0.75 miles south into the upland plateau. Values meeting relevance and importance criteria include historic and cultural values and natural systems or processes (paleontological and geological resources).

Several ACECs were nominated for the revised Jarbidge RMP and were found to meet criteria for relevance and importance:

- **Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (Expanded Boundary)** – The proposed extensions to the existing Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC would encompass about 38,000 acres of BLM-managed land; if added to the existing ACEC, the new ACEC would total 123,000 acres of BLM-managed land. The proposed extensions include the remainder of the Jarbidge River and Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSAs not already within the existing ACEC, as well as bull trout habitat along the Jarbidge River south of the Jarbidge Forks, Dave Creek, Jack Creek, and Buck Creek. The eastern boundary of the existing ACEC south of Three Creek Highway would be modified to follow a road. The same values meet relevance and importance criteria in the proposed extensions as in the existing ACEC, with the addition of Davis peppergrass as a component of natural systems or processes.
- **Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (Reduced Boundary)** – The proposed reduced boundary of the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC would encompass 57,000 acres of BLM-managed land. The majority of the proposed ACEC lies within the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons; some of the adjacent uplands are included within the boundary as well. Portions of the existing ACEC that would not be included within this boundary include areas south of the Jarbidge River WSA on the Bruneau River, Jarbidge River and its East Fork, as well as areas north of Sheepshead Draw. The same values meet relevance and importance criteria in the reduced boundary as in the existing ACEC, except bull trout habitat would no longer occur within the ACEC boundary.
- **Inside Desert ACEC (Large Boundary)** – The proposed large boundary of the Inside Desert ACEC would encompass 73,000 acres of BLM-managed land. The proposed ACEC would be located between Clover Creek and the Jarbidge River and from Clover Butte south to approximately Poison Butte and would be adjacent to the Juniper Butte Range. The proposed large ACEC boundary was drawn along existing pasture fences to make the proposed ACEC manageable. Values meeting relevance and importance criteria include natural systems or processes (slickspot peppergrass).
- **Inside Desert ACEC (Small Boundary)** – The proposed small boundary of the Inside Desert ACEC would encompass 41,000 acres of BLM-managed land. The proposed ACEC would be located from Clover Butte south to approximately Middle Butte in several pastures near the Juniper Butte Range. The slickspot peppergrass values within the small boundary of the proposed ACEC are the same as those documented for the large boundary of the proposed Inside Desert ACEC; however, the small boundary would encompass only 50% of occupied slickspots in the planning area.
- **Jarbidge Foothills ACEC (Large Boundary)** – The proposed large boundary of the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC would encompass 136,000 acres of BLM-managed land in the southern third of the planning area. The boundary would run from the canyon of the East Fork of the Jarbidge River to Salmon Falls Creek and from Three Creek Highway to the southern boundary of the Jarbidge FO. Values meeting relevance and importance criteria include cultural values, fish or wildlife resources (redband trout, spotted frog, sage-grouse), and natural systems or processes (upland vegetation).
- **Jarbidge Foothills ACEC (Small Boundary)** – The proposed small boundary of the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC would encompass 66,000 acres of BLM-managed land and would be located in the southeast corner of the planning area. The boundary would run from Salmon Falls Creek west to the House Creek Allotment, and from Three Creek Highway south to the southern boundary of Jarbidge FO. This boundary for the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC would focus management on a block of primarily BLM-managed lands and would reduce the amount of private land that would be in the ACEC boundary. The same values meet relevance and importance criteria in the small boundary of the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC as in the large boundary, except spotted frog would no longer occur within the ACEC boundary.
- **Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC** – The proposed Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC would encompass 1,100 acres of BLM-managed land. The proposed ACEC would be located along the lower Bruneau River within the northernmost portion of the Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA. Values meeting relevance and importance criteria include fish or wildlife resources (Bruneau Hot springsnail) and natural systems or processes (special status plants and thermal seeps and springs).
- **Middle Snake ACEC** – The proposed Middle Snake ACEC would encompass 7,500 acres of BLM-managed lands; these lands are separated in several areas by blocks of private land. The proposed ACEC would be located from an area southeast of King Hill to the Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument. The proposed ACEC would extend from the Jarbidge FO boundary in the Snake River to the canyon rim or to existing fences on the adjacent uplands. Values meeting relevance and

importance criteria include fish or wildlife resources (Snake River snails, Shoshone sculpin, and white sturgeon) and natural systems or processes (special status plants).

- **Sagebrush Sea ACEC** – The Sagebrush Sea ACEC would encompass 958,000 acres of BLM-managed land, roughly the southern two-thirds of the planning area. It would extend from the Bruneau River on the west to Salmon Falls Creek on the east. Its southern boundary would follow the southern boundary of the Jarbidge FO. The northern boundary would follow the road that runs from Balanced Rock to Crows Nest to Clover Crossing, then follow Clover Creek along its east and north canyon rims to Clover Creek's confluence with the Bruneau River. Values meeting relevance and importance criteria include cultural values, fish or wildlife resources (bull trout, redband trout, spotted frog, sage-grouse, and bighorn sheep), and natural systems or processes (slickspot peppergrass, Davis peppergrass, and Bruneau River phlox).
- **Sand Point ACEC (Expanded Boundary)** – One additional boundary configuration of the Sand Point ACEC was nominated. The proposed expanded boundary of the Sand Point ACEC would include the 810 acres of the existing Sand Point ACEC as well as the Morgan property, an additional 140 acres between the existing ACEC and the Snake River. The Morgan property was acquired by BLM in 2002 because the relevant and important values in the existing ACEC extended onto this property and the previous landowner wanted these values preserved. The same values meet relevance and importance criteria in the proposed expanded boundary of the Sand Point ACEC as in the existing ACEC.

Environmental Consequences

Chapter 4 analyzes the environmental consequences, also referred to as "impacts" or "effects," predicted to occur as result of implementing the proposed management actions and allocations for each alternative in Chapter 2. They are presented by identifying the likely direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on resources, resource uses, special designations, and social and economic conditions. Each management action that is expected to impact a specific resource, resource use, special designation, or social or economic feature is analyzed. Where data are limited, professional judgment is used to project environmental impacts. Professional judgment is based on observation, experience, analysis of conditions, and responses in similar areas.

The scope of the impact analysis presented in this chapter is commensurate with the level of detail of the actions presented in Chapter 2 and the availability and/or quality of data necessary to assess impacts. Current conditions in the planning area, as described in Chapter 3, serve as the baseline for characterizing impacts from the action alternatives.

The impact analysis is designed to show relative differences in the alternatives as they pertain to specific resources, resource uses, special designations, and social and economic conditions and is not intended to predict the exact amount, timing, or location of effects that could occur should the alternative be selected for implementation. The following table displays impacts for each alternative by planning issue.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Vegetation (Upland and Riparian)					
Fuels Treatments, Fire Rehabilitation, and Fire Suppression					
The number of human-caused fires in the No Action Alternative would remain static or increase due to the combined impacts from land use authorizations, transportation and travel, and recreation actions and the lack of prevention actions.	The number of human-caused fires would decrease overall. The suppression actions in Alternative I would be second best at decreasing the number of human-caused fires. This effect would be augmented by travel management actions, but offset by recreation and land use authorizations management actions.	The number of human-caused fires would decrease overall. The suppression actions in Alternative II would be best at reducing the number of human-caused fires. This effect would be augmented by recreation management actions, but offset by travel and land use authorizations management actions.	The number of human-caused fires would increase overall. Even though the suppression actions in Alternative III would be best at reducing the number of human-caused fires, this effect would be offset by transportation and travel, recreation, and land use authorizations management actions.	The number of human-caused fires could increase at a slower rate than every alternative except for Alternative V. Even though the suppression actions in Alternative IV reduce the number of human-caused fires the least of all the alternatives, this effect would be offset by transportation and travel, recreation, and land use authorizations management actions.	The number of human-caused fires would increase at the slowest rate of all the alternatives. The suppression actions in Alternative V would be second best at reducing the number of human-caused fires. This effect would be augmented transportation and travel, recreation, and land use authorizations management actions.
In the short term, the trend toward large fires would continue. Few suppression actions are identified to reduce fire size, and no treatments would move vegetation toward fuels with a lower rate of spread.	In the short term, fire size would decrease through suppression actions, although to a lesser degree than Alternatives II and III. This would be offset by treatments on only 3% of the planning area moving vegetation toward fuels with a lower rate of spread.	In the short term, fire size would decrease through suppression and livestock grazing actions. This would be augmented by treatments on 5% of the planning area moving vegetation toward fuels with a lower rate of spread.	In the short term, fire size would decrease through suppression actions and livestock grazing actions. This would be augmented by treatments on 6% of the planning area moving vegetation toward fuels with a lower rate of spread.	In the short term, fire size would continue to increase until FRCC is improved, due to suppression actions reducing fire size least of all the alternatives and reduced levels of livestock grazing. This would be offset by treatments on 5% of the planning area moving vegetation toward fuels with a lower rate of spread.	In the short term, fire size would continue to increase until FRCC is improved. Even though suppression actions would decrease fire size, this would be offset by substantially reduced levels of livestock grazing and treatments on only 3% of the planning area moving vegetation toward fuels with a lower rate of spread.
Over the long term, fire size would continue an upward trend. Vegetation treatments would not improve FRCC, with no increase in acres similar to S-Class reference conditions as compared to the baseline; livestock grazing management may inhibit improvement in	Over the long term, fire size would decrease due to moderate improvement in FRCC. Vegetation treatments would improve FRCC on 300,000 acres; livestock grazing management is least likely to either inhibit or heighten improvement in FRCC. Approximately 4,000 acres	Over the long term, with no change to FRCC, fire size would return to an upward trend. Vegetation treatments and livestock grazing would play the least role in improving FRCC with no increase in acres similar to S-Class reference conditions as compared to the baseline.	Over the long term, fire size would continue an upward trend, although to a lesser degree than the No Action Alternative and Alternative II due to marginal improvement in FRCC. Vegetation treatments would improve FRCC on 180,000 acres; livestock grazing	Over the long term, fire size would decrease due to major improvement in FRCC. Vegetation treatments would improve FRCC on 373,000 acres; livestock grazing management would heighten improvement of FRCC. Approximately 4,000 acres of fuels	Over the long term, fire size would decrease due to minor improvement in FRCC. Vegetation treatments would improve FRCC on 210,000 acres; livestock grazing management would heighten improvement of FRCC. Approximately 3,000 acres of fuels

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
FRCC. No treatments are identified for WUI.	of fuels treatments in WUI would be implemented.	Among the alternatives, Approximately 5,000 acres of fuels treatments in WUI would be implemented.	management would further inhibit improvement in FRCC over the long term. Approximately 6,000 acres of fuels treatments in WUI would be implemented.	treatments in WUI would be implemented; improvements in overall FRCC would also benefit WUI by reducing fire size in the long term.	treatments in WUI would be implemented.
FRCC by Vegetation Type by VMA Following Full Implementation of the Plan (All Vegetation Types Currently as Shown under the No Action Alternative)					
VMA A:	***VMA A:***	***VMA A:***	***VMA A:***	***VMA A:***	***VMA A:***
Wy. sagebrush steppe 3	Wy. sagebrush steppe 3	Wy. sagebrush steppe 3	Wy. sagebrush steppe 3	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 3
VMA B:	***VMA B:***	***VMA B:***	***VMA B:***	***VMA B:***	***VMA B:***
Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2
VMA C:	***VMA C:***	***VMA C:***	***VMA C:***	***VMA C:***	***VMA C:***
Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1
Basin big sagebrush 3	Basin big sagebrush 2	Basin big sagebrush 3	Basin big sagebrush 2	Basin big sagebrush 1	Basin big sagebrush 2
Black/low sagebrush 3	Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 3	Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 2
VMA D:	***VMA D:***	***VMA D:***	***VMA D:***	***VMA D:***	***VMA D:***
Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1
Basin big sagebrush 3	Basin big sagebrush 1	Basin big sagebrush 3	Basin big sagebrush 2	Basin big sagebrush 1	Basin big sagebrush 1
Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 1	Black/low sagebrush 2
Mtn big sagebrush 2	Mtn big sagebrush 2	Mtn big sagebrush 2	Mtn big sagebrush 1	Mtn big sagebrush 1	Mtn big sagebrush 2
Habitat for Fish, Wildlife, and Special Status Plants and Animals					
Acres of vegetation subgroups in the planning area following vegetation treatments are displayed below:					
Annual 112,000	Annual 75,000	Annual 47,000	Annual 53,000	Annual 112,000	Annual 81,000
Non-Native Perennial 431,000	Non-Native Perennial 299,000	Non-Native Perennial 448,000	Non-Native Perennial 415,000	Non-Native Perennial 431,000	Non-Native Perennial 152,000
Non-Native Understory 7,000	Non-Native Understory 40,000	Non-Native Understory 34,000	Non-Native Understory 64,000	Non-Native Understory 7,000	Non-Native Understory 257,000
Native Grassland 424,000	Native Grassland 211,000	Native Grassland 424,000	Native Grassland 230,000	Native Grassland 424,000	Native Grassland 245,000
Native Shrubland 367,000	Native Shrubland 715,000	Native Shrubland 388,000	Native Shrubland 568,000	Native Shrubland 367,000	Native Shrubland 605,000
Acres of seral stages in the planning area following vegetation treatments are displayed below:					
Early 424,000	Early 213,000	Early 426,000	Early 232,000	Early 152,000	Early 247,000
Mid 91,000	Mid 437,000	Mid 110,000	Mid 295,000	Mid 581,000	Mid 327,000
Late 264,000	Late 264,000	Late 264,000	Late 259,000	Late 264,000	Late 264,000
Uncharac-teristic 549,000	Uncharac-teristic 414,000	Uncharac-teristic 528,000	Uncharac-teristic 532,000	Uncharac-teristic 331,000	Uncharac-teristic 490,000

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
The No Action Alternative would increase the relative proportion of acreage occupied by non-native perennial communities while maintaining proportions of annual, native grassland, and native shrubland communities and reducing proportions of non-native understory communities.	Alternative I would create a landscape with greater species diversity and structural complexity compared to the No Action Alternative and Alternatives II and III. This diversity would promote improved landscape functions over 67% of the planning area, including water and nutrient cycling and soil stabilization.	Alternative II would create a relatively homogeneous landscape dominated by early-seral and uncharacteristic vegetation in VMAs A, B, and C. Limited species and structural diversity in areas dominated by non-native perennial vegetation would decrease water and nutrient cycling compared to shrubland communities.	Alternative III would create a landscape with more species diversity and structural complexity than would be created under either the No Action Alternative or Alternative II. Native communities, particularly shrublands, would be less continuous than in Alternatives I, IV, or V.	Alternative IV would create a landscape dominated by native communities with a variety of seral stages and the lowest proportion of uncharacteristic vegetation of all the alternatives. This would improve landscape, including water and nutrient cycling and soil stabilization.	Alternative V would create a landscape with large patches of native communities in a variety of seral stages interspersed with non-native perennial and non-native understory communities. This would improve landscape functions, including water and nutrient cycling and soil stabilization.
The lack of prioritization for wildland fire suppression would perpetuate the current trend of native shrubland loss.	Fire management priorities would promote protection of existing and restored native shrubland communities; however, critical suppression priorities would likely result in continued loss of native shrublands.	Fire management priorities would promote protection of native grassland and non-native perennial communities with no prioritization for shrubland communities. Continued loss of native shrublands is likely.	Fire management priorities would promote protection of native shrubland, as well as native grassland and non-native perennial communities and would reduce the potential for loss for existing shrubland patches.	Fire management priorities would promote the protection of existing and restored native shrubland communities. Critical suppression priorities would not be adequate to retain all native communities; however, native grasslands would be relatively resilient if burned.	Fire management priorities would promote protection of existing and restored native shrubland communities. In VMAs B, C, and D, opportunities would be limited for post wildland fire treatments; therefore, Alternative V would require more use of prescribed fire in these VMAs as part of vegetation treatments.
Livestock management actions would promote uniform use of perennial grass and dominance by non-native perennial and short-stature, early- and mid-seral grasses.	Livestock management actions would result in moderate, uniform use that would tend to reduce structural complexity for perennial herbaceous plants.	Livestock management actions would promote uniform use of perennial grass and long-term dominance by non-native perennial and short-stature, early- and mid-seral grasses.	Livestock management actions would result in moderate, uniform use that would tend to reduce structural complexity for perennial herbaceous plants.	Livestock management actions coupled with vegetation treatments would result in greater structural complexity for both woody and herbaceous vegetation compared to the No Action Alternative and Alternatives I, II, and III.	Livestock management actions coupled with vegetation treatments would result in the greatest potential for species diversity and structural complexity and the highest potential for landscape stability compared to all other alternatives.
Designation of 77% of the planning area as open to cross-country motorized vehicle use would result in continued creation of unplanned routes, fragmentation of plant	While cross-country motorized vehicle use and route density would decrease compared to the No Action Alternative, disturbance associated with fuel breaks and livestock	While cross-country motorized vehicle use would decrease compared to the No Action Alternative, increased allocations for livestock grazing as well as travel	While cross-country motorized vehicle use would decrease, route density would remain similar to the No Action Alternative. Disturbance associated with fuel breaks	Cross-country motorized vehicle use, route density, disturbance associated with fuel breaks and livestock management would be reduced compared to the No Action Alternative and	Cross-country motorized vehicle use, route density, disturbance associated with fuel breaks and livestock management would be the least of all alternatives. This would reduce the

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
communities, and introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants.	management would be similar to the No Action Alternative or slightly increased. This would result in localized degradation of plant communities that could expand.	associated with commodity use would increase the amount of disturbed areas. This would result in localized degradation of plant communities and would increase the potential for expansion.	and livestock management would be greater compared to the No Action Alternative and Alternatives I, IV, and V. This would result in localized degradation of plant communities.	Alternatives I, II, and III. This would reduce the potential for localized degradation of plant communities and expansion of disturbed areas.	potential for localized degradation of plant communities and expansion of disturbed areas.
The No Action Alternative has no objectives to maintain or improve PFC	PFC objectives include: • 145 miles at PFC • 80 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 85 miles at PFC • 140 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 183 miles at PFC • 42 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 183 miles at PFC • 42 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 183 miles at PFC • 42 miles toward PFC
The ARMS does not apply	The ARMS applies and would mitigate impacts from authorized and allowed uses.				
The No Action Alternative would result in the greatest potential to reduce habitat condition and PFC ratings of all alternatives and is the least likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan.	Alternative I is the third most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan.	Alternative II is the fifth most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives and would result in the fewest miles of riparian area at PFC within the life of the plan.	Alternative III is the fourth most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan. The attainment of the riparian objectives is less likely due to the increased resource uses in addition to the enhanced wildland fire suppression infrastructure.	Alternative IV is most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan. Alternative IV would have fewer areas available for authorized uses and less wildland fire infrastructure. Active restoration is more likely to achieve restoration objectives and in a shorter timeframe than passive restoration.	Alternative V is the second most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan. Alternative V would have the fewest areas available for land uses of all alternatives. Passive restoration would have fewer short-term impacts, but longer timeframes for riparian objectives to be met.
Livestock Forage					
Forage Available for Livestock at Initial and Full Implementation of the Plan Based on Areas Available for Livestock Grazing, Vegetation Allocation and Treatments, and 2006 Vegetation Production Data (for Comparison Purposes Only)					
Initial implementation: 200,000 AUMs *Full implementation:* 160,000-260,000 AUMs	*Initial implementation:* 194,000-267,000 AUMs *Full implementation*[4]*:* 196,000-269,000 AUMs	*Initial implementation:* 352,000-427,000 AUMs *Full implementation:* 394,000-479,000 AUMs	*Initial implementation:* 279,000-352,000 AUMs *Full implementation:* 302,000-382,000 AUMs	***Alternative IV-A:*** *Initial implementation:* 100,000-156,000 AUMs *Full implementation:* 89,000-141,000 AUMs ***Alternative IV-B:*** *Initial implementation:* 103,000-161,000 AUMs *Full implementation:* 92,000-145,000 AUMs	*Initial implementation:* 50,000-100,000 AUMs *Full implementation:* 49,000-98,000 AUMs

[4] For all action alternatives, reflects the impact of vegetation treatments on forage availability.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Livestock Grazing					
The No Action alternative has a low level of limitation on infrastructure for livestock management.	Alternative I provides a moderate level of limitation on infrastructure for livestock management.	Same as the No Action Alternative.	Same as the No Action Alternative.	Alternative IV provides a high level of limitation on infrastructure for livestock management.	Alternative V provides the highest level of limitation on infrastructure for livestock management.
The level of effort required to minimize conflicts with livestock grazing would be low with regard to resources and high with regard to other uses.	The level of effort required to minimize conflicts with livestock grazing would be low with regard to resources and other uses.	Same as the No Action Alternative.	A moderate amount of effort would be required to minimize conflicts with livestock grazing with regard to resources and other uses.	Same as Alternative III.	The level of effort required to minimize conflicts with livestock grazing would be high with regard to resources and low with regard to other uses.
Recreation					
Recreation					
Areas with focused recreation management would not change (77,000 acres). However, managing the SRMAs without clearly established boundaries does not address the existing or anticipated increase in demand of the recreational resources.	The SRMAs proposed in Alternative I would provide the broadest range of activity type among all alternatives, maintaining or enhancing existing opportunities. Areas with focused recreation management would increase to 342,000 acres.	The SRMAs proposed in Alternative II would maintain or enhance some existing opportunities, while minimizing conflict with resource uses. Areas with focused recreation management would decrease to 21,000 acres.	The SRMAs proposed in Alternative III would maintain or enhance existing opportunities. Areas with focused recreation management would decrease to 56,000 acres.	The SRMAs proposed in Alternative IV would maintain or enhance existing opportunities. Areas with focused recreation management would increase to 205,000 acres.	The SRMAs proposed in Alternative V would maintain some existing opportunities. Areas with focused recreation management would decrease to 19,000 acres.
The type, number, and setting of motorized recreation opportunities would be maintained.	The type, number, and setting of motorized recreation opportunities would be enhanced.	The type, number, and setting of motorized recreation opportunities would be limited.	The type, number, and setting of motorized recreation opportunities would be enhanced.	The type, number, and setting of motorized recreation opportunities would be enhanced.	The type, number, and setting of motorized recreation opportunities would be limited.
The type, number, and setting of non-motorized recreation opportunities would be limited.	The type, number, and setting of non-motorized recreation opportunities would be enhanced.	The type, number, and setting of non-motorized recreation opportunities would be limited.	The type, number, and setting of non-motorized recreation opportunities would be maintained.	The type, number, and setting of non-motorized recreation opportunities would be enhanced.	The type, number, and setting of non-motorized recreation opportunities would be maintained.
Transportation and Travel Management					
Travel management would be the least restrictive.	Travel management would be the third most restrictive but would continue to provide access within the majority of the planning area.	Travel management would be the second least restrictive.	Travel management would be the third least restrictive.	Travel management would be the second most restrictive but would continue to provide access within the majority of the planning area.	Travel management would be the most restrictive but would continue to provide access within the majority of the planning area; areas within WSAs currently accessible on inventoried ways would no longer be accessible through motorized modes of travel.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Route density is expected to increase as a result of the number of acres open to cross-country motorized vehicle use and available for ROW development.	Route density is expected to decrease overall; 49% of the planning area is expected to remain at the same route density, and 48% is expected to experience a decrease in route density.	Route density is expected to increase overall; 15% of the planning area is expected to remain at the same route density, and 85% is expected to experience an increase in route density.	Route density is expected to remain mostly unchanged; 98% of the planning area is expected to remain at the same route density, and 2% is expected to experience an increase in route density.	Route density is expected to decrease overall; 2% of the planning area is expected to experience an increase in route density, and 98% is expected to experience a decrease in route density.	Route density is expected to decrease overall; 1% of the planning area is expected to experience an increase in route density, and 99% is expected to experience a decrease in route density.
Energy Development					
Land Use Authorizations					
Availability of Public Lands for ROW Developments (Acres)					
Open 1,263,000 Avoidance 0 Exclusion 110,000	Open 476,000 Avoidance 803,000 Exclusion 95,000	Open 493,000 Avoidance 786,000 Exclusion 94,000	Open 493,000 Avoidance 786,000 Exclusion 95,000	Open 457,000 Avoidance 768,000 Exclusion 148,000	Open 144,000 Avoidance 1,082,000 Exclusion 148,000
98% of the high-interest area for utility development would be available for development.	92% of the high-interest area for utility development would be available for development.	100% of the high-interest area for utility development would be available for development.	92% of the high-interest area for utility development would be available for development.	91% of the high-interest area for utility development would be available for development.	77% of the high-interest area for utility development would be available for development.
67% of lands within 2 miles of areas rated Fair or higher for wind resources would be available for utility-scale development.	26% of lands within 2 miles of areas rated Fair or higher for wind resources would be available for utility-scale development.	69% of lands within 2 miles of areas rated Fair or higher for wind resources would be available for utility-scale development.	26% of lands within 2 miles of areas rated Fair or higher for wind resources would be available for utility-scale development.	25% of lands within 2 miles of areas rated Fair or higher for wind resources would be available for utility-scale development.	18% of lands within 2 miles of areas rated Fair or higher for wind resources would be available for utility-scale development.
Leasable Minerals					
Availability of Federal Mineral Estate for Mineral Leasing (Acres) (118,000 acres are already closed to mineral leasing by statute or public land order)					
Open 689,000 Open with Constraint 720,000 Closed 204,000	Open 670,000 Open with Constraint 665,000 Closed 278,000	Open 1,355,000 Open with Constraint 46,000 Closed 212,000	Open 1,355,000 Open with Constraint 44,000 Closed 213,000	***Alternative IV-A*** Open 634,000 Open with Constraint 618,000 Closed 360,000 ***Alternative IV-B*** Open 648,000 Open with Constraint 636,000 Closed 329,000	Open 1,034,000 Open with Constraint 296,000 Closed 283,000
Constraints include NSO and seasonal restrictions for sage-grouse and big game.	Constraints include NSO for the Oregon NHT or Kelton and Toana Freight Roads; seasonal restrictions for sage-grouse, big game, bull	Constraints include NSO for the Oregon NHT and eligible, suitable, or designated WSRs and controlled surface use restrictions for RCAs.	Same as Alternative II.	Same as Alternative I.	Constraints include NSO for the Oregon NHT or Kelton and Toana Freight Roads; seasonal restrictions for sage-grouse, bull trout, and

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
	trout, and redband trout; and controlled surface use restrictions for RCAs.				redband trout; and controlled surface use restrictions for RCAs.
Availability of Federal Mineral Estate in Potential Oil and Gas Areas for Mineral Leasing (Acres)					
Open 257,000 Open with Constraint 102,000 Closed 22,000	Open 239,000 Open with Constraint 126,000 Closed 15,000	Open 353,000 Open with Constraint 24,000 Closed 4,000	Open 352,000 Open with Constraint 23,000 Closed 5,000	Open 242,000 Open with Constraint 111,000 Closed 27,000	Open 266,000 Open with Constraint 81,000 Closed 34,000
Availability of Federal Mineral Estate in Potential Geothermal Areas for Mineral Leasing (Acres)					
Open 358,000 Open with Constraint 53,000 Closed 124,000	Open 385,000 Open with Constraint 37,000 Closed 115,000	Open 412,000 Open with Constraint 20,000 Closed 104,000	Open 412,000 Open with Constraint 19,000 Closed 105,000	Open 388,000 Open with Constraint 40,000 Closed 108,000	Open 388,000 Open with Constraint 40,000 Closed 108,000
In the next 20 years under the reasonably foreseeable development scenarios, approximately 90 acres would be developed for oil and gas and 200 acres for geothermal resources.					
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)					
The No Action Alternative would have: • 3 ACECs designated • 89,000 acres under ACEC management • 23% of lands with relevant and important values under special management through ACEC designation	Alternative I would have: • 5 ACECs designated • 97,000 acres under ACEC management • 25% of lands with relevant and important values under special management through ACEC designation	Alternative II would have: • 0 ACECs designated • 0 acres under ACEC management • 0% of lands with relevant and important values under special management through ACEC designation	Alternative III would have: • 3 ACECs designated • 61,000 acres under ACEC management • 14% of lands with relevant and important values under special management through ACEC designation	Alternative IV would have: • 5 ACECs designated • 335,000 acres (Alternative IV-A) and 232,000 acres (Alternative IV-B) under ACEC management • 61% (Alternative IV-A) and 46% (Alternative IV-B) of lands with relevant and important values under special management through ACEC designation	Alternative V would have: • 4 ACECs designated • 968,000 acres under ACEC management • 83% of lands with relevant and important values under special management through ACEC designation

Consultation and Coordination

Chapter 5 describes the consultation and coordination efforts by the ID Team throughout the planning process. The BLM planning processes for the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS were conducted in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, CEQ regulations, and Department of the Interior (DOI) and BLM policies and regulations. NEPA and the associated regulatory/policy framework require Federal agencies to involve interested publics in their decision-making processes. Title II, Section 202 of FLPMA directs BLM to coordinate planning efforts with American Indian Tribes, other Federal agencies, and State and local governments as part of its land use planning process.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

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Introduction

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1.1. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PLAN

1.1.1. Introduction

A Resource Management Plan (RMP) guides land and resource management decisions for land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The preparation and adoption of an RMP by BLM is a Federal action subject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). NEPA requires that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared for any Federal action that may significantly affect the human environment.

The Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS describes and analyzes a reasonable range of management alternatives for the public lands and resources managed by the BLM Twin Falls District, Jarbidge Field Office (FO) in south-central Idaho and northern Nevada (Map 1). Within the planning area, BLM manages approximately 1,374,000 acres of public land surface (Map 2) and 1,613,000 acres of Federal mineral estate (Map 3) in Elmore, Twin Falls, and Owyhee Counties in Idaho and Elko County in Nevada. Table 1- 1 provides a summary of land and mineral ownership in the planning area. Decisions made and management direction in the Jarbidge RMP apply to land and resources in the planning area according to BLM's administrative authority and responsibility for those lands and resources. Management direction includes: long- and short-term goals, objectives, management actions, resource use allocation decisions, mitigation to reduce impacts of authorized uses, and the means for assessing the effectiveness of management actions and mitigation.

Table 1- 1. Land and Mineral Ownership in the Planning Area

Ownership	Acres
Surface	
BLM	1,368,000
Bureau of Reclamation	6,000[A]
Military	116,000[B]
National Park Service	4,000
State of Idaho	77,000
Private	244,000
Total Acres	**1,815,000**
Subsurface	
BLM	1,613,000
Other	202,000
Total Acres	**1,815,000**

[A] Managed by BLM; all decisions in Chapter 2 apply.
[B] Livestock grazing on the Saylor Creek Air Force Range outside of the Exclusive Use Area (EUA) is managed by BLM; decisions for livestock grazing management in Chapter 2 apply to those 91,568 acres.

1.1.2. Purpose and Need for the Plan

FLPMA requires BLM to "develop, maintain, and when appropriate, revise land use plans" (43 USC 1712(a)). In general, the purpose of this RMP is to provide a comprehensive framework for BLM's management of public lands within the planning area and its allocation of resources pursuant to the multiple-use and sustained yield mandate of FLPMA. There is a need for this RMP in order to address a number of new issues that arose since the preparation of the 1987 Jarbidge RMP.

Specifically, the purpose of the Jarbidge RMP is to provide overall management and long-term direction for lands and resources administered by the Twin Falls District, Jarbidge Field Office that will:

- Maintain consistency with FLPMA, which includes:
  - Recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber and fiber from the public lands;
  - Preserving, where appropriate, lands in their natural condition;

  - Providing food and habitat for fish, wildlife and domestic animals;
  - Providing for outdoor recreation, human occupancy and use;
- Ensure public lands are managed according to the principles of multiple use and sustained yield;
- Provide an overview of goals, objectives, and needs associated with public land management;
- Resolve multiple-use conflicts or issues between resource values and resource uses;
- Maintain or improve ecosystem functions;
- Promote diversity and resilience of biological resources including special status species;
- Preserve important cultural, historical, and physical resources;
- Provide opportunities for sustainable uses of public lands; and
- Address other issues and management concerns raised during the scoping process.

The revised Jarbidge RMP will be comprehensive in nature and will address issue categories identified through agency, interagency, and public scoping efforts.

The need to revise the Jarbidge RMP arises from numerous changes in circumstances since the current land use plan decisions were adopted in 1987. In 2001, an evaluation of the existing RMP concluded that there was a need for an updated plan (BLM, 2001). The following list of specific factors illustrates the need for preparation of an updated RMP.

- Changes in ecological, social, and economic conditions
- Changes in user demands and impacts that require new management direction
- New laws, regulations, and policies that created additional public land management considerations
- Requirements identified in the September 30, 2005, Stipulated Settlement Agreement in the case of *Western Watersheds Project v. Bennett et al. (Case No. CV-04-181-S-BLW) (D. Idaho).*

This RMP may result in the continuation of some existing land use planning decisions and the development of new land use planning decisions for issues identified internally and through public scoping.

1.2. PLANNING AREA

The Jarbidge RMP planning area boundary coincides with the boundary of the BLM Jarbidge FO. The boundary extends from the Bruneau River on the west to Salmon Falls Creek on the east, and from the Snake River on the north to the northern boundaries of the BLM Elko FO and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest on the south (Map 1). It includes parts of Elmore, Owyhee, and Twin Falls Counties in south-central Idaho and Elko County in northern Nevada. Although these counties have a combined population of approximately 160,000 (US Census Bureau, 2009), Hot Springs, Indian Cove, Murphy Hot Springs, Three Creek, and Roseworth are the only communities within the planning area; each has a population of less than 100 people.

The Jarbidge planning area is known for its unique geology of broad, gently rolling plateau lands with deeply incised rivers, which provide a variety of scenic values and habitats used by numerous fish, plant, and wildlife species. The majority of the planning area supports sagebrush steppe and seeded grasslands, mostly from fire rehabilitation projects. Water availability influences the distribution of plant communities and is based on the rain shadow effect, distribution of soil types, slope, and aspect. Dry lowland areas support salt desert shrub communities, which change to sagebrush steppe with increasing elevation and moisture. At higher elevations, juniper, aspen, and mountain mahogany are present. A few areas contain limber pine and subalpine fir. Surface water is generally limited to scattered perennial springs and creeks. Creeks are typically located in the deeper draws and canyons.

The planning area is located in the northern part of the Basin and Range Province of the Great Basin in Nevada and in the Snake River Plain, which lies in the southern portion of the Columbia River Basin in Idaho. The Columbia River Basin is the primary drainage basin in the northwestern United States and has a total drainage area of approximately 214,000 square miles (mi^2) (FWS, 1995). In July 1993, President Bill Clinton requested land management agencies develop a scientifically sound, ecosystem-based strategy for forest and rangelands east of the Cascade Mountains. The resulting Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP) increased the scientific understanding of ecosystem processes and functions in the basin and led to a better awareness that many forest, range, riparian, and aquatic ecosystems are becoming less resilient and, as a result, some plant and animal species dependant on these ecosystems are declining (Quigley & Arbelbide, 1997; Wisdom, et al., 2000). ICBEMP provides a regional framework for public lands management throughout the Columbia River Basin and is being used as a reference in the revision of the Jarbidge RMP.

The planning area is currently managed under the 1987 Jarbidge RMP and its 1990, 1998, and 2005 amendments. The boundary for the planning area has changed from the area covered by the 1987 RMP. Approximately 250,000 acres north of the Snake River, now in the Four Rivers FO, and approximately 40,000 acres to the northeast, now part of the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA), were included in the 1987 RMP, but are no longer part of the Jarbidge FO. In addition, approximately 110,000 acres were withdrawn to the United States Air Force (USAF) in 1952 to create the Saylor Creek Air Force Range and 13,000 acres were withdrawn in 1998 to create the Juniper Butte Range. Approximately 4,000 acres were transferred to the National Park Service by the Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act (PL 100-696) in 1988 to create the Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument. Acreage and other numbers in the 1987 RMP may not be directly comparable to the current planning effort due to these changes.

1.3. SCOPING ISSUES

1.3.1. Issues Addressed

Planning issues are topics where there are substantial, often mutually exclusive, differences in opinion as to how a resource or use should be managed. They reflect trade-offs associated with different land management strategies. Because resources and uses within the planning area are interdependent, issues often overlap. Issues were used to help develop alternatives in the Jarbidge RMP. The RMP also identifies management direction and analyzes impacts to topics not identified as planning issues; management direction for these topics is provided as required by the *BLM Handbook H-1601-1, Land Use Planning* and generally does not vary by alternative, except as the topics relate to planning issues.

The planning issues for the Jarbidge RMP/EIS resulted from concerns expressed during tribal consultation and internal and external scoping. Preliminary planning issues were presented for public review and comment in the January 2006 Notice of Intent (NOI; 71 FR 1551). BLM solicited additional public comments through scoping meetings, RMP newsletters, and the RMP website. The concerns expressed by the public were briefly summarized in the *Scoping Report for the Jarbidge Resource Management Plan* (BLM, 2006), and a set of draft planning issues were presented in the January 2007 RMP newsletter. BLM continued to receive scoping comments from the public throughout the development of the Draft RMP/EIS. Internal scoping occurred through formal and informal meetings of the RMP Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team). The *Analysis of the Management Situation for the Jarbidge Resource Management Plan* (BLM, 2007) illustrates many of the concerns raised through internal scoping.

All comments and concerns expressed during the scoping process were considered in the development of the planning issues for the Jarbidge RMP; this section presents those planning issues in greater detail. Each planning issue is followed by a summary of the major concerns regarding that issue expressed during scoping. A series of planning questions was developed for each issue to help characterize the major components of the issue; the answer to each question varies by one or more alternatives. Finally, to help the reader quickly identify how each issue is addressed throughout the alternatives, a list of the key differences between alternatives is presented.

1.3.1.1. Issue 1: Vegetation (Upland and Riparian)

Issue 1a: Fuels Treatment, Fire Rehabilitation, and Fire Suppression

Concerns Expressed During Scoping

- Restore vegetation to native plant communities to reduce the threat of fire.
- Restore natural processes to native and non-native plant communities to reduce the threat of fire.
- Seed non-native perennials in targeted areas to reduce the threat of fire.
- Increase permitted livestock grazing use to reduce the threat of fire.
- Use targeted grazing, prescribed fire, greenstrips, or brush treatments to reduce fuels.
- Do not use targeted grazing, prescribed fire, greenstrips, or brush treatments to reduce fuels.
- Implement fuels treatments to protect Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
- Only implement fuels treatments in WUI if private landowners have treated their own property.
- Do not build new or temporary fences in burned areas and pull livestock back to existing fences after fire.
- Use temporary fences to address long-term management goals.
- Specify removal dates for temporary facilities.
- Realign or reconfigure permanent fences after fire to reduce impacts to wildlife.
- Suppress fires using Appropriate Management Response (AMR).
- Designate the planning area for full suppression.
- Focus suppression efforts in areas of high ecological value, such as sage-grouse habitat, and areas

at risk to invasion by noxious weeds and invasive plants.
- Aggressively suppress fires in the northern 1/3 of the planning area.

Planning Questions
- What types of fuels treatments will be implemented?
- Where will fuels treatments be focused?
- What role will temporary facilities play in fire rehabilitation?
- Which areas will have the highest priority for fire suppression?

Key Differences Between Alternatives
- Types and amount of fuels treatments
- Focus areas for fuels treatments
- Constraints on temporary facilities
- Critical Suppression Areas

Issue 1b: Habitat for Fish, Wildlife, and Special Status Plants and Animals

Concerns Expressed During Scoping
- Focus vegetation management on fish and wildlife concerns.
- Focus vegetation management on livestock concerns.
- Focus restoration activities on maintaining existing habitat instead of increasing potential habitat.
- Restore the entire FO to its original natural condition.
- Improve special status species habitat.
- Maintain special status species habitat at the minimum level required to sustain the species.
- Maintain or restore riparian areas and wetlands to meet or exceed proper functioning condition.
- Maintain a mosaic of riparian functional ratings.
- Maintain, restore, or connect sagebrush habitats.
- Thin dense sagebrush stands.
- Restore areas through active vegetation treatments.
- Restore areas by managing uses.
- Use only native species in restoration activities.
- Consider using non-native species in restoration activities.
- Use targeted grazing as a tool in restoration activities.
- Do not use targeted grazing as a tool in restoration activities.
- Require rest after restoration activities.
- Do not restrict uses after restoration activities.
- Manage access and uses to benefit fish, wildlife, and special status species.
- Manage access and uses to benefit commodity use.
- Restore annual plant communities and seedings to native communities.
- Maintain existing seedings and convert annual plant communities to seedings.
- Emphasize prevention of new invasions over control of existing populations of noxious weeds and invasive plants.
- Emphasize control of existing populations of noxious weeds and invasive plants over prevention of new invasions.

Planning Questions
- What are the desired outcomes for upland and riparian vegetation?

- What tools will be used to achieve the desired outcomes for upland and riparian vegetation?
- What strategies will be used to address noxious weeds and invasive plants?
- Which areas have a high priority for restoration activities?
- What restrictions on uses will be used to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife?
- How will BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses be managed to protect special status species and their habitats?

Key Differences Between Alternatives

- Desired outcomes for upland and riparian vegetation
- Tools used to achieve desired outcomes
- Strategies to address noxious weeds and invasive plant species
- Priorities for restoration activities
- Use restrictions to benefit fish and wildlife
- Constraints on BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses in special status species habitat

Issue 1c: Livestock Forage

Concerns Expressed During Scoping

- Increase the amount of forage allocated to livestock, and decrease the allocation to wildlife and watershed.
- Maintain the amount of forage allocated to livestock, wildlife, and watershed.
- Decrease the amount of forage allocated to livestock, and increase the allocation to wildlife and watershed.
- Maintain the amount of forage allocated to wild horses.
- Do not allocate forage to wild horses.
- Allocate 100% of shrub and forb production to watershed and wildlife.
- Allocate 50% of shrub and forb production to watershed and wildlife.
- Maintain or improve existing non-native perennial communities.
- Remove or restore non-native perennial communities.
- Increase the acres of non-native perennial communities.
- Use vegetation treatments, including brush control, to improve or increase forage for livestock.
- Do not treat vegetation solely to improve or increase forage for livestock; do not allow brush control or monoculture seedings.

Planning Questions

- How much vegetation will be allocated to watershed, wildlife, wild horses, and livestock?
- How will non-native perennial communities be managed?
- What vegetation treatments will be allowed for maintaining, improving, or increasing forage for livestock?

Key Differences Between Alternatives

- Amount of grass, shrub, and forb production allocated to watershed, wildlife, wild horses, and livestock
- Management for non-native perennial communities
- Vegetation treatments to maintain, improve, or increase forage for livestock

1.3.1.2. Issue 2: Livestock Grazing

Concerns Expressed During Scoping

- Grazing should be allowed.
- Grazing should not be allowed.
- Limit domestic sheep grazing.
- Allow grazing in the majority in the FO.
- Do not allow grazing in large portions of the FO.
- Eliminate grazing in sensitive or degraded areas.
- Eliminate grazing in the least damaged areas.
- Eliminate or reduce grazing in areas with resource concerns such as sage-grouse, bighorn sheep, wild horses, special designations, weeds, riparian areas, and highly erodible soil.
- Allow grazing in bighorn sheep habitat.
- Manage livestock grazing to optimize utilization of forage.
- Manage livestock grazing to protect vegetation and wildlife.
- Minimize the impacts of grazing on water quality, weeds, wildlife, and vegetation.
- Allow grazing year round.
- Do not allow grazing year round.
- Do not allow grazing during the winter or during breeding and nesting periods for sage-grouse and migratory birds.
- Remove range infrastructure.
- Do not allow more range infrastructure.
- Maintain or increase range infrastructure to improve livestock management.
- Modify range infrastructure to reduce impacts to wild horses, wildlife, watershed, soil, visual resources, and other uses.
- Avoid decisions that may harm the financial well-being of the ranching community.
- Spend more money on restoration and habitat enhancement than grazing management.
- Recognize grazing as part of the custom, culture, and economy of rural communities within the FO.
- Recognize the social and economic value of non-commodity resources.

Planning Questions

- What areas are available for livestock grazing?
- How will livestock grazing be managed to meet the *Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Management* (S&Gs)?
- What constraints will be placed on livestock grazing?
- What range infrastructure will be allowed?
- How will range infrastructure be managed to improve livestock management and benefit resources?

Key Differences Between Alternatives

- Number of acres available for grazing
- Constraints on livestock grazing management
- Constraints on range infrastructure

1.3.1.3. Issue 3: Recreation

Concerns Expressed During Scoping

- Allow motorized recreation throughout the FO.
- Close large areas to motorized vehicle use and eliminate cross-country travel.

- Provide opportunities for different types of motorized recreational uses and experiences.
- Emphasize and expand non-motorized recreational opportunities.
- Minimize impacts to resources from recreation.
- Minimize user conflicts (i.e., motorized vs. non-motorized, public land vs. private land).
- Maximize commercial recreation opportunities.
- Prohibit organized off-highway vehicle (OHV) events in the Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Management Area and special status species habitat.
- Maintain, improve, or increase campgrounds, trails, and recreation facilities.
- Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) should be designated.
- SRMAs should not be designated.

Planning Questions

- Where will motorized recreation be allowed?
- What constraints will be placed on recreational activities?
- How will special recreation permits (SRPs) be managed?
- Where will SRMAs be designated?

Key Differences Between Alternatives

- Number of acres with open, limited, and closed motorized travel designations
- Constraints for recreational activities
- Constraints on SRPs
- SRMAs

1.3.1.4. Issue 4: Energy Development

Concerns Expressed During Scoping

- Prohibit wind energy projects and utility corridors.
- Allow wind energy projects and utility corridors.
- Do not allow wind energy projects and utility corridors in key habitats (i.e., sage-grouse habitat).
- Allow wind energy projects and utility corridors throughout the FO.
- Minimize impacts to resources, values, and existing uses from energy development.

Planning Questions

- How much energy development will be allowed?
- Where will energy development be allowed?
- What constraints will be placed upon energy development?

Key Differences Between Alternatives

- Acres open to energy development
- Location of energy development areas
- Constraints for energy development activities

1.3.1.5. Issue 5: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

Concerns Expressed During Scoping

- Re-designate existing ACECs.
- Do not re-designate existing ACECs.

- Designate various numbers of new ACECs.
- Do not designate new ACECs.
- Modify ACEC boundaries.
- Use ACEC designation to protect unfragmented native vegetation; wildlife habitat; special status species; paleontological, archaeological, and historic sites; geologic features; and other resource values.
- Do not use ACEC designation to protect critical habitat.
- Designate ACECs of sufficient size to protect ecosystems.
- Do not designate ACECs that limit multiple use.

Planning Question

- Which existing and proposed ACECs will be designated?

Key Difference Between Alternatives

- Designated ACECs

1.3.2. Issues Considered but Not Further Analyzed

A number of comments were submitted regarding issues and concerns that are not addressed in the RMP because they can be addressed through policy or administrative action or because they are beyond the scope of the Jarbidge RMP. Comments on these items are valuable and appreciated, even though they will not be directly addressed in the RMP. These comments will be considered where appropriate when decisions are made on implementation plans, proposed projects, or day-to-day management.

1.3.2.1. Issues Beyond the Scope of the Plan

Certain comments were beyond the scope of the RMP. This included comments that were requests for actions beyond BLM's authority or jurisdiction. For example, some participants requested that "authority" or "deference" be granted to Local Sage-Grouse Working Groups; while this is not within BLM's authority, BLM coordinates with the groups and their recommendations were considered when developing alternatives and analyzing impacts. Several comments requested actions on issues that are managed by other Federal or State agencies, such as water rights, hunting seasons, fish stocking, wildlife reintroductions, animal control, and critical habitat designation, while other comments requested items that would require Congressional action (e.g., wilderness designation). Also included in this category were requests for action on public lands outside the planning area, on non-BLM managed lands in the planning area, or on issues that do not occur in the planning area. The Jarbidge RMP does not make decisions for any of these situations.

Some comments were classified as beyond the scope of the RMP because they would be more appropriately addressed at the implementation level. These were often site-specific requests for particular projects. For example, there were several requests for specific range infrastructure and specific seasons of use and permitted use for livestock; these topics are discussed at a more general level in the RMP. There were also requests for using specific grazing use indicators and criteria (e.g., utilization, bank and surface alteration, stubble height) and specific livestock grazing management tools (e.g., grazing systems, herding, kind of livestock, stocking rates, rest, changing allotment boundaries) in specific areas or situations; these, too, are discussed at a more general level in the RMP.

Many comments were about prescribed fire, fuels treatments, and fire rehabilitation. Guidelines and criteria for these and other types of vegetation treatment methods (e.g., mechanical, chemical, biological) are discussed in the RMP as part of the toolbox for vegetation management, but site-specific projects will be addressed at the implementation level or in response to a specific wildland fire.

There were multiple requests for BLM to include a detailed travel management plan, including road and trail designation, route closures, signage, road maintenance within the RMP. The RMP addresses travel

and transportation management planning at a broader scale, including travel designations (i.e., open to cross-country motorized vehicle use, limited to designated routes or ways, closed to motorized vehicle use), Travel Management Areas (TMAs), and criteria for route designation; however, the Comprehensive Transportation and Travel Management Plan (CTTMP) will be completed after the signing of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Jarbidge RMP.

There were also comments requesting specific procedures, such as data collection, analysis, mitigation, and adaptive management, for unspecified future implementation-level actions; these are discussed in the context of management actions that will guide future actions.

Other comments were considered beyond the scope of the RMP because they were requests for data collection or analysis that are not required in or are not relevant to the RMP and were only considered as they pertain to proposed alternatives.

1.3.2.2. Issues Addressed through Administrative or Policy Action

Some comments would be more appropriately addressed by administrative action or current laws, regulations, or policies. For example, comments suggesting improving communications between BLM and the public, collaborating with the public and other agencies, repairing broken signs, correcting mapping errors, or verifying property boundaries can be addressed administratively in day-to-day management activities. Other topics in this category include: law enforcement, BLM administrative boundaries, seed collection, monitoring, recreation site maintenance, and road maintenance agreements.

Similarly, the concerns expressed in some comments can be addressed through current laws, regulations, or policies. Several comments provided suggestions for how to conduct the social and economic analyses for the RMP; while their suggestions were considered, the RMP's social and economic analyses follow the process outlined in *BLM Handbook H-1601-1* as agreed to in the SSA. There were also multiple comments regarding management of livestock grazing that are addressed by BLM's grazing regulations and policies (e.g., ownership of range infrastructure, enforcement of grazing permit terms, qualifications for grazing permits, retirement of grazing permits, grazing fees). Other concerns that can be addressed by law, regulation, or policy include: BLM procedures and processes, the NEPA documentation required for specific actions subsequent to the ROD, timeframes for Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ES&BAR) plans, and bonding for authorized uses.

Finally, some comments were not addressed in the RMP because it would be contrary to current law, regulation, or policy for BLM to address the concern expressed in the comment. This includes requests such as making land use plan level decisions through implementation-level plans, redefining terminology related to transportation, prescribing specific post-fire rest timeframes, and not recognizing valid existing rights. Not addressing wilderness characteristics in the RMP would conflict with direction in *BLM Handbook H-1601-1*. Requests for management of Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs); eligible, suitable, or designated Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs); and the Oregon National Historic Trail (NHT) that would be inconsistent with policy were not addressed. Lastly, current BLM policy does not allow for designating new WSAs or updating the special features of WSAs in the land use planning process.

1.3.2.3. Issues Addressed through Separate Environmental Analysis

Some comments suggested the following project-level proposals be addressed through the RMP process.

China Mountain Wind Energy Project

While related, this applicant-driven wind development project will be analyzed separately from the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS. Review of the China Mountain Wind Energy Project will consider the specific environmental impacts of that project and mitigation to address those impacts. BLM could consider the proposed project under any of the alternatives analyzed in this document as the Draft RMP/EIS is intended to analyze the impacts of a range of goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions and is not intended to approve or deny specific proposals. It is not anticipated that the impact of the China Mountain Wind Energy Project will exceed the limits of the landscape-level analysis included in the range of alternatives set out in the Draft RMP/EIS.

Gateway West Transmission Line Project

This project involves a 230/500 kilovolt (kV) kV electric transmission facility with a load capacity of 3,000 megawatts (MW) jointly proposed by Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power. The project will span from Glenrock, WY to the proposed Hemingway Substation near Murphy, ID. While related, this applicant-driven project will be analyzed separately from the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS. Review of the Gateway West Transmission Line Project will consider the specific environmental impacts of that project and mitigation to address those impacts. BLM could consider the proposed project under any of the alternatives analyzed in this document as the Draft RMP/EIS is intended to analyze the impacts of a range of goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions and is not intended to approve or deny specific proposals. It is not anticipated that the impact of the portion of the Gateway West Transmission Line Project located within the planning area will exceed the limits of the landscape-level analysis included in the range of alternatives set out in the Draft RMP/EIS.

1.4. PLANNING CRITERIA AND CONSTRAINTS

Planning criteria guide the development of the RMP, ensure it is tailored to the identified issues, and deter unnecessary data collection and analysis. Planning criteria also streamline the plan's preparation; establish standards, rules, and measures to be used; guide and direct the resolution of issues through the planning process; and indicate factors and data that must be considered in making decisions.

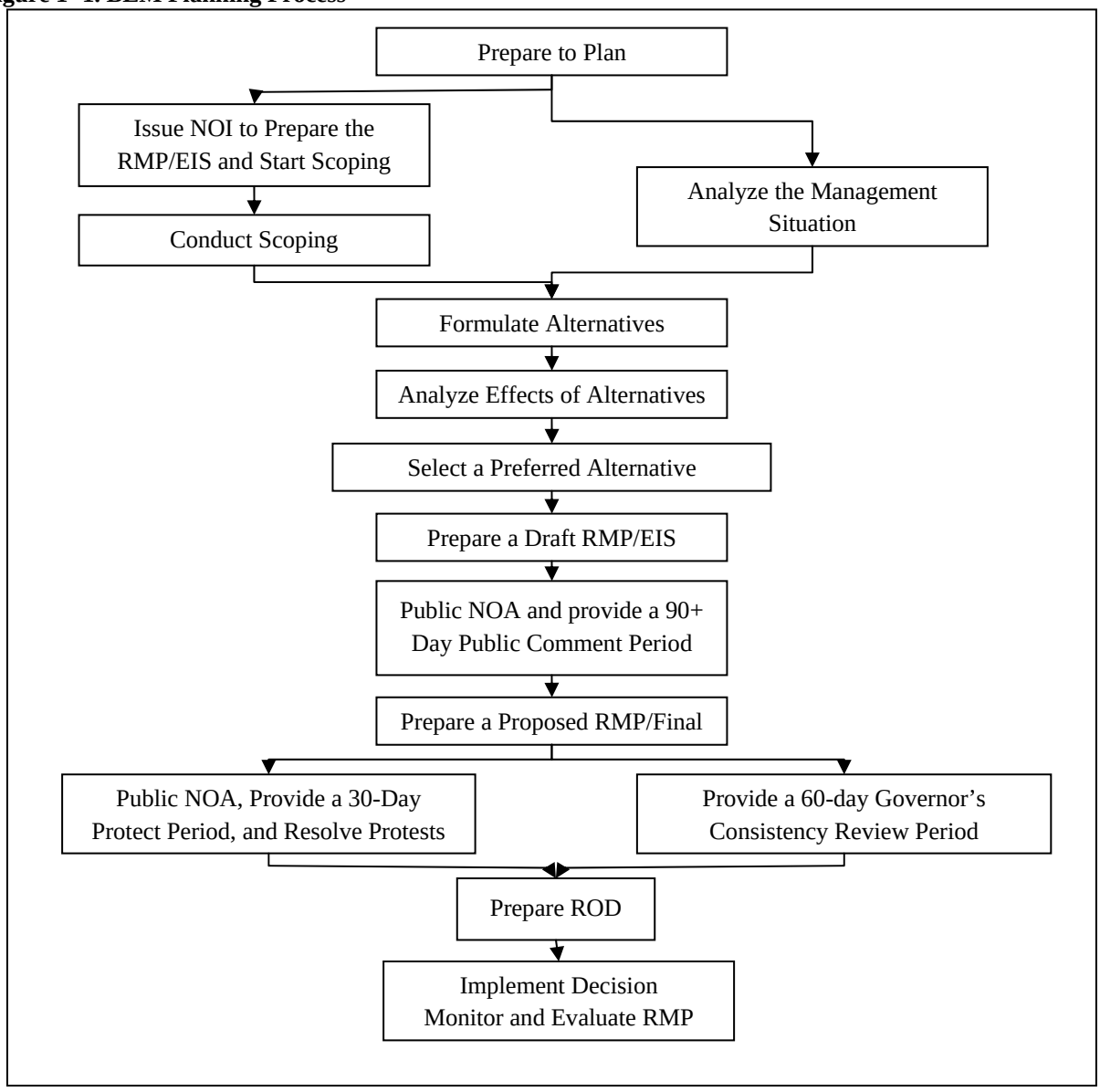
The following general planning criteria were considered in developing the RMP.

- The plan will comply with all applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and current policies, including, but not limited to, those referenced in Appendix B.
- The plan addresses the requirements for preparation of the Jarbidge RMP as outlined in the September 30, 2005, Stipulated Settlement Agreement in the case of *Western Watersheds Project v. Bennett et al. (Case No. CV-04-181-S-BLW) (D. Idaho)* (Appendix A).
- The plan will be produced in consultation with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.
- The plan will be collaborative in nature and will involve the public throughout the process by considering perspectives, data, scientific literature, and other input.
- The plan will strive to ensure that its management decisions are complementary to other planning jurisdictions and adjoining properties, within the limits described by law and Federal Regulations, including the plans, programs, and policies of tribes, other Federal agencies, and State and local governments.
- The plan will recognize all valid existing rights.
- The plan will consider the quantity and quality of affected non-commodity and commodity resource values.
- The plan will consider past, present, and reasonably foreseeable uses of public and adjacent lands; the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of these uses; the environmental effects of management activities; and the social and economic values and effects.
- The plan will consider the existing management outlined in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP and its amendments.
- The plan will establish goals, objectives, allowable uses, and management actions as described in *BLM Handbook H-1601-1*.
- The plan will recognize changes in administrative boundaries and ownership since the 1987 Jarbidge RMP.

1.5. PLANNING PROCESS

As provided in FLPMA, BLM has the responsibility to plan for and manage public lands, defined as Federally administered lands and interests in lands, such as mineral estate, administered by BLM. The process for the development, approval, maintenance, and amendment or revision of RMPs was initiated under the authority of Section 202(f) of FLPMA and Section 202(c) of NEPA. BLM planning regulations in 43 CFR 1600 and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations in 43 CFR 1500 guide the process. Preparation of an RMP/EIS involves interrelated steps as illustrated in Figure 1- 1.

Figure 1- 1. BLM Planning Process



BLM decision-making relevant to land use planning includes the following:

- **Land Use Plans** – The land use plan is a set of decisions that establish management direction for land within an administrative area, as prescribed under the planning provisions of FLPMA.
- **Land Use Plan Decisions** – Land use plan decisions establish desired outcomes and actions needed to achieve them.

- **Implementation Plans** – An implementation plan in an area- or site-specific plan written to implement decisions made in a land use plan. Implementation plans include both activity plans and project plans. An activity plan usually describes multiple projects and applies best management practices (BMPs) to meet land use plan objectives. Examples of an activity plan include habitat management plans and allotment management plans. A project plan typically addresses individual projects or several related projects. Examples of a project plan include trail plans and recreation site plans.
- **Implementation Decisions** – Implementation decisions are decisions that take action to implement land use plan decisions.

As the highest level in the BLM planning process, the RMP will prescribe the allocation of and general future management direction for the resources and uses of the public land in the FO. The RMP will also guide lower tiers of the planning process, implementation plans and project decisions.

1.5.1. Relationship to BLM Policies, Plans, and Programs

This Draft RMP/EIS seeks to define what resource conditions and uses should be achieved and maintained over time. The Draft RMP/EIS considers various approaches to use, management, and development, some of which may represent competing interests for the same resource base. Ultimately, the plan serves to define a series of desired outcomes that reflect the concerns and needs of the BLM and the public.

Once approved, the revised plan will replace the 1987 Jarbidge RMP and its amendments for the lands within the current Jarbidge planning area. The plan covers a broad area; addresses a wide range of programs, concerns, and resources; and must, therefore, function at a general level. Specific actions required to attain the goals and objectives defined in this Draft RMP/EIS are accomplished through implementation-level decisions. Because planning is an ongoing and continuous process, this Draft RMP/EIS is a dynamic document. Future implementation plans will use the goals and objectives defined in this document as their starting point. Implementation plans with potential to affect the environment will require formal analysis in compliance with NEPA and related legislation.

The following current BLM land use plans for lands adjacent to the planning area have been considered in the development of this Draft RMP/EIS:

- Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills Management Framework Plan, 1976
- Bruneau Management Framework Plan, 1983
- Cascade Resource Management Plan, 1988
- Kuna Management Framework Plan, 1983
- Monument Resource Management Plan, 1986
- Snake River Birds of Prey NCA Resource Management Plan, 2008
- Twin Falls Management Framework Plan, 1981
- Wells Resource Management Plan, 1985

RMPs are in progress for the Bruneau FO, which will replace the Bruneau Management Framework Plan (MFP), and the Four Rivers FO, which will revise the Cascade RMP and replace portions of the 1987 Jarbidge RMP and Kuna MFP. RMPs for the Shoshone, Burley, and Wells FOs are scheduled to start in 2010; these RMPs will replace the Bennett Hills/Timmerman Hills and Twin Falls MFPs and revise the Monument and Wells RMPs, along with other management plans covering their planning areas.

The Jarbidge RMP/EIS will strive for consistency with the following Programmatic EISs:

- Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States Programmatic EIS[1]
- Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western

[1] A draft of this EIS was considered as it is in progress.

States Programmatic EIS, 2007

- West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS[2]
- Wind Energy Development Programmatic EIS, 2005

ICBEMP was also considered when preparing the Draft RMP/EIS. ICBEMP was based on Presidential direction to develop a scientifically sound, ecosystem-based strategy for managing the 64 million acres of public lands administered by the Forest Service and BLM within the Columbia River Basin, and portions of the Klamath and Great Basins in Oregon. The project was based on concerns over forest and rangeland health, uncharacteristically intense wildland fires, threats to certain fish and wildlife species, and concerns about local community social and economic well-being. A Final EIS and Proposed Decision were published in December 2004. No basin-scale ROD has been signed, nor is one expected.

1.5.2. Collaboration

1.5.2.1. Tribal Relationships

The Jarbidge FO consulted with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation throughout the RMP process. Formal government-to-government consultation with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes is conducted through the Fort Hall Business Council, coordinated with the Shoshone-Bannock environmental staff. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes provided the following policy statements for consideration in the RMP:

- "The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes exercise inherent and reserved treaty rights within their own authorities and responsibilities. Federal land developed campground fees, reservation systems, and any other fee-based campground services shall not apply to the enrolled members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, in accordance with Article IV of the Fort Bridge Treaty, on all unoccupied lands of the United States. The Treaty does not state, nor was it the intent of our leaders at the time of the signing of the treaty, to impose or restrict Tribal members from exercising off-Reservation rights to hunt, fish and gather, and the corresponding right to camp. Federal permitting requirements are contrary to the rights reserved by the Tribes in the Fort Bridger Treaty."
- "The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (Tribes) will pursue, promote, and where necessary, initiate efforts to restore the Snake River systems and affected unoccupied lands to a natural condition. This includes the restoration of component resources to conditions which most closely represents the ecological features associated with the natural riverine ecosystem. In addition, the Tribes will work to ensure the protection, preservation, and where appropriate-the enhancement of Rights reserved by the Tribes under the Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868 (Treaty) and any inherent aboriginal rights."
- "The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes set forth the following position concerning any deposition, sale or transfer of federal lands, use rights or other rights in lands that may affect the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' treaty rights as guaranteed by the Fort Bridger Treaty of July 3, 1868 and subsequent cession agreements. The Tribes oppose any federal land disposition, sales or transfers to private entities or state and local governments based on two fundamental reasons. First, the United States government entered into a solemn treaty with the Shoshone and Bannock tribal peoples in which the Tribes reserved certain off-reservation hunting, fishing and gathering rights which they continue to exercise on unoccupied lands of the United States. Subsequent to the 1868 Treaty, the Tribes ceded certain lands to the United States and reserved in the cession agreements certain communal rights for grazing and use of the public lands. Second, the United States, including its federal agencies, have a trust responsibility as established in the Fort Bridger Treaty and other federal laws, policies and executive orders to protect and preserve the rights of Indian tribes, and to consult with the Tribes prior to such land sales or transfers."

Consultation on the Jarbidge RMP with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes is conducted through the Twin Falls District's established government-to-government consultation process, the Wings and Roots Native

[2] A draft of this EIS was considered as it was in progress.

American Campfire. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes submitted the statement in Figure 1- 2 in response to the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS.

1.5.2.2. Intergovernmental, and Interagency Relationships

The Jarbidge FO collaborated with other Federal, State, and local agencies and governmental entities throughout the RMP process. A number of agencies were invited to participate in the RMP planning process as cooperating agencies (Table 1- 2). Seven agencies accepted the BLM's invitation and signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) to formally establish the relationship: Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, the National Park Service – Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, the Twin Falls County Board of Commissioners, and the Elko County Board of Commissioners. The Owyhee County Commissioners participated in the Jarbidge RMP through their existing coordination agreement with the Twin Falls District.

Table 1- 2. Agencies Invited to Establish Cooperating Agency Status for the Jarbidge RMP

Federal Agencies	State Agencies	Local Agencies
Mountain Home Air Force Base	Idaho Department of Fish and Game	Elko County Board of Commissioners
National Park Service – Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument	Idaho Department of Lands	Elmore County Board of Commissioners
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Idaho Department of Park and Recreation	Owyhee County Commissioners
US Fish and Wildlife Service – Boise	Idaho Department of Transportation	Three Creek Highway District
US Fish and Wildlife Service – Reno	Idaho Department of Water Resources	Twin Falls County Board of Commissioners
US Geological Survey – Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center	Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation	
US Geological Survey – Water Resources Division	Idaho State Department of Agriculture	
	Idaho State Historic Preservation Office	

Members of the RMP ID Team and the Twin Falls District managers conducted briefings and presentations on the Jarbidge RMP for the following government agencies or inter-governmental groups:

- Elko County Board of Commissioners
- Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Jarbidge Ranger District
- Mountain Home Air Force Base
- Nevada Division of Wildlife
- Owyhee County Commissioners
- Owyhee County Natural Resources Committee
- Twin Falls County Commissioners
- Twin Falls County Planning Committee
- Twin Falls County Planning and Zoning Commission
- Twin Falls District Resource Advisory Council
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
- FWS Bull Trout Recovery Team

Figure 1- 2. Statement from the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation

PO Box 219 Owyhee, NV. 89832

December 16, 2009

Statement from the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
Of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, headquartered at the Duck Valley Indian Reservation, have engaged in an extensive government-to-government consultation with the Bureau of Land Management in a collaborative effort to produce this Jarbidge Management Plan (RMP) through the Wings and Roots Program. It reflects a successful partnering to reflect the mandating of our two sovereign nations to identify our respective expectations.

While specific cultural sites are of greatest importance to archaeologists, the tribes use the Jarbidge Resource Area and surrounding region as a whole for activities such as gathering medicinal and food plants, minerals, craft materials, and for hunting antelope, deer, badgers, rabbits, sagehens, bobcats, groundhogs, ants and anthills, birds, elk, mountain sheep, cougars, and a variety of small game.

Because of the Shoshone-Paiute peoples' ancient occupation the Jarbidge Resource Area is filled with ceremonial, hunting, gathering, teaching, and historical sites as well as resource-gathering areas for food, medicinal plants, and craft materials utilized in their daily lives. For example, ceremonies are conducted at sites in the area where certain tribal members' ancestors lie buried near ancient massacre sites. Ceremonies are also conducted at sites to insure the health and survival of the wildlife found there. Several buttes and peaks with or without rock alignments, appear to have served as a lookout for early warning of cavalry and militias in former times and/or to monitor game animals' movements, as well as for viewing the arrival and movements of distant family bands or groups as far as 50 miles away.

For the Shoshone-Paiute, the natural world is regarded as part of many sacred cyclical patterns; therefore, words such as "subsistence," "food," "medicine," and "use" have fundamentally and culturally distinct meanings to non-Indians and tribal people. For example, for the Shoshone-Paiute foods are medicines that have spiritual healing qualities for the body and the spirit, as well as being objects for sacred offerings to spirits.

Beyond relationships of culture, including hunting, gathering, crafts, trade, etc., landscape features are also places of personal communication with the spirits and opportunities for people to enter the sacred and acquire guidance and help. The Shoshone-Paiute relationship to the land connects fundamental symbols and patterns of culture and human relationships by creating an organization that gives geography significance and intelligibility. The more central a geographic place is in the religious life of a group, the more numerous its symbolic representations are likely to be, as we see repeatedly in the culture of the Shoshone-Paiute.

Virtually all aspects of Shoshone-Paiute culture is tied to the land, and any landscape feature can have different meanings and functions as sacred sites as well as sites for hunting, gathering, healing, etc. Just as the land has different functions and meaning, so to do rock structures. Any one rock structure can have a multitude of uses, while a group of structures together may have only one function or meaning. As man-made objects within a multidimensional landscape, rock structures must be carefully investigated as complex cultural artifacts that have complex meanings and functions in the culture and history of the Shoshone-Paiute.

1.5.2.3. Other Stakeholder Relationships

Members of the ID Team and the Twin Falls District managers conducted briefings and presentations on the Jarbidge RMP for a variety of groups. These presentations were provided at each group's request. Presentations or briefings were given to the following groups:

- "71" Livestock Association
- Buhl Kiwanis
- Castleford Men's Club
- Idaho ATV Association Inc.
- Idaho Congressional Delegation
- Idaho Conservation League
- Idaho Rivers United
- Jarbidge Sage-Grouse Local Working Group
- Magic Valley ATV Riders, Inc.
- Magic Valley Trail Machine Association
- Mayors, Administrators, and City Councils Organization
- Mid-Snake Resource Conservation and Development Council
- Southern Idaho Desert Racing Association
- Three Creek Highway District
- Treasure Valley Trail Machine Association
- Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee
- Twin Falls Monarch Lions Club
- Twin Falls Optimist Club
- Twin Falls Rotary Club
- The Wilderness Society

The national mailing list for the Jarbidge RMP contained over 500 addresses. Organizations, businesses, and government agencies on the Jarbidge RMP national mailing list are listed in Appendix C.

In addition, BLM staff engaged in regular coordination with representatives of the Plaintiffs and Intervenors in the case of *Western Watersheds Project v. Bennett et al. (Case No. CV-04-181-S-BLW) (D. Idaho)*. BLM mangers and staff have also been in regular contact with program leads from the Idaho BLM State Office as well as the Idaho BLM State Leadership.

1.6. RELATED PLANS

According to guidance found in FLPMA and 43 CFR 1610, BLM RMPs and amendments shall be consistent, to the extent practical, with officially approved or adopted resource-related plans of tribal, other Federal agencies, and State, and local governments so long as the guidance and RMPs are compatible. BLM RMPs must also be consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of FLPMA and other Federal laws and regulations related to public lands, including Federal and State pollution control laws (43 CFR 1610.3-2 [a]). If these other entities do not have officially approved or adopted resource-related plans, BLM RMPs shall, to the extent practical, be consistent with those entities' officially approved and adopted resource-related policies and programs. This consistency will be accomplished so long as BLM RMPs incorporate the policies, programs, and provisions of public land laws and regulations and Federal and State pollution control laws (43 CFR 1610.3-2 [b]).

The Draft RMP/EIS strives for consistency with plans pertaining to lands included in and surrounding the planning area including, but not limited to, the following:

Federal Agency Plans

- Comprehensive Management and Use Plan for the Oregon and California National Historic Trails, 1999
- Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument General Management Plan, 1996
- Humboldt Land and Resource Management Plan, 1986
- Mountain Home Air Force Base Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, 2004

State Agency Plans

- Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, 2005
- Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners State Trust Lands Asset Management Plan, 2007
- Idaho State Department of Agriculture 2008-2013 Strategic Plan
- Idaho State Water Plan, 1996
- Idaho Transportation Plan, 2004
- Working for Recreation: The 2006-2010 Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan
- 2007 Idaho Energy Plan

County Plans

- Elko County Federal Land Use Plan, Elko County Code Title 12, Chapter 3
- Elko County General Plan of 1971
- Elko County Open Space Master Plan of 2006
- Elmore County 2004 Comprehensive Growth and Development Plan
- Owyhee County Comprehensive Plan, 2002
- Owyhee County Natural Resources Plan, 2009
- Twin Falls County Comprehensive Plan, 2008

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is currently revising the Humboldt and Toiyabe Land and Resource Management Plans. The Jarbidge RMP/EIS will strive to be consistent with this planning effort to the extent practical.

1.7. WORKS CITED

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CHAPTER 2: ALTERNATIVES

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Volume 1: Chapter 2

Alternatives

Table of Contents

List of Tables

2.1. INTRODUCTION

Chapter 2 discusses the alternatives that describe different approaches to management of the resources and uses managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Jarbidge Field Office (FO) area. This chapter begins with an explanation of the alternative development process. Each alternative is a complete and reasonable set of desired future conditions based upon:

- Resource management goals and objectives,
- Management actions to meet goals and objectives, and, where appropriate,
- The allocations of land and resources to facilitate multiple resource management.

These components of each alternative are integral in guiding future management of the public land resources and uses in the planning area.

Six management alternatives (the No Action Alternative and five "action" alternatives) are presented in detail in this chapter. These alternatives represent reasonable approaches to managing resources and uses consistent with law, regulation, and policy and provide a range of choices for achieving the purpose and need, meeting the multiple-use mandate of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), and resolving the planning issues identified in Chapter 1:

- The No Action Alternative continues to implement management direction contained in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP and its amendments.
- Alternative I focuses on enhancing and sustaining existing and historic uses of the planning area.
- Alternative II focuses on increasing commercial uses in the planning area.
- Alternative III focuses on restoring the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function through intensive management of fuels and enhanced fire suppression capabilities.
- Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative) focuses on actively restoring the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function through restoration projects and managing uses.
- Alternative V focuses on the restoration of habitats toward historic vegetation communities using less-intensive methods and more restrictions on uses than Alternative IV.

BLM has the discretion to select an alternative in its entirety or to combine aspects of the various alternatives presented in this draft to develop the Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Identification of an alternative as Preferred is not equivalent to identification of the Proposed Alternative in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. The Proposed RMP will reflect changes or adjustments to the Preferred Alterantive based on comments received on the Draft RMP/EIS, new information, or changes in BLM policies or priorities and could include goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions described as portions of other analyzed alternatives. BLM has the discretion to select an alternative in its entirety or to combine aspects of the various alternatives presented in this Draft RMP/EIS to develop the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

2.1.1. How to Read This Chapter

Chapter 2 presents alternative management direction for the planning area. The chapter begins with introductory materials regarding the development of the alternatives for the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS, followed by a general narrative description of the alternatives. The chapter continues with a discussion of the alternatives considered but eliminated from further detailed analysis and the rationale for selecting the preferred alternative.

The majority of the chapter contains sections detailing the goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions for each alternative. Topics are presented under five major categories: *Tribal Rights and Interests, Resources*, *Resource Uses, Special Designations,* and *Social and Economic Features*. Sections under these categories identify the specific topics being addressed (e.g., cultural resources, livestock grazing, National Historic Trails). Goals, objectives, and management actions are identified by section and organized under the following headings:

- **Management Specific to the No Action Alternative** – This heading contains goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions specific to the No Action Alternative.

- **Management Common to the No Action Alternative and All Action Alternatives** – This heading contains goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions that apply to every alternative.
- **Management Common to the Action Alternatives** – This heading contains goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions that apply to all of the action alternatives, but not to the No Action Alternative.
- **Management Specific to Alternative I** – This heading contains goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions that apply to Alternative I and that are not common to all of the action alternatives.
- **Management Specific to Alternative II** – This heading contains goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions that apply to Alternative II and that are not common to all of the action alternatives.
- **Management Specific to Alternative III** – This heading contains goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions that apply to Alternative III and that are not common to all of the action alternatives.
- **Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)** – This heading contains goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions that apply to Alternative IV and that are not common to all of the action alternatives. Where differences between Alternatives IV-A and IV-B (the Preferred Alternative) occur, they are identified under this heading.
- **Management Specific to Alternative V** – This heading contains goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions that apply to Alternative V and that are not common to all of the action alternatives.

Guidance for a specific resource, use, or designation is generally provided in the corresponding section; however, additional plan direction may also be included under another section. For this reason, any management direction contained within an alternative would apply to any future proposed action or activity, regardless of the organizational heading under which it appears in this document. For example, a special designation may contain restrictions related to livestock grazing within that designation; these restrictions may not necessarily be represented in the management direction for livestock grazing, but would still apply to any future livestock grazing actions.

In order to understand the complete suite of all management objectives and actions for a specific action alternative, the reader is encouraged to read management guidance common to the No Action and all action alternatives, management guidance common to all action alternatives, and finally, management guidance specific to each alternative.

The intent of any reference in the alternatives to regulations or policy is that BLM would follow regulations or policies in place at the time implementation actions are taken.

Each goal, objective, allocation, and management action in Chapter 2 of the Jarbidge Draft RMP/EIS is assigned a reference code to facilitate public comment by giving the public the ability to target their comments to specific items without repeating entire phrases or struggling with page and paragraph numbers. Codes are broken into four components for easy identification of the section, alternative, decision type, and order of appearance in the document.

The first component of the reference code is used to identify the section. The codes and their corresponding sections are identified in Table 2- 1. The information is presented in the order in which it appears in this chapter.

The second component of the reference code identifies the alternative under which the item appears. The codes and their corresponding alternatives are identified in Table 2- 2. This information is presented in the order in which it appears in Chapter 2. Headings for management common to the No Action Alternative and all action alternatives, management common to all action alternatives, and management specific to the action alternatives only appear in Chapter 2 when there are items in those categories.

The third component of the code identifies the decision type. The codes and their corresponding decision type are identified in Table 2- 3.

The fourth component of the code identifies the order in which the item appears within a section, alternative, and decision type. Sequential numbering is used for this section.

Examples illustrating the coding system are provided in Table 2- 4.

Table 2- 1. Section Codes

Code[A]	Section
TI	Tribal Rights and Interests
AAV	Air and Atmospheric Values
GE	Geologic Features
SR	Soil Resources
WR	Water Resources
UV	Upland Vegetation
RI	Riparian Areas and Wetlands
FI	Fish
WI	Wildlife
SS	Special Status Species
NW	Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants
WFM	Wildland Fire Management
FE	Fuels and Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation (ES&BAR)
WH	Wild Horses
PR	Paleontological Resources
CR	Cultural Resources
VR	Visual Resources
WC	Non-Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
LG	Livestock Grazing
REC	Recreation
TR	Transportation and Travel
LA	Land Use Authorizations
LT	Land Tenure
LE	Leasable Minerals
SA	Salable Minerals
LO	Locatable Minerals
ACEC	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)
NHT	National Historic Trails (NHTs)
WSR	Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs)
WSA	Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)
SE	Social and Economic Features
HM	Hazardous Materials
IOE	Interpretation, Outreach, and Environmental Education

[A] The codes are presented in the order in which they appear in this chapter.

Table 2- 2. Alternative Codes

Code	Alternative
NA	Management Specific to the No Action Alternative
C	Management Common to the No Action Alternative and All Action Alternatives
CA	Management Common to All Action Alternatives
I	Management Specific to Alternative I
II	Management Specific to Alternative II
III	Management Specific to Alternative III
IV	Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)
V	Management Specific to Alternative V

Table 2- 3. Decision Type Codes

Code	Decision Type
G	Goal
O	Objective
A	Allocation
MA	Management Action

Table 2- 4. Examples

Code	Section	Alternative	Decision Type	Order of Appearance
UV-I-MA-6	Upland Vegetation	Alternative I	Management Action	6th Management Action for Upland Vegetation in Alternative I
SS-IV-O-1	Special Status Species	Alternative IV	Objective	1st Objective for Special Status Species in Alternative IV
LG-CA-MA-4	Livestock Grazing	Management Common to All Action Alternatives	Management Action	4th Management Action in Livestock Grazing that is Common to All Action Alternatives
WSA-NA-G-1	Wilderness Study Areas	No Action Alternative	Goal	1st Goal for Wilderness Study Areas in the No Action Alternative

Some management actions reference the use of toolboxes. Toolboxes are used to give an indication of what tools can be used to achieve objectives without being too prescriptive in the RMP on how objectives will be achieved. Also, some components of toolboxes vary by alternative to respond to comments that we allow or not allow the use of specific tools to achieve objectives. We will include a statement that describes the purpose of these toolboxes and that the specific tools to be used as well as conditions for using them would be determined and applied on a site-specific basis once an implementation action has been proposed.

Chapter 2 ends with tables summarizing the general differences between each alternative and the impacts resulting from implementation of each alternative. The effects of the various management actions in each alternative are discussed in detail in the environmental consequences section presented in Chapter 4.

Acreages used in the alternatives are approximate and serve for comparison and analytic purposes only. Data from Geographic Information System (GIS) have been used in developing acreage calculations and are rounded to the nearest 1,000 acres, unless finer distinction is needed for comparison purposes. Readers should not infer that they reflect exact measurements or precise calculations.

2.1.2. Alternative Development Process

BLM complied with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requirements in developing alternatives for this Draft RMP/EIS, including seeking public input and analyzing an adequate range of reasonable alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. Alternative formulation took into consideration existing decisions in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP and its amendments, the 2001 Jarbidge RMP evaluation, the Stipulated Settlement Agreement (SSA; Appendix A) in the case of *Western Watershed Project v. Bennett et al. (Case No. CV-04-181-S-BLW) (D. Idaho)*, and issues and concerns developed internally and solicited from the public during scoping.

Some decisions from the 1987 Jarbidge RMP were acceptable and reasonable. In these instances, there was limited need to develop alternative management prescriptions, and the decision was carried forward into one or more of the action alternatives. In most cases, in order to meet the planning criteria; to address issues and comments from tribes, cooperating agencies, and the public; or to provide a reasonable range of alternatives, the alternatives included management options for the planning area that

would modify or amend decisions made in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP. On occasion, management prescriptions are the same across all alternatives or reflect only a decision to implement or not implement an action. Each action alternative represents a complete and reasonable interdisciplinary land use plan to achieve the purpose and need and guide future management of the public land resources and uses in the planning area.

Public input received during the scoping process was considered to ensure that all issues and concerns would be addressed, as appropriate, in developing the alternatives. The scoping process and its results, as well as other opportunities for public involvement, are summarized in Chapters 1 and 5, respectively. The development of alternatives began with compiling the No Action Alternative. To begin developing action alternatives, the Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) and cooperating agency representatives met in a series of workshops to share their respective knowledge and expertise and to collaborate to identify goals and objectives for the resources and uses in the planning area. Common themes emerged from the lists of goals and objectives developed; these themes formed the basis of eight conceptual alternatives. In a second series of workshops, the ID Team and cooperating agency representatives expanded on the goals and objectives to develop more detailed management direction for each conceptual alternative. Following this process, BLM determined three of the conceptual alternatives could be dropped as stand-alone alternatives because they either lacked focus, did not address the planning issues or purpose and need, or were too similar to other conceptual alternatives; the reasonable components of these alternatives were incorporated into at least one of the other five conceptual alternatives.

The remaining five alternatives were finalized and reviewed as preliminary alternatives by the tribes, cooperating agencies, counties, the Twin Falls District Resource Advisory Council (RAC), the parties to the SSA, and the public through workshops hosted by the RAC. The preliminary alternatives were then refined based on the feedback received as well as changes in the planning area resulting from the Murphy Complex Fires, which occurred during the review process and burned 31% of BLM-managed lands in the planning area. As a result of the review process, the similarity between two alternatives became apparent, so the components of each were merged into one alternative; this alternative was later split into two sub-alternatives differing only in ACEC acreage. A new alternative was added to respond to the array of concerns expressed following the Murphy Complex Fires. The focus and content of the remaining alternatives were refined based on the comments received. These comments included four additional alternatives submitted by the public. Many components of these four alternatives were already included in a preliminary alternative; some components fell beyond the range BLM considered reasonable. As a result, these alternatives were not analyzed as stand-alone alternatives, and reasonable components were included in at least one alternative. These four alternatives are described in more detail in the section *Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Detailed Analysis.*

This alternative development process resulted in five action alternatives, one with two variations, as well as the No Action Alternative.

2.1.3. Summary of Alternatives Analyzed in Detail

The major features of the No Action Alternative and the five action alternatives are summarized below. These alternative summaries focus on how the alternatives address the planning issues described in Chapter 1.

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative continues to implement the objectives and management actions provided in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP and its amendments. Lands in poor ecological condition would be improved, while lands in good and excellent ecological condition in the Bruneau River-Sheep Creek and Jarbidge River Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) would be maintained. Vegetation treatments could use native or non native species. The majority of the planning area would remain available for resource uses, including livestock grazing, cross-country motorized vehicle use, and land use authorizations.

Fuels and Fire

- Fuels treatments would include restoration, fuel breaks, and noxious weed treatments within and outside the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
- Prescribed fires may be reduced, postponed, or cancelled in areas where they, in combination with recent burns, would cause significant cumulative impacts to wildlife or watershed conditions.
- The entire planning area would remain a full suppression area (1,374,000 acres).

Habitat

- A limited number of upland vegetation treatments would focus on maintaining or improving wildlife habitat, especially habitat for big game, greater sage-grouse (sage-grouse), and upland game birds.
- Riparian areas would be managed to improve riparian areas and fish habitat in WSAs, the Inside Desert, and the Jarbidge Foothills.
- Strategies to address noxious weeds and invasive species would focus on control.

Livestock Grazing

- Most upland vegetation treatments would focus on maintaining or improving vegetation for livestock grazing.
- The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing. Salmon Falls Creek Canyon and areas not contained within grazing allotments would not be available for livestock grazing (51,000 acres).
- Between 160,000 and 260,000 animal unit months (AUMs) would be allocated for livestock use.
- Livestock grazing systems and practices that recognize the physiological requirements of forbs and shrubs and that meet fisheries, riparian, and water quality needs would be designed and established.

Recreation

- Bruneau-Jarbidge Rivers, Hagerman-Owsley Bridge, Jarbidge Forks, Oregon Trail, and Salmon Falls Creek and Canyon would be managed as Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs; 77,000 acres total).
- The majority of the planning area would remain open to cross-country motorized vehicle use. Transportation and travel within the Sand Point Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), California bighorn sheep (bighorn sheep) habitat, and portions of Devil Creek would be limited to designated routes (216,000 acres), while a seasonal limitation on travel within big game winter range could be invoked if the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) determines harassment is occurring. Canyons within WSAs and some cultural resource sites would be closed to motorized vehicle use (25,000 acres). The remaining portions of the WSAs would be limited to inventoried ways (70,000 acres).

Energy Development

- Right-of-way (ROW) avoidance/restricted areas would include Sand Point ACEC, portions of Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC, Dove Springs, the Oregon Trail, recommended suitable wilderness areas, the suitable Wild and Scenic River (WSR) corridors, Salmon Falls Creek Canyon, riparian areas, paleontological sites, and cultural resource complexes (110,000 acres).
- No ROW exclusion areas would be identified.
- Wind farms would be allowed throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas.

ACECs

- The Bruneau-Jarbidge, Salmon Falls Creek, and Sand Point areas would be managed as ACECs (89,000 acres total).

Alternative I

Alternative I focuses on enhancing and sustaining existing and historic uses of the planning area. This alternative would have the largest component of active recreation management, including SRMAs for motorized recreation, hunting and fishing, hiking, and water-based recreation. Livestock grazing would be maintained near current forage allocation levels. This alternative would focus more on implementing management to benefit mule deer than other alternatives. Restoration projects would focus on providing habitat for mule deer and special status species, including treatments in some non-native perennial communities. Annual communities would also be a focus for vegetation treatments. Vegetation treatments could use native or non-native species depending on vegetation objectives. Reducing the amount of wildland fire in the planning area would be addressed through treatments to move vegetation toward Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) 1, treatments for noxious weeds and invasive plants, and construction of fuel breaks.

Fuels and Fire

- Fuels treatments within WUI would focus on areas with high and high/moderate Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area.
- Fuels treatments outside WUI would include restoration, fuel breaks, and noxious weed treatments.
    - Restoration would focus on moving plant communities toward FRCC 1.
    - Outside SRMAs, fuel breaks would follow disturbance corridors; fuel breaks for SRMAs could be used to protect surrounding areas, facilities, and high-use areas.
    - Noxious weed treatments would focus on special designations, access points, riparian areas, special status species habitat, mule deer winter range, roadsides, and native plant communities.
- The toolbox for reducing fuels, treating noxious weeds and invasive plants, or otherwise restoring or treating upland vegetation communities would include: chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments; seeding and planting; and targeted grazing. Prescribed fire would not be allowed.
- Temporary fences could be considered when there are at least 2,000 unburned acres in a pasture; they would be removed once Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation (ES&BAR) objectives have been met.
- Critical Suppression Areas would include WUI; the Bruneau-Jarbidge, Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs; and key sage-grouse habitat (481,000 acres).

Habitat

- Upland vegetation treatments would include actively restoring native and non-native perennial communities in big game and sage-grouse habitat, as well as converting annual communities.
- Riparian areas would be managed to maintain proper functioning condition (PFC) on 83 miles of streams, achieve PFC on an additional 60 miles of streams, and be moving toward PFC on the remaining streams; within the priorities identified in the Aquatic and Riparian Management Strategy (ARMS; Appendix D), streams with habitat for suitable for game fish would have priority for restoration.
- Strategies to address noxious weeds and invasive species would include measures for both prevention and control.

Livestock Grazing

- A limited number of treatments to actively maintain non-native perennial communities for livestock would be implemented.
- The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing. The following areas would not be available for livestock grazing: canyons associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers and Salmon Falls Creek; portions of the Middle Snake ACEC; reference areas; Wildlife Tracts; areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use; and areas not contained within grazing allotments (84,000 acres).

- 25% to 35% of native perennial grass production, 30% to 40% of non-native perennial grass production, 20% to 30% of annual grass production, and 7% to 10% of shrub and forb production would be allocated for livestock use.
- In native plant communities, except the Sandberg/non-native areas, livestock grazing would be managed to maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance.
- In non-native plant communities, including Sandberg/non-native areas, livestock grazing would be managed to maintain and improve perennial plant species diversity and abundance, taking into account big game habitat needs.

Recreation

- The Deadman/Yahoo, Balanced Rock, Little Pilgrim, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Jarbidge Forks, Canyonlands, Jarbidge Foothills, and Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMAs would be designated (342,000 acres total).
- Transportation and travel within the majority of the planning area would be limited to designated routes. Areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use would include designated play areas in the Deadman/Yahoo SRMA (3,620 acres). Salmon Falls Creek ACEC, the portions of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons within WSAs, and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics would be closed to motorized vehicle use (57,000 acres). The remaining portions of the WSAs would be limited to designated ways (72,000 acres).

Energy Development

- ROW avoidance areas would include United States Air Force (USAF) Military Operations Areas (MOAs); the Oregon National Historic Trail (NHT) protective corridor; eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors; non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics; and the Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs (896,000 acres).
- ROW exclusion areas would include the Sand Point ACEC and WSAs (95,000 acres).
- Wind farms would be allowed in areas that have already been converted from native communities to annual, non-native perennial, or non-native understory communities, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

ACECs

- The Sand Point, Middle Snake, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Salmon Falls Creek, and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs would be designated (97,000 acres total).

Alternative II

Alternative II focuses on increasing commercial uses throughout the planning area. Livestock grazing would be increased substantially. Non-native perennial communities would be actively maintained for livestock, and treatments in non-native annual communities would focus on converting these areas to a non-native, more fire tolerant, forage-producing perennial community. Native plant communities would be maintained. Other commercial uses, including energy development, would be allowed throughout most areas and have the fewest restrictions compared to the other alternatives. Vegetation treatments could use native or non-native species depending on vegetation and resource use objectives. Reducing the amount of wildland fire in the planning area would be addressed through treatments to move native vegetation toward FRCC 1, treatments for noxious weeds and invasive plants, construction of fuel breaks, and fuels reduction through increased permitted livestock grazing.

Fuels and Fire

- Fuels treatments within WUI would focus on areas with high, high/moderate, and moderate Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area and near Roseworth.
- Fuels treatments outside WUI would include restoration, fuel breaks, landscape-scale fuels reduction, and noxious weed treatments.

  - Restoration would focus on moving native plant communities toward FRCC 1.
  - Fuel breaks would focus on protecting commercial facilities; fuel breaks would also be placed in non-native communities to protect native communities.
  - Landscape-scale fuels reduction would occur primarily through increased allocation of vegetation for permitted livestock grazing and through increased livestock grazing utilization.
  - Noxious weed treatments would focus on riparian areas, special status species habitat, and native plant communities.
- The toolbox for reducing fuels, treating noxious weeds and invasive plants, or otherwise restoring or treating upland vegetation communities would include: chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments; seeding and planting; targeted grazing; and prescribed fire. Prescribed fire would not be allowed in native grassland or native shrubland communities.
- Temporary fences could be considered on a case-by-case basis; they could become permanent if they enhance management of the burned area.
- Critical Suppression Areas would only include WUI (172,000 acres).

Habitat

- A limited amount of restoration in native plant communities would be implemented, focusing on special status species habitat.
- Riparian areas would be managed to maintain 85 miles at PFC and be moving toward PFC on the remaining streams; within the priorities identified within the ARMS (Appendix D), fish-bearing streams would have priority for restoration.
- Strategies to address noxious weeds and invasive species include measures for both prevention and control.

Livestock Grazing

- Upland vegetation treatments would focus on actively maintaining non-native perennial and non-native understory communities for livestock and converting annual communities to non-native perennial.
- The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing. The following areas would not be available for livestock grazing: canyons associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers and Salmon Falls Creek; reference areas; Wildlife Tracts; and areas not contained within grazing allotments (59,000 acres).
- 40% to 50% of native perennial grass production, 50% to 60% of non-native perennial grass production, 70% to 80% of annual grass production, and 12% to 15% of shrub and forb production would be allocated for livestock use.
- In native plant communities, except the Sandberg/non-native areas, livestock grazing would be managed to maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance.
- In non-native plant communities, livestock grazing would be managed to sustain the forage base and allow for other commercial uses.

Recreation

- The Little Pilgrim, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Jarbidge Forks, and Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMAs would be designated (21,000 acres total).
- Transportation and travel in the majority of the planning area would be limited to designated routes. No areas would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use. Portions of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons within WSAs would be closed to motorized vehicle use (21,000 acres). The remaining portions of the WSAs would be limited to inventoried ways (73,000 acres).

Energy Development

- ROW avoidance areas would include USAF MOAs; the Oregon NHT protective corridor; and eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors (878,000 acres).

- ROW exclusion areas would include WSAs (94,000 acres).
- Wind farms would be allowed throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

ACECs

- No ACECs would be designated.

Alternative III

Alternative III focuses on restoring the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function through intensive management of fuels and enhanced fire suppression capabilities throughout the planning area. This alternative would provide for the highest amount of fuels treatments. Non-native perennial plant communities would be actively managed to contribute to wildland fire prevention and suppression efforts; this management would include increased levels of permitted livestock grazing. Treatments of annual communities would focus on converting these areas to a non-native perennial fire-tolerant community. Native plant communities would be restored to move toward their historic fire regime; extreme fuels reduction measures may be taken to manage native plant communities. Vegetation treatments may use both native and non-native species, with fire-tolerant and fire-resistant species having a high priority. Other uses would be allowed to the extent they do not contribute to an increase in wildland fire size and intensity. The quality and quantity of infrastructure such as roads and water would be increased to support fire suppression activities more in this alternative than in other alternatives.

Fuels and Fire

- Fuels treatments within WUI would focus on areas with high, high/moderate, and moderate Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area and near Roseworth and Three Creek.
- Fuels treatments outside WUI would include restoration, fuel breaks, landscape-scale fuels reduction, and noxious weed treatments.
    - Restoration would focus on moving native plant communities toward FRCC 1.
    - Fuel breaks would focus on strategic locations to disrupt the continuity of fuels and to protect important resources and structures.
    - Landscape-scale fuels reduction would occur primarily in annual and non-native perennial communities through increased allocation of vegetation for permitted livestock grazing and through increased livestock grazing utilization.
    - Noxious weed treatments would focus on special designations, fuel breaks, areas with high wildland fire occurrence, areas around historic structures, roadsides, and special status species habitat.
- The toolbox for reducing fuels, treating noxious weeds and invasive plants, or otherwise restoring or treating upland vegetation communities would include: chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments; seeding and planting; targeted grazing; and prescribed fire.
- Temporary fences could be considered on a case-by-case basis; they would be removed once ES&BAR objectives have been met.
- Critical Suppression Areas would include WUI; the Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs; and key sage-grouse habitat (469,000 acres).

Habitat

- Upland vegetation treatments would focus on treatments that would reduce fuels, convert annual communities to perennial, and restore native grassland communities to native shrubland, focusing on special status species habitat.
- Riparian areas would be managed to maintain 85 miles of streams at PFC, achieve PFC on an additional 98 miles of streams, and be moving toward PFC on the remaining streams; within the priorities identified within the ARMS (Appendix D), streams with the potential to serve as fire breaks would have priority for restoration.

- Strategies to address noxious weeds and invasive species include measures for both prevention and control.

Livestock Grazing

- Non-native perennial communities would not be actively maintained for livestock.
- The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing. The following areas would not be available for livestock grazing: canyons associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers and Salmon Falls Creek, reference areas, Wildlife Tracts, and areas not contained within grazing allotments (61,000 acres).
- 35% to 45% of native perennial grass production, 40% to 50% of non-native perennial grass production, 40% to 50% of annual grass production, and 11% to 14% of shrub and forb production would be allocated for livestock use.
- In native plant communities, including the Sandberg/non-native areas, livestock grazing would be managed to maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance.
- In non-native plant communities, livestock grazing would be managed to reduce fuels.

Recreation

- The Deadman/Yahoo, Balanced Rock, Little Pilgrim, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Jarbidge Forks, and Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMAs would be designated (56,000 acres total).
- Transportation and travel in the majority of the planning area would be limited to designated routes. Areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use would include designated play areas in the Deadman/Yahoo SRMA (3,570 acres). Salmon Falls Creek ACEC and portions of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons within WSAs would be closed to motorized vehicle use (24,000 acres). The remaining portions of the WSAs would be limited to inventoried ways (72,000 acres).

Energy Development

- ROW avoidance areas would include USAF MOAs; the Oregon NHT protective corridor; eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors; and the Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs (880,000 acres).
- ROW exclusion areas would include the Sand Point ACEC and WSAs (95,000 acres).
- Wind farms would be allowed in areas that have already been converted from native communities to annual, non-native perennial, or non-native understory communities, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

ACECs

- The Sand Point, Bruneau-Jarbidge, and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs would be designated (61,000 acres total).

Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Alternative IV focuses on actively restoring the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function through restoration projects and managing uses. Priorities would be to treat at-risk or fragmented habitats and non-native perennial and annual communities. This alternative would provide for active restoration using more tools and more intensive approaches in more areas than in Alternative V. Vegetation treatments could use native or non-native species depending on vegetation objectives. Reducing the amount of wildland fire in the planning area would be addressed through treatments to move vegetation toward FRCC 1, treatments for noxious weeds and invasive plants, and construction of fuel breaks.

Alternative IV has been split into two sub-alternatives. The only difference between the sub-alternatives is the size of the Inside Desert and Jarbidge Foothills ACECs; these ACECs would have larger boundaries in Alternative IV-A than in Alternative IV-B. Differences between Alternatives IV-A and IV-B also appear in

sections in which ACEC management is a factor. When differences are specified between Alternatives IV-A and IV-B, Alternative IV-B is the Preferred Alternative.

Fuels and Fire

- Fuels treatments within WUI would focus on areas with high and high/moderate Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area.
- Fuels treatments outside WUI would include restoration, fuel breaks, and noxious weed treatments.
    - Restoration would focus on moving plant communities toward FRCC 1.
    - Fuel breaks would follow disturbance corridors.
    - Noxious weed treatments would focus on special designations, riparian areas, special status species habitat, and native plant communities.
- The toolbox for reducing fuels, treating noxious weeds and invasive plants, or otherwise restoring or treating upland vegetation communities would include: chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments; seeding and planting; targeted grazing; and prescribed fire.
- Temporary fences could be considered when there are at least 2,000 unburned acres in a pasture; they would be removed once ES&BAR objectives have been met.
- Critical Suppression Areas would include WUI; the Bruneau-Jarbidge, Inside Desert, Jarbidge Foothills, and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs; and key sage-grouse habitat (594,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 555,000 acres in Alternative IV-B).

Habitat

- Upland vegetation treatments would focus on restoring non-native perennial and native grassland communities to native shrubland and converting annual communities, focusing on special status species, mule deer, and pronghorn habitat.
- Riparian areas would be managed to maintain 85 miles of streams at PFC, achieve PFC on an additional 98 miles of streams, and be moving toward PFC on the remaining streams; within the priorities identified within the ARMS (Appendix D), streams containing special status species habitat would have priority for restoration.
- Strategies to address noxious weeds and invasive species include measures for both prevention and control.

Livestock Grazing

- Non-native perennial communities would not be actively maintained for livestock.
- The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing. The following areas would not be available for livestock grazing: the Bruneau Canyon Allotment, canyons or riparian corridors associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers, and Deer (Nevada; NV), Dave, Rocky Canyon and Salmon Falls Creeks; reference areas; Wildlife Tracts; the Inside Desert ACEC; and areas not contained within grazing allotments (145,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 113,000 acres in Alternative IV-B).
- 15% to 25% of native perennial grass production and 20% to 30% of non-native perennial grass production would be allocated for livestock use.
- In native plant communities, including the Sandberg/non-native areas, livestock grazing would be managed to maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance.
- In non-native plant communities, livestock grazing would be managed to achieve restoration objectives.

Recreation

- The Deadman/Yahoo, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Jarbidge Forks, Canyonlands, and Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMAs would be designated (205,000 acres total).
- Transportation and travel in the majority of the planning area would be limited to designated routes. Areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use would include designated play areas in the

Deadman/Yahoo SRMA (3,570 acres). Portions of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons within WSAs and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics would be closed to motorized vehicle use (74,000 acres). The remaining portions of the WSAs would be limited to inventoried ways (73,000 acres).

Energy Development

- ROW avoidance areas would include USAF MOAs; the Oregon NHT protective corridor; eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors; and the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (896,000 acres).
- ROW exclusion areas would include the Sand Point ACEC, WSAs, and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics (148,000 acres).
- Wind farms would be allowed in areas that have already been converted from native communities to annual, non-native perennial, or non-native understory communities, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

ACECs

- The Sand Point, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Inside Desert, Lower Bruneau Canyon, and Jarbidge Foothills ACECs would be designated (335,000 acres total in Alternative IV-A; 232,000 acres total in Alternative IV-B).

Alternative V

Alternative V focuses on the restoration of habitats toward historic vegetation communities. In native plant communities, passive restoration approaches would be preferred. Active restoration would take place in non-native perennial and annual communities; treatments in non-native perennial communities would minimize soil disturbance. Restoration projects would focus on habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species as well as special designations. Vegetation treatments would use only native species. Reducing the amount of wildland fire in the planning area would be addressed through treatments to move vegetation toward FRCC 1, treatments for noxious weeds and invasive plants, and construction of fuel breaks.

Fuels and Fire

- Fuels treatments within WUI would focus on areas with high Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area.
- Fuels treatments outside WUI would include restoration, fuel breaks, and noxious weed treatments.
    - Restoration would focus on moving plant communities toward FRCC 1.
    - Fuel breaks would follow designated roads and designated primitive roads.
    - Noxious weed treatments would focus on special designations, riparian areas, special status species habitat, and native plant communities.
- The toolbox for reducing fuels, treating noxious weeds and invasive plants, or otherwise restoring or treating upland vegetation communities would include: chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments; seeding and planting; removal of grazing; and prescribed fire. Chemical treatments could only be used after all other methods have been exhausted. Targeted grazing would not be allowed.
- Temporary fences would not be allowed.
- Critical Suppression Areas would include WUI; the Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Sagebrush Sea ACECs; and key sage-grouse habitat (1,067,000 acres).

Habitat

- Upland vegetation treatments would focus on restoring annual communities to native shrubland and restoring a shrub component to non-native perennial and native grassland communities, focusing on special status species habitat.
- Riparian areas would be managed to maintain PFC on 85 miles of streams, achieve PFC on an additional 98 miles of streams, and be moving toward PFC on the remaining streams; within the

priorities identified within the ARMS (Appendix D), streams containing special status species habitat would have priority for restoration.
- Strategies to address noxious weeds and invasive species include measures for both prevention and control.

Livestock Grazing

- Vegetation treatments would not include active maintenance of non-native perennial communities for livestock.
- The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing. The following areas would not be available for livestock grazing: the Bruneau Canyon Allotment; canyons or riparian corridors associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers, and Upper Cedar, Deer (Idaho; ID), Deer (NV), Clover (Robeson crossing to mouth), Rocky Canyon, Flat, Shack, China, Dave, and Salmon Falls Creeks; the Middle Snake, Sand Point, and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs; reference areas; the Browns Bench/China Mountain area; Wildlife Tracts; and areas not contained within grazing allotments (309,000 acres).
- 10% to 20% of native and non-native perennial grass production would be allocated to livestock.
- In native plant communities, including the Sandberg/non-native areas, livestock grazing would be managed to maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance.
- In non-native plant communities, livestock grazing would be managed to maintain and improve shrub cover for sage-grouse.

Recreation

- The Yahoo, Bruneau-Jarbidge, and Jarbidge Forks SRMAs would be designated (19,000 acres total).
- Transportation and travel in the majority of the planning area would be limited to designated routes. Areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use would include designated play areas in the Yahoo SRMA (700 acres). WSAs and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics would be closed to motorized vehicle use (147,000 acres).

Energy Development

- ROW avoidance areas would include USAF MOAs; the Oregon NHT protective corridor; eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors; and the Sagebrush Sea ACEC (1,229,000 acres).
- ROW exclusion areas would include the Sand Point ACEC, WSAs, and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics (148,000 acres).
- Wind farms would be allowed in areas that have already been converted from native communities to annual, non-native perennial, or non-native understory communities, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

ACECs

- The Sand Point, Middle Snake, Lower Bruneau Canyon, and Sagebrush Sea ACECs would be designated (968,000 acres total).

2.1.4. Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Detailed Analysis

The following alternative was eliminated from detailed study because it did not meet the purpose and need for this RMP.

No Grazing Alternative

An alternative that proposes to close the entire planning area to livestock grazing would not meet the purpose and need of this Draft RMP/EIS. NEPA requires that agencies study, develop, and describe

appropriate alternatives to recommended courses of action in any proposal that involves unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. No issue or conflict has been identified during this land use planning effort that requires the complete elimination of grazing within the planning area for its resolution. Resource conditions do not warrant planning area-wide prohibition of any particular use, including livestock grazing; therefore, an alternative eliminating this use where resource conditions do not justify such measures is not reasonable. Closures and adjustments to livestock use have been incorporated into the alternatives on an allotment or area basis, where appropriate, in order to address issues identified in the RMP. 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, the analysis of an alternative to entirely eliminate grazing is not needed.

Alternatives Submitted during Public Scoping

The ID Team developed preliminary alternatives in late 2006 and early 2007. In April 2007, these alternatives were presented to the public in a series of public workshops. Four alternatives were submitted to BLM following these workshops. After careful review, the ID Team determined many components of these four alternatives were already included in a preliminary alternative and were carried forward into the alternatives analyzed in detail; the ID Team incorporated other concepts from the submitted alternatives into the analyzed alternatives as appropriate, preventing any submitted alternative from being entirely eliminated. The ID Team eliminated these alternatives from further detailed analysis as stand-alone alternatives because they did not meet the purpose and need; did not adequately address the planning issues; contained internal inconsistencies; were inconsistent with the planning criteria; or were inconsistent with BLM's multiple use mandate.

The submitted alternatives are summarized below; the summary indicates the alternatives in which concepts from each submitted alternative were analyzed. The alternatives were titled by the submitters and are presented in alphabetical order.

Community and Environmental Stabilization and Improvement Alternative

The following list briefly summarizes how the Community and Environmental Stabilization and Improvement Alternative addressed the planning issues:

- **Fuels and Fire** – Fuels treatments would protect public safety, life, and property, including WUI and valued resources, and would aggressively limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire. Livestock grazing management would be used to help reduce fine fuels and the risk of landscape-scale fires. Following wildland fires, soils would be stabilized, annual-dominated vegetation communities would be replaced with self-sustaining perennial vegetation, and burned areas would be rehabilitated or converted to establish a mosaic of vegetation types and seral stages.
- **Habitat** – Existing wildlife habitat, including crucial winter big game habitat and upland game nesting and cover habitat, would be maintained or improved. Early seral vegetation communities would be converted to mid-seral or desired plant communities to improve perennial watershed cover. Livestock management would be used to achieve a mixture in the number of acres of native vegetation communities in mid-seral, late-seral, or potential natural community. Native cultivar and non-native perennial seedings would be maintained.
- **Livestock Grazing** – Livestock grazing would be managed to create a mosaic of patterns and levels of utilization at different periods of the year. Forage would be allocated and authorized for use by livestock through monitoring of actual use and utilization over time, by allocating 0% of the native shrub forage base, 0% of the native forb forage base, 50% of the native grass forage base, and 60% of non-native forage base
- **Recreation** - Outdoor recreation opportunities would be provided with an emphasis towards destination and community recreation activities. Salmon Falls Creek Canyon and the Jarbidge Canyon would be managed as SRMAs.
- **Energy Development** – Renewable energy development was not addressed.
- **ACECs** - The Sand Point and Bruneau-Jarbidge ACECs (boundary complying with the Owyhee Initiative) would be designated.

Components of the Community and Environmental Stabilization and Improvement Alternative were incorporated into Alternative II.

Friends of the Jarbidge Alternative

The following list briefly summarizes how the Friends of the Jarbidge Alternative addressed the planning issues:

- **Fuels and Fire** – Fuels treatments would include targeted livestock grazing and greenstrips.
- **Habitat** – Big game winter range would be expanded. Increasing water developments should be used to expand wildlife habitat.
- **Livestock Grazing** – Seedings would be maintained for livestock forage. Grazing permits would allocate 50% of native grasses and 60% of non-native forage. Temporary Non-Renewable Authorizations (TNR) would be allowed were excess forage is available.
- **Recreation** – SRMAs would include the Oregon Trail, Balanced Rock, Little Pilgrim, reduced Bruneau-Jarbidge, and Salmon Falls Reservoir.
- **Energy Development** – Renewable energy development, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, communication sites, and other uses would be allowed. Wind development would be allowed where the wind is strong enough to generate power. Facilities would maintain minimum distances from special status species habitat and should avoid special status species and other fish and wildlife during critical time periods. Wind development would be restricted where adverse impacts to wildlife and cultural resources cannot be mitigated.
- **ACECs** – The Sand Point, Middle Snake, Purple Sage,[1] and Bruneau-Jarbidge (reduced boundary) ACECs would be designated.

Components of the Friends of the Jarbidge Alternative were incorporated into Alternatives I, II, and III.

Habitat Restoration Alternative

The following list briefly summarizes how the Habitat Restoration Alternative addressed the planning issues:

- **Fuels and Fire** – Wildland fire management would limit 90% of fires to less than 50 acres and all remaining fires to less than 1,000 acres. Areas would be rehabilitated and stabilized to help promote natural recovery, establish pre-fire or historic vegetation and stabilize soils.
- **Habitat** – The primary management focus would be to promote diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitats for fish and wildlife species. Native plant communities would be restored to eliminate fragmentation.
- **Livestock Grazing** – Livestock grazing would be excluded in most of the southern two-thirds of the planning area to increase native species plant diversity and abundance. In allotments with livestock grazing, 25% of available forage would be allocated for livestock, and utilization would be between 10% to 15%. Extended rest would be provided to restore vigor and production of native plant species.
- **Recreation** – Recreation would be managed to minimize disturbance to wildlife and the impact to watershed and special status species, limit the introduction and spread of invasive species, and prevent wildland fire. Undeveloped and non-motorized recreation would be emphasized.
- **Energy Development** – Renewable energy development, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, and communication sites would be allowed where other goals are not compromised; these uses would not be allowed in native plant communities or areas targeted for restoration to native plant communities.
- **ACECs** – The Sand Point, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Jarbidge Forks, Inside Desert, Inside Lakes[2], Purple Sage, Jarbidge Foothills, Salmon Falls Creek, Middle Snake, and Sagebrush Sea ACECs would be designated.

Components of the Habitat Restoration Alternative were incorporated into Alternatives IV and V.

[1] This is the same area referred to as the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC.
[2] This area is included within the expanded boundary of the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC.

Maximize Commodity Use Alternative

The following list briefly summarizes how the Maximize Commodity Use Alternative addressed the planning issues:

- **Fuels and Fire** – Public safety, life, and property would be protected from wildland fires. Fuels treatments would include greenstrips and would protect WUI and aggressively limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire.
- **Habitat** – A mosaic of native vegetation communities would be maintained in mid-seral, late-seral, or potential natural community ecological condition. Access and use in wildlife breeding and wintering areas would be managed to benefit commodity uses.
- **Livestock Grazing** – Livestock grazing would be managed to optimize the utilization of perennial and annual forage species. 50% of the native shrub forage base, 50% of the native forb forage base, 60% of the native grass forage base, 70% of non-native perennial forage base, and 90% of non-native annual forage base would be allocated for use by livestock.
- **Recreation** – Outdoor recreation opportunities that provide revenue enhancement to communities within the planning area would be provided. SRMAs would include the Jarbidge River North Forks and Jarbidge Forks.
- **Energy Development** – Renewable energy development, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, and communication sites would be allowed. Wind development would be allowed anywhere not identified for ROW avoidance or exclusion.
- **ACECs** – No new ACECs would be designated, and ACEC designation would be removed from existing ACECs.

Components of the Maximize Commodity Use Alternative were incorporated into Alternative II.

2.1.5. Rationale for the Identification of the Preferred Alternative

Alternative IV is selected at the Preferred Alternative. When differences are specified between sub-alternatives IV-A and IV-B, Alternative IV-B is the Preferred Alternative.

Each alternative, as developed, provides a different emphasis for managing public lands and resources within the planning area, and each action alternative represents a complete and reasonable land use plan that meets the purpose and need described in Chapter 1. Once the alternatives were developed, they were analyzed to predict and estimate their impacts on the environment (see Chapter 4). The impact analysis provides a relative comparison of estimated outcomes and effects between the alternatives to better inform the decision-making process – it is not a reflection of an absolute expected outcome.

The BLM used the impact analysis, along with knowledge of specific issues raised throughout the planning process; recommendations from the tribes, cooperating agencies, and BLM resource specialists; consideration of planning criteria; and anticipated resolution of resource conflicts to select Alternative IV-B as the Preferred Alternative from the suite of alternatives analyzed. Selection of the Preferred Alternative was based on the following criteria:

- Satisfaction of statutory requirements
- Achievement of BLM goals and policies
- Achievement of the purpose and need
- Provision of an acceptable approach to addressing key planning issues
- Consideration of cooperating agencies and BLM specialists' recommendations

The Preferred Alternative indicates the agency's preliminary preference. However, identification of this alternative as Preferred is not equivalent to identification of the Proposed Alternative in the Proposed RMP/ Final EIS. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS will reflect changes or adjustments to the Preferred Alternative based on comments received on the Draft RMP/EIS, new information, or changes in BLM policies or priorities and could include goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions described as portions of other analyzed alternatives. BLM has the discretion to select an alternative in its entirety or to combine aspects of the various alternatives presented in this Draft RMP/EIS to develop the Proposed RMP and Final EIS.

2.2.TRIBAL RIGHTS AND INTERESTS

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective	Management Actions
No objective stated.	**TI-NA-MA- 1.** Coordinate review of detailed management plans and individual projects prepared in conjunction with the RMP to ensure consistency with officially adopted and approved plans, policies, and programs of Native American tribes, Federal agencies, and State and local governments.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal and Objective

TI-CA-G- 1. Manage public lands to protect resources and values associated with Native American treaty rights.

TI-CA-G- 2. Manage natural and cultural resources of importance to the tribes in a manner that respects tribal beliefs, traditions, and values.

Objective	Management Actions
See *Goal and Objective* section.	**TI-CA-MA- 1**. Consult with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in accordance with BLM policy and other authorities. Consultation would be an ongoing process between BLM and the tribes, within the context of general management of public lands and programs, as well as specific proposals that may affect natural and cultural resources of importance to the tribes. **TI-CA-MA- 2**. Consider the effects of decisions on vegetation, fish, wildlife, mineral, and water resources of importance to the tribes, as identified through consultation, and seek ways to lessen or avoid impacts on these where practical. This action would also apply to other Federal entities whose decisions affect BLM-managed lands within the planning area. **TI-CA-MA- 3.** Strive to protect the physical condition of sacred sites and traditional cultural properties and to preserve tribal access to such sites. **TI-CA-MA- 4.** Work collaboratively with the tribes regarding the management of traditional cultural properties. **TI-CA-MA- 5.** Provide information to staff and contractors regarding existing and historic use of the planning area by the tribes, Federal government trust responsibilities, and the importance of Native American treaty rights.

2.3. RESOURCES

2.3.1. Air and Atmospheric Values

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective	Management Actions
No objective stated.	**AAV-NA-MA- 1.** Manage all public lands in the planning area as Class II Airsheds unless they are reclassified by the State as a result of the procedures prescribed in the Clean Air Act. **AAV-NA-MA- 2.** Administrative actions on the public lands would comply with the air quality classification for that specific area. **AAV-NA-MA- 3.** Consider the sensitivity of air resources in the affected area on a site-specific basis during project-level planning. **AAV-NA-MA- 4.** Design construction of management facilities and land treatments to minimize adverse impacts to the air resources. Stipulations would ensure project compatibility with air resource management.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

AAV-CA-G- 1. Ensure BLM management activities and authorized uses contribute to maintaining the quality of the planning area's air resources.

Objective	Management Actions
AAV-CA-O- 1. Maintain the quality of air resources and limit impacts to air quality to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) air quality standards.	**AAV-CA-MA- 1.** Manage the planning area airshed as Class II unless it is reclassified by the State through the process prescribed in the Clean Air Act. **AAV-CA-MA- 2.** Ensure BLM management activities and authorized uses, including prescribed fire, are designed to comply with Federal, State, and local air quality regulations, classifications, and standards. **AAV-CA-MA- 3.** Manage prescribed fires to minimize impacts of smoke to sensitive areas such as the Class I airshed of the Jarbidge Wilderness and the city of Twin Falls, ID, both of which are near the planning area. **AAV-CA-MA- 4.** Develop a burn plan with information and techniques to reduce or alter smoke emission levels for all prescribed fire activities. **AAV-CA-MA- 5.** Coordinate with the Montana-Idaho Airshed Group Smoke Management Program or its equivalent for all actions related to prescribed fire. Under this program, prescribed fire could be restricted when regional or local air quality is compromised or if the

project would negatively affect visual quality in Class I airsheds, non-attainment areas, and other sensitive areas

AAV-CA-MA- 6. Develop and implement a dust abatement strategy, including dust abatement stipulations, for BLM-authorized construction and maintenance activities that have the potential to generate large quantities of particulate matter.

AAV-CA-MA- 7. Design BLM management activities and authorized uses to minimize night time light intrusions (e.g., modifications to the structure and timing of lighting).

AAV-CA-MA- 8. Design BLM management activities and authorized uses to comply with State requirements for noise management and to minimize noise intrusion where noise has the potential to be a nuisance to adjacent residences on private land.

2.3.2. Geologic Features

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective	Management Actions
No objective stated.	**GE-NA-MA- 1.** Manage geologic resources so significant scientific, recreational, and educational values would be maintained or enhanced. **GE-NA-MA- 2.** Unique geological resources of the planning area would be protected and interpreted for the public.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

GE-CA-G- 1. Manage unique geologic features for their tribal, scientific, recreational, and educational use.

Objective	Management Actions
GE-CA-O- 1. Protect unique geologic features and provide opportunities for their use and enjoyment.	**GE-CA-MA- 1.** Manage unique geologic features so traditional tribal, scientific, recreational, and educational values would be maintained or enhanced. **GE-CA-MA- 2.** Conduct and maintain a cave inventory with participation from the tribes and interested organizations to identify and compile quantitative and qualitative data on cave resources and to determine cave significance in accordance with the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988. **GE-CA-MA- 3.** Based on the results of the cave inventory, determine the administrative designation needed for significant caves to provide adequate protection for significant cave resources. **GE-CA-MA- 4.** Set outcome-based management objectives and setting prescriptions for significant caves.

2.3.3. Soil Resources

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective	Management Actions
SR-NA-O- 1. Manage soils to maintain productivity and to minimize erosion.	**SR-NA-MA- 1.** During project-level planning, consider the sensitivity of soil resources in the affected area on a site-specific basis. **SR-NA-MA- 2.** Design the construction of management facilities and land treatments to minimize adverse impacts to the soil resources. Stipulations would ensure project compatibility with soil resource management. **SR-NA-MA- 3.** Manage native perennial range to attain good ecological condition. **SR-NA-MA- 4.** Mitigate erosion from irrigated agricultural lands onto adjacent public lands that could erode Sand Point paleontological deposits.

Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives

Goal

See goals in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Actions
See objectives in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.	**SR-C-MA- 1**. Minimize soil erosion by maintaining adequate perennial vegetation cover based on site potential.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal and Objective

SR-CA-G- 1. Manage resources and uses to maintain or enhance biological and physical functions and stability of soils.

Objective	Management Actions
See Goal and Objective.	**SR-CA-MA- 1.** Conduct management facility construction and maintenance and land treatments to reduce impacts to soil. Stipulations would ensure project consistency with soil management objectives. **SR-CA-MA- 2.** Work with County Highway Districts to reduce impacts from road maintenance along stream corridors and in areas of highly erosive soils.

SR-CA-MA- 3. Modify routes or mitigate the erosive effects of transportation and travel as needed.

SR-CA-MA- 4. Where BLM management activities or authorized uses have resulted in accelerated erosion, revegetate or stabilize the area.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Actions
See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.	**SR-I-MA- 1.** Mitigate impacts of BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses on soils with severe or very severe potential for wind erosion (218,000 acres; Map 5) or with high potential for water erosion (437,000 acres; Map 6) for watershed and ecosystem health. **SR-I-MA- 2.** Develop and implement an erosion control strategy for new land use authorizations, Special Recreation Permits (SRPs), and mineral exploration and development involving surface disturbance on slopes greater than 20% or on soils with severe or very severe potential for wind erosion or with high potential for water erosion.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Actions
See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.	**SR-II-MA- 1**. Mitigate impacts of BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses on soils with severe or very severe potential for wind erosion (218,000 acres; Map 5) or with high potential for water erosion (437,000 acres; Map 6) for watershed and ecosystem health. **SR-II-MA- 2.** Develop and implement an erosion control strategy for new land use authorizations, SRPs, and mineral exploration and development involving surface disturbance on slopes greater than 20% or on soils with severe or very severe potential for wind erosion or with high potential for water erosion.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Actions
See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.	**SR-III-MA- 1.** Mitigate impacts of BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses on soils with severe or very severe potential for wind erosion (218,000 acres; Map 5) or with high

potential for water erosion (437,000 acres; Map 6) for watershed and ecosystem health.

SR-III-MA- 2. Develop and implement an erosion control strategy for new land use authorizations, SRPs, and mineral exploration and development involving surface disturbance on slopes greater than 20% or on soils with severe or very severe potential for wind erosion or with high potential for water erosion.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Actions
See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.	**SR-IV-MA- 1.** Mitigate impacts of BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses on soils with moderate, severe, or very severe potential for wind erosion (1,122,000 acres; Map 5) or with medium or high potential for water erosion (1,289,000 acres; Map 6) for watershed and ecosystem health. **SR-IV-MA- 2.** Develop and implement an erosion control strategy for new land use authorizations, SRPs, and mineral exploration and development involving surface disturbance on slopes 20% to 40% or on soils with moderate, severe, or very severe potential for wind erosion or with medium or high potential for water erosion. No surface disturbance from these activities would be allowed on slopes greater than 40%.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Actions
See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.	**SR-V-MA- 1.** Mitigate impacts of BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses on soils with moderate, severe, or very severe potential for wind erosion (1,122,000 acres; Map 5) or with medium or high potential for water erosion (1,289,000 acres; Map 6) for watershed and ecosystem health. **SR-V-MA- 2.** Develop and implement an erosion control strategy and topsoil restoration plan for new land use authorizations, SRPs, and mineral exploration and development involving surface disturbance on slopes 20% to 40% or on soils with moderate, severe, or very severe potential for wind erosion or with medium or high potential for water erosion. No surface disturbance from these activities would be allowed on slopes greater than 40%.

2.3.4. Water Resources

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective	Management Actions
WR-NA-O- 1. Maintain or improve water quality in accordance with Federal and State standards.	**WR-NA-MA- 1.** During project-level planning, consider the sensitivity of water resources in the affected area on a site-specific basis. **WR-NA-MA- 2.** Design the construction of management facilities and land treatments to minimize adverse impacts to the water resources. Stipulations would ensure project compatibility with water resource management. **WR-NA-MA- 3.** Facilities and structures designed to maintain or improve water sources, provide new water sources, control water level or flow characteristics, or maintain or improve water quality may be developed. Proposals that include dewatering of the streambed would not be allowed. **WR-NA-MA- 4.** Work closely with the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, US Army Corps of Engineers, and other Federal, State, and local agencies to determine appropriate location and designs for such projects. **WR-NA-MA- 5.** Maintain recommended instream flows for the maintenance and preservation of aquatic and riparian ecosystems. **WR-NA-MA- 6.** A variety of methods may be employed to maintain, improve, protect, and restore watershed conditions. **WR-NA-MA- 7.** Give priority to meeting emergency watershed needs due to flooding, severe drought, or fire.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

WR-CA-G- 1. Maintain or improve the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of water resources.

Objective	Management Actions
WR-CA-O- 1. Make progress towards meeting Federal and State water quality standards.	**WR-CA-MA- 1.** Priority streams for management of water quality include streams containing special status species and their habitat, fish-bearing streams, and 303(d)-listed streams. Map 17 displays the location of streams meeting these criteria in 2009; this map can be updated to reflect changes in a stream's status through the life of the plan. **WR-CA-MA- 2.** Implement the ARMS to achieve water resource objectives (Appendix D).

WR-CA-MA- 3. Mitigate the impacts of BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses on water quality to comply with Federal, State, and local water quality regulations.

WR-CA-MA- 4. Modify or suspend BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses that are a factor in not meeting water quality standards.

WR-CA-MA- 5. Where applicable, incorporate best management practices (BMPs) to maintain and improve water quality (Appendix E). Implement recommendations from state water quality plans to achieve goals and objectives (e.g., Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan).

WR-CA-MA- 6. Consider new water development projects and improvements to existing water development projects if impacts to water and riparian resources can be mitigated; see the *Livestock Grazing* section for additional guidance on water developments. See the *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* section for guidance on water developments for fire suppression activities.

WR-CA-MA- 7. Consult with the tribes and work with Federal, State, and local agencies when determining location and designs for water development projects.

WR-CA-MA- 8. Coordinate with IDWR and DEQ to identify opportunities to mitigate impacts of water management on public land resources.

2.3.5. Vegetation Communities

2.3.5.1. Upland Vegetation

The *Upland Vegetation* section outlines goals and objectives for all vegetation treatments. Management actions for restoration treatments, treatments for annual communities, and treatments for livestock are described in this section. Treatments for weeds and fuels are in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

For management and analysis purposes, the 55 vegetation communities in the planning area were grouped into five vegetation sub-groups (VSGs; see the *Upland Vegetation* section in Chapter 3); Map 9 displays VSGs present in 2008. Vegetation communities were grouped into VSGs based on the dominant vegetation and community structure as well as similarity in management objectives:

- **Annual communities** – dominated by invasive annual grasses; includes communities with and without a shrub overstory.
- **Non-native Perennial communities** – dominated by non-native perennial grasses; some also have an overstory of four-wing saltbush or rabbitbrush.
- **Non-native Understory communities** – dominated by non-native perennial grasses in the understory; have an overstory of Wyoming big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, black sagebrush, or low sage.
- **Native Grassland communities** – dominated by native grasses; do not have a shrub overstory.
- **Native Shrubland communities** – dominated by native grasses in the understory; have a shrub overstory; also includes aspen, juniper, and mountain mahogany communities which are present in small, scattered inclusions within other native shrubland communities.
- **Unvegetated areas** – include breaks, barren areas, sand dunes, and Recent Burn vegetation communities, which may be present for up to two years following a fire.

The planning area was divided into Vegetation Management Areas (VMAs) A, B, C, and D, creating west-east bands across the planning area based on potential natural community (PNC), elevation, and mean annual precipitation (Map 8).

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objectives

UV-NA-O- 1. Improve lands in poor ecological condition across all Multiple Use Areas (MUAs; Map 4). Improve lands in MUA 14 through natural plant succession and removal of livestock. Maintain lands that are in good and excellent ecological condition in MUA 10.

UV-NA-O- 2. Maintain non-native perennial communities.

Management Actions

UV-NA-MA- 1. Develop Multiple Use Activity Plans for MUAs 11, 12, and 15. The plan for MUA 11 would include grazing, wildlife, and fire management coordination, and an ad-hoc group of technical, user, and conservation interests would be set up to provide input into the plan.

UV-NA-MA- 2. Maintain non-native perennial communities for livestock as follows:

- 499 acres in MUA 4
- 75,107 acres in MUA 6
- 155,612 acres in MUA 7
- 1,866 acres in MUA 10
- 21,177 acres in MUA 11
- 23,518 acres in MUA 12
- 47,510 acres in MUA 13
- 24,159 acres in MUA 15

UV-NA-MA- 3. Implement seeding treatments for livestock as follows:

- 4,254 acres in MUA 15
- 6,300 acres in MUA 16

UV-NA-MA- 4. Implement brush control and seeding treatments for livestock as follows:

- 9,245 acres in MUA 11
- 2,000 acres in MUA 12
- 1,787 acres in MUA 13

UV-NA-MA- 5. Implement brush control treatments for livestock as follows:

- 5,000 acres in MUA 11
- 4,100 acres in MUA 12
- 7,500 acres in MUA 15
- 15,000 acres in MUA 16

UV-NA-MA- 6. Most of the sites to be treated are in poor or fair vegetative conditions and have a low potential to improve under other management practices. Most of the vegetation would be eliminated during seedbed preparation, and the site would be seeded with species adapted to the site. The final selection of the species to be seeded would depend on the planned use of the site and the management objectives for the allotment. Seed would be drilled wherever possible. The application of mulch or fertilizer would be prescribed based on site characteristics.

UV-NA-MA- 7. Implement interseeding or reseeding treatments for wildlife as follows:

- 250 acres in MUA 10
- 500 acres in MUA 11
- 500 acres in MUA 12
- 4,400 acres in MUA 13
- 3,750 acres in MUA 15

UV-NA-MA- 8. Desirable plant species would be interseeded with vegetation. A seed dribbler used with a crawler tractor, a small scalper/seeder, or range drill would be used to interseed strips. Broadcast seedings could possibly be used as well. Species to be seeded would be selected to meet management objectives developed for the allotment.

UV-NA-MA- 9. Interseeding and reseeding projects in MUAs with objectives to improve ecological condition to benefit wildlife or livestock will use shrub, forb, and grass seed mixtures that are normally found in that type of ecological zone or type.

UV-NA-MA- 10. The order of priority for vegetation treatment would be:

- Areas where unacceptable soil loss is occurring
- Areas where the livestock operator is grazing at levels below preference
- Areas where excessive annual vegetation is causing management problems or economic burdens, i.e., season of use restriction or high fire management costs
- Areas where unacceptable wildlife habitat condition exists (appropriate seed mixtures for wildlife will be used)
- Areas for overall multiple use improvement using seed mixtures for both wildlife and livestock

UV-NA-MA- 11. Burning is proposed to reduce the amount of big sagebrush and/or other brush on a site. Burning would normally be done during July to October, depending on the specific prescription written for each area, desired results, weather, and moisture conditions. Burn plans would be developed for each burn.

UV-NA-MA- 12. Reseed all areas disturbed during project construction with a mixture of grasses, forbs, and shrubs.

UV-NA-MA- 13. Rehabilitated or manipulated sites are considered to be in good condition from a watershed standpoint when at least 75% (by weight) of the sites potential for production is composed of perennial vegetation.

UV-NA-MA- 14. Chemical control of sagebrush would not be allowed.

UV-NA-MA- 15. No reference areas would be identified.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

UV-CA-G- 1. Manage upland vegetation communities to promote soil stability, water infiltration, nutrient cycling, and energy flow; provide habitat for sage-grouse and other sagebrush steppe obligates; and provide for multiple use.

Objective

See objectives for specific alternatives.

Management Actions

All VMAs

UV-CA-MA- 1. Design BLM management activities and authorized uses in consideration of plant reproductive and physiological needs with a focus on the critical growing season, as well as vegetation objectives; guidelines for specific uses are found in the appropriate sections.

UV-CA-MA- 2. Implement drought management guidelines during periods of drought to maintain or achieve long-term resource productivity (Appendix F).

UV-CA-MA- 3. Rest vegetation treatment areas from uses, including but not limited to livestock and wild horse grazing and recreational use, until treatment objectives are met and are predicted to be sustainable. This guideline would not apply to uses that do not conflict with the treatment objectives.

UV-CA-MA- 4. Assess proposed vegetation treatments in consultation with the tribes and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for their potential to affect cultural resources. Where previous inventory has been sufficient to identify vulnerable cultural resources, no inventory should be needed; however, where adequate inventory is lacking, inventory of the area as determined in consultation with the SHPO would be conducted.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

UV-I-G- 1. Manage vegetation to enhance and sustain existing and historic uses and to improve big game winter range and habitat for sage-grouse.

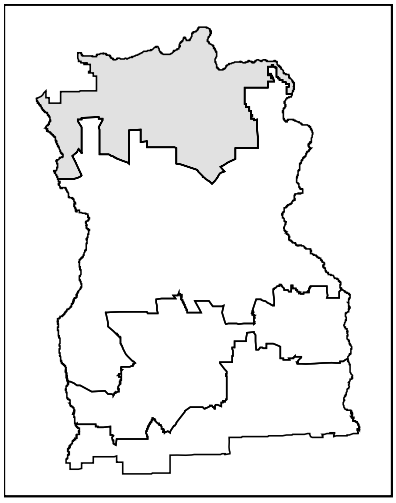
Objectives

VMA A

UV-I-O- 1. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	50,000
Non-Native Perennial Communities	97,500
Non-Native Understory Communities	5,000
Native Grassland Communities	32,500
Native Shrubland Communities	32,500
Unvegetated Areas	2,500

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



Management Actions

VMA A

UV-I-MA- 1. Treat approximately 33% of annual communities. Annual communities would be restored to native shrubland in Wildlife Tracts, the Middle Snake and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs, and the Oregon NHT protective corridor. Half of the annual communities within the Deadman-Yahoo SRMA would be treated using fire-tolerant native and non-native species.

UV-I-MA- 2. Restore approximately 5% of non-native perennial communities to native shrubland. Treatments would focus on the Wildlife Tracts and the Middle Snake and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs. Actively maintain the remainder of the non-native perennial communities for livestock grazing.

UV-I-MA- 3. Non-native understory and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for active restoration treatments.

UV-I-MA- 4. Native grassland communities will not be a focus for active restoration treatments. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

UV-I-MA- 5. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

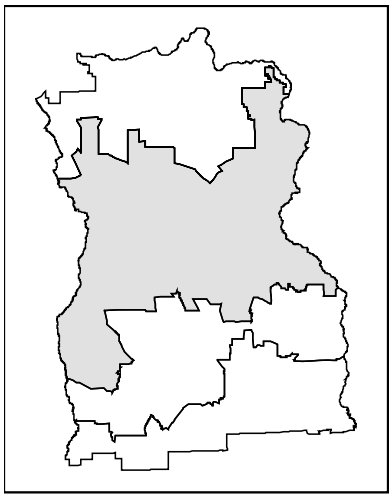
Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

VMA B

UV-I-O- 2. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	17,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	147,500
Non-Native Understory Communities	17,500
Native Grassland Communities	97,500
Native Shrubland Communities	335,000
Unvegetated Areas	15,000

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



VMA B

UV-I-MA- 6. Restore approximately 50% of annual communities to native shrubland, focusing on big game winter range and Wildlife Tracts.

UV-I-MA- 7. Restore approximately 20% of non-native perennial communities to native shrubland, focusing on big game winter range. Actively maintain the remainder of the non-native perennial communities for livestock grazing.

UV-I-MA- 8. Restore approximately 33% of non-native understory communities to native shrubland, focusing on big game winter range. The remainder of the non-native understory communities may be treated to introduce forbs to the understory.

UV-I-MA- 9. Restore approximately 50% of native grassland communities to native shrubland. Treatments would focus on big game winter range and sage-grouse habitat. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed in the remainder of the native grassland communities.

UV-I-MA- 10. Native shrubland communities may be treated to introduce forbs and late-seral grasses to the understory.

UV-I-MA- 11. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

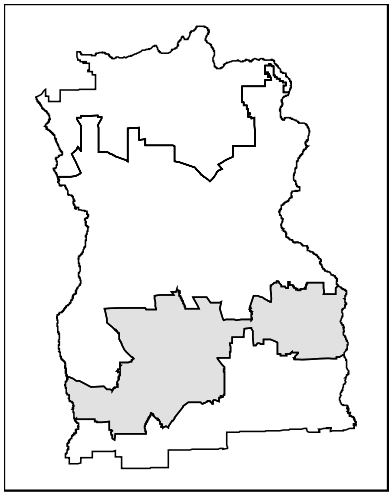
Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

VMA C

UV-I-O- 3. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	7,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	37,500
Non-Native Understory Communities	5,000
Native Grassland Communities	65,000
Native Shrubland Communities	195,000
Unvegetated Areas	2,500

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500



VMA C

UV-I-MA- 12. Treatment of annual communities within this VMA would be limited due to the location of these areas at canyon bottoms and within WSAs. Localized treatments may be used when necessary.

UV-I-MA- 13. Restore approximately 33% of non-native perennial communities to native shrubland, focusing on big game winter range, sage-grouse habitat, and the Canyonlands and Jarbidge Foothills SRMAs. Actively maintain the remaining non-native perennial communities for livestock grazing.

UV-I-MA- 14. Restore approximately 75% of non-native understory communities to native shrubland, focusing on big game winter range, sage-grouse habitat, and the Canyonlands and Jarbidge Foothills SRMAs.

UV-I-MA- 15. Restore approximately 50% of native grassland communities to native shrubland, focusing on big game winter range and connecting native shrubland communities. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

UV-I-MA- 16. Native shrubland communities may be treated to introduce forbs and late-seral grasses to the understory.

UV-I-MA- 17. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

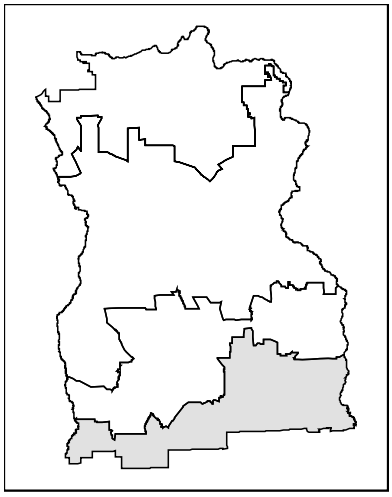
Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

VMA D

UV-I-O- 4. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	2,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	15,000
Non-Native Understory Communities	12,500
Native Grassland Communities	17,500
Native Shrubland Communities	152,500
Unvegetated Areas	10,000

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



VMA D

UV-I-MA- 18. Treat approximately 50% of annual communities to move toward non-native perennial; treatments would focus on species that provide wildlife food and cover (e.g., four-wing saltbush, alfalfa, winterfat).

UV-I-MA- 19. Actively maintain non-native perennial communities for livestock grazing. Up to 50% of non-native perennial communities may be seeded with species that provide wildlife food and cover (e.g., four-wing saltbush, alfalfa, winterfat).

UV-I-MA- 20. Non-native understory communities would not be a focus for active restoration treatments.

UV-I-MA- 21. Restore approximately 67% of native grassland communities to native shrubland; treatments would include primarily native species that provide wildlife food and cover (e.g., bitterbrush, chokecherry, winterfat); approximately 10% of native grassland communities would be treated with non-native species that provide wildlife food and cover, primarily around similarly treated annual communities. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

UV-I-MA- 22. Native shrubland communities may be treated to introduce forbs and late-seral grasses to the understory.

UV-I-MA- 23. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

All VMAs

UV-I-MA- 24. The first priority for implementing vegetation treatments would be treatments identified for VMA C to improve habitat for mule deer and sage-grouse; the second priority would be treatments identified for VMA A to move toward perennial vegetation. Opportunities for treatments outside these priority areas would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

UV-I-MA- 25. Focus restoration treatments identified for each VMA on habitat for sage-grouse, other special status species, and mule deer.

UV-I-MA- 26. The toolbox to restore or treat upland vegetation communities would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting; and
- Targeted grazing.

Prescribed fire would not be allowed. See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

UV-I-MA- 27. Upland vegetation treatments may use native species, including cultivars of native species, and non-native species, consistent with management actions to achieve vegetation objectives. Native species would be used in vegetation treatments when practical, with special emphasis on species of importance to the tribes. However, desirable non-native species may be used on harsh or degraded sites, when native seed is not available, or where they would structurally mimic the natural plant community and prevent soil loss and invasion by noxious weeds and invasive plants. The non-native species used would be those that have the highest probability of establishment on these sites. These "placeholders" would maintain the area for potential future native restoration. Native seed would be used more frequently and at larger scales as species adapted to local areas become more available.

UV-I-MA- 28. Create 75 ungrazed reference areas (12,000 acres) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities (Map 11). Each reference area would be approximately 160 acres and would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

UV-I-MA- 29. Reseed all areas disturbed during project construction, maintenance, or removal with a mixture of grasses, forbs, or shrubs appropriate to surrounding vegetation.

UV-I-MA- 30. Assess biological soil crusts in native grassland and shrubland communities and manage them to move toward site potential by modifying levels and timing of BLM management activities and authorized uses during periods when soil crusts are most vulnerable to damage.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

UV-II-G- 1. Manage vegetation to increase commercial uses while maintaining native plant communities and habitat for sage-grouse.

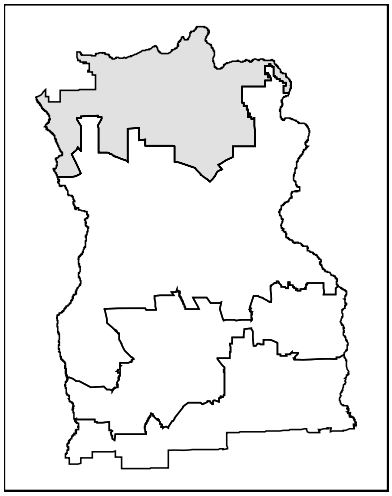
Objectives

VMA A

UV-II-O- 1. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	30,000
Non-Native Perennial Communities	140,000
Non-Native Understory Communities	5,000
Native Grassland Communities	25,000
Native Shrubland Communities	17,500
Unvegetated Areas	2,500

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



Management Actions

VMA A

UV-II-MA- 1. Treat approximately 60% of annual plant communities to move toward non-native perennial communities, with an emphasis on using fire-tolerant species that provide forage for livestock.

UV-II-MA- 2. Actively maintain non-native perennial plant communities for livestock grazing.

UV-II-MA- 3. Non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for active restoration treatments.

UV-II-MA- 4. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

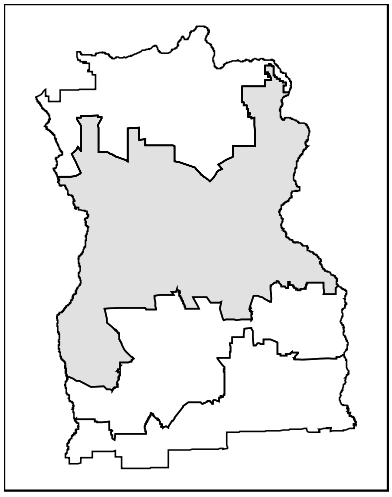
Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

VMA B

UV-II-O- 2. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	7,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	220,000
Non-Native Understory Communities	17,500
Native Grassland Communities	195,000
Native Shrubland Communities	175,000
Unvegetated Areas	15,000

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



VMA B

UV-II-MA- 5. Treat approximately 75% of annual communities to move toward non-native perennial communities, focusing on areas adjacent to non-native perennial communities.

UV-II-MA- 6. Actively maintain non-native perennial plant communities for livestock grazing.

UV-II-MA- 7. Treat approximately 33% of non-native understory communities to move toward non-native perennial communities, focusing on pastures where non-native perennial communities predominate.

UV-II-MA- 8. Native grassland communities may be treated to increase late-seral grasses. Native grassland areas that have been seeded with shrubs would be allowed to transition to native shrubland, and shrubs would continue to be allowed in ES&BAR seedings. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

UV-II-MA- 9. Native shrubland communities may be treated to increase late-seral grasses. Shrubs would continue to be allowed in ES&BAR seedings.

UV-II-MA- 10. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

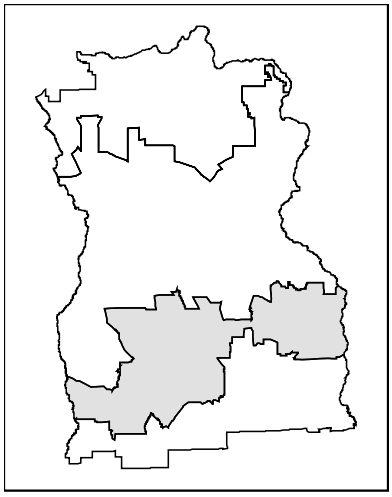
Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

VMA C

UV-II-O- 3. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	7,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	67,500
Non-Native Understory Communities	10,000
Native Grassland Communities	132,500
Native Shrubland Communities	92,500
Unvegetated Areas	2,500

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



VMA C

UV-II-MA- 11. Treatment of annual communities within this VMA would be limited due to the location of these areas at canyon bottoms and within WSAs. Localized treatments may be used when necessary.

UV-II-MA- 12. Actively maintain non-native perennial plant communities for livestock grazing.

UV-II-MA- 13. Treat approximately 50% of non-native understory communities to move toward non-native perennial communities, focusing on pastures where non-native perennial communities predominate.

UV-II-MA- 14. Native grassland communities may be treated to increase late-seral grasses. Native grassland areas that have been seeded with shrubs would be allowed to transition to native shrubland, and shrubs would continue to be allowed in ES&BAR seedings. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

UV-II-MA- 15. Native shrubland communities may be treated to increase late-seral grasses. Shrubs would continue to be allowed in ES&BAR seedings.

UV-II-MA- 16. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

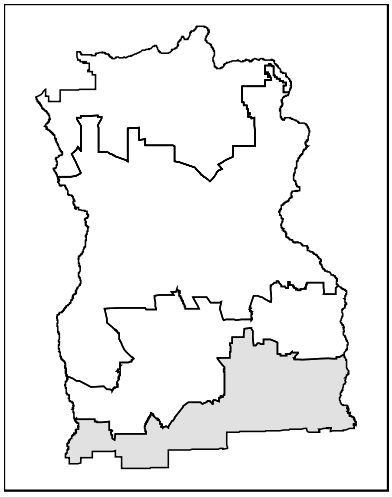
Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

VMA D

UV-II-O- 4. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	2,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	20,000
Non-Native Understory Communities	0
Native Grassland Communities	72,500
Native Shrubland Communities	105,000
Unvegetated Areas	10,000

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



VMA D

UV-II-MA- 17. Treat approximately 50% of annual communities to move toward non-native perennial communities, focusing on Taylor Pocket and annual areas near China Creek.

UV-II-MA- 18. Actively maintain non-native perennial plant communities for livestock grazing.

UV-II-MA- 19. Actively maintain non-native understory communities for livestock grazing by removing shrubs.

UV-II-MA- 20. Native grassland communities may be treated to increase late-seral grasses. Native grassland areas that have been seeded with shrubs would be allowed to transition to native shrubland, and shrubs would continue to be allowed in ES&BAR seedings. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

UV-II-MA- 21. Native shrubland communities may be treated to increase late-seral grasses. Shrubs would continue to be allowed in ES&BAR seedings.

UV-II-MA- 22. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

All VMAs

UV-II-MA- 23. The first priority for implementing vegetation treatments would be treatments identified for VMA A to increase perennial forage for livestock; the second priority would be treatments identified for VMA B to increase forage for livestock. Opportunities for treatments outside these priority areas would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

UV-II-MA- 24. Focus restoration treatments identified for each VMA on habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.

UV-II-MA- 25. The toolbox to restore or treat upland vegetation communities would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Targeted grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

Prescribed fire would not be allowed in native grassland or native shrubland communities. See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

UV-II-MA- 26. Use primarily non-native species in upland vegetation treatments, consistent with management actions to achieve vegetation objectives; fire tolerant species would also be used, primarily in annual communities.

UV-II-MA- 27. Create 52 ungrazed reference areas (2,000 acres) in native grassland and native shrubland communities, as well as non-native perennial communities that have burned multiple times in the last 20 years (Map 12). Each reference area would be approximately 40 acres and would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

UV-II-MA- 28. Reseed all areas disturbed during project construction, maintenance, or removal with grasses.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

UV-III-G- 1. Manage vegetation to reduce fire size and intensity while maintaining habitat for sage-grouse.

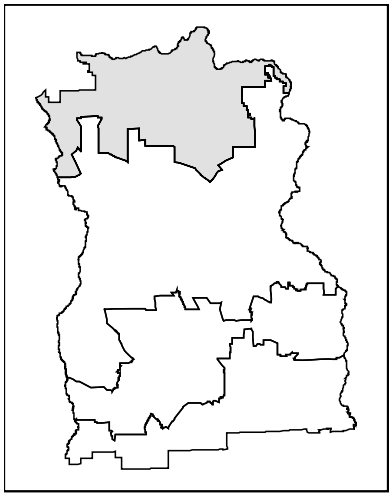
Objective

VMA A

UV-III-O- 1. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	37,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	130,000
Non-Native Understory Communities	5,000
Native Grassland Communities	25,000
Native Shrubland Communities	17,500
Unvegetated Areas	5,000

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



Management Actions

VMA A

UV-III-MA- 1. Treat at least 45% of annual communities with fire-tolerant, non-native perennial species between fuel breaks to reduce the fine fuel load.

UV-III-MA- 2. Non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for vegetation treatments outside treatments discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

UV-III-MA- 3. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

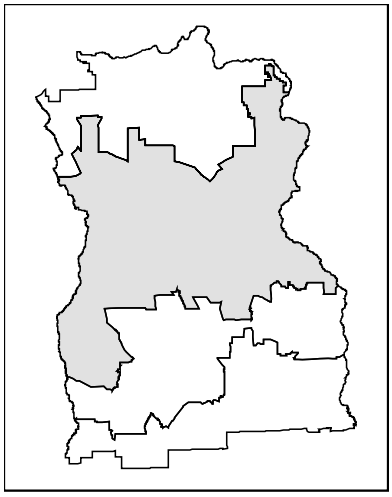
Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

VMA B

UV-III-O- 2. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	10,000
Non-Native Perennial Communities	215,000
Non-Native Understory Communities	25,000
Native Grassland Communities	90,000
Native Shrubland Communities	270,000
Unvegetated Areas	20,000

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



VMA B

UV-III-MA- 4. Treat approximately 75% of annual communities with fire-tolerant non-native perennial species, focusing on areas adjacent to non-native perennial communities.

UV-III-MA- 5. Non-native perennial, non-native understory, and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for vegetation treatments outside treatments discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

UV-III-MA- 6. Treat approximately 50% of native grassland communities to incorporate a shrub component to break up the continuity of grassland fuels.

UV-III-MA- 7. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

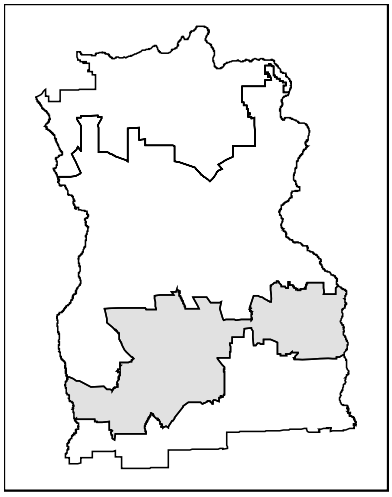
Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

VMA C

UV-III-O- 3. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	7,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	60,000
Non-Native Understory Communities	22,500
Native Grassland Communities	60,000
Native Shrubland Communities	157,500
Unvegetated Areas	5,000

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



VMA C

UV-III-MA- 8. Treatment of annual communities within this VMA would be limited due to the location of these areas at canyon bottoms and within WSAs. Localized treatments may be used when necessary.

UV-III-MA- 9. Non-native perennial, non-native understory, and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for vegetation treatments outside treatments discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

UV-III-MA- 10. Treat approximately 50% of native grassland communities to incorporate a shrub component to break up the continuity of grassland fuels.

UV-III-MA- 11. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

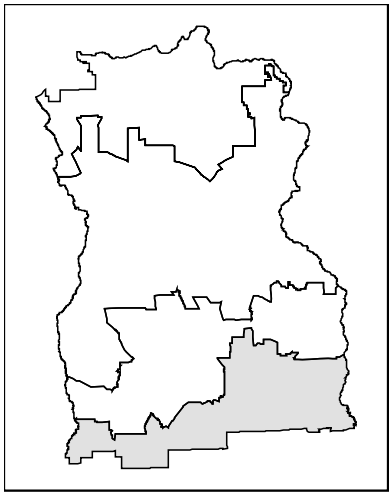
Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

VMA D

UV-III-O- 4. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	2,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	7,500
Non-Native Understory Communities	10,000
Native Grassland Communities	55,000
Native Shrubland Communities	125,000
Unvegetated Areas	10,000

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



VMA D

UV-III-MA- 12. Restore approximately 75% of annual communities to native grassland using fire-tolerant native species.

UV-III-MA- 13. Non-native perennial, non-native understory, and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for vegetation treatments outside treatments discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

UV-III-MA- 14. Treat approximately 30% of native grassland communities to incorporate a shrub component to break up the continuity of grassland fuels.

UV-III-MA- 15. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

All VMAs

UV-III-MA- 16. The first priority for implementing vegetation treatments would be treatments identified for VMA A to help lengthen the fire return interval; the second priority would be treatments identified for VMA D to protect native shrubland communities. Opportunities for treatments outside these priority areas would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

UV-III-MA- 17. Focus vegetation treatments identified for each VMA on protecting or restoring habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.

UV-III-MA- 18. The toolbox to restore or treat upland vegetation communities would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Targeted grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

UV-III-MA- 19. Fire-tolerant and fire-resistant species would have high priority for upland vegetation treatments. Treatments may also use other native species, including cultivars of native species, and non-native species, consistent with management actions to achieve vegetation objectives.

UV-III-MA- 20. Create 75 ungrazed reference areas (3,000 acres) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities (Map 13). Each reference area would be approximately 40 acres and would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

UV-III-MA- 21. Treat all areas disturbed during project construction, maintenance, or removal as appropriate to reduce wildland fire size and intensity.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

UV-IV-G- 1. Manage vegetation to restore the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function and reduce fragmentation of habitat for sage-grouse and other native species.

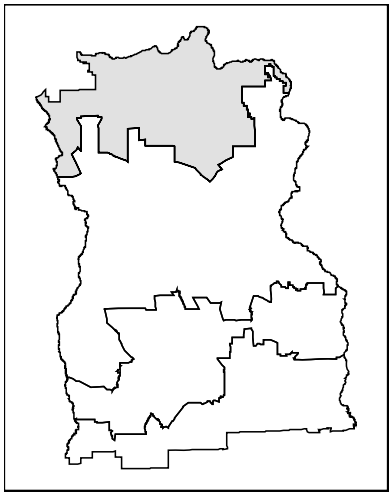
Objective

VMA A

UV-IV-O- 1. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	30,000
Non-Native Perennial Communities	87,500
Non-Native Understory Communities	5,000
Native Grassland Communities	12,500
Native Shrubland Communities	82,500
Unvegetated Areas	2,500

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



Management Actions

VMA A

UV-IV-MA- 1. Treat approximately 60% of annual plant communities. Areas along the Snake River to the top of the canyon rim, drainages into the Snake River, and areas that would help connect native grassland and shrubland communities would be restored to native shrubland. Areas adjacent to non-native perennial communities would be treated using non-native species.

UV-IV-MA- 2. Restore approximately 25% of non-native perennial plant communities to native shrubland. Treatments would focus on connecting native grassland and shrubland communities in the Saylor Creek Herd Management Area (HMA) and in the eastern portion of the VMA. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed in the remainder of the non-native perennial communities.

UV-IV-MA- 3. Non-native understory communities would not be a focus for active restoration treatments to native shrubland. Treatments in these areas would focus on introducing forbs to the understory.

UV-IV-MA- 4. Restore approximately 50% of native grassland communities to native shrubland. Treatments would focus on areas adjacent to native shrubland communities. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

UV-IV-MA- 5. Native shrubland communities may be treated to introduce forbs and late-seral grasses to the understory. Forb species could include both native and non-native species.

UV-IV-MA- 6. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

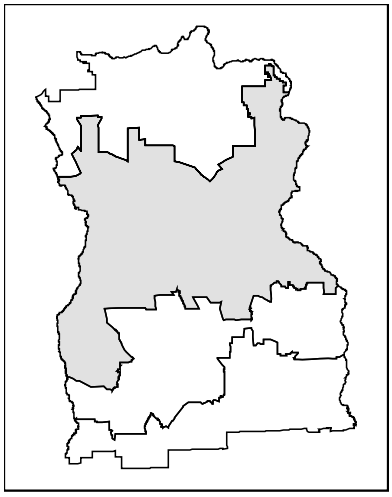
Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

VMA B

UV-IV-O- 2. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	7,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	65,000
Non-Native Understory Communities	72,500
Native Grassland Communities	97,500
Native Shrubland Communities	372,500
Unvegetated Areas	15,000

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



VMA B

UV-IV-MA- 7. Treat approximately 75% of annual communities. Areas adjacent to native grassland and shrubland communities would be restored to native shrubland; areas adjacent to non-native perennial communities would be treated with non-native species.

UV-IV-MA- 8. Restore approximately 40% of non-native perennial communities to native shrubland, focusing on the Inside Desert ACEC and areas in the central and eastern portion of the VMA adjacent to native communities. Introduce shrubs into approximately 30% of non-native perennial communities, focusing on areas adjacent to native communities. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed in the remainder of the non-native perennial communities.

UV-IV-MA- 9. Restore approximately 33% of non-native understory communities to native shrubland, focusing on areas adjacent to native communities. The remainder of the non-native understory communities may be treated to introduce forbs to the understory.

UV-IV-MA- 10. Restore approximately 50% of native grassland communities to native shrubland. Treatments would focus on areas that would expand or connect native shrubland communities. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

UV-IV-MA- 11. Native shrubland communities may be treated to introduce forbs and late-seral grasses to the understory.

UV-IV-MA- 12. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

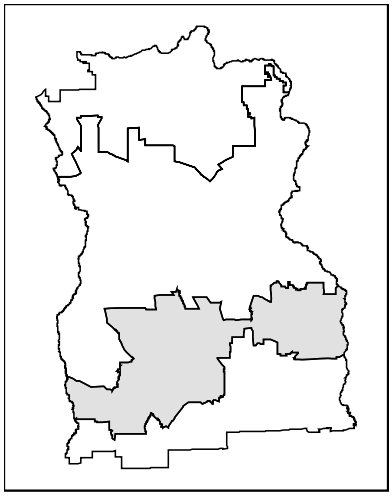
Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

VMA C

UV-IV-O- 3. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	7,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	0
Non-Native Understory Communities	50,000
Native Grassland Communities	32,500
Native Shrubland Communities	220,000
Unvegetated Areas	2,500

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



VMA C

UV-IV-MA- 13. Treatment of annual communities within this VMA would be limited due to the location of these areas at canyon bottoms and within WSAs. Localized treatments may be used when necessary.

UV-IV-MA- 14. Restore approximately 50% of non-native perennial communities to native shrubland, focusing on ACECs and islands within native communities. Treat the remaining non-native perennial communities to introduce shrubs; natural succession of shrubs would also be allowed in non-native perennial communities.

UV-IV-MA- 15. Restore approximately 5% of non-native understory communities to native shrubland, focusing on areas adjacent to native communities. The remainder of the non-native understory communities may be treated to introduce forbs to the understory.

UV-IV-MA- 16. Restore approximately 75% of native grassland communities to native shrubland. Treatments would focus on areas that would expand or connect native shrubland communities. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

UV-IV-MA- 17. Native shrubland communities may be treated to introduce forbs and late-seral grasses to the understory.

UV-IV-MA- 18. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

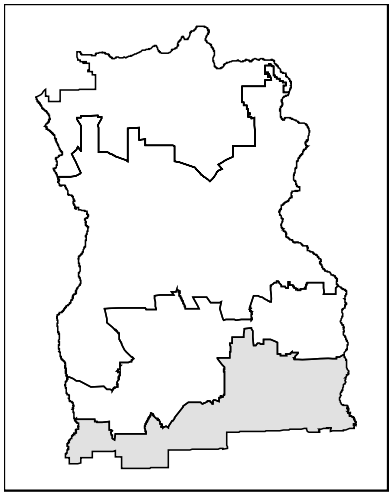
Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

VMA D

UV-IV-O- 4. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	2,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	0
Non-Native Understory Communities	5,000
Native Grassland Communities	7,500
Native Shrubland Communities	185,000
Unvegetated Areas	10,000

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



VMA D

UV-IV-MA- 19. Restore approximately 50% of annual communities native shrubland, focusing on Taylor Pocket and annual areas near China Creek.

UV-IV-MA- 20. Restore approximately 75% of non-native perennial communities to native shrubland; treatment would focus on areas adjacent to native shrubland communities. The remaining non-native perennial communities would be treated to introduce shrubs; natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout non-native perennial communities.

UV-IV-MA- 21. Restore approximately 67% of non-native understory communities to native shrubland, focusing on areas adjacent to native shrubland communities. The remainder of the non-native understory communities may be treated to introduce forbs to the understory.

UV-IV-MA- 22. Restore approximately 90% of native grassland communities to native shrubland.

UV-IV-MA- 23. Native shrubland communities may be treated to introduce forbs and late-seral grasses to the understory.

UV-IV-MA- 24. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

All VMAs

UV-IV-MA- 25. The first priority for implementing vegetation treatments would be treatments identified for VMA D to improve sage-grouse habitat; the second priority would be treatments identified for VMA C to reconnect and expand habitat for sage-grouse. Opportunities for treatments outside these priority areas would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

UV-IV-MA- 26. Focus restoration treatments identified for each VMA on habitat for sage-grouse, other special status species, mule deer, and pronghorn.

UV-IV-MA- 27. The toolbox to restore or treat upland vegetation communities would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Targeted grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

UV-IV-MA- 28. Upland vegetation treatments may use native species, including cultivars of native species, and non-native species, consistent with management actions to achieve vegetation objectives. Native species would be used in vegetation treatments when practical, with special emphasis on species of importance to the tribes. Desirable non-native species may be used on harsh or degraded sites, when native seed is not available, or where they would structurally mimic the natural plant community and prevent soil loss and invasion by noxious weeds and invasive plants. The non-native species used would be those that have the highest probability of establishment on these sites. These "placeholders" would maintain the area for potential future native restoration. Native seed would be used more frequently and at larger scales as species adapted to local areas become more available.

UV-IV-MA- 29. Create 75 ungrazed reference areas (12,000 acres) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities (Map 11). Each reference area would be approximately 160 acres and would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

UV-IV-MA- 30. Reseed all areas disturbed during project construction, maintenance, or removal with a mixture of native grasses, forbs, or shrubs that are appropriate to the ecological site.

UV-IV-MA- 31. Assess biological soil crusts and manage them to move toward site potential by modifying levels and timing of BLM management activities and authorized uses during periods when soil crusts are most vulnerable to damage.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

UV-V-G- 1. Manage vegetation to move toward historic vegetation communities by sustaining, improving, or increasing native plant communities that provide habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.

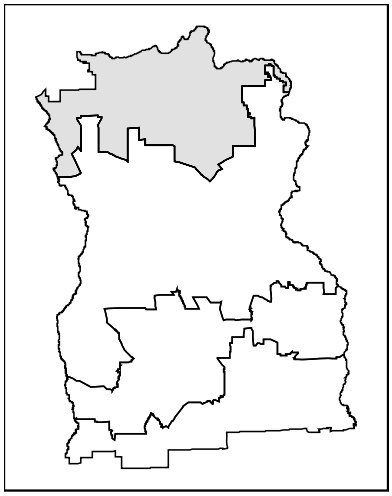
Objectives

VMA A

UV-V-O- 1. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	55,000
Non-Native Perennial Communities	72,500
Non-Native Understory Communities	30,000
Native Grassland Communities	25,000
Native Shrubland Communities	35,000
Unvegetated Areas	2,500

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



Management Actions

VMA A

UV-V-MA- 1. Restore approximately 25% of annual communities to native shrubland. Treatments would focus on areas occupied by special status plants, the Middle Snake and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs, the Oregon NHT protective corridor, and areas adjacent to native grassland and shrubland.

UV-V-MA- 2. Treat approximately 25% of non-native perennial communities to introduce shrubs. Treatments would focus on the Middle Snake and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs, the Oregon NHT protective corridor, and areas adjacent to native grassland and shrubland. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout non-native perennial communities.

UV-V-MA- 3. Non-native understory, native grassland communities, and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for active restoration treatments. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

UV-V-MA- 4. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

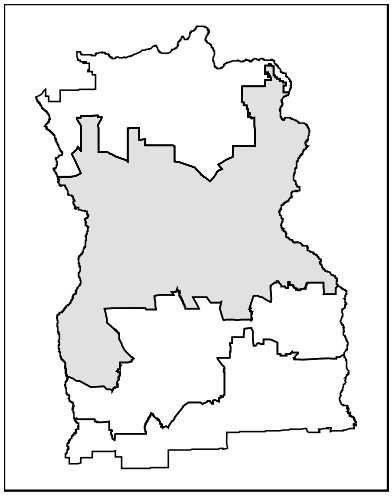
Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

VMA B

UV-V-O- 2. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	17,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	60,000
Non-Native Understory Communities	150,000
Native Grassland Communities	130,000
Native Shrubland Communities	257,500
Unvegetated Areas	15,000

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



VMA B

UV-V-MA- 5. Restore approximately 50% of annual communities to native shrubland, focusing on the Sagebrush Sea ACEC.

UV-V-MA- 6. Treat approximately 67% of the non-native perennial communities to introduce shrubs, focusing on the Sagebrush Sea ACEC. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout non-native perennial communities.

UV-V-MA- 7. Restore approximately 33% of native grassland communities to native shrubland, focusing on the Sagebrush Sea ACEC. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

UV-V-MA- 8. Non-native understory and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for active restoration treatments.

UV-V-MA- 9. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

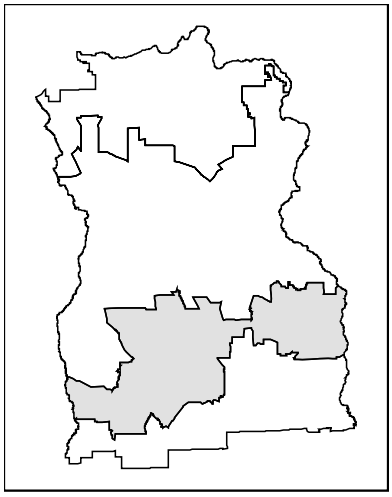
Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

VMA C

UV-V-O- 3. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	7,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	17,500
Non-Native Understory Communities	62,500
Native Grassland Communities	65,000
Native Shrubland Communities	157,500
Unvegetated Areas	2,500

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



VMA C

UV-V-MA- 10. Treatment of annual communities within this VMA would be limited due to the location of these areas at canyon bottoms and within WSAs. Localized treatments may be used when necessary.

UV-V-MA- 11. Treat approximately 70% of non-native perennial communities to introduce shrubs, focusing on sage-grouse, bighorn sheep, and slickspot peppergrass habitat. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout non-native perennial communities.

UV-V-MA- 12. Restore approximately 50% of native grassland communities to native shrubland. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

UV-V-MA- 13. Non-native understory and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for active restoration treatments.

UV-V-MA- 14. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

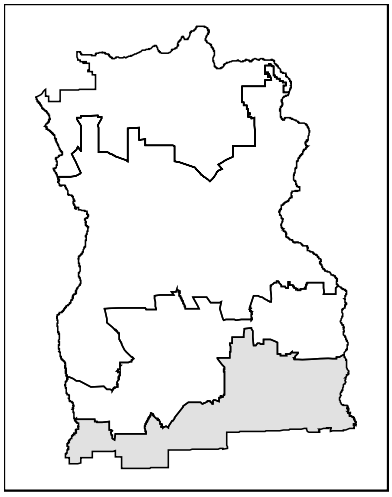
Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

VMA D

UV-V-O- 4. Manage vegetation to achieve the VSG acres (+/- 5%) described below:

VSG	Number of Acres[A]
Annual Communities	2,500
Non-Native Perennial Communities	2,500
Non-Native Understory Communities	15,000
Native Grassland Communities	25,000
Native Shrubland Communities	155,000
Unvegetated Areas	10,000

[A] Acres are rounded to the nearest 2,500.



VMA D

UV-V-MA- 15. Restore approximately 50% of annual communities to native shrubland, focusing on Taylor Pocket and annual areas near China Creek.

UV-V-MA- 16. Treat approximately 75% of non-native perennial communities to introduce shrubs; treatment would focus on areas adjacent to native shrubland communities. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout non-native perennial communities.

UV-V-MA- 17. Restore approximately 67% of native grassland communities to native shrubland, focusing on areas that have been seeded with shrubs previously. Natural succession of shrubs would be allowed throughout native grassland communities.

UV-V-MA- 18. Non-native understory and native shrubland communities would not be a focus for active restoration treatments.

UV-V-MA- 19. Unvegetated areas would not be a focus for vegetation treatments.

Additional vegetation treatments are discussed in the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

All VMAs

UV-V-MA- 20. The first priority for implementing vegetation treatments would be treatments identified for VMA A to move toward native perennial vegetation; the second priority would be treatments identified for VMA C to reconnect and expand habitat for sage-grouse. Opportunities for treatments outside these priority areas would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

UV-V-MA- 21. Focus restoration treatments identified for each VMA on habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.

UV-V-MA- 22. The toolbox to restore or treat upland vegetation communities would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Removal of grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

Chemical treatments could only be used after all other methods have been exhausted. Targeted grazing would not be allowed.

UV-V-MA- 23. Limit treatments in non-native perennial communities to methods with minimal soil disturbance, including but not limited to:

- Broadcast seeding,
- Chaining, and
- Harrowing.

UV-V-MA- 24. Use only native species or cultivars of native species in upland vegetation treatments.

UV-V-MA- 25. Create 40 ungrazed reference areas (193,000 acres) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities (Map 14). Each reference area would consist of an entire pasture and would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

UV-V-MA- 26. Reseed all areas disturbed during project construction, maintenance, or removal with a mixture of native grasses, forbs, or shrubs that are appropriate to the ecological site.

UV-V-MA- 27. Assess biological soil crusts and manage them to move toward site potential by modifying levels and timing of BLM management activities and authorized uses during periods when soil crusts are most vulnerable to damage.

2.3.5.2. Riparian Areas and Wetlands

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective

RI-NA-O- 1. Maintain 1987 condition of riparian habitat in MUAs 4, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 16; improve 44.4 miles of riparian habitat in MUAs 10, 11, 14, and 15 (Map 4).

Management Actions

RI-NA-MA- 1. Management activities in riparian zones would be designed to maintain or improve riparian habitat condition.

RI-NA-MA- 2. Riparian and wetland habitat would have a high priority for protection and improvement in accordance with national policy. Manage watersheds to maintain or improve stream channel stability and overall watershed conditions.

RI-NA-MA- 3. In those areas where fish/riparian values are identified as high priority, all other management practices would be designed to accommodate those priority needs.

RI-NA-MA- 4. Follow the guidelines outlined in the BMP manual of management and protection of western stream ecosystems (American Fisheries Society, 1982) in all activities including maintenance of roads, and other facilities.

RI-NA-MA- 5. Install gap fencing in MUAs 10, 11, 12, 14, 15.

RI-NA-MA- 6. In those instances where management systems alone cannot meet objectives for fisheries, riparian areas, or water availability, provisions for fencing or other means of exclusion would be utilized.

RI-NA-MA- 7. Monitor and implement periodic rest or nonuse when these stream systems do not show signs of adequate recovery.

RI-NA-MA- 8. Avoid construction activities that remove or destroy riparian vegetation and instream fish cover.

RI-NA-MA- 9. Provide a riparian buffer zone of sufficient width (100 to 300 feet minimum) to protect riparian vegetation, fisheries, and water quality as determined by an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists, which includes fisheries and wildlife specialists. Within the riparian buffer zone:

- Limit new road construction that parallels streams (use BMPs when construction cannot be avoided).
- Maintain full fire suppression.
- Generally exclude spraying of herbicides and pesticides.
- Generally exclude gravel extraction.

RI-NA-MA- 10. Utilize a 1,000 foot (500 feet for each side) riparian buffer zone for the total exclusion of the following activities:

- Oil and gas occupancy and/or surface disturbance.
- Introduction of chemical toxicants as a result of construction, mining, or agriculture.

RI-NA-MA- 11. Management actions within floodplains and wetlands would include measures to preserve, protect, and, if necessary, restore their natural functions.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

RI-CA-G- 1. Provide healthy, functioning watersheds, riparian areas, and associated aquatic habitats.

Objective

See objectives for specific alternatives.

Management Actions

RI-CA-MA- 1. Create Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) around riparian areas and wetlands that contain or are tributaries to streams that contain special status species or their habitat to protect riparian vegetation, fisheries, and water quality. RCA widths would be as follows:

- **Category 1** – Fish-bearing streams: The RCA consists of the stream and the area on either side of the stream. This area extends from the edges of the active channel to the top of the inner gorge, to the outer edges of the 100-year floodplain, to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation, or 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel), whichever is greatest.
- **Category 2** – Permanently flowing non-fish-bearing streams: The RCA consists of the stream and the area on either side of the stream. This area extends from the edges of the active channel to the top of the inner gorge, to the outer edges of the 100-year floodplain, to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation, or 150 feet slope distance (300 feet, including both sides of the stream channel), whichever is greatest.
- **Category 3** – Ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands greater than 1 acre: The RCA consists of the body of water or wetland and the area to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation, to the extent of the seasonally saturated soil, or 150 feet slope distance from the edge of the maximum pool elevation of constructed ponds and reservoirs, or from the edge of the wetland, pond, or lake, whichever is greatest.
- **Category 4** – Seasonally flowing or intermittent streams, wetlands less than 1 acre, landslides, and landslide-prone areas: This category includes features with high variability in size and site-specific characteristics. The RCA includes the intermittent stream channel and the area to the top of the inner gorge, the intermittent stream channel or wetland and the area to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation, the area from the edges of the stream channel, wetland, or slide /landslide prone area, or 50 feet slope distance, whichever is greatest.

Activities can occur within RCAs with proper stipulations or mitigation, but must follow guidelines in the ARMS.

RI-CA-MA- 2. Implement the ARMS (Appendix D) to achieve riparian management objectives within RCAs and other riparian areas and wetlands. Use the ARMS to develop and apply site-specific objectives and management guidelines for riparian areas and wetlands through implementation of activity plans. Use adaptive management as outlined in the ARMS to reduce impacts on riparian areas and wetlands from uses and activities.

RI-CA-MA- 3. Riparian management priorities would include the following:

- **Priority 1 streams** – Streams rated as functioning-at-risk (FAR) or FAR with a downward trend (FAR-DN; 77 miles); management emphasis for Priority 1 streams would be on restoration.
- **Priority 2 streams** – Streams rated as FAR with an upward trend (FAR-UP) or non-functioning (NF; 63 miles); management emphasis for Priority 2 streams would be on restoration.
- **Priority 3 streams** – Streams rated at PFC (85 miles); management emphasis for Priority 3 streams would be on maintaining proper function.

See management specific to Alternatives I through V for more detailed management priorities.

RI-CA-MA- 4. Assess condition of wetlands associated with ponds and springs.

RI-CA-MA- 5. Survey aquatic habitat (instream and riparian) and maintain updated aquatic habitat inventories.

RI-CA-MA- 6. Consider authorizing activities or facilities where long-term benefits outweigh short-term impacts to riparian vegetation and fish habitat.

RI-CA-MA- 7. Identify and remove nonessential human-made structures and objects that adversely impact the function of floodplains (e.g., unused bridge abutments, unused diversions, abandoned cars).

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

RI-I-O- 1. Maintain 85 miles of Priority 3 streams at PFC; improve 60 miles of Priority 1 streams to achieve PFC; and improve the remaining 17 miles of Priority 1 streams and 63 miles of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC in the life of the plan.

RI-I-O- 2. Manage wetlands to move toward PFC.

Management Actions

RI-I-MA- 1. Within the priorities identified in the ARMS (Appendix D), stream reaches with game fish or habitat suitable for game fish would be a high priority for restoration.

RI-I-MA- 2. The toolbox for restoration of stream reaches would include, but not be limited to:

- Road closures,
- Culvert replacements,
- Closing pastures,
- Exclosure fencing,
- Modification or removal of water developments,
- Replanting of riparian areas,
- Active herding,
- Reintroduction of beaver,
- Erosion control measures,
- Riparian pastures,
- Instream fish habitat improvements, and
- Modification or elimination of land uses that prevent attainment of aquatic and riparian management objectives.

RI-I-MA- 3. Conduct multiple indicator surveys on riparian areas according to BLM policy.

RI-I-MA- 4. Create 10 ungrazed riparian reference areas (3,000 acres; Map 11). Each reference area would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

RI-II-O- 1. Maintain 85 miles of Priority 3 streams at PFC and improve the Priority 1 and 2 streams to be moving toward PFC in the life of the plan.

RI-II-O- 2. Manage wetlands to move toward PFC.

Management Actions

RI-II-MA- 1. Within the priorities identified in the ARMS (Appendix D), fish-bearing stream reaches, including reaches containing game and non-game fish, would be a high priority for restoration, according to the ARMS.

RI-II-MA- 2. The toolbox for restoration of stream reaches would include, but not be limited to:

- Road closures,
- Culvert replacements,
- Exclosure fencing,
- Modification of water developments,
- Replanting of riparian areas,
- Active herding,
- Erosion control measures,
- Riparian pastures,
- Instream fish habitat improvements, and
- Modification or elimination of land uses that prevent attainment of aquatic and riparian management objectives.

The toolbox would not include:

- Closing pastures,
- Removal of water developments, or
- Reintroduction of beaver.

RI-II-MA- 3. Conduct multiple indicator surveys on riparian areas according to BLM policy.

RI-II-MA- 4. Create 10 ungrazed riparian reference areas (1,000 acres; Map 12). Each reference area would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

RI-III-O- 1. Maintain 85 miles of Priority 3 streams at PFC; improve 77 miles of Priority 1 streams and 21 miles of Priority 2 streams to achieve PFC; and improve the remaining 42 miles of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC in the life of the plan.

RI-III-O- 2. Manage wetlands to move toward PFC.

Management Actions

RI-III-MA- 1. Within the priorities identified in the ARMS (Appendix D), stream reaches/riparian areas with the potential to serve as fire breaks would be a high priority for restoration.

RI-III-MA- 2. The toolbox for restoration of stream reaches would include, but not be limited to:

- Culvert replacements,
- Closing pastures,
- Exclosure fencing,
- Modification of water developments,
- Replanting of riparian areas,
- Active herding,
- Reintroduction of beaver,
- Erosion control measures,
- Riparian pastures,
- Instream fish habitat improvements, and
- Modification or elimination of land uses that prevent attainment of aquatic and riparian management objectives.

The toolbox would not include:

- Removal of water developments, or
- Road closures.

RI-III-MA- 3. Conduct multiple indicator surveys on riparian areas according to BLM policy.

RI-III-MA- 4. Create 10 ungrazed riparian reference areas (1,000 acres; Map 13). Each reference area would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

RI-IV-O- 1. Maintain 85 miles of Priority 3 streams at PFC; improve 77 miles of Priority 1 streams and 21 miles of Priority 2 streams to achieve PFC; and improve the remaining 42 miles of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC in the life of the plan.

RI-IV-O- 2. Manage wetlands to move toward PFC.

Management Actions

RI-IV-MA- 1. Within the priorities identified in the ARMS (Appendix D), stream reaches containing special status species or their habitat would be a high priority for restoration.

RI-IV-MA- 2. The toolbox for restoration of stream reaches would include, but not be limited to:

- Road closures,
- Culvert replacements,
- Closing pastures,
- Exclosure fencing,
- Modification or removal of water developments,
- Replanting of riparian areas,
- Active herding,
- Reintroduction of beaver,
- Erosion control measures,
- Riparian pastures,
- Instream fish habitat improvements, and
- Modification or elimination of land uses that prevent attainment of aquatic and riparian management objectives.

RI-IV-MA- 3. Conduct multiple indicator surveys on riparian areas according to BLM policy.

RI-IV-MA- 4. Create 10 ungrazed riparian reference areas (3,000 acres; Map 11). Each reference area would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

RI-V-O- 1. Maintain 85 miles of Priority 3 streams at PFC; improve 77 miles of Priority 1 streams and 21 miles of Priority 2 streams to achieve PFC; and improve the remaining 42 miles of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC in the life of the plan.

RI-V-O- 2. Manage wetlands to move toward PFC.

Management Actions

RI-V-MA- 1. Within the priorities identified in the ARMS (Appendix D), stream reaches containing special status species or their habitat would be a high priority for restoration. Active restoration would be limited to FAR-DN and NF reaches.

RI-V-MA- 2. The toolbox for restoration of stream reaches would include, but not be limited to:

- Road closures,
- Culvert replacements,
- Closing pastures,
- Exclosure fencing,
- Removal of water developments,
- Replanting of riparian areas,
- Active herding,
- Riparian pastures,

- Instream fish habitat improvements, and
- Modification or elimination of land uses that prevent attainment of aquatic and riparian management objectives.

The toolbox would not include:

- Modification of water developments,
- Reintroduction of beaver, or
- Erosion control measures.

RI-V-MA- 3. Conduct multiple indicator surveys on riparian areas according to BLM policy, with emphasis on those areas that are rated FAR, FAR-DN, and NF or areas containing special status species.

RI-V-MA- 4. Create six ungrazed riparian reference areas (23,000 acres; Map 14). Each reference area would consist of an entire pasture and would be paired with an adjacent grazed area in a similar vegetation type and condition to monitor the effects of livestock grazing on a variety of plant communities. The absence of grazing would be the only difference between management of reference areas and that of adjacent areas with similar vegetation.

2.3.6. Fish and Wildlife

2.3.6.1. Fish

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective	Management Actions
FI-NA-O- 1. Maintain 1987 condition of fish habitat in MUAs 7 and 13; improve 39.4 miles of fisheries habitat in MUAs 10, 11, 12, and 15 (Map 4).	No management actions stated.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

See goal for specific alternatives.

Objective	Management Actions
See objectives for specific alternatives.	**FI-CA-MA- 1.** Maintain, improve, or restore native fish habitat through actions identified for riparian areas, water resources, and special status species and through guidelines contained in the ARMS (Appendix D). Incorporate BMPs to maintain and improve habitat for native fish (Appendix E). **FI-CA-MA- 2.** Inventory and monitor fish habitat. Use adaptive management as outlined in the ARMS to minimize negative impacts to native fish habitat from uses and activities (Appendix D).

FI-CA-MA- 3. Activities within riparian areas and wetlands would be designed to mitigate impacts to the riparian and aquatic habitat(s) through implementation of specific standards and guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

FI-I-G- 1. Manage public lands to promote diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitats for fish.

Objective	Management Actions
FI-I-O- 1. Maintain or improve streams so 70% of the miles of fish-bearing streams are properly functioning for fish. The remaining 30% of fish-bearing streams would be moving toward properly functioning for fish in the life of the plan.	See management actions in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

FI-II-G- 1. Manage public lands to maintain or improve habitat for fish.

Objective	Management Actions
FI-II-O- 1. Maintain or improve all fish-bearing streams so they remain or are moving toward properly functioning for fish in the life of the plan.	See management actions in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

FI-III-G- 1. Manage public lands to maintain habitat for fish while reducing wildland fire size and intensity.

Objective	Management Actions
FI-III-O- 1. Maintain or improve all fish-bearing streams so they remain or are moving toward properly functioning for fish in the life of the plan.	See management actions in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

FI-IV-G- 1. Manage public lands to promote diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitats for fish.

Objective	Management Actions
FI-IV-O- 1. Maintain or improve streams so 70% of the miles of fish-bearing streams and their perennial tributaries are properly functioning for fish. The remaining 30% of miles of fish-bearing streams and their perennial tributaries are moving toward properly functioning for fish in the life of the plan.	See management actions in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

FI-V-G- 1. Manage public lands to promote diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitats for fish.

Objective	Management Actions
FI-V-O- 1. Maintain or improve streams so 70% of the miles of fish-bearing streams and their perennial tributaries are properly functioning for fish. The remaining 30% of miles of fish-bearing streams and their perennial tributaries are moving toward properly functioning for fish in the life of the plan.	See management actions in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

2.3.6.2. Wildlife

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objectives

WI-NA-O- 1. Maintain present levels of upland game nesting and cover habitat in MUAs 6, 7, and 10 (Map 4).

WI-NA-O- 2. Manage 3,990 acres of the cheatgrass study area for curlews (MUA 7; Map 4).

WI-NA-O- 3. Manage all wildlife habitat within the planning area to provide a diversity of vegetation and habitats.

Management Actions

WI-NA-MA- 1. Priority for habitat management would be given to habitat for Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, Candidate, and other BLM Sensitive species.

WI-NA-MA- 2. Manage all ecological sites on mule deer, pronghorn, elk, bighorn sheep, and sage-grouse habitat in fair or poor ecological condition in 1987 for good ecological condition.

WI-NA-MA- 3. Follow "Mule Deer Habitat Guidelines" contained in Technical Note 336 (Kerr, 1979) where applicable. Guidelines include:

- Maintain a 60/40 ratio of forage area to cover area in range rehabilitation or manipulation projects;
- Try to achieve a mosaic or mottled pattern of cover in prescribed burning and manipulation projects; and
- Improve forage condition by establishing seedings or plantings of bitterbrush, four-wing saltbush or other palatable shrub species

WI-NA-O- 4. Manage big game habitat to support 7,360 winter mule deer and 2,565 mule deer year-round across all MUAs; 1,932 pronghorn in MUAs 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16; and 364 bighorn sheep in MUAs 10, 15, and 16 (Map 4).

WI-NA-O- 5. Protect crucial winter big game habitat and bighorn sheep habitat in MUAs 10 and 15, and improve 8,750 acres of bighorn sheep and big game habitat by 2005 in MUAs 11, 15, and 16 (Map 4).

on crucial mule deer winter range that presently has less than 30% palatable shrub composition by weight of the shrub component.

WI-NA-MA- 4. On crucial mule deer and elk winter ranges that do not have an adequate composition of early maturing grass, develop small seedings of Siberian wheatgrass and Russian wildrye and other appropriate early maturing grasses to improve deer and elk nutrition in the early spring period.

WI-NA-MA- 5. Follow "Habitat Management Guides for the American Pronghorn Antelope" contained in Technical Note 347 (Yoakum, 1980) where applicable. Guidelines include:

- Grazing systems designed with the concept of key plant species, preferred pronghorn forage species for forbs and shrubs would be included as key species; and
- Vegetative manipulation projects would include mixtures of grasses, forbs and shrubs.

WI-NA-MA- 6. Monitoring and coordination needs for elk are as follows:

- Identify elk use patterns as they occur on BLM lands;
- Identify areas of cumulative use due to elk and livestock;
- Monitor forage use to determine if overuse of plant communities is occurring; and
- Coordinate elk management and the exchange of information with the livestock users in the area and other agencies including the Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, and IDFG.

WI-NA-MA- 7. Areas managed as winter range are shown on Map 19.

WI-NA-MA- 8. Design vegetative manipulation projects to minimize impacts and improve wildlife habitat by including a variety of palatable shrubs, forbs and grass.

WI-NA-MA- 9. Improve raptor habitat by requiring all new power lines in raptor areas to be constructed to electrocution-proof specification and that any problem lines be modified to be electrocution proof.

WI-NA-MA- 10. Maintain the short-grass habitats occupied by long-billed curlew.

WI-NA-MA- 11. Transfer of land within the curlew habitat area would not be allowed prior to the development of an agreement between IDFG and IDWR which identifies satisfactory mitigation measures to protect curlew habitat.

WI-NA-MA- 12. Maintain size and configuration of Wildlife Tracts. Manage Wildlife Tracts according to Snake River Wildlife Tracts Habitat Management Plan (13,000 acres; Map 23).

WI-NA-MA- 13. Install wildlife escape devices on all troughs and tanks.

WI-NA-MA- 14. Provide water in allotments during seasonal periods of need for wildlife.

WI-NA-MA- 15. Incorporate wildlife provisions into all future fence proposals.

WI-NA-MA- 16. Schedule major construction and maintenance work in crucial wildlife habitats to avoid or minimize disturbance to wildlife.

WI-NA-MA- 17. Restrict occupancy for oil and gas activities in crucial wildlife habitats as shown below.

- December through April in mule deer winter range;
- December through April in pronghorn winter range;
- May through June in pronghorn fawning range;
- Year round within 500 feet of riparian areas occupied by river otter;
- Year round within essential nesting habitat for birds of prey;
- Year round within 0.5 miles of heron rookeries;
- February through June within 0.75 miles of golden eagle nests;
- Mid March through June within 0.75 miles of long-billed curlew nests;
- Mid March through June within 0.25 miles of Western burrowing owl nests;
- Mid April through August within 0.75 miles of osprey nests; and
- Year round within 500 feet of reservoirs, ponds, lakes, streams, wetland, marshes, and riparian areas for riparian-dependent species.

Additional activities would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the need for compliance with these recommendations.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

See goal for specific alternatives.

Objectives

See objectives for specific alternatives.

Management Actions

WI-CA-MA- 1. Maintain or improve habitat for priority wildlife species as specified in the *Upland Vegetation* section for each alternative and according to guidelines contained in relevant species management plans (plans in effect as of 2009 are listed in Appendix G).

WI-CA-MA- 2. When making management decisions affecting big game, use the most current big game winter range map provided by IDFG and the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). Areas considered big game winter range in 2009 are shown on Map 19.

WI-CA-MA- 3. Implement IDFG and NDOW guidelines to maintain or improve mule deer and pronghorn winter range when and where needed.

WI-CA-MA- 4. Management specific to elk would not be implemented unless requested by IDFG or NDOW; management actions for elk are allowed consistent with habitat management for priority wildlife species.

WI-CA-MA- 5. Management of habitat for migratory birds identified in the Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy Species of Conservation Need, Intermountain West Joint Venture - Idaho, and Idaho Partners in Flight would emphasize avoiding or minimizing negative impacts and restoring and enhancing habitat quality to implement Executive Order 13186. Promote the maintenance and improvement of their habitat quantity and quality through the permitting process for all land use authorizations. Avoid, reduce, or mitigate adverse impacts on the habitats of migratory bird species of conservation concern to the extent feasible, and in a manner consistent with regional or statewide bird conservation priorities.

WI-CA-MA- 6. Incorporate BMPs for wildlife into BLM management activities and authorized uses as appropriate (Appendix E). Specific BMPs would be determined at the project level.

WI-CA-MA- 7. Install and properly maintain wildlife escape devices on all troughs and open tanks.

WI-CA-MA- 8. Fence construction and maintenance would follow BLM policy for wildlife-friendly fences.

WI-CA-MA- 9. Schedule construction and maintenance activities to avoid or minimize disturbance to the priority species and their habitat during their important seasonal periods (Appendix H).

WI-CA-MA- 10. Schedule energy-related activities (e.g., exploration, development, and maintenance) to avoid or minimize disturbance to priority species and their habitat during important seasonal periods (Appendix H).

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

WI-I-G- 1. Manage public lands to promote diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitats for wildlife.

Objective

WI-I-O- 1. Maintain or improve habitat for big game species by managing uses and activities and actively restoring annual, non-native perennial, and native communities.

Management Actions

WI-I-MA- 1. Mule deer and special status species, including bighorn sheep and sage-grouse, have the highest priority for habitat management; secondary priorities are pronghorn, chukar, and pheasant.

Special status species management is discussed in the *Special Status Species* section.

WI-I-MA- 2. Focus vegetation treatments for mule deer winter range areas as shown on Map 20.

WI-I-MA- 3. Plant desirable browse species appropriate to site potential on big game winter range where browse was reduced by past wildland fires. Species may include, but not be limited to: winterfat, four-wing saltbush, bitterbrush, chokecherry, and serviceberry.

WI-I-MA- 4. Reconfigure and expand Wildlife Tracts (from 13,000 acres to 20,000 acres) to reduce conflicts with uses, to improve management efficiency of Wildlife Tracts and allotments, and to increase the average size of individual tracts (Map 23). Prepare a new plan for joint IDFG-BLM management of Wildlife Tracts through a public process and to obtain partners for projects to improve wildlife values.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

WI-II-G- 1. Manage public lands to maintain or improve habitat for wildlife.

Objective	Management Actions
WI-II-O- 1. Maintain or improve wildlife habitat in native communities while promoting commercial uses throughout the planning area.	**WI-II-MA- 1.** Sage-grouse and other special status species are priority species for habitat management. Special status species management is discussed in the *Special Status Species* section. **WI-II-MA- 2.** As part of ES&BAR, plant desirable browse species on big game winter range where browse was reduced by past wildland fires. Species may include, but not be limited to: winterfat, four-wing saltbush, bitterbrush, chokecherry, and serviceberry. **WI-II-MA- 3.** Remove areas from the Wildlife Tracts program that are difficult to access and manage and would otherwise be identified for disposal (from 13,000 acres to 10,000 acres; Map 23). Prepare a new plan for joint IDFG-BLM management of the remaining Wildlife Tracts (10,000 acres) through a public process and to obtain partners for projects to improve wildlife values.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

WI-III-G- 1. Manage public lands to maintain habitat for wildlife while reducing wildland fire size and intensity.

Objective	Management Actions
WI-III-O- 1. Maintain wildlife habitat in native communities while reducing wildland fire size and intensity throughout the planning area.	**WI-III-MA- 1.** Sage-grouse and other special status species are priority species for habitat management. Special status species management is discussed in the *Special Status Species* section. **WI-III-MA- 2.** Reconfigure Wildlife Tracts to reduce conflicts with uses, to improve management efficiency of Wildlife Tracts and allotments, and to increase the average size of individual tracts (from 13,000 acres to 14,000 acres; Map 23). Prepare a new plan for joint IDFG-BLM management of Wildlife Tracts through a public process and to obtain partners for projects to improve wildlife values.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

WI-IV-G- 1. Manage public lands to promote diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitats for wildlife.

Objective

WI-IV-O- 1. Maintain or improve wildlife habitat by managing uses and activities and actively restoring annual, non-native perennial, and native communities.

Management Actions

WI-IV-MA- 1. Sage-grouse, other special status species, mule deer, and pronghorn are priority species for habitat management.

Special status species management is discussed in the *Special Status Species* section.

WI-IV-MA- 2. Focus vegetation treatments for mule deer and pronghorn winter range on areas as shown on Map 20.

WI-IV-MA- 3. Plant desirable browse species appropriate to site potential on big game winter range where browse was reduced by past wildland fires. Species may include, but not be limited to: winter fat, four-wing saltbush, bitterbrush, chokecherry, and serviceberry.

WI-IV-MA- 4. Reconfigure Wildlife Tracts to reduce conflicts with uses, to improve management efficiency of Wildlife Tracts and allotments, and to increase the average size of individual tracts (from 13,000 acres to 14,000 acres; Map 23). Prepare a new plan for joint IDFG-BLM management of Wildlife Tracts through a public process and to obtain partners for projects to improve wildlife values.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

WI-V-G- 1. Manage public lands to promote diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitats for wildlife.

Objective

WI-V-O- 1. Maintain or improve wildlife habitat by managing uses and activities and actively restoring annual and non-native perennial communities toward historic vegetation communities.

Management Actions

WI-V-MA- 1. Sage-grouse and other special status species are priority species for habitat management.

Special status species management is discussed in the *Special Status Species* section.

WI-V-MA- 2. Reconfigure Wildlife Tracts to reduce conflicts with uses, to improve management efficiency of Wildlife Tracts and allotments, and to increase the average size of individual tracts (from 13,000 acres to 14,000 acres; Map 23). Prepare a new plan for joint IDFG-BLM management of Wildlife Tracts through a public process and to obtain partners for projects to improve wildlife values.

2.3.7. Special Status Species

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective

SS-NA-O- 1. Protect and enhance Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive species' habitats in order to maintain or enhance populations within the planning area. Enhance, restore and/or maintain habitat conditions and availability for special status species and prevent all avoidable loss of habitat.

Management Actions

Management for All Special Status Species

SS-NA-MA- 1. Work with IDFG to determine if Salmon Falls Creek Canyon contains possible bighorn sheep habitat.

Management Related to Resource Uses

SS-NA-MA- 2. Projects proposed in areas with known Endangered, Threatened, or Sensitive plants would give full consideration to protecting these species, including fencing if necessary.

SS-NA-MA- 3. If a proposed action is predicted, through the environmental assessment, to have an adverse effect on Endangered, Threatened, or Sensitive plants, the action would be foregone or redesigned to eliminate such adverse effects.

SS-NA-MA- 4. Use adjustments to livestock use levels, grazing seasons, season of use, or other management techniques to protect plants.

SS-NA-MA- 5. Allow no action to occur that would adversely affect the habitat of Endangered, Candidate, or Sensitive species in MUA 4 (Map 4).

Management for Special Status Species in Upland Areas

SS-NA-MA- 6. Maintain present areas for sage-grouse nesting habitat in MUA 13, and improve sage-grouse nesting through seeding and rehabilitation in MUA 10 (Map 4). Where applicable, *Guidelines for Habitat Protection in Sage Grouse Range* (*Guidelines for Habitat Protection in Sage Grouse Range*, 1973) and *Sage Grouse Management Practices* (Western States Sage Grouse Committee, 1982) would be followed. *Habitat Requirements and Management Recommendations for Sage Grouse* (Call, 1979) would be followed where applicable, including:

- Control work would not be allowed where live sagebrush cover is less than 20%;
- Treatment measures should be applied in irregular patterns using topography and other ecological considerations to minimize adverse effects to the sage-grouse resource;
- Where fire is used as a habitat management tool, it should be used in such manner as to result in a mosaic pattern of shrubs and open areas, with openings, optimally from 1 to 10 acres in size;
- Maintain the density of sagebrush canopy coverage at 20% to 30% within nesting habitats and at least 20% in wintering habitats;

- Control of sagebrush would not be considered in any area known to have supported important wintering populations of sage-grouse in the past 10 years; and
- Seed mixtures for range improvement projects and fire rehabilitation projects would include a mixture of grasses, forbs and shrubs that benefit sage-grouse.

SS-NA-MA- 7. Improve sage-grouse brood rearing habitat where sagebrush canopy cover is greater than 20% by removing sagebrush in small irregular areas and then reseeding.

SS-NA-MA- 8. Maintain a separation of use between cattle and bighorn sheep by not developing livestock water sources within 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat unless adverse impacts can be mitigated.

SS-NA-MA- 9. No conversion from cattle to sheep would be allowed in allotments containing bighorn sheep habitat, unless a satisfactory separation can be maintained by fences or topographic features. This separation would be agreed upon through consultation and coordination with IDFG or NDOW.

SS-NA-MA- 10. Manage human use within bighorn sheep habitat at levels that are not detrimental to the bighorn sheep population.

SS-NA-MA- 11. Adverse habitat alteration would not be allowed within 0.25 miles of any burrowing owl nest, 0.75 miles of any ferruginous hawk, golden eagle or prairie falcon nest, or 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat.

SS-NA-MA- 12. Permit no adverse habitat alteration of potential bighorn sheep habitat.

SS-NA-MA- 13. Restrict occupancy for oil and gas activities in crucial wildlife habitats as shown below.

- Year round in bighorn sheep habitat;
- December through mid February in sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse (sharp-tailed grouse) winter range;
- Mid February through June in sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse breeding grounds;
- April through June in within 2 miles of leks in sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse nesting and brood rearing habitat;
- Year round within 500 feet of occupied riparian areas for mountain quail;
- December through March in bald eagle and peregrine falcon winter habitat;
- Year round within 1 mile of bald eagle and peregrine falcon nests;
- Mid March through June within 0.75 miles of ferruginous hawk and prairie falcon nests; and
- Mid March through June within 0.25 miles of white-faced ibis nests.

Additional activities would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the need for compliance with these recommendations.

Management for Special Status Species in Riparian Areas, Wetlands, and Streams

SS-NA-MA- 14. Protect the aquatic habitat of Sensitive and Candidate species in the Snake River below Lower Salmon Falls Dam.

SS-NA-MA- 15. Restrict occupancy for oil and gas activities year round within 500 feet of streams occupied by Interior Columbia River redband trout (redband trout), white sturgeon, and Shoshone sculpin. Additional activities would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the need for compliance with these recommendations.

Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives

Goal

See goals in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Actions
See objectives for specific alternatives.	**SS-C-MA- 1.** Follow conservation measures in biological opinions (BOs) and letters of concurrence. BOs and letters of concurrence in place as of 2009 can be found in Appendix D; Conservation measures can be updated, revised, or replaced through future consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

SS-CA-G- 1. Manage public lands to contribute to the conservation and recovery of sage-grouse and other special status species.

Objective	Management Actions
See objectives for specific alternatives.	***Management for All Special Status Species*** **SS-CA-MA- 1.** Special status species management would apply to Endangered, Threatened, Candidate, and Proposed species (Type 1 BLM Sensitive); other BLM Sensitive species (Types 2 through 4); and designated critical habitat; this includes plants, fish and other aquatic species, and wildlife. **SS-CA-MA- 2.** Special status species management would also apply to species that are newly listed or added to the BLM Sensitive species list and to newly designated critical habitat, as appropriate to that species. **SS-CA-MA- 3.** Special status species management would not apply to species that are removed from the BLM Sensitive species list. Those species would be managed according to any applicable delisting requirements, conservation strategies, IDFG or NDOW management guidance, and BLM guidance. **SS-CA-MA- 4.** Management of one special status species would take into account the needs of other special status species.

SS-CA-MA- 5. Follow conservation plans, agreements, and strategies for special status species; those in place in 2009 include the plans, agreements, and strategies found in Appendix G.

SS-CA-MA- 6. Monitor special status species and their habitats, and maintain data on their populations, distribution, and habitats. Use adaptive management to reduce impacts to special status species and their habitats from uses and activities.

Management Related to Resource Uses

SS-CA-MA- 7. BLM management activities and authorized uses that would adversely affect Threatened or Endangered species or their habitat would not be allowed without consultation and mitigation; BLM management activities and authorized uses that would adversely affect other special status species or their habitat would not be allowed without mitigation.

SS-CA-MA- 8. Activities related to leasable and salable mineral development should avoid special status species and their habitats. If this is not possible, leases and permits would include mitigation for any adverse effects on special status species and their habitats.

SS-CA-MA- 9. Promote conservation and recovery of special status species through realty actions such as:

- Conservation easements that protect or conserve special status species habitat,
- Land acquisitions or exchanges that improve management of special status species, and
- Acquisition of lands with a high value for special status species.

SS-CA-MA- 10. New communication sites would not be located in special status species habitat unless impacts to special status species or their habitat can be mitigated.

SS-CA-MA- 11. ROW construction and maintenance activities should avoid disturbing special status species during important seasonal periods (Appendix H).

Additional management direction for BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses in special status species habitat can be found in the *Resource Uses* sections.

Management for Special Status Species in Upland Areas

SS-CA-MA- 12. BLM guidelines for sage-grouse habitat management (e.g., *2006 Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho*, Owyhee County and Jarbidge Local Working Group Sage-grouse Plans) would be used for BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses as appropriate. Sage-grouse would be an umbrella species for other special status sagebrush-obligate species.

SS-CA-MA- 13. Manage native shrubland communities in a landscape context to ensure that the seasonal habitat needs of sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate species are met across the planning area, where site conditions are suitable.

SS-CA-MA- 14. Maintain or improve the habitat for special status species by protecting and restoring their habitat, controlling noxious weeds and invasive plants, and minimizing direct habitat disturbance.

SS-CA-MA- 15. When designing seed mixes for vegetation treatments and surface-disturbing projects, consider the needs of special status species and their habitat in the project area.

SS-CA-MA- 16. Use seeding methods that minimize impacts to special status species populations.

SS-CA-MA- 17. Schedule livestock grazing to avoid pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat during breeding, wintering, and lambing periods to minimize disturbance during these important seasonal periods.

SS-CA-MA- 18. Manage for separation of domestic sheep and goats from bighorn sheep in both location and time to reduce the risk of disease transmission between domestic and bighorn sheep.

SS-CA-MA- 19. Avoid locating new transmission and phone lines in native shrubland and native grassland communities to minimize impacts to sage-grouse. If a transmission or phone line project must be located in sage-grouse habitat, the project should incorporate measures to reduce impacts to sage-grouse, including but not limited to:

- Burying lines,
- Using devices to deter raptor perching,
- Avoiding construction and maintenance during important seasonal periods for sage-grouse (Appendix H), or
- Off-site mitigation to restore or improve sage-grouse habitat in other areas in the planning area.

Management for Special Status Species in Riparian Areas, Wetlands, and Streams

SS-CA-MA- 20. Implement the ARMS (Appendix D) and other management actions in the *Riparian Areas and Wetlands* section to maintain or improve habitat for special status fish and aquatic invertebrates and other special status species dependent on riparian areas and wetlands.

SS-CA-MA- 21. Incorporate BMPs to maintain and improve habitat for special status fish and aquatic invertebrates (Appendix E).

SS-CA-MA- 22. Identify and eliminate, where feasible, migration barriers to special status fish species movement.

SS-CA-MA- 23. Identify and implement specific habitat improvement projects in redband trout habitat to reduce habitat fragmentation and promote their long-term recovery. Projects may include, but not be limited to:

- Replacing culverts,
- Working with private landowners so diversions are not a barrier,
- Screening diversions, and
- Planting riparian vegetation.

SS-CA-MA- 24. Identify and implement specific habitat improvement projects for Columbia River Basin bull trout (bull trout) as identified in *the Draft Recovery Plan for the Jarbidge River Distinct Population Segment of Bull Trout* (FWS, 2004).

SS-CA-MA- 25. Work cooperatively with Federal and State agencies, private landowners, and companies to identify and mitigate threats to Snake River snails, white sturgeon, and Shoshone sculpin from BLM-managed lands.

SS-CA-MA- 26. Work cooperatively with Federal and State agencies and private landowners to identify and mitigate threats to Bruneau hot springsnail from BLM-managed lands.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

SS-I-O- 1. Maintain or improve the quality and quantity of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species by managing public land activities to sustain or benefit those species.

Management Actions

Management for All Special Status Species

SS-I-MA- 1. Where alternative management strategies would result in the same relative effect to a species, implement those strategies least harmful to other resource uses, where practical.

SS-I-MA- 2. Support projects to identify and monitor pollinators of special status plants.

SS-I-MA- 3. Evaluate special status plant habitat, and where it has been historically occupied, reintroduce special status plant species where practical.

SS-I-MA- 4. Conduct habitat suitability evaluations for potential reintroductions of special status wildlife, fish, and aquatic invertebrates in cooperation with FWS, IDFG, NDOW, and other interested and affected parties. Work with FWS, IDFG, and NDOW on reintroductions as appropriate.

Management Related to Resource Uses

SS-I-MA- 5. Adjust livestock use levels, season of use, or other management techniques to maintain or enhance special status species and their habitat (refer to Appendices B, C, and F for guidelines).

SS-I-MA- 6. Construct, maintain, modify, or remove range infrastructure and other facilities as necessary to maintain or enhance special status species and their habitat.

Additional management direction for BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses in special status species habitat can be found in the *Resource Uses* sections.

Management for Special Status Species in Upland Areas

SS-I-MA- 7. Implement management actions described in the *Upland Vegetation* section to maintain or improve habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species. Upland vegetation management to

benefit sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate special status species includes but is not limited to: Restoring annual, non-native perennial, and non-native understory communities toward native;

- Restoring native grassland communities to native shrublands; and
- Introducing forbs and late-seral grasses to native shrubland communities.

See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

SS-I-MA- 8. BLM management activities and authorized uses within 1 mile of known ferruginous hawk or prairie falcon nests would be designed to minimize impacts to their prey base and availability of nesting material from March through July.

SS-I-MA- 9. Remove troughs within 1 mile of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyon rims within bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the *Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review* (IMP; BLM-H-8550-1) within WSAs. Relocate troughs more than 1 mile from the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyon rims if the watering site is needed for livestock grazing, consistent with the IMP within WSAs.

SS-I-MA- 10. Remove fences and corrals within 1 mile of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyon rims within bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the IMP within WSAs, except fences for pasture and allotment boundaries or for other resource protection.

SS-I-MA- 11. New troughs, reservoirs, permanent fences, and corrals would be located at least 1 mile from the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyon rims within bighorn sheep habitat.

SS-I-MA- 12. Fences identified to protect resources would be allowed and would be designed to meet the needs of bighorn sheep.

SS-I-MA- 13. Trailing of domestic sheep or goats would not be authorized in allotments within 9 miles of bighorn sheep habitat.

SS-I-MA- 14. Conversions from cattle to domestic sheep and goats would not be allowed in allotments within 9 miles of bighorn sheep habitat.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

SS-II-O- 1. Maintain or improve the quality of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species by managing public land activities to sustain or benefit those species.

Management Actions

Management for All Special Status Species

SS-II-MA- 1. Where alternative management strategies would result in the same relative effect to a species, implement those strategies most beneficial to commodity uses, where practical.

SS-II-MA- 2. Reintroductions of special status species would be limited to species listed under ESA as Threatened or Endangered and species that are Proposed or Candidates for listing under ESA.

Management Related to Resource Uses

SS-II-MA- 3. Adjust livestock use levels, season of use, or other management techniques to maintain or enhance special status species and their habitat (refer to Appendices B,C, and F for guidelines).

SS-II-MA- 4. Construct, maintain, modify, or remove range infrastructure and other facilities as necessary to maintain special status species and their habitat.

Additional management direction for BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses in special status species habitat can be found in the *Resource Uses* sections.

Management for Special Status Species in Upland Areas

SS-II-MA- 5. Implement management actions described in the *Upland Vegetation* section to maintain or improve habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species. Upland vegetation management to benefit sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate special status species includes, but is not limited to:

- Restoring native grassland communities to native shrublands, and
- Introducing forbs and late-seral grasses to native shrubland communities.

See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

SS-II-MA- 6. BLM management activities and authorized uses within 0.25 miles of known ferruginous hawk or prairie falcon nests would be designed to minimize impacts to their prey base and availability of nesting material from March through July.

SS-II-MA- 7. Keep existing troughs and reservoirs in bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the IMP within WSAs.

SS-II-MA- 8. Keep existing fences and corrals in bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the IMP within WSAs.

SS-II-MA- 9. New troughs, reservoirs, permanent fences, and corrals can be located within bighorn sheep habitat if they do not conflict with bighorn sheep.

SS-II-MA- 10. Trailing of domestic sheep or goats through bighorn sheep habitat would follow BLM policy.

SS-II-MA- 11. Conversions from cattle to domestic sheep or goats in allotments containing bighorn sheep habitat would follow BLM policy.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

SS-III-O- 1. Maintain or improve the quality of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species by managing public land activities to sustain or benefit those species.

Management Actions

Management for All Special Status Species

SS-III-MA- 1. Where alternative management strategies would result in the same relative effect to a species, implement those strategies most beneficial to fire suppression and prevention activities, where practical.

SS-III-MA- 2. Reintroductions of special status species would be limited to species listed under ESA as Threatened or Endangered and species that are Proposed or Candidates for listing under ESA.

Management Related to Resource Uses

SS-III-MA- 3. Adjust livestock use levels, season of use, or other management techniques to maintain or enhance special status species and their habitat (refer to Appendices B,C, and F for guidelines).

SS-III-MA- 4. Construct, maintain, modify, or remove range infrastructure and other facilities as necessary to maintain special status species and their habitat.

Additional management direction for BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses in special status species habitat can be found in the *Resource Uses* sections.

Management for Special Status Species in Upland Areas

SS-III-MA- 5. Implement management actions described in the *Upland Vegetation* section to maintain or improve habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species. Upland vegetation management to benefit sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate special status species includes, but is not limited to:

- Introducing shrubs to native grassland communities, and
- Protecting islands of sagebrush habitat through extensive fuel breaks.

See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

SS-III-MA- 6. BLM management activities and authorized uses within 1 mile of known ferruginous hawk or prairie falcon nests would be designed to minimize impacts to their prey base and availability of nesting material from March through July.

SS-III-MA- 7. Keep existing troughs and reservoirs in bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the IMP within WSAs.

SS-III-MA- 8. Keep existing fences and corrals in bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the IMP within WSAs.

SS-III-MA- 9. New troughs, reservoirs, permanent fences, and corrals can be located within bighorn sheep habitat if they do not conflict with bighorn sheep.

SS-III-MA- 10. Trailing of domestic sheep or goats through bighorn sheep habitat would follow BLM policy.

SS-III-MA- 11. Conversions from cattle to domestic sheep or goats in allotments containing bighorn sheep habitat would follow BLM policy.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

SS-IV-O- 1. Maintain or improve the quality and quantity of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species by managing public land activities to sustain or benefit those species.

Management Actions

Management for All Special Status Species

SS-IV-MA- 1. Where alternative management strategies would result in the same relative effect to a species, implement those strategies most beneficial to other resources, where practical.

SS-IV-MA- 2. Support projects to identify and monitor pollinators of special status plants.

SS-IV-MA- 3. Evaluate special status plant habitat, and where it has been historically occupied, reintroduce special status plant species where practical.

SS-IV-MA- 4. Conduct habitat suitability evaluations for potential reintroductions of special status wildlife, fish, and aquatic invertebrates in cooperation with FWS, IDFG, NDOW, and other interested and affected parties. Work with FWS, IDFG, and NDOW on reintroductions as appropriate.

Management Related to Resource Uses

SS-IV-MA- 5. Adjust livestock use levels, season of use, or other management techniques to maintain or enhance special status species and their habitat (refer to Appendices B,C, and F for guidelines).

SS-IV-MA- 6. Construct, maintain, modify, or remove range infrastructure and other facilities as necessary to maintain or enhance special status species and their habitat.

Additional management direction for BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses in special status species habitat can be found in the *Resource Uses* sections.

Management for Special Status Species in Upland Areas

SS-IV-MA- 7. Implement management actions described in the *Upland Vegetation* section to maintain or improve habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species. Upland vegetation management to benefit sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate special status species includes, but is not limited to:

- Restoring annual, non-native perennial, and non-native understory communities toward native;
- Restoring native grassland communities to native shrublands; and
- Introducing forbs and late-seral grasses to native shrubland communities.

See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

SS-IV-MA- 8. BLM management activities and authorized uses within 1 mile of known ferruginous hawk or prairie falcon nests would

be designed to minimize impacts to their prey base and availability of nesting material from March through July.

SS-IV-MA- 9. Remove troughs and reservoirs within 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the IMP within WSAs; relocate troughs and reservoirs more than 1 mile from bighorn sheep habitat if the watering site is needed for livestock grazing, consistent with the IMP within WSAs.

SS-IV-MA- 10. Remove fences and corrals within 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the IMP within WSAs, except fences for pasture and allotment boundaries or for other resource protection.

SS-IV-MA- 11. New troughs, reservoirs, permanent fences, and corrals would be located at least 1 mile from bighorn sheep habitat.

SS-IV-MA- 12. Fences identified to protect resources would be allowed and would be designed to meet the needs of bighorn sheep.

SS-IV-MA- 13. Trailing of domestic sheep or goats would not be authorized in allotments containing bighorn sheep habitat.

SS-IV-MA- 14. Conversions from cattle to domestic sheep or goats would not be allowed in allotments containing bighorn sheep habitat.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

SS-V-O- 1. Maintain or improve the quality and quantity of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species by managing public land activities to sustain or benefit those species.

Management Actions

Management for All Special Status Species

SS-V-MA- 1. Where alternative management strategies would result in the same relative effect to a species, implement the most passive strategies, where practical.

SS-V-MA- 2. Support projects to identify and monitor pollinators of special status plants.

SS-V-MA- 3. Evaluate special status plant habitat, and where it has been historically occupied, reintroduce special status plant species where practical.

SS-V-MA- 4. Conduct habitat suitability evaluations for potential reintroductions of special status wildlife, fish, and aquatic invertebrates in cooperation with FWS, IDFG, NDOW, and other interested and affected parties. Work with FWS, IDFG, and NDOW on reintroductions as appropriate.

Management Related to Resource Uses

SS-V-MA- 5. Adjust livestock use levels, season of use, or other management techniques to maintain or enhance special status species and their habitat (refer to Appendices B, C, and F for guidelines).

SS-V-MA- 6. Remove or modify range infrastructure and other facilities as necessary to maintain or enhance special status species and their habitat.

Additional management direction for BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses in special status species habitat can be found in the *Resource Uses* sections.

Management for Special Status Species in Upland Areas

SS-V-MA- 7. Implement management actions described in the *Upland Vegetation* section to maintain or improve habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species. Upland vegetation management to benefit sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate special status species includes, but is not limited to:

- Restoring annual communities toward native, and
- Introducing shrubs to non-native perennial communities and native grassland communities.

See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

SS-V-MA- 8. BLM management activities and authorized uses within 1 mile of known ferruginous hawk or prairie falcon nests would be designed to minimize impacts to their prey base and availability of nesting material from March through July.

SS-V-MA- 9. Remove troughs and reservoirs within 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the IMP within WSAs, relocate troughs and reservoirs more than 1 mile from bighorn sheep habitat if the watering site is needed for livestock grazing, consistent with the IMP within WSAs.

SS-V-MA- 10. Remove fences and corrals within 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat, consistent with the IMP within WSAs, except fences for pasture and allotment boundaries or for other resource protection.

SS-V-MA- 11. New troughs, reservoirs, permanent fences, and corrals would be located at least 1 mile from bighorn sheep habitat.

SS-V-MA- 12. Fences identified to protect resources would be allowed and would be designed to meet the needs of bighorn sheep.

SS-V-MA- 13. Trailing of domestic sheep or goats would not be authorized in allotments within 9 miles of bighorn sheep habitat.

SS-V-MA- 14. Conversions from cattle to domestic sheep and goats would not be allowed in allotments within 9 miles of bighorn sheep habitat.

2.3.8. Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective	Management Actions
No objective stated.	**NW-NA-MA- 1.** Control the spread of noxious weeds on public lands where possible, where economically feasible, and to the extent that funds are prioritized for that purpose. Poisonous or noxious plants would be controlled where spot infestations occur or where BLM would cooperate with other affected landowners in controlling infestations on relatives large areas. **NW-NA-MA- 2.** Consider alternatives including herbicide applications, plow and seed, burn and seed, livestock grazing strategies, and biological controls where weed control is warranted. Pursue coordination with adjoining landowners if appropriate. **NW-NA-MA- 3.** If herbicide application is selected as the preferred method of control through the environmental analysis process, application would be made through the Idaho State Director to the BLM Director in Washington DC. This application would indicate all pertinent data including chemicals, rate, and method of application and target plant species. Herbicide applications would be applied under the directions of a licensed pesticide applicator and every effort would be taken to assure public safety. **NW-NA-MA- 4.** Follow guidelines in BOs, Candidate Conservation Agreements (CCAs), management plans for ACECs and other special designations, and policy regarding specific herbicides and biological control. **NW-NA-MA- 5.** Work with County governments to monitor the location and spread of noxious weeds and to maintain up-to-date inventory records.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

NW-CA-G- 1. Manage public lands to prevent, eliminate, or control noxious weeds and invasive plants.

Objective	Management Actions
See objectives for specific alternatives.	**NW-CA-MA- 1.** Follow applicable laws, policy, and the most current vegetation treatment EIS as well as label instructions for the application of herbicides. In 2009, the vegetation treatment EIS is the September 2007 *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Vegetation Treatments on BLM Lands in 17 States*. **NW-CA-MA- 2.** Inventory noxious weeds and invasive plants. **NW-CA-MA- 3.** Consult with the tribes on herbicide use to consider timing of projects and benefits and impacts to plants of importance to the tribes. **NW-CA-MA- 4.** Formulate methods of control in or near special status species habitat on a site- and species-specific basis to minimize impacts to special status species. Methods of control would comply with FWS consultation requirements.

NW-CA-MA- 5. Incorporate BMPs for noxious weeds and invasive plants into BLM management activities and authorized uses as appropriate (Appendix E).

NW-CA-MA- 6. Include site-specific stipulations in land use authorizations, permits, and leases to limit introduction and spread of noxious weeds.

NW-CA-MA- 7. Collaborate with Federal agencies, State and County governments, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to establish a Jarbidge Cooperative Weed Management Area or other cooperative agreements for noxious weed and invasive plants management.

Invasive plants in annual communities are addressed in the *Upland Vegetation* section.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objectives

Noxious Weeds

NW-I-O- 1. Reduce the number of acres containing noxious weeds by at least 10%; reduce the number of noxious weed species present.

Invasive Plants

NW-I-O- 2. Reduce cover of invasive plants in native communities to less than 5%; reduce cover of invasive plants in non-native perennial and non-native understory communities to less than10%.

Management Actions

NW-I-MA- 1. Treat areas containing noxious weeds and invasive plants to achieve objectives. Priority areas would include:

- Special designations,
- Motorized and recreational access points,
- Riparian areas,
- Special status species habitat,
- Mule deer winter range,
- Roadsides, and
- Native plant communities.

NW-I-MA- 2. Focus control efforts on species with new or small infestations and species that have higher potential for resource impacts. Eradicate noxious weeds and invasive plants where practical. Focus treatments for large infestations on reducing the size of the infestation.

NW-I-MA- 3. The toolbox for treating noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting; and
- Targeted grazing.

Prescribed fire would not be allowed. See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

NW-I-MA- 4. Develop and implement activities to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants on public lands. The toolbox for preventing introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Public outreach (e.g., kiosks, media, mailings, publications, brochures),
- Wash stations, and

- Modifying uses to minimize new introductions and spread (e.g., closing roads, not authorizing SRPs in highly infested areas).

NW-I-MA- 5. Use of certified weed-free forage, seed, and straw (as defined in the *Idaho Noxious Weed Free Forage and Straw Certification Rules* [IAC 02.06.31]) would be required for all BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objectives

Noxious Weeds

NW-II-O- 1. Reduce the number of acres containing noxious weeds by at least 10%; reduce the number of noxious weed species present.

Invasive Plants

NW-II-O- 2. Reduce cover of invasive plants in native communities to less than 10%; reduce cover of invasive plants in non-native perennial and non-native understory communities to less than 15%.

Management Actions

NW-II-MA- 1. Treat areas containing noxious weeds and invasive plants to achieve objectives. Priority areas would include:

- Riparian areas,
- Special status species habitat, and
- Native plant communities.

NW-II-MA- 2. Focus control efforts on species with new or small infestations, species that respond well to treatment, and species that have higher potential for resource impacts. Eradicate noxious weeds and invasive plants where practical. Focus treatments for large infestations on reducing the size of the infestation.

NW-II-MA- 3. The toolbox for treating noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Targeted grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

Prescribed fire would not be allowed in native grassland or native shrubland communities. See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

NW-II-MA- 4. Develop and implement activities to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants on public lands. The toolbox for preventing introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Public outreach (e.g., kiosks, media, mailings, publications, brochures), and
- Modifying uses to minimize new introductions and spread (e.g., closing roads).

NW-II-MA- 5. Use of certified weed-free forage, seed, and straw (as defined in the *Idaho Noxious Weed Free Forage and Straw Certification Rules* [IAC 02.06.31]) would be recommended for all BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objectives

Noxious Weeds

NW-III-O- 1. Manage uses and treat noxious weeds such that there is no net increase in the number of acres containing noxious weeds; reduce the number of noxious weed species present.

Invasive Plants

NW-III-O- 2. Reduce cover of invasive plants in native communities to less than 5%; reduce cover of invasive plants in non-native perennial and non-native understory communities to less than 5%.

Management Actions

NW-III-MA- 1. Treat areas containing noxious weeds and invasive plants to achieve objectives. Priority areas would include:

- Special designations,
- Fuel breaks,
- Areas with high wildland fire occurrence,
- Areas around historic structures,
- Roadsides, and
- Special status species habitat.

NW-III-MA- 2. Focus control efforts on species that decrease the fire return interval or contribute to high fuel loads. Eradicate noxious weeds and invasive plants where practical. Focus treatments for large infestations on reducing the size of the infestation.

NW-III-MA- 3. The toolbox for treating noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Targeted grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

NW-III-MA- 4. Develop and implement activities to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants on public lands. The toolbox for preventing introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Public outreach (e.g., kiosks, media, mailings, publications, brochures),
- Wash stations, and
- Modifying uses to minimize new introductions and spread (e.g., quarantining livestock, closing pastures, closing roads, not authorizing SRPs in highly infested areas).

NW-III-MA- 5. Use of certified weed-free forage, seed, and straw (as defined in the *Idaho Noxious Weed Free Forage and Straw Certification Rules* [IAC 02.06.31]) would be recommended for all BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objectives

Noxious Weeds

NW-IV-O- 1. Reduce the number of acres containing noxious weeds by at least 50%; reduce the number of noxious weed species present.

Management Actions

NW-IV-MA- 1. Treat areas containing noxious weeds and invasive plants to achieve objectives. Priority areas would include:

- Special designations,
- Riparian areas,
- Special status species habitat, and
- Native plant communities.

Invasive Plants

NW-IV-O- 2. Reduce cover of invasive plants in native communities to less than 5%; reduce cover of invasive plants in non-native perennial and non-native understory communities to less than 10%.

NW-IV-MA- 2. Focus control efforts on species with new or small infestations and species that have higher potential for resource impacts. Eradicate noxious weeds and invasive plants where practical. Focus treatments for large infestations on reducing the size of the infestation.

NW-IV-MA- 3. The toolbox for treating noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Targeted grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

NW-IV-MA- 4. Develop and implement activities to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants on public lands. The toolbox for preventing introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Public outreach (e.g., kiosks, media, mailings, publications, brochures), and
- Modifying uses to minimize new introductions and spread (e.g., closing roads).

NW-IV-MA- 5. Use of certified weed-free forage, seed, and straw (as defined in the *Idaho Noxious Weed Free Forage and Straw Certification Rules* [IAC 02.06.31]) would be required for all BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

Noxious Weeds

NW-V-O- 1. Reduce the number of acres containing noxious weeds by at least 20%; reduce the number of noxious weed species present.

Invasive Plants

NW-V-O- 2. Reduce cover of invasive plants in native communities to less than 5%; reduce cover of invasive plants in non-native perennial and non-native understory communities to less than 10%.

Management Actions

NW-V-MA- 1. Treat areas containing noxious weeds and invasive plants to achieve objectives. Priority areas would include:

- Special designations,
- Riparian areas,
- Special status species habitat, and
- Native plant communities.

NW-V-MA- 2. Focus control efforts on species with new or small infestations and species that have higher potential for resource impacts. Eradicate noxious weeds and invasive plants where practical. Focus treatment for large infestations on reducing the size of the infestation.

NW-V-MA- 3. The toolbox for treating noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Removal of grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

Chemical treatments could only be used after all other methods have been exhausted. Target grazing would not be allowed.

NW-V-MA- 4. Develop and implement activities to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants on public lands. The toolbox for preventing introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants would include:

- Public outreach (e.g., kiosks, media, mailings, publications, brochures), and
- Modifying uses to minimize new introductions and spread (e.g., quarantining livestock, closing pastures, closing roads).

NW-V-MA- 5. Use of certified weed-free forage, seed, and straw (as defined in the *Idaho Noxious Weed Free Forage and Straw Certification Rules* [IAC 02.06.31]) would be required for all BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses.

2.3.9. Wildland Fire Ecology and Management

2.3.9.1. Wildland Fire Management

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective

No objective stated.

Allocations

WFM-NA-A- 1. Manage 1,374,000 acres for full suppression. Aggressively suppress all fires on or threatening public lands.

Management Actions

WFM-NA-MA- 1. Less than full suppression may occur when multiple fires ignite simultaneously. Priority would be given to fires threatening areas of highest value.

WFM-NA-MA- 2. Revise and implement a Fire Management Plan (FMP).

WFM-NA-MA- 3. Mechanical equipment would not be used on paleontological sites in MUA 4 and 6; in the canyon in MUA 14; WSAs areas, river canyons, or ACECs with special attention to bighorn sheep needs in MUA 10; and the Oregon NHT in MUA 4 and 7 (Map 4).

WFM-NA-MA- 4. Fire lines would not be allowed across the three paleontological sites found in MUA 4 or the Oregon NHT in MUAs 4 and 7 (Map 4).

WFM-NA-MA- 5. Extinguish fires with the least amount of surface disturbance possible. When direct attack is not feasible, the suppression strategy is to burn out from natural barriers and establish control points, such as roads.

WFM-NA-MA- 6. Utilize surface disturbing equipment, such as bulldozers, only with management approval. The first priority is

clearing of roads and second priority, when all other methods are exhausted, is construction of new control lines.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

WFM-CA-G- 1. Fire management strategies would result in firefighter and public safety and protection of property and natural and cultural resources, while considering suppression and rehabilitation costs.

Objective

See objectives for specific alternatives.

Allocations

WFM-CA-A- 1. No areas would be suitable for Wildland Fire Use (1,374,000 acres).

Management Actions

WFM-CA-MA- 1. All wildland fires, in Critical or Conditional Suppression Areas, would receive an Appropriate Management Response (AMR). AMR includes any action taken to meet resource objectives identified in RMPs/FMPs. AMR ranges across a spectrum of tactical operations (from monitoring to aggressive/intensive suppression actions).

WFM-CA-MA- 2. Critical Suppression Areas represent highest suppression priority. The AMR in Critical Suppression Areas assumes suppression actions will be taken to reduce fire size and acres burned unless safety warrants alternative strategies. Wildland fire is generally not desired in these areas, with the exception of prescribed fire to be used for site preparation as described in the RMP. These areas will be geographically defined for each alternative.

WFM-CA-MA- 3. Conditional Suppression Areas represent areas of lower suppression priority where suppression efforts would be adjusted based on resource values and fire's desired role in the ecosystem. The AMR in Conditional Suppression Areas assumes suppression actions will be taken commensurate with the values at risk, and considering suppression costs. Wildland fire management strategies may be changed if fire danger is high or there will likely be undesired fire effects. Conditional suppression areas also represent areas where cost of suppression may exceed the value of resources to be protected as identified in the RMP. These areas will be geographically defined for each alternative.

WFM-CA-MA- 4. Areas for Wildland Fire for Resource Benefit would be determined after the wildland fire has been contained or controlled. Areas where vegetation treatments were planned and analyzed in the NEPA process or those ecosystems found to "need more disturbance" through the FRCC process would be candidates for "benefit" fires. Post-fire site visits would be required to determine if fire effects actually experienced resulted in conditions that moved the area toward resource objectives.

WFM-CA-MA- 5. Revise the FMP as required by policy to incorporate updated fire, vegetation, resource value, WUI, and fuels data. The FMP would be used to refine suppression, fuels treatment,

community assistance, and ES&BAR priorities. Consider priorities outlined in the RMP and cooperators priorities in the FMP.

WFM-CA-MA- 6. In addition to safety and resource concerns, consider fire suppression and rehabilitation costs when evaluating fire suppression techniques.

WFM-CA-MA- 7. Work collaboratively with the military to reduce the risk of wildland fire, improve suppression logistics on military lands adjacent to public lands, and protect public lands from wildland fires originating on military lands.

WFM-CA-MA- 8. Use techniques referenced in the ARMS for fire suppression in riparian areas (Appendix D).

WFM-CA-MA- 9. Incorporate BMPs for wildland and prescribed fire into BLM management activities and authorized uses as appropriate (Appendix E).

WFM-CA-MA- 10. Foster the public's understanding of the role of fire in the ecosystem, hazards associated with living in the WUI, and wildland fire prevention and suppression activities through methods such as:

- Tracting door to door,
- Using mass media,
- Providing outreach to local groups,
- Developing interpretive signs and kiosks, and
- Participating in the County Wildfire Protection Plan process.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objectives

WFM-I-O- 1. Strive to reduce average wildland fire size and number of human-caused fire starts within WUI.

WFM-I-O- 2. Reduce acres burned in vegetation types outside WUI where more wildland fires have burned than desired/historic in order to enhance and sustain existing and historic uses of the planning area.

Allocations

WFM-I-A- 1. Critical Suppression Areas within the planning area would be:

- WUI;
- Bruneau-Jarbidge, Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs; and
- Key sage-grouse habitat.

The types of Critical Suppression Areas would remain the same throughout the life of the plan; however, the acres and specific locations for WUI and key sage-grouse habitat can be updated to reflect changing conditions. See Map 26 for the locations of these areas in 2009.

WFM-I-A- 2. The remainder of the planning area would be a Conditional Suppression Area.

Management Actions

WFM-I-MA- 1. When multiple wildland fire ignitions occur in Critical Suppression Areas, based on the management priorities of Alternative I, the suppression priorities would be (in order of importance):

- VMA C
- VMA B
- VMA D
- VMA A

These priorities would also be used for general fire suppression management planning.

WFM-I-MA- 2. Within the perimeter of an active fire, protect unburned patches of native grassland and native shrubland communities from fire during wildland fire suppression activities. Patches of unburned annual and non-native perennial communities within the perimeter of an active fire would be allowed to burn.

WFM-I-MA- 3. Use Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) in:

- WSAs;
- Oregon NHT;
- Bruneau-Jarbidge, Salmon Falls Creek, and Sand Point ACECs;
- Bull trout habitat;
- Slickspot peppergrass habitat; and
- Other areas where appropriate to mitigate potential impacts of fire suppression.

WFM-I-MA- 4. Improve water availability for fire suppression in high recreational use areas, in accordance with Idaho State Law regarding the appropriation and use of water.

WFM-I-MA- 5. Design water developments for fire suppression to mitigate impacts to water resources. Water developments may include, but are not limited to:

- Water storage tanks,
- Draft sites,
- Hydrants off pipelines, and
- Vehicle wash stations.

Water storage may also be increased by enlarging and filling existing stock and storage ponds.

WFM-I-MA- 6. Consistent with other resource objectives, implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities including, but not limited to:

- Building new guard stations,
- Improving roads,
- Building new roads in areas with limited access,
- Improving stream crossings, and
- Developing better signage.

Tools to improve access would not include building new or improving existing airstrips or building helipads.

WFM-I-MA- 7. Transportation and travel restrictions may be imposed to reduce risk of wildland fire during fire restrictions, as determined by an authorized officer; restrictions may include, but not be limited to closing primitive roads, trails, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use. Travel related to administrative uses and emergency services may continue during fire restrictions.

WFM-I-MA- 8. Dozer blading should not occur within 300 feet of playas to protect associated cultural resources.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objectives

WFM-II-O- 1. Strive to reduce average wildland fire size and number of human-caused fire starts within WUI.

WFM-II-O- 2. Reduce acres burned in vegetation types outside WUI where more wildland fires have burned than desired/historic in order to facilitate commercial use of the planning area.

Allocations

WFM-II-A- 1. Critical Suppression Areas within the planning area would be:

- WUI.

The types of Critical Suppression Areas would remain the same throughout the life of the plan; however, the acres and specific locations for WUI can be updated to reflect changing conditions. See Map 27 for the locations of these areas in 2009.

WFM-II-A- 2. The remainder of the planning area would be a Conditional Suppression Area.

Management Actions

WFM-II-MA- 1. When multiple wildland fire ignitions occur in Critical Suppression Areas, based on the management priorities of Alternative II, the suppression priorities would be (in order of importance):

- VMA A
- VMA B
- VMA D
- VMA C

These priorities would also be used for general fire suppression management planning.

WFM-II-MA- 2. Within the perimeter of an active fire, protect unburned patches of native and non-native perennial communities from fire during wildland fire suppression activities. Patches of unburned annual communities within the perimeter of an active fire would be allowed to burn.

WFM-II-MA- 3. Use MIST in:

- WSAs,
- Oregon NHT,
- Bull trout habitat, and
- Other areas where appropriate to mitigate potential impacts of fire suppression.

WFM-II-MA- 4. In native plant communities and WUI, improve water availability for fire suppression, in accordance with Idaho State Law regarding the appropriation and use of water.

WFM-II-MA- 5. Design water developments for fire suppression to mitigate impacts to water resources. Water developments may include, but are not limited to:

- Water storage tanks,
- Draft sites, and
- Hydrants off pipelines.

Water storage may also be increased by enlarging and filling existing stock and storage ponds. Vehicle wash stations would not be developed.

WFM-II-MA- 6. Consistent with resource use objectives, implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities including, but not limited to:

- Building new guard stations,
- Improving roads,
- Building new roads in areas with limited access,
- Improving stream crossings, and
- Developing better signage.

Tools to improve access do not include building new or improving existing airstrips or building helipads.

WFM-II-MA- 7. Transportation and travel would not be restricted during fire restrictions.

WFM-II-MA- 8. Dozer blading should not occur within 150 feet of playas to protect associated cultural resources.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

WFM-III-O- 1. Strive to reduce average wildland fire size, number of human-caused fire starts, and number of acres burned within and outside WUI throughout the planning area.

Allocations

WFM-III-A- 1. Critical Suppression Areas within the planning area would be:

- WUI,
- Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs, and
- Key sage-grouse habitat.

The types of Critical Suppression Areas would remain the same throughout the life of the plan; however, the acres and specific locations for WUI and key sage-grouse habitat can be updated to reflect changing conditions. See Map 28 for the locations of these areas in 2009.

WFM-III-A- 2. The remainder of the planning area would be a Conditional Suppression Area.

Management Actions

WFM-III-MA- 1. When multiple wildland fire ignitions occur in Critical Suppression Areas, based on the management priorities of Alternative III, the suppression priorities would be (in order of importance):

- VMA B
- VMA A
- VMA C
- VMA D

These priorities would also be used for general fire suppression management planning.

WFM-III-MA- 2. Within the perimeter of an active fire, protect unburned patches of native and non-native perennial communities

from fire during wildland fire suppression activities. Patches of unburned annual communities within the perimeter of an active fire would be allowed to burn.

WFM-III-MA- 3. Use MIST in:
- Salmon Falls Creek and Sand Point ACECs, and
- On a case-by-case basis where they would not affect fire containment.

WFM-III-MA- 4. Improve water availability for fire suppression throughout the planning area, in accordance with Idaho and Nevada State Law regarding the appropriation and use of water.

WFM-III-MA- 5. Design water developments for fire suppression to mitigate impacts to water resources. Water developments may include, but are not limited to:
- New pipelines,
- Water storage tanks,
- Draft sites,
- Hydrants off pipelines, and
- Vehicle wash stations.

Water storage may also be increased by enlarging and filling existing stock and storage ponds.

WFM-III-MA- 6. Implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities including, but not limited to:
- Building new guard stations,
- Building new or improving existing airstrips,
- Building helipads,
- Improving roads,
- Building new roads in areas with limited access,
- Improving stream crossings, and
- Developing better signage.

WFM-III-MA- 7. Close primitive roads, trails, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use during fire restrictions to reduce risk of wildland fire, as determined by an authorized officer. Travel related to BLM administrative uses and emergency services may continue during fire restrictions.

WFM-III-MA- 8. Authorized uses may be limited or prohibited to reduce risk of wildland fire as determined by the authorized officer.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objectives

WFM-IV-O- 1. Strive to reduce average wildland fire size and number of human-caused fire starts within WUI.

Allocations

WFM-IV-A- 1. Critical Suppression Areas within the planning area would be:
- WUI,
- Bruneau-Jarbidge, Inside Desert, Jarbidge Foothills, and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs, and
- Key sage-grouse habitat.

WFM-IV-O- 2. Reduce acres burned in vegetation types outside WUI where more wildland fires have burned than desired/historic in order to achieve resilient ecosystem structure and function.

The types of Critical Suppression Areas will remain the same throughout the life of the plan; however, the acres and specific locations for WUI and key sage-grouse habitat can be updated to reflect changing conditions. See Maps 29 and 30 for the locations of these areas in 2009 for Alternatives IV-A and IV-B (the Preferred Alternative), respectively.

WFM-IV-A- 2. The remainder of the planning area would be a Conditional Suppression Area.

Management Actions

WFM-IV-MA- 1. When multiple wildland fire ignitions occur in Critical Suppression Areas, based on the management priorities of Alternative IV, the suppression priorities would be (in order of importance):

- VMA C
- VMA D
- VMA B
- VMA A

These priorities would also be used for general fire suppression management planning.

WFM-IV-MA- 2. Within the perimeter of an active fire, protect unburned patches of native grassland and native shrubland communities from fire during wildland fire suppression activities. Patches of unburned annual and non-native perennial communities within the perimeter of an active fire would be allowed to burn.

WFM-IV-MA- 3. Use MIST in:

- WSAs,
- Oregon NHT,
- Bruneau-Jarbidge and Sand Point ACECs,
- Bull trout habitat,
- Slickspot peppergrass habitat, and
- Other areas where appropriate to mitigate potential impacts of fire suppression.

WFM-IV-MA- 4. Improve water availability for fire suppression throughout the planning area, in accordance with Idaho State Law regarding the appropriation and use of water.

WFM-IV-MA- 5. Design water developments for fire suppression to mitigate impacts to water resources. Water developments are limited to hydrants off pipelines. Water storage may be increased by enlarging and filling stock and storage ponds.

WFM-IV-MA- 6. Consistent with other resource objectives, implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities including, but not limited to:

- Building new guard stations,
- Improving roads,
- Building new roads in areas with limited access,
- Improving stream crossings, and
- Developing better signage.

Tools to improve access would not include building new or improving existing airstrips or building heliports.

WFM-IV-MA- 7. Transportation and travel restrictions may be imposed to reduce risk of wildland fire during fire restrictions, as determined by an authorized officer; restrictions may include, but not be limited to closing primitive roads, trails, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use. Travel related to administrative uses and emergency services may continue during fire restrictions.

WFM-IV-MA- 8. Authorized uses may be limited or prohibited to reduce risk of wildland fire as determined by the authorized officer.

WFM-IV-MA- 9. Dozer blading should not occur within 300 feet of playas to protect associated cultural resources.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objectives

WFM-V-O- 1. Strive to reduce average wildland fire size and number of human-caused fire starts within WUI.

WFM-V-O- 2. Reduce acres burned in vegetation types outside WUI where more wildland fires have burned than in the Historic Fire Regime (HFR).

Allocations

WFM-V-A- 1. Critical Suppression Areas within the planning area would be:

- WUI,
- Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Sagebrush Sea ACECs; and
- Key sage-grouse habitat.

The types of Critical Suppression Areas would remain the same throughout the life of the plan; however, the acres and specific locations for WUI and key sage-grouse habitat can be updated to reflect changing conditions. See Map 31 for the locations of these areas in 2009.

WFM-V-A- 2. The remainder of the planning area would be a Conditional Suppression Area.

Management Actions

WFM-V-MA- 1. When multiple wildland fire ignitions occur in Critical Suppression Areas, based on the management priorities of Alternative V, the suppression priorities would be (in order of importance):

- VMA C
- VMA B
- VMA D
- VMA A

These priorities would also be used for general fire suppression management planning.

WFM-V-MA- 2. Within the perimeter of an active fire, protect unburned patches of native grassland and native shrubland communities from fire during wildland fire suppression activities. Patches of unburned annual and non-native perennial communities within the perimeter of an active fire would be allowed to burn.

WFM-V-MA- 3. Use MIST in:
- WSAs,
- Oregon NHT,
- Sand Point ACEC,
- Bull trout habitat,
- Slickspot peppergrass habitat, and
- Other areas where appropriate to mitigate potential impacts of fire suppression.

WFM-V-MA- 4. Maintain water availability for fire suppression at 2009 levels.

WFM-V-MA- 5. Consistent with other resource objectives, implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities including, but not limited to:
- Improving roads,
- Improving stream crossings, and
- Developing better signage.

Tools to improve access do not include building new guard stations, building new or improving existing airstrips, building helipads, or building new roads in areas with limited access.

WFM-V-MA- 6. Transportation and travel restrictions may be imposed to reduce risk of wildland fire during fire restrictions, as determined by an authorized officer; restrictions may include, but not be limited to closing primitive roads, trails, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use. Travel related to administrative uses and emergency services may continue during fire restrictions.

WFM-V-MA- 7. Authorized uses may be limited or prohibited to reduce risk of wildland fire as determined by the authorized officer.

WFM-V-MA- 8. Dozer blading should not occur within 300 feet of playas to protect associated cultural resources.

2.3.9.2. Fuels and Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation (ES&BAR)

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objectives	Management Actions
Fuels No objective stated.	***Fuels*** **FE-NA-MA- 1.** Cooperate with adjacent landowners on a case-by-case basis to reduce fire hazard where efforts are cost effective and the results will benefit BLM's fire management program. Cooperative efforts may range from consulting with private landowners on hazard reduction plans, to development of cooperative agreements and performance of hazard reduction. **FE-NA-MA- 2.** The following fuels reduction actions and procedures would be applied in all MUAs:

- Prescribed burns may be reduced, postponed, or cancelled in areas where they, in combination with recent burns, would cause significant cumulative impacts to wildlife or watershed conditions;
- A fire fuels break plan would be developed as part of a fire activity plan.

ES&BAR
FE-NA-O- 1. Rehabilitate public lands affected by wildland fires to accomplish multiple use objectives and designed to reduce fire size.

ES&BAR
FE-NA-MA- 3. The following rehabilitation actions would be applied across all MUAs:

- Rehabilitation of areas, particularly large areas, that have a high potential for fires or have a high frequency of fires, will utilize irregular buffer strips with seed mixtures that are fire resistant and/or meet watershed protection, wildlife, and riparian objectives. These buffer strips will receive first priority for seeding prior to reseeding the rest of the burned area.
- In areas where the RMP goal/objective is to return the area to an improved ecological condition, 10% to 25% of the wildland fire burn area would use seed mixtures to allow this objective to be met;
- All grazing licenses issued that included areas recently burned and/or seeded areas would include a statement concerning the amount of rest needed in the seedings or burn area. Normally, two years of rest would be necessary to protect these areas. This rested area may include remnant stands of desirable species that survived the fire; and
- Seedings would include appropriate seed mixtures to replace wildlife habitat that is burned.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

FE-CA-G- 1. Reduce fire hazard to WUI.

Objectives

Fuels
FE-CA-O- 1. Manage plant communities within WUI to reduce Relative Risk Rating as identified in the 2007 *Idaho Interagency Assessment of Wildland Fire Risk to Communities*.

Management Actions

Fuels
FE-CA-MA- 1. Update FRCC analysis for the planning area when 20% of the planning area has been disturbed by wildland fires or treated by fuels projects since the previous FRCC analysis was completed or as needed.

FE-CA-MA- 2. Progress towards FRCC objectives would be achieved through actions and guidelines specified in the *Upland Vegetation, Riparian Areas and Wetlands, Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants*, and *Wildland Fire Management and Ecology* sections.

FE-CA-MA- 3. Fuels treatments in riparian areas would follow the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).

FE-CA-MA- 4. Coordinate fuels treatments with adjacent landowners and agencies through County Wildfire Protection Plans or other methods.

FE-CA-MA- 5. Rest fuels treatment areas from uses, including but not limited to livestock and wild horse grazing and recreational use,

until treatment objectives are met and are predicted to be sustainable. This guideline would not apply to uses that do not conflict with the treatment objectives.

FE-CA-MA- 6. Assess proposed vegetation treatments in consultation with the tribes and SHPO for their potential to affect cultural resources. Where previous inventory has been sufficient to identify vulnerable cultural resources, no inventory should be needed; however, where adequate inventory is lacking, inventory of the area as determined in consultation with the SHPO would be conducted.

ES&BAR
See objectives for specific alternatives.

ES&BAR
FE-CA-MA- 7. Use the full range of treatment options available to meet ES&BAR objectives, including, but not limited to:

- Mechanical treatments,
- Drill or broadcast seeding treatments,
- Chemical treatments,
- Seedling transplants, and
- Erosion control structures.

FE-CA-MA- 8. Develop a Programmatic ES&BAR Plan and update as needed to address specific treatment options.

FE-CA-MA- 9. Use seed mixes that would help stabilize soils and achieve objectives in the *Upland Vegetation, Riparian Areas and Wetlands, Fish and Wildlife*, and *Special Status Species* sections.

FE-CA-MA- 10. Use seed drilling equipment, tools, or techniques that minimize soil disturbance and place seed at the correct depth.

FE-CA-MA- 11. Rest burned areas from uses, including but not limited to livestock and wild horse grazing and recreational use, until ES&BAR objectives are met and are predicted to be sustainable or if the treatment is determined to be unsuccessful. This guideline would not apply to uses that do not conflict with the treatment objectives.

FE-CA-MA- 12. Consider emergency closures in areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use when necessary for ES&BAR efforts.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

FE-I-G- 1. Manage vegetation communities outside WUI to maintain or restore their fire regimes and mosaic of successional classes to within their historic range.

Objectives

Fuels
FE-I-O- 1. Manage plant communities outside WUI to move toward FRCC 1.

Management Actions

Fuels
FE-I-MA- 1. Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads with consideration for other resource and resource use objectives.

FE-I-MA- 2. Fuels treatments in WUI would include fuels reduction treatments and fuel breaks. Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on

FE-I-O- 2. Implement fuels treatments to protect Critical Suppression Areas; limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire; and maintain or improve vegetation.

areas with high and high/moderate Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area.

FE-I-MA- 3. Fuels treatments outside WUI would include:
- Restoration,
- Fuel breaks, and
- Noxious weed and invasive plant treatments.

FE-I-MA- 4. The toolbox for fuels treatments would include:
- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting; and
- Targeted grazing.

Prescribed fire would not be allowed. See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

FE-I-MA- 5. Fuels treatments would use native and non-native species.

FE-I-MA- 6. Upland vegetation management related to fuels treatments, includes but is not limited to:
- Converting annual communities to native or non-native perennial,
- Restoring non-native perennial and non-native understory communities toward native,
- Restoring native grassland communities to native shrublands, and
- Introducing forbs and late-seral grasses to native shrubland communities.

See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

FE-I-MA- 7. Outside SRMAs, fuel breaks would follow disturbance corridors or would protect restoration and ES&BAR treatments; fuel breaks for SRMAs could be used to protect adjacent areas, protect facilities, and protect high-use areas. Construct fuel breaks consistent with the *Upland Vegetation* section.

FE-I-MA- 8. Noxious weed and invasive plants management related to fuels treatments includes measures for treating and preventing noxious weeds and invasive plants; see the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* section for more details.

ES&BAR

FE-I-O- 3. Rehabilitate and stabilize areas to help stabilize soils, promote natural recovery, and establish pre-fire or historic vegetation communities.

ES&BAR

FE-I-MA- 9. Consider using temporary fences on a case-by-case basis to protect burned plant communities and to allow for uses in pastures with burned plant communities. Temporary fences may only be considered when there are at least 2,000 unburned acres in the pasture. Reconstruction of fire-damaged permanent facilities on BLM-managed lands would follow BLM policy.

FE-I-MA- 10. When planning temporary fences, consider the size of the pasture, the amount burned, the amount of pasture unaffected by rehabilitation, resource concerns, location of water, and expense.

FFE-I-MA- 11. Temporary fences would be removed once ES&BAR objectives have been met.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

FE-II-G- 1. Manage vegetation communities outside WUI to maintain or restore their fire regimes and mosaic of successional classes to within their historic range.

Objectives

Fuels

FE-II-O- 1. Manage native plant communities outside WUI, excluding Sandberg/non-native areas, to move toward FRCC 1 and manage non-native plant communities and Sandberg/non-native areas for commodity use, which may not be toward FRCC 1.

FE-II-O- 2. Implement fuels treatments to protect Critical Suppression Areas; limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire; and maintain or improve vegetation.

Management Actions

Fuels

FE-II-MA- 1. Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads with consideration for other resource and resource use objectives.

FE-II-MA- 2. Fuels treatments in WUI would include fuels reduction treatments and fuel breaks. Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on areas with high, high/moderate, and moderate Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area and near Roseworth.

FE-II-MA- 3. Fuels treatments outside WUI would include:

- Restoration,
- Fuel breaks,
- Landscape-scale fuels reduction, and
- Noxious weed and invasive plant treatments.

Many of these are described in the *Upland Vegetation* and *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* sections.

FE-II-MA- 4. The toolbox for fuels treatments would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Targeted grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

Prescribed fire would not be allowed in native grassland or native shrubland communities. See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

FE-II-MA- 5. Fuels treatments would use primarily non-native species; fire-tolerant species would also be used, primarily in annual communities.

FE-II-MA- 6. Upland vegetation management related to fuels treatments includes, but is not limited to:

- Converting annual communities to non-native perennial,
- Restoring native grassland communities to native shrublands, and
- Introducing forbs and late-seral grasses to native shrubland communities.

See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

FE-II-MA- 7. Fuel breaks would focus on protecting commercial facilities; fuel breaks would also be placed in non-native communities to protect native communities. Construct fuel breaks consistent with the *Upland Vegetation* section.

FE-II-MA- 8. Landscape-scale fuels reduction would occur primarily through increased allocation of vegetation for permitted livestock

grazing and through increased livestock grazing utilization. See the *Livestock Grazing* section.

FE-II-MA- 9. Noxious weed and invasive plants management related to fuels treatments includes measures for treating and preventing noxious weeds and invasive plants; see the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* section for more details.

ES&BAR
FE-II-O- 3. Rehabilitate and stabilize areas to help stabilize soils, promote natural recovery, and establish pre-fire or historic vegetation communities.

ES&BAR
FE-II-MA- 10. Consider using temporary fences on a case-by-case basis to protect burned plant communities and to allow for commercial uses. Reconstruction of fire-damaged permanent facilities on BLM-managed lands would follow BLM policy.

FE-II-MA- 11. When planning temporary fences, consider the size of the pasture, the amount burned, the amount of pasture unaffected by rehabilitation, resource concerns, location of water, grazing management efficiency, and expense.

FE-II-MA- 12. With NEPA analysis, temporary fences may become permanent if they enhance the management of the burned area; these would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

FE-III-G- 1. Manage vegetation communities to lengthen the fire return interval.

Objectives

Fuels
FE-III-O- 1. Manage native plant communities outside WUI to move toward FRCC 1. Manage non-native plant communities to reduce wildland fire size and intensity, which may not be toward FRCC 1.

FE-III-O- 2. Implement fuels treatments to protect Critical Suppression Areas and limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire.

Management Actions

Fuels
FE-III-MA- 1. Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads as appropriate to reduce wildland fire size and intensity.

FE-III-MA- 2. Fuels treatments in WUI would include fuels reduction treatments and fuel breaks. Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on areas with high, high/moderate, and moderate Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area and near Roseworth and Three Creek.

FE-III-MA- 3. Fuels treatments outside WUI would include:
- Restoration,
- Fuel breaks,
- Landscape-scale fuels reduction, and
- Noxious weed and invasive plant treatments.

Many of these are described in the *Upland Vegetation* and *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* sections.

FE-III-MA- 4. The toolbox for fuels treatments would include:
- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Targeted grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

FE-III-MA- 5. Fuels treatments may use both native and non-native species, with fire-tolerant and fire-resistant species having a high priority.

FE-III-MA- 6. Upland vegetation management related to fuels treatments includes, but is not limited to:

- Converting annual communities to non-native perennial,
- Introducing shrubs to native grassland communities, and
- Creating extensive unvegetated or type-converted fuel breaks.

See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

FE-III-MA- 7. Fuel breaks would focus on strategic locations to disrupt the continuity of fuels and to protect structures and important resources such as habitat for sage-grouse and slickspot peppergrass. Construct fuel breaks consistent with the *Upland Vegetation* section.

FE-III-MA- 8. Landscape-scale fuels reduction would occur primarily through increased allocation of annual and non-native perennial vegetation for permitted livestock grazing and through increased livestock grazing utilization in annual and non-native perennial communities. See the *Livestock Grazing* section.

FE-III-MA- 9. Noxious weed and invasive plants management related to fuels treatments includes measures for treating and preventing noxious weeds and invasive plants; see the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* section for more details.

ES&BAR

FE-III-O- 3. Rehabilitate and stabilize areas to help stabilize soils, promote natural recovery, and establish fire-tolerant vegetation communities.

ES&BAR

FE-III-MA- 10. Consider using temporary fences on a case-by-case basis to protect burned plant communities. Reconstruction of fire-damaged permanent facilities on BLM-managed lands would follow BLM policy.

FE-III-MA- 11. When planning temporary fences, consider the size of the pasture, the amount burned, the amount of pasture unaffected by rehabilitation, resource concerns, location of water, grazing management efficiency, and expense.

FE-III-MA- 12. Temporary fences would be removed once ES&BAR objectives have been met.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

FE-IV-G- 1. Manage vegetation communities outside WUI to maintain or restore their fire regimes and mosaic of successional classes to within their historic range.

Objectives

Fuels

FE-IV-O- 1. Manage plant communities outside WUI to move toward FRCC 1.

Management Actions

Fuels

FE-IV-MA- 1. Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads with consideration for other resource objectives.

FE-IV-MA- 2. Fuels treatments in WUI would include fuels reduction treatments and fuel breaks. Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on

FE-IV-O- 2. Implement fuels treatments to protect Critical Suppression Areas; limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire; and maintain or improve vegetation.

areas with high and high/moderate Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area.

FE-IV-MA- 3. Fuels treatments outside WUI would include:
- Restoration,
- Fuel breaks, and
- Noxious weed and invasive plant treatments.

Many of these are described in the *Upland Vegetation* and *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* sections.

FE-IV-MA- 4. The toolbox to restore or treat upland vegetation communities would include:
- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Targeted grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

See the *Livestock Grazing* section for more information on targeted grazing.

FE-IV-MA- 5. Fuels treatments would use native and non-native species.

FE-IV-MA- 6. Upland vegetation management related to fuels treatments includes, but is not limited to:
- Restoring annual, non-native perennial, and non-native understory communities toward native;
- Restoring native grassland communities to native shrublands; and
- Introducing forbs and late-seral grasses to native shrubland communities.

See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

FE-IV-MA- 7. Fuel breaks would follow disturbance corridors or would protect restoration or ES&BAR treatments. Construct fuel breaks consistent with the *Upland Vegetation* section.

FE-IV-MA- 8. Noxious weed and invasive plants management related to fuels treatments includes measures for treating and preventing noxious weeds and invasive plants; see the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* section for more details.

ES&BAR

FE-IV-O- 3. Rehabilitate and stabilize areas to help stabilize soils, promote natural recovery, and establish pre-fire or historic vegetation communities.

ES&BAR

FE-IV-MA- 9. Consider using temporary fences on a case-by-case basis to protect burned plant communities and to allow for uses in pastures with burned plant communities; however, temporary fences would not be allowed in pastures with native plant communities. Temporary fences may only be considered when there are at least 2,000 unburned acres in the pasture. Reconstruction of fire-damaged permanent facilities on BLM-managed lands would follow BLM policy.

FE-IV-MA- 10. When planning temporary fences, consider the size of the pasture, the amount burned, the amount of pasture unaffected by rehabilitation, resource concerns, location of water, and expense.

FE-IV-MA- 11. Temporary fences would be removed once ES&BAR objectives have been met.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

FE-V-G- 1. Manage vegetation communities outside WUI to maintain or restore their fire regimes and mosaic of successional classes to within their historic range.

Objectives

Fuels

FE-V-O- 1. Manage plant communities outside WUI to move toward FRCC 1.

FE-V-O- 2. Implement fuels treatments to protect Critical Suppression Areas; limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire; and maintain or improve vegetation.

Management Actions

Fuels

FE-V-MA- 1. Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads with consideration for other resource objectives.

FE-V-MA- 2. Fuels treatments in WUI would include fuels reduction treatments and fuel breaks. Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on areas with high Relative Risk Ratings in the northern portion of the planning area.

FE-V-MA- 3. Fuels treatments outside WUI would include:

- Restoration,
- Fuel breaks, and
- Noxious weed and invasive plant treatments.

Many of these are described in the *Upland Vegetation* and *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* sections.

FE-V-MA- 4. The toolbox for fuels treatments would include:

- Chemical, mechanical, and biological treatments;
- Seeding and planting;
- Removal of grazing; and
- Prescribed fire.

Chemical treatments could only be used after all other methods have been exhausted. Targeted grazing would not be allowed.

FE-V-MA- 5. Fuels treatments would use native species.

FE-V-MA- 6. Upland vegetation management related to fuels treatments includes, but is not limited to:

- Restoring annual communities toward native, and
- Introducing shrubs to non-native perennial communities and native grassland communities to break up the continuity of fuel.

See the *Upland Vegetation* section for more details.

FE-V-MA- 7. Fuel breaks would only follow designated roads and designated primitive roads. Construct fuel breaks consistent with the *Upland Vegetation* section.

FE-V-MA- 8. Noxious weed and invasive plants management related to fuels treatments includes measures for treating and preventing noxious weeds and invasive plants; see the *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants* section for more details. Construct fuel breaks consistent with the *Upland Vegetation* section.

ES&BAR
FE-V-O- 3. Rehabilitate and stabilize areas to help stabilize soils, promote natural recovery, and establish pre-fire or historic vegetation communities.

ES&BAR
FE-V-MA- 9. Temporary fences would not be used. Livestock grazing would be pulled back to pasture fences. Reconstruction of fire-damaged permanent facilities on BLM-managed lands would follow BLM policy.

2.3.10. Wild Horses

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

WH-NA-G- 1. A viable, healthy population of wild horses will be maintained in accordance with Federal law.

Objective

WH-NA-O- 1. Provide forage to support a herd of 50 wild horses in the Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA.

Allocations

WH-NA-A- 1. Manage the entire Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Area as an HMA.

WH-NA-A- 2. No wild horse ranges are identified.

WH-NA-A- 3. Allocate 600 AUMs for wild horses in MUA 7 (Map 4).

Management Actions

WH-NA-MA- 1. Develop a Wild Horse Management Plan.

WH-NA-MA- 2. Where levels are to be adjusted, sufficient forage would be provided.

WH-NA-MA- 3. Design fences to minimize wild horse movement conflicts in MUA 7 (Map 4).

WH-NA-MA- 4. Animals being collected for adoption or removed by other appropriate means would receive care and attention. Adopted animals would be monitored in accordance with BLM policy until title for the animal(s) is/are issued.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

WH-I-G- 1. The Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA would be managed for a thriving natural ecological balance.

Objective

WH-I-O- 1. Manage a reproducing herd of 100 to 200 wild horses in the Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA.

Allocations

WH-I-A- 1. Manage the entire Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Area as an HMA.

WH-I-A- 2. The initial herd size would be approximately 130 wild horses; the estimated herd size for a reproducing population of wild horses would be approximately 100 to 200 head.

WH-I-A- 3. Allocate forage sufficient to maintain the wild horse population according to allocation levels described in the *Livestock Grazing* section.

Management Actions

WH-I-MA- 1. Develop a Herd Management Area Plan.

WH-I-MA- 2. The HMA would remain open to livestock grazing, although grazing levels on an allotment-specific basis would be adjusted to accommodate wild horse numbers.

WH-I-MA- 3. Re-design pasture configurations and fences within the HMA to facilitate genetic exchange, wild horse social interactions, and free-roaming characteristics.

WH-I-MA- 4. Increase the reliability of artificial water sources for wild horses within the HMA.

WH-I-MA- 5. Seasonal restrictions would be placed on travel within the HMA during foaling (from March through July); motorized travel would not be allowed on primitive roads during this time.

WH-I-MA- 6. Seasonal restrictions on authorized uses within HMA to avoid disturbing wild horses during foaling (March through July) would be defined in the permit or authorization.

WH-I-MA- 7. Commercial SRPs would not be allowed in the HMA.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

WH-II-G- 1. The Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Area would be managed for commercial uses.

Objective

WH-II-O- 1. Manage the Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Area as an unpopulated herd area.

Allocations

WH-II-A- 1. Return the Saylor Creek HMA to Herd Area status.

WH-II-A- 2. The initial herd size would be approximately 130 wild horses; the estimated herd size would be zero.

WH-II-A- 3. No forage would be allocated for wild horses.

Management Actions

WH-II-MA- 1. Gather and remove the total wild horse population in the Saylor Creek Herd Area. Once removed, offer the animals for adoption or sale to individuals who can provide then with good homes, relocate selected animals to other HMAs, or place wild horses for which there is no adoption or sale demand in long-term pastures.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

WH-III-G- 1. The Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA would be managed for a thriving natural ecological balance.

Objective

WH-III-O- 1. Manage a reproducing herd of 200 to 600 wild horses in the Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA.

Allocations

WH-III-A- 1. Manage the entire Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Area as an HMA.

WH-III-A- 2. The initial herd size would be approximately 130 wild horses; the estimated herd size for a reproducing population of wild horses would be approximately 200 to 600 head..

WH-III-A- 3. Allocate forage sufficient to maintain the wild horse population according to allocation levels described in the *Livestock Grazing* section.

Management Actions

WH-III-MA- 1. Develop a Herd Management Area Plan.

WH-III-MA- 2. The HMA would remain open to livestock grazing, although grazing levels would be adjusted on an allotment-specific basis to accommodate wild horse numbers.

WH-III-MA- 3. Reduce fences within the HMA to facilitate access to forage and water, genetic exchange, wild horse social interactions, and free-roaming characteristics.

WH-III-MA- 4. Increase the number and reliability of artificial water sources for wild horses and fire suppression within the HMA.

WH-III-MA- 5. Seasonal restrictions would be placed on travel within the HMA during foaling (from March through July); motorized travel would not be allowed on primitive roads during this time.

WH-III-MA- 6. Seasonal restrictions on authorized uses within HMA to avoid disturbing wild horses during foaling (March through July) would be defined in the permit or authorization.

WH-III-MA- 7. Commercial SRPs would not be allowed in the HMA.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

WH-IV-G- 1. The Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA would be managed for a thriving natural ecological balance.

Objective

WH-IV-O- 1. Manage a non-reproducing herd of up to 200 wild horses in the Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA.

Allocations

WH-IV-A- 1. Manage the entire Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Area as an HMA.

WH-IV-A- 2. Manage the Saylor Creek HMA for a non-reproducing population of wild horses. The initial herd size would be approximately 130 wild horses; the estimated herd size would be about 200 non-reproducing wild horses.

WH-IV-A- 3. Allocate forage sufficient to maintain the wild horse population according to allocation levels described in the *Livestock Grazing* section.

Management Actions

WH-IV-MA- 1. Develop a Herd Management Area Plan.

WH-IV-MA- 2. The HMA would remain open to livestock grazing, although grazing levels would be adjusted on an allotment-specific basis to accommodate wild horse numbers.

WH-IV-MA- 3. Re-design pasture configurations and fences within the HMA to facilitate wild horse social interactions and free-roaming characteristics.

WH-IV-MA- 4. Increase the reliability of artificial water sources for horses within the HMA.

WH-IV-MA- 5. Commercial SRPs would not be allowed in the HMA.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

WH-V-G- 1. The Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA would be managed for a thriving natural ecological balance.

Objective

WH-V-O- 1. Manage a non-reproducing herd of up to 500 wild horses in the Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA.

Allocations

WH-V-A- 1. Manage the entire Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Area as an HMA.

WH-V-A- 2. Manage the Saylor Creek HMA for a non-reproducing population of wild horses. The initial herd size would be approximately 130 wild horses; the estimated herd size would be about 500 non-reproducing wild horses.

WH-V-A- 3. Allocate forage sufficient to maintain the wild horse population according to allocation levels described in the *Livestock Grazing* section.

Management Actions

WH-V-MA- 1. Develop a Herd Management Area Plan.

WH-V-MA- 2. The HMA would remain open to livestock grazing, although grazing levels would be adjusted on allotment-specific basis to accommodate wild horse numbers.

WH-V-MA- 3. Reduce fences within the HMA to facilitate access to forage and water, wild horse social interactions, and free-roaming characteristics.

WH-V-MA- 4. Increase the reliability of artificial water sources for wild horses within the HMA.

WH-V-MA- 5. Commercial SRPs would not be allowed in the HMA.

2.3.11. Paleontological Resources

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective	Management Action
PR-NA-O- 1. Protect and manage paleontological sites in major paleontological areas in MUAs 4, 6, and 7 (Map 4), including Sand Point, Pasadena Valley, Rosevear Creek and Gulch, Dove Springs, Deer Gulch, Pilgrim Spring and Stage, and Glenns Ferry.	**PR-NA-MA- 1.** Manage paleontological resources to protect, maintain, or enhance sites or areas for their scientific and educational values.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

PR-CA-G- 1. Identify, manage, and protect paleontological resources for scientific research, educational purposes, and public use.

Objective	Management Actions
PR-CA-O- 1. Identify, manage, and protect important paleontological sites.	**PR-CA-MA- 1.** Implement measures to protect paleontological resources. Measures may include, but not be limited to: • Avoidance, • Fencing, • Stabilization, • Data recovery through collection or excavation, • Interpretation, or • Administrative closure. **PR-CA-MA- 2.** Identify areas at risk of damage from illegal activities and implement management to discourage those activities. **PR-CA-MA- 3.** Minimize or prevent human-caused damage to paleontological resources through educational and interpretive outreach programs. **PR-CA-MA- 4.** Consider surface-disturbing activities that affect fossil-bearing geologic units (Potential Fossil Yield Class 5) in site-specific analyses, which may include a field inventory. Mitigate potential impacts to paleontological resources.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Action
See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.	**PR-I-MA- 1.** Issue permits for paleontological research to qualified paleontologists. Actively solicit research efforts to identify, monitor, and collect data on fossil resources.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Action
See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.	**PR-II-MA- 1.** Issue permits for paleontological research to qualified paleontologists.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Action
See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.	**PR-III-MA- 1.** Issue permits for paleontological research to qualified paleontologists.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Action
See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.	**PR-IV-MA- 1.** Issue permits for paleontological research to qualified paleontologists if proposed research is compatible with *Upland Vegetation* objectives.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Action
See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.	**PR-V-MA- 1.** Issue permits for paleontological research to qualified paleontologists if proposed research is compatible with *Upland Vegetation* objectives

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2.3.12. Cultural Resources

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective

CR-NA-O- 1. Protect the cultural values of the Dry Lake/Bruneau River Complex, Arch Canyon, the Dove Spring complex, and additional significant cultural resource complexes through special designation and management.

Management Actions

CR-NA-MA- 1. Develop a Cultural Plan for Pot Hole Complex, MUA 7 (Map 4), Dry Lake Beds/Bruneau River Complex, Post Office, Dry Lakes Complex, Juniper Ranch, Clover Creek, and Devil Creek.

CR-NA-MA- 2. All significant cultural sites, as determined by the SHPO and Advisory Council, would be retained in Federal ownership.

CR-NA-MA- 3. The ruts of the main route and south alternate route of the Oregon NHT and Kelton Freight Road would be protected by not allowing incompatible uses to occur with a 0.5 mile corridor through which these routes pass.

CR-NA-MA- 4. Place cultural signs in MUA 4 and 7 (Map 4).

CR-NA-MA- 5. Conduct a Class III inventory as specified in BLM Manual Section 8111.4 prior to commencement of any BLM-initiated or authorized action involving surface-disturbing activities or sale or transfer from Federal management. If properties that may be eligible for the National Register are discovered, consult with SHPO and forward the documentation to the Keeper of the National Register to obtain a determination of eligibility in accordance with 36 CFR Part 63.

CR-NA-MA- 6. Recommend the Oregon Trail, Dry Lake Beds/Bruneau River Complex, and Devil Creek Complex for listing on the National Register.

CR-NA-MA- 7. Protect all cultural sites known to be eligible for National Register nomination or listed on the National Register from deterioration.

CR-NA-MA- 8. Cultural resource values discovered in a proposed work area would be protected by adhering to the following methods:

- Redesigning or relocating the project;
- Salvaging, through scientific methods, the cultural resource values pursuant to the SHPO agreement;
- Should the site be determined to be of significant value, and/or the above-mentioned methods are not considered adequate, the project would be abandoned.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goals

Management
CR-CA-G- 1. Identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources and ensure they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.

Protection
CR-CA-G- 2. Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration or potential conflict with other resource uses by ensuring all authorizations for land use and resource use complies with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, Section 106.

Objectives

Management
CR-CA-O- 1. Manage and protect cultural resources according to their potential traditional, scientific, conservation, public, or experimental value.

Allocations

Management
CR-CA-A- 1. Cultural resources would be allocated as described in Appendix I.

Management Actions

Management
CR-CA-MA- 1. Maintain on-going cultural resource inventory information in GIS format in accordance with confidentiality mandates.

CR-CA-MA- 2. Identify priority geographic areas for future inventory based on the probability of unrecorded significant resources, and conduct inventories independent of specific land use actions.

CR-CA-MA- 3. Implement measures to minimize or prevent damage to cultural resources due to BLM management activities, authorized and allowed uses, and human-caused damage such as vandalism, unauthorized surface collection of artifacts, and unintentional disturbances. Measures may include, but not be limited to:

- Avoidance,
- Fencing
- Stabilization,
- Data recovery through collection or excavation,
- Interpretation,
- Administrative closure, or
- Proactive law enforcement patrols.

CR-CA-MA- 4. Develop cultural resource project plans as needed to address preservation actions for cultural resource complexes or individual sites identified as high risk for adverse impacts.

CR-CA-MA- 5. The Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors include 0.25 miles on either side of the trail segments or the visual horizon of those segments, whichever is less (Map 112).

CR-CA-MA- 6. Manage the Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors as avoidance areas for surface-disturbing activities that could cause adverse effects, including but not limited to right-of-way construction and maintenance and placement of salting, supplemental feeding, watering, and holding facilities for livestock.

CR-CA-MA- 7. Developments such as roads, trails, pipelines, fences, and power lines may be allowed to cross segments of the Kelton and Toana Freight Roads in areas where previous disturbance has occurred after consultation with SHPO.

CR-CA-MA- 8. Surface-disturbing equipment, such as bulldozers and road graders, cannot be used on segments of the Kelton or Toana Freight Roads or within their protective corridors without prior management approval, unless to protect life or property.

Protection

CR-CA-O- 2. Strive to limit the adverse effects of BLM decisions on important cultural resources.

Protection

CR-CA-MA- 9. All authorizations for land and resource uses would comply with all cultural resource laws and regulations, including Section 106 of the NHPA, consistent with and subject to the objectives established in the RMP for the proactive use of cultural resources in the public interest.

CR-CA-MA- 10. Nominate eligible sites for the National Register on a case-by-case basis.

CR-CA-MA- 11. Manage sites that are determined eligible for the NRHP for their local, regional, or national significance. If natural- or human-caused deterioration cannot be prevented, BLM would consult with the tribes and SHPO, as appropriate, to mitigate the adverse effects.

CR-CA-MA- 12. Consider all prudent and feasible alternatives to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on cultural resources and their uses when resolving site-specific conflicts between cultural resource use allocations and competing land use allocations and where the competing land use has potential to adversely affect cultural resources. Where such alternatives require undue cost or would be incompatible with competing goals, managers shall seek to balance goals considering the magnitude of the harm to the cultural resource or its use, the significance of the resource or its use, the effect of mitigation activities on the competing use allocation, and public sensitivities.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goals

See goals in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objectives in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Actions

Management

CR-I-MA- 1. Allow research, including archaeological, historic, ethnographic, and non-intrusive research, to better define the extent, nature, and value of cultural resources in the planning area.

CR-I-MA- 2. Important cultural resources, as determined through consultation with tribes and/or SHPO, would generally be retained in Federal ownership. Under limited circumstances, after appropriate consultation and mitigation, lands containing important cultural resources may be exchanged for lands containing resources of greater or equal value.

CR-I-MA- 3. Avoid or minimize new ground disturbance within 300 feet of playas to protect associated cultural resources.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goals

See goals in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Actions
See objectives in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.	***Management*** **CR-II-MA- 1.** Allow research, including archaeological, historic, ethnographic, and non-intrusive research, to better define the extent, nature, and value of cultural resources in the planning area. **CR-II-MA- 2.** Important cultural resources, as determined through consultation with tribes and/or SHPO, would generally be retained in Federal ownership. Under limited circumstances, after appropriate consultation and mitigation, lands containing important cultural resources may be exchanged or sold. **CR-II-MA- 3.** Avoid or minimize new ground disturbance within 150 feet of playas to protect associated cultural resources.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goals

See goals in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Actions
See objectives in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.	***Management*** **CR-III-MA- 1.** Allow research, including archaeological, historic, ethnographic, and non-intrusive research, to better define the extent, nature, and value of cultural resources in the planning area. **CR-III-MA- 2.** Important cultural resources, as determined through consultation with tribes and/or SHPO, would generally be retained in Federal ownership. Under limited circumstances, after appropriate consultation and mitigation, lands containing important cultural resources may be exchanged for lands containing resources of greater or equal value. **CR-III-MA- 3.** Avoid or minimize new ground disturbance within 150 feet of playas to protect associated cultural resources; this restriction would not apply to fire suppression activities.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goals

See goals in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Actions
See objectives in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.	***Management*** **CR-IV-MA- 1.** Actively solicit researchers to identify, monitor, and gather data on cultural resources, including archaeological, historic,

ethnographic, and non-intrusive research. Develop cooperative agreements and partnerships with tribes, historical societies, and colleges to encourage research and assist with monitoring.

CR-IV-MA- 2. Important cultural resources, as determined through consultation with tribes and/or SHPO, would generally be retained in Federal ownership. Under limited circumstances, after appropriate consultation and mitigation, lands containing important cultural resources may be exchanged for lands containing resources of greater or equal value.

CR-IV-MA- 3. Avoid or minimize new ground disturbance within 300 feet of playas to protect associated cultural resources.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goals

See goals in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objectives in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Actions

Management

CR-V-MA- 1. Actively solicit researchers to identify, monitor, and gather data on cultural resources, including archaeological, historic, ethnographic, and non-intrusive research. Develop cooperative agreements and partnerships with tribes, historical societies, and colleges to encourage research and assist with monitoring.

CR-V-MA- 2. Important cultural resources, as determined through consultation with tribes and/or SHPO, would generally be retained in Federal ownership. Under limited circumstances, after appropriate consultation and mitigation, lands containing important cultural resources may be exchanged for lands containing resources of greater or equal value.

CR-V-MA- 3. Avoid new ground disturbance within 300 feet of playas to protect associated cultural resources.

2.3.13. Visual Resources

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective

No objective stated.

Allocations

VR-NA-A- 1. Areas managed as Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class I (129,000 acres) would include:

- The Oregon NHT protective corridor, and
- Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC

VR-NA-A- 2. Areas managed as VRM Class II (112,000 acres) would include:

- Corridors along the Snake River, Salmon Falls Creek, Devil Creek, and Lower Cedar Creek;

- Portions of Browns Bench and China Mountain; and
- Portions of the Jarbidge Foothills and Diamond A Desert.

VR-NA-A- 3. Areas managed as VRM Class III (292,000 acres) would include:

- Corridors along Clover Creek, Clover-Three Creek Road, and 17-Mile Road;
- An area between Lower Cedar Creek and Salmon Falls Creek; and
- Portions of the Jarbidge Foothills and Diamond A Desert.

VR-NA-A- 4. The remainder of the planning area would be managed as VRM Class IV (841,000 acres).

See Map 35 for locations of areas allocated to VRM Class I, II, III, and IV.

Management Action

VR-NA-MA- 1. Consider the visual and scenic values of the public lands whenever any physical actions are proposed on BLM lands. The degree of alterations to the natural landscape would be guided by the criteria established for the four VRM Classes as outlined in *BLM Manual 8400: Visual Resource Management*.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal and Objective

VR-CA-G- 1. Maintain visual resource characteristics and values of public lands according to VRM classes.

Objective

See *Goal and Objective*.

Allocations

See allocations in specific alternatives.

Management Action

VR-CA-MA- 1. Ensure BLM management activities and authorized uses are designed to meet the VRM objectives for the project area.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

VR-I-A- 1. Areas to be managed as VRM Class I (130,000 acres) would include:

- WSAs;
- Eligible/suitable WSRs with Scenic Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs; i.e., segments of Salmon Falls and Cougar Point Creeks and Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers);
- Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC; and
- Salmon Falls Creek ACEC.

VR-I-A- 2. Areas to be managed as VRM Class II (181,000 acres) would include:

- The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics;
- Jarbidge Foothills SRMA;
- Wilkins Island;
- The Jarbidge River corridor between Murphy Hot Springs and the Jarbidge Forks; and
- Areas near Buck Creek.

VR-I-A- 3. Areas to be managed as VRM Class III (119,000 acres) would include:

- The Snake River corridor (from the field office [FO] boundary to 0.25 miles above the breaks);
- The foreground of the Oregon NHT protective corridor (1.5 miles on each side);
- ROW corridors through areas otherwise managed as VRM Class I or II;
- Portions of the Diamond A Desert not otherwise managed as VRM Class I or II;
- Deadman/Yahoo SRMA; and
- The Toana Freight Road protective corridor.

VR-I-A- 4. The remainder of the planning area would be managed as VRM Class IV (944,000 acres).

See Map 36 for locations of areas allocated to VRM Class I, II, III, and IV.

Management Action

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

VR-II-A- 1. Areas to be managed as VRM Class I (103,000 acres) would include:

- WSAs, and
- Eligible/suitable WSRs with Scenic ORVs (i.e., segments of Salmon Falls and Cougar Point Creeks and Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers).

VR-II-A- 2. Areas to be managed as VRM Class II (11,000 acres) would include:

- The Oregon NHT protective corridor, and
- The Jarbidge River corridor between Murphy Hot Springs and the Jarbidge Forks.

VR-II-A- 3. Areas to be managed as VRM Class III (19,000 acres) would include:

- ROW corridors through areas otherwise managed as VRM Class I or II;
- The Toana Freight Road protective corridor; and
- Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA.

VR-II-A- 4. The remainder of the planning area would be managed as VRM Class IV (1,240,000 acres).

See Map 37 for locations of areas allocated to VRM Class I, II, III, and IV.

Management Action

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

VR-III-A- 1. Areas to be managed as VRM Class I (103,000 acres) would include:

- WSAs;
- Eligible/suitable WSRs with Scenic ORVs (i.e., segments of Salmon Falls and Cougar Point Creeks and Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers);
- Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC; and
- Salmon Falls Creek ACEC.

VR-III-A- 2. Areas to be managed as VRM Class II (11,000 acres) would include:

- The Oregon NHT protective corridor, and
- The Jarbidge River corridor between Murphy Hot Springs and the Jarbidge Forks.

VR-III-A- 3. Areas to be managed as VRM Class III (336,000 acres) would include:

- The Snake River corridor (from the FO boundary to 0.25 miles above the breaks);
- The foreground of the Oregon NHT protective corridor (1.5 miles on each side);
- ROW corridors through areas otherwise managed as VRM Class I or II;
- Portions of the Jarbidge Foothills and Diamond A Desert not otherwise managed as VRM Class I or II;
- Wilkins Island;
- Deadman/Yahoo SRMA; and
- The Toana Freight Road protective corridor.

VR-III-A- 4. The remainder of the planning area would be managed as VRM Class IV (924,000 acres).

See Map 38 for locations of areas allocated to VRM Class I, II, III, and IV.

Management Action

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

VR-IV-A- 1. Areas to be managed as VRM Class I (128,000 acres) would include:

- WSAs,
- Eligible/suitable WSRs with Scenic ORVs (segments of Salmon Falls and Cougar Point Creeks and Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers), and
- Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC.

VR-IV-A- 2. Areas to be managed as VRM Class II (70,000 acres) would include:

- The Oregon NHT protective corridor,
- Browns Bench,
- Wilkins Island;
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics,
- The Jarbidge River corridor between Murphy Hot Springs and the Jarbidge Forks, and
- Areas near Buck Creek.

VR-IV-A- 3. Areas to be managed as VRM Class III (366,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 334,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative) would include:

- The Snake River corridor (from the FO boundary to .25 miles above the breaks);
- The foreground of the Oregon NHT protective corridor (1.5 miles on each side);
- ROW corridors through areas otherwise managed as VRM Class I or II;
- Portions of the Jarbidge Foothills and Diamond A Desert not otherwise managed as VRM Class I or II;
- Inside Desert ACEC;
- Deadman/Yahoo SRMA; and
- Lands between the Toana Road protective corridor and Salmon Falls Creek.

VR-IV-A- 4. The remainder of the planning area would be managed as VRM Class IV (810,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 842,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative).

See Maps 39 and 40 for locations of areas allocated to VRM Class I, II, III, and IV.

Management Action

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives.*

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See goal and objective for *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

VR-V-A- 1. Areas to be managed as VRM Class I (103,000 acres) would include:

- WSAs; and
- Eligible/suitable WSRs with Scenic ORVs (i.e., segments of Salmon Falls and Cougar Point Creeks and Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers).

VR-V-A- 2. Areas to be managed as VRM Class II (269,000 acres) would include:

- The Oregon NHT protective corridor,
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics,
- The Jarbidge Foothills, and
- Portions of the Diamond A Desert not otherwise managed as VRM Class I.

VR-V-A- 3. Areas to be managed as VRM Class III (649,000 acres) would include:

- Portions of the Sagebrush Sea ACEC not otherwise managed as VRM Class I or II;
- The Snake River corridor (from the FO boundary to .25 miles above the breaks);
- The foreground of the Oregon NHT protective corridor (1.5 miles on each side);
- Lands between the Balanced Rock ROW Corridor and Lower Salmon Falls Creek; and
- ROW corridors through areas otherwise managed as VRM Class I or II.

VR-V-A- 4. The remainder of the planning area would be managed as VRM Class IV (353,000 acres).

See Map 41 for locations of areas allocated to VRM Class I, II, III, and IV.

Management Action

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives.*

2.3.14. Non-Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective	Management Actions
No objective stated.	No management actions stated.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

WC-CA-G- 1. Maintain wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands as appropriate, considering manageability and the context of competing resource demands.

Objective	Management Actions
See objectives in specific alternatives.	See management actions in specific alternatives.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Actions
WC-I-O- 1. Manage non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in the western portion of the planning area for their undeveloped character and to provide opportunities for primitive recreational activities and solitude.	**WC-I-MA- 1.** Manage non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in the Bruneau-Jarbidge area to maintain their wilderness character. In 2009, these lands include the following areas: • Hole in the Ground (7,000 acres), • Columbet Table (4,000 acres), • Long Draw (17,000 acres), and • East Fork Jarbidge (6,000 acres). See Map 42 for locations. **WC-I-MA- 2.** Management for these lands would be as follows: • Retain in Federal ownership (Land Tenure Zone 1). • Manage as VRM Class II, with the exception of the existing utility corridor managed as VRM III. • Close to motorized vehicle use. See the *Transportation and Travel* section for more details. • Close to leasable mineral exploration and development. • Close to salable mineral development. • Allow new range infrastructure if the infrastructure would help enhance wilderness characteristics. Existing range infrastructure may be maintained. • Make these lands a ROW avoidance area.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Actions
WC-II-O- 1. Non-WSA lands would not be managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.	No management actions stated.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Actions
WC-III-O- 2. Non-WSA lands would not be managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.	No management actions stated.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective	Management Actions
WC-IV-O- 1. Manage non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics for their undeveloped character and to provide opportunities for primitive recreational activities and solitude.	**WC-IV-MA- 1.** Manage non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to maintain their wilderness character. In 2009, these lands include the following areas: • Corral Creek (6,000 acres), • Hole in the Ground (7,000 acres), • Black Canyon (8,000 acres), • Salmon Falls Creek (5,000 acres), • Columbet Table (4,000 acres), • Long Draw (17,000 acres), and • East Fork Jarbidge (6,000 acres). See Map 42 for locations. **WC-IV-MA- 2.** Management for these lands would be as follows: • Retain in Federal ownership (Land Tenure Zone 1). • Manage as VRM Class II, with the exception of the existing utility corridor managed as VRM III. • Close to motorized travel vehicle use. See the *Transportation and Travel* section for more details. • Close to leasable mineral exploration and development. • Close to salable mineral development. • Allow new range infrastructure if the infrastructure would help enhance wilderness characteristics. Existing range infrastructure may be maintained. • Make these lands a ROW exclusion area.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

WC-V-O- 1. Manage non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics for their undeveloped character and to provide opportunities for primitive recreational activities and solitude.

Management Actions

WC-V-MA- 1. Manage non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics to maintain their wilderness character. In 2009, these lands include the following areas:

- Corral Creek (6,000 acres),
- Hole in the Ground (7,000 acres),
- Black Canyon (8,000 acres),
- Salmon Falls Creek (5,000 acres),
- Columbet Table (4,000 acres), Long Draw (17,000 acres), and
- East Fork Jarbidge (6,000 acres).

See Map 42 for locations.

WC-V-MA- 2. Management for these lands would be as follows:

- Retain in Federal ownership (Land Tenure Zone 1).
- Manage as VRM Class II, with the exception of the existing utility corridor managed as VRM III.
- Close to motorized vehicle use. See the *Transportation and Travel* section for more details.
- Close to leasable mineral exploration and development.
- Close these lands to salable mineral development.
- Allow new range infrastructure if the infrastructure would help enhance wilderness characteristics. Existing range infrastructure may be maintained.
- Make these lands a ROW exclusion area.

2.4. RESOURCE USES

2.4.1. Livestock Grazing

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objectives

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-NA-O- 1. Design and establish grazing management practices to meet fisheries, riparian, and water quality needs.

LG-NA-O- 2. Establish livestock grazing systems and practices that recognize the physiological requirements of forbs and shrubs.

Allocation

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-NA-A- 1. The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing (1,414,000 acres). Salmon Falls Creek Canyon would not be available for livestock grazing (2,700 acres). An additional 48,000 acres are not contained within grazing allotments and therefore are not grazed, even though the 1987 RMP does not specifically make these areas unavailable for livestock grazing; these areas would continue to be unavailable for livestock grazing. See Map 44 for locations.

LG-NA-A- 2. Continue allocating approximately 200,000 AUMs for livestock. As the plan is implemented, between 160,000 and 260,000 AUMs could be issued for livestock depending on implementation of treatments described in the *Upland Vegetation* section.

LG-NA-A- 3. Allocate the following forage:

- Bighorn sheep – 598 AUMS in MUAs 10, 15, and 16
- Mule deer – 1,600 AUMs in MUAs 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16
- Pronghorn – 261 AUMs in MUAs 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16.
- Wild horses – 600 AUMs in MUA 7.

See Map 4 for MUA boundaries.

Management Actions

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-NA-MA- 1. Develop grazing systems to maintain condition in MUA 4. Develop grazing management systems on fair condition range in MUA 11 to improve to good or better condition (Map 4). Additional grazing systems would be implemented elsewhere. The type of system to be implemented would be based on the consideration of the following factors:

- MUA and allotment-specific management objectives;
- Resource characteristics, including vegetation potential and water availability;
- Operator needs; and
- Implementation costs.

Grazing systems that will be considered include:

- Rest-rotation grazing
- Deferred rotation grazing,
- Deferred grazing,

- Alternative grazing,
- Short-duration high intensity grazing, or
- Seasonal grazing.

LG-NA-MA- 2. Livestock management measures would be implemented where necessary to prevent livestock access to canyons.

LG-NA-MA- 3. Incorporate forage/cover requirements specific to areas of primary wildlife use into allotment management plans.

LG-NA-MA- 4. Livestock season of use would be adjusted in MUAs 10, 15, and 16, if necessary, to resolve any conflicts on mule deer, pronghorn and bighorn sheep ranges. These adjustments would entail the reduction in spring or fall livestock grazing use from a specific period(s) of a grazing year. Season of use changes would be made after monitoring is completed along with other needed grazing use adjustments, or when activity plans are completed. Priority would be given to resolving conflicts on crucial wildlife habitat areas in poor ecological condition.

LG-NA-MA- 5. Prioritize grazing allotments in the planning area for processing and issuing grazing authorizations and for monitoring effectiveness of grazing management according to their assigned Selective Management Category displayed in Appendix J. The “M” allotments generally would be managed to maintain satisfactory resource conditions; “I” allotments generally would be managed to improve resource conditions; and “C” allotments would receive custodial management to prevent resource deterioration.

Range Infrastructure

LG-NA-O- 3. Design range infrastructure to achieve objectives in the *Vegetation Communities, Fish and Wildlife,* and *Livestock Grazing* objectives.

Range Infrastructure

LG-NA-MA- 6. A variety of range infrastructure, grazing systems, and other range management practices may be considered in conjunction with livestock management on individual allotments. Such practices would be based on the range management category in which the allotment has been placed and would be formulated in consultation, coordination, and cooperation with livestock operators, and other interested parties.

LG-NA-MA- 7. The extent, location, and timing of infrastructure would be based on the allotment-specific management objectives adopted through the resource management planning process, interdisciplinary development and review of proposed actions, operator contributions, and BLM funding capability.

LG-NA-MA- 8. Use the following typical design features and construction practices for range infrastructure:

- Fences would be constructed to provide exterior allotment boundaries, divide allotments into pastures, protect streams, and control livestock.
- Most fences would be three or four wire with steel post spaced 16.5 feet apart with intermediate wire stays.
- Jack legs would be used where driving steel posts are not practical.

- Where fences may impair the movement of wildlife, they would be no more than 40 inches in height, three strand, with the bottom wire smooth and at least 16 inches above the ground.
- Where needed on key big game areas, the top wire would also be smooth.
- Fences that create wildlife movement problems would be modified.
- Proposed fence lines would not be bladed or scraped.
- Gates or cattleguards would be installed where fences cross roads.
- For any fences in wildlife migration areas, the need for let-down fences to allow passage of wildlife would be analyzed. These fences would be let down when livestock are not present. The BLM would be responsible for management of these special purpose fences.
- Springs would be developed or redeveloped using a backhoe to install a buried collection system, usually consisting of drain tile and a collection box. The collection box is normally made from a section of 24 to 42 inch metal culvert with a cover and a fitting to which a delivery pipe is connected. A short pipeline would be installed to deliver water to a trough for use by livestock and wildlife.
- Normally the spring area is fenced to exclude livestock following development.
- Wherever possible, water pipelines would be buried. The trench may be excavated by a backhoe, Ditch Witch, or similar equipment. Rigid plastic pipe would be placed in the trench and the excavated material would be used to backfill. While some flexible pipe may be installed using a ripper tooth, this is not a preferred technique.
- Most pipelines would have water tanks spaced 1 to 2 miles apart.
- Well sites would be selected based on geologic reports that predict the depth to reliable aquifers.
- All applicable State laws and regulations that apply to the development of groundwater would be observed.

LG-NA-MA- 9. Maintain range infrastructure in working condition as long as they are deemed necessary to management.

LG-NA-MA- 10. Develop pipelines as follows:
- 24.5 miles of pipeline in MUA 6
- 4 miles in MUA 7
- 2 miles in MUA 9
- 53.5 miles in MUA 11
- 57.8 miles in MUA 12
- 16.1 miles in MUA 13
- 3.5 miles in MUA 16

See Map 4 for MUA boundaries.

LG-NA-MA- 11. Develop reservoirs, wells, or springs as follows:
- 2 reservoirs or wells in MUA 7
- 1 springs and 2 reservoirs in MUA 10 if the WSA is released by Congress
- 1 reservoir, well, or spring in MUA 12

See Map 4 for MUA boundaries.

LG-NA-MA- 12. Develop fences as follows:
- 6.3 miles in MUA 10
- 2.7 miles in MUA 12
- 9.4 miles in MUA 13
- 7.6 miles in MUA 16

See Map 4 for MUA boundaries.

LG-NA-MA- 13. Fence reservoirs and provide water for livestock away from the reservoirs where possible and if needed by wildlife. Consider wildlife habitat needs when reservoir size determinations are made.

LG-NA-MA- 14. Design new spring developments and modify selected existing spring developments to protect wetted areas.

LG-NA-MA- 15. Livestock-related activities such as salting, feeding, construction of holding facilities, and stock driveways would not be allowed to occur within the riparian zone of a stream drainage system.

LG-NA-MA- 16. Modify fences to allow for pronghorn and mule deer passage in areas where their needs are not being met in MUA 7, 11, 12, 13, and 16 (Map 4). Modify other fences where specific wildlife needs are not being met. Build new fences to allow for wildlife passage.

LG-NA-MA- 17. Cattleguards would be considered a part of the fence and would be installed as necessary.

LG-NA-MA- 168. All allotments in which range improvement funds are to be spent will be subjected to an economic analysis. The analysis will be used to develop a final priority ranking of allotments for the commitment of the range improvement funds that are needed to implement activity plans. The highest priority for implementation generally will be assigned to those improvements for which total anticipated benefits exceed costs.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

LG-CA-G- 1. Manage livestock grazing to ensure achievement of or movement towards meeting *Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management* (S&Gs; Appendix K).

Objectives

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-CA-O- 1. Manage livestock grazing in annual communities to achieve objectives in the *Upland Vegetation* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.

Management Actions

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-CA-MA- 1. Implement adaptive management using grazing use indicators to meet resource and special designation area objectives as feasible and following BLM policy. Grazing use indicators may include:
- Utilization for upland vegetation and riparian areas,
- Bank and soil surface alteration,

Objectives for other vegetation communities are found in objectives specific to each action alternative.

- Indicators related to priority species and their habitats (see the *Fish and Wildlife* section), and
- Other indicators identified on an allotment-specific basis depending on the resources present.

LG-CA-MA- 2. Grazing permit renewal following the Record of Decision (ROD) would follow the process outlined in IM-ID-2009-040 or subsequent policy. The basic strategy for permit renewal is contained in Appendix L. Allotment-specific decisions for livestock grazing management, including grazing use indicators and grazing use criteria, and adjustments to an allotment's Selective Management Category would be made at that time.

LG-CA-MA- 3. The toolbox for managing livestock grazing would include, but not be limited to:

- Rest rotation,
- Deferred rotation,
- Seasons of use,
- Stocking rates,
- Class and kind of livestock,
- Herding,
- Frequency of grazing,
- Closure for resource protection,
- Location of range infrastructure, and
- Location and types of supplements.

Specific tools to be used would be identified on an allotment-specific basis through the permit renewal process, depending on the resources present.

LG-CA-MA- 4. Seasons of use and changes in class and kind of livestock would be consistent with resource objectives and analyzed in site-specific NEPA analysis through the permit renewal process.

LG-CA-MA- 5. Identify and implement measures to prevent livestock from entering areas closed to livestock grazing. Measures could include, but not be limited to:

- Fencing,
- Using natural barriers,
- Active herding,
- Water placement, and
- Supplement placement.

LG-CA-MA- 6. Implement drought management guidelines during periods of drought to maintain or achieve long-term resource productivity (Appendix F).

LG-CA-MA- 7. Allow spring and early summer livestock grazing periodically in big game winter range at levels to improve browse production.

LG-CA-MA- 8. Manage livestock grazing to move riparian and wetland conditions toward goals and objectives in the *Riparian Areas and Wetlands* section and to increase streambank stability relative to stream types by following guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).

LG-CA-MA- 9. When livestock are moved between pastures or allotments through riparian zones, stream crossings would be perpendicular to the riparian zone, where practical; trailing must be supervised by the permitee to ensure livestock do not remain in the riparian zone before or after the crossing.

Range Infrastructure

See objective specific to each alternative.

Range Infrastructure

LG-CA-MA- 10. Guidelines and management actions for range infrastructure apply to watering sites, fences, and corrals within WSAs, consistent with the IMP.

LG-CA-MA- 11. Follow BLM-approved design features and construction and maintenance practices for range infrastructure.

LG-CA-MA- 12. Range infrastructure would be consistent with the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).

LG-CA-MA- 13. Maintain range infrastructure in proper working condition. If infrastructure is no longer necessary, it may be removed.

LG-CA-MA- 14. Minimize disturbance at developed springs by using existing routes for access, redesigning the spring development, or limiting maintenance or reconstruction activities to areas disturbed during previous construction or to areas outside the wetland.

LG-CA-MA- 15. Modify fences to comply with BLM standards for wildlife (Karsky, 1999). Fences would be modified according to the following priority order:

- Key sage-grouse habitat,
- Big game winter range,
- Saylor Creek HMA, and
- The remainder of the planning area.

LG-CA-MA- 16. Fence reservoirs and provide water for livestock use outside the fence if necessary for improving wildlife habitat around a reservoir. Consider wildlife habitat needs when reservoir size determinations are made.

LG-CA-MA- 17. For permittee-maintained projects, the authorized officer would be notified prior to initiating work that requires the use of heavy equipment so that appropriate measures are adopted to protect resources.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

LG-I-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to enhance and sustain existing and historic uses and to improve habitat for big game and sage-grouse.

Objectives

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-I-O- 1. In native plant communities excluding Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to help maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance, focusing on plant reproductive and physiological needs.

LG-I-O- 2. In non-native perennial communities including Sandberg/non-native areas (see Map 9), manage livestock grazing to maintain and improve perennial plant species diversity and abundance, taking into account sage-grouse and big game habitat needs.

Allocations

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-I-A- 1. The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing (1,381,000 acres). The following areas would not be available for livestock grazing (84,000 acres):

- Canyons associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers and Salmon Falls Creek,
- Middle Snake ACEC except the Asquena pasture,
- Wildlife Tracts,
- Reference areas,
- Areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use, and
- Areas not contained within grazing allotments.

See Map 45 for locations.

LG-I-A- 2. Allocate vegetation production as follows:

- Native perennial grass production
  - 65% to 75% to watershed and wildlife
  - Less than 1% to wild horses
  - 25% to 35% to livestock
- Non-native perennial grass production
  - 60% to 70% to watershed and wildlife
  - Less than 1% to wild horses
  - 30% to 40% to livestock
- Annual grass production
  - 70% to 80% to watershed and wildlife
  - 20% to 30% to livestock
- Shrub and forb production
  - 89% to 92% to watershed and wildlife
  - 8% to 11% to livestock

These vegetation allocations would be implemented during the permit renewal process. The purpose of allocating vegetation is to determine the total AUMs available for livestock grazing in the planning area. Allocation percentages are not the same as utilization, as the allocation is used to identify the total number of AUMs for livestock, while utilization identifies the amount of vegetation used by livestock in a specific area. Allocation is not intended to prescribe what livestock can actually consume. Livestock use of specific vegetation types would be managed through the implementation of grazing use indicators developed on an allotment-specific basis.

LG-I-A- 3. Forage available for livestock use would likely change as the RMP is implemented, although allocation percentages would remain the same. Changes to AUMs in the future would be determined after adequate monitoring and site-specific NEPA analysis through future permit renewal processes.

Management Actions

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-I-MA- 1. Utilization would be determined on a case-by-case basis to meet objectives in the *Livestock Grazing, Upland Vegetation, Riparian Areas and Wetlands, Fish and Wildlife,* and *Special Status Species* sections.

LG-I-MA- 2. Reserve Common Allotments would not be established.

LG-I-MA- 3. TNR would be allowed except in the following areas:
- Pastures containing areas within a WSA boundary,
- The riparian pasture of the Lower Saylor Creek Allotment in the Sand Point ACEC,
- Pastures comprised of more than 50% big game winter range, or
- Pastures comprised of more than 50% native communities (by cover) excluding Sandberg/non-native areas.

LG-I-MA- 4. Criteria for issuing TNR in a particular pasture would include:
- TNR may be allowed in years where additional forage for livestock is temporarily available, as determined by utilization levels,
- TNR must be consistent with the drought management guidelines,
- TNR may not be allowed if grazing use criteria are exceeded in any pasture in planning area allotments within the operation of the permittee, and
- TNR must be consistent with other resource objectives.

LG-I-MA- 5. Manage livestock grazing to provide a variety of residual cover heights to meet the needs of the ground-nesting birds present in an allotment.

LG-I-MA- 6. Follow BLM guidelines livestock grazing management for managing sage-grouse habitat (e.g., 2006 *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho*, Owyhee County and Jarbidge Local Working Group Sage-grouse Plans).

LG-I-MA- 7. Livestock grazing may be considered on a case-by-case basis in a portion of big game winter range in native shrubland communities during the winter (December through March). No date restrictions on livestock grazing in big game winter range in other vegetation communities would be made.

LG-I-MA- 8. During big game calving, fawning, and lambing (Appendix H), livestock grazing management would provide adequate cover for big game species, appropriate to site potential.

LG-I-MA- 9. Adjust livestock grazing in the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC so livestock seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in those pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat (Appendix H).

LG-I-MA- 10. In aspen groves, grazing management would allow for natural regeneration with a diversity of vegetation species and age class.

LG-I-MA- 11. Even though livestock grazing would not be authorized in the Jarbidge Canyon, trailing to the Wilkins Island Allotment would be permitted along the existing route across the East Fork of the Jarbidge River and up an un-named draw. Riders would be used to herd livestock to ensure livestock do not remain in the riparian zone after the crossing.

LG-I-MA- 12. Targeted grazing could be used as a tool to help meet objectives in the *Vegetation Communities, Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants*, and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections. Targeted grazing would be used as a vegetation treatment and would not be part of permitted livestock grazing use; it can be used throughout the planning area, including in areas unavailable for permitted livestock grazing use. Targeted grazing treatments are localized, short-term intensive grazing use to reduce fine fuels or reduce other undesirable vegetation. Targeted grazing could be accomplished using any kind of livestock (e.g., cattle, sheep, goats). Temporary water and fencing may be necessary to implement targeted grazing treatments. Most targeted grazing treatments for fuels reduction would occur in the late spring and early summer.

Range Infrastructure

LG-I-O- 3. Manage (e.g., maintain, improve, build, realign, remove) range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments, consistent with resource objectives.

Range Infrastructure

LG-I-MA- 13. Consider installing or constructing new pipelines on a case-by-case basis where they would help meet resource objectives. New pipelines would not be allowed within WSAs; eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs; and ACECs.

LG-I-MA- 14. Maintain existing pipelines for livestock or wild horse use. Modify any pipeline where monitoring determines the pipeline is causing resource objectives to not be met.

LG-I-MA- 15. Consider installing or constructing new reservoirs or wells on a case-by-case basis where they would help meet resource objectives.

LG-I-MA- 16. Maintain existing reservoirs or wells for livestock, wildlife, or wild horse use. Modify reservoirs or wells contributing to not meeting resource objectives, as identified through monitoring.

LG-I-MA- 17. Consider new spring developments on a case-by-case basis. New spring developments must meet resource objectives, avoid or minimize ground disturbance, protect the spring source, and ensure adequate water to maintain the wetland. Other mitigation may be required to minimize impacts to cultural and natural resources and tribal rights, interests, and values.

LG-I-MA- 18. Modify existing spring developments with wetlands rated as NF, FAR-DN, or FAR to improve wetland areas by protecting the spring source and ensuring adequate water to support spring hydrology and associated riparian vegetation.

LG-I-MA- 19. Place minerals, supplements, new troughs, new reservoirs, and new holding facilities more than 300 feet from canyon rims and playas. Avoid placing salting, minerals, supplements, troughs, reservoirs, and holding facilities in the protective corridor of the Oregon NHT, Kelton Freight Road, or Toana Freight Road. Ensure salting, minerals, supplements, new troughs, new reservoirs, and new holding facilities are located to avoid conflicts with other cultural resources as well.

LG-I-MA- 20. Adjust locations of livestock watering facilities and salting/supplements in sage-grouse and other upland game bird habitat on a case-by-case basis to provide adequate nesting and winter cover.

LG-I-MA- 21. Avoid placing new water developments in key sage-grouse habitat unless they would contribute to meeting resource objectives for sage-grouse. If a new water development is necessary, it should be located in a previously disturbed area.

LG-I-MA- 22. Consider installing or constructing new fences on a case-by-case basis to meet resource objectives.

LG-I-MA- 23. Remove fences that are not needed. Maintain fences to BLM specifications; the amount of fence in an allotment would be appropriate to objectives for livestock grazing and resource management. Modify, remove, or relocate fences contributing to not meeting resource objectives, as identified through monitoring.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

LG-II-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to maintain or improve the condition of forage resources while maintaining native plant communities and habitat for sage-grouse.

Objectives

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-II-O- 1. In native plant communities excluding the Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to help maintain native plant species diversity and abundance, focusing on plant reproductive and physiological needs.

LG-II-O- 2. In non-native perennial communities including Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to sustain the perennial forage base and allow for other commercial uses.

Allocations

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-II-A- 1. The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing (1,406,000 acres). The following areas would not be available for livestock grazing (59,000 acres):

- Canyons associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers and Salmon Falls Creek,
- Reference areas,
- Wildlife Tracts, and
- Areas not contained within grazing allotments.

See Map 46 for locations.

LG-II-A- 2. Allocate vegetation production as follows:

- Native perennial grass production
  - 50% to 60% to watershed and wildlife
  - 40% to 50% to livestock
- Non-native perennial grass production
  - 40% to 50% to watershed and wildlife
  - 50% to 60% to livestock
- Annual grass production
  - 20% to 30% to watershed and wildlife
  - 70% to 80% to livestock
- Shrub and forb production
  - 84% to 88% to watershed and wildlife
  - 12% to 16% to livestock

These vegetation allocations would be implemented during the permit renewal process. Allocations would only be adjusted during permit renewal based on available date. The purpose of allocating vegetation is to determine the total AUMs available for livestock grazing in the planning area. Allocation percentages are not the same as utilization, as the allocation is used to identify the total number of AUMs for livestock, while utilization identifies the amount of vegetation used by livestock in a specific area. Allocation is not intended to prescribe what livestock can actually consume. Livestock

use of specific vegetation types would be managed through the implementation of grazing use indicators developed on an allotment-specific basis.

LG-II-A- 3. Forage available for livestock use would likely change as the RMP is implemented, although allocation percentages would remain the same. Changes to AUMs in the future would be determined after adequate monitoring and site-specific NEPA analysis through future permit renewal processes.

Management Actions

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-II-MA- 1. Utilization would be determined on a case-by-case basis to meet objectives in the *Livestock Grazing, Upland Vegetation, Riparian Areas and Wetlands, Fish and Wildlife,* and *Special Status Species* sections.

LG-II-MA- 2. Reserve Common Allotments may be established to facilitate vegetation treatment projects and to provide increased livestock grazing management flexibility. Reserve Common Allotments may be established on acquired lands; in allotments where permits are relinquished or cancelled; or by agreement with a permittee; however, permits would not be cancelled for the purpose of establishing a Reserve Common Allotment. Reserve Common Allotments may be created from whole or partial allotments and can be permanent or temporary.

LG-II-MA- 3. Considerations for selecting areas to be used as Reserve Common Allotments include:

- Whether the area has special management concerns, such as habitat for Type 1 BLM Sensitive species, slickspot peppergrass, or redband trout; noxious weeds or invasive plants; or wild horses;
- Whether the area has intermingled private or State lands; and
- Whether the area can sustain grazing use without significant resource impacts.

LG-II-MA- 4. No more than 10% of the AUMs for livestock within the planning area can be within Reserve Common Allotments without approval from the BLM State Director.

LG-II-MA- 5. Priority for using Reserve Common Allotments would be as follows:

- Permittees and lessees whose normally permitted allotments are temporarily unavailable due to wildland fire,
- Permittees and lessees whose normally permitted allotments are under an approved vegetation treatment project (e.g., restoration, fuels treatments), and
- Permittees and lessees whose normally permitted allotments are temporarily unavailable due to insect outbreaks

LG-II-MA- 6. Permittees within the planning area would have the highest priority for using Reserve Common Allotments; permittees within the Twin Falls District would have second priority.

LG-II-MA- 7. When a Reserve Common Allotment is established, a management plan for the allotment will be developed to ensure achievement of or movement towards meeting Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health.

LG-II-MA- 8. TNR would be allowed except in pastures containing areas within a WSA boundary. Criteria for issuing TNR in a particular pasture would include:

- TNR may be allowed in years where additional forage for livestock is temporarily available, as determined by utilization levels,
- TNR must be consistent with the drought management guidelines,
- TNR may not be allowed if grazing use criteria are exceeded in any pasture in planning area allotments within the operation of the permittee, and
- TNR must be consistent with other resource objectives.

LG-II-MA- 9. Manage livestock grazing in allotments containing more than 50% native plant communities to provide a variety of residual cover heights to meet the needs of the ground-nesting birds present in an allotment.

LG-II-MA- 10. Follow BLM guidelines for livestock grazing management for managing sage-grouse habitat (e.g., 2006 *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-Grouse in Idaho*, Owyhee County and Jarbidge Local Working Group Sage-grouse Plans).

LG-II-MA- 11. No date restrictions on livestock grazing in big game winter range would be made.

LG-II-MA- 12. Even though livestock grazing would not be authorized in the Jarbidge Canyons, trailing to the Wilkins Island Allotment would be permitted along the existing route across the East Fork of the Jarbidge River and up an un-named draw. Riders would be used to herd livestock to ensure livestock do not remain in the riparian zone after the crossing.

LG-II-MA- 13. Targeted grazing could be used as a tool to help meet objectives in the *Vegetation Communities, Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants*, and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections. Targeted grazing would be used as a vegetation treatment and would not be part of permitted livestock grazing use; it can be used throughout the planning area, including in areas unavailable for permitted livestock grazing use. Targeted grazing treatments are localized, short-term intensive grazing use to reduce fine fuels or reduce other undesirable vegetation. Targeted grazing could be accomplished using any kind of livestock (e.g., cattle, sheep, goats). Temporary water and fencing may be necessary to implement targeted grazing treatments. Most targeted grazing treatments for fuels reduction would occur in the late spring and early summer.

Range Infrastructure

LG-II-O- 3. Manage (e.g., maintain, improve, build, realign, remove) range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments.

Range Infrastructure

LG-II-MA- 14. Consider installing or constructing new pipelines on a case-by-case basis to promote livestock distribution or meet resource objectives.

LG-II-MA- 15. Maintain existing pipelines for livestock use. Modify any pipeline where monitoring determines the pipeline is causing resource objectives to not be met.

LG-II-MA- 16. Consider installing or constructing new reservoirs or wells on a case-by-case basis to promote livestock distribution or meet resource objectives.

LG-II-MA- 17. Maintain existing reservoirs or wells for livestock use. Modify reservoirs or wells contributing to not meeting resource objectives, as identified through monitoring.

LG-II-MA- 18. Consider new spring developments on a case-by-case basis. New spring developments must meet resource objectives, avoid or minimize ground disturbance, protect the spring source, and ensure adequate water to maintain the wetland. Other mitigation may be required to minimize impacts to cultural and natural resources and tribal rights, interests, and values.

LG-II-MA- 19. Modify spring developments with wetlands rated as NF or FAR-DN to improve wetland areas by protecting the spring source and ensuring adequate water to support spring hydrology and associated riparian vegetation.

LG-II-MA- 20. Ensure salting, minerals, supplements, new troughs, new reservoirs, and new holding facilities are located to avoid conflicts with cultural resources.

LG-II-MA- 21. Adjust locations of livestock watering facilities and salting/supplements in sage-grouse habitat on a case-by-case basis to provide adequate nesting and winter cover.

LG-II-MA- 22. Consider installing or constructing new fences on a case-by-case basis to promote livestock distribution and management or to meet resource objectives.

LG-II-MA- 23. Maintain fences to BLM specifications; the amount of fence in an allotment would be appropriate to objectives for livestock grazing and resource management.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

LG-III-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to reduce wildland fire size and intensity while maintaining habitat for sage-grouse.

Objectives

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-III-O- 1. In native plant communities including the Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to help maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance, focusing on plant reproductive and physiological needs.

LG-III-O- 2. Manage livestock grazing to reduce fuels in non-native perennial communities.

Allocations

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-III-A- 1. The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing (1,404,000 acres). The following areas would not be available for livestock grazing (61,000 acres):

- Canyons associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers and Salmon Falls Creek,
- Reference areas,
- Wildlife Tracts, and
- Areas not contained within grazing allotments.

See Map 47 for locations.

LG-III-A- 2. Allocate vegetation production as follows:

- Native perennial grass production
  - 55% to 65% to watershed and wildlife
    - Less than 1% to wild horses
  - 35% to 45% to livestock
- Non-native perennial grass production
  - 50% to 60% to watershed and wildlife
  - Less than 1% to wild horses
  - 40% to 50% to livestock
- Annual grass production
  - 50% to 60% to watershed and wildlife
  - 40% to 50% to livestock
- Shrub and forb production
  - 86% to 89% to watershed and wildlife
  - 11% to 14% to livestock

These vegetation allocations would be implemented during the permit renewal process. The purpose of allocating vegetation is to determine the total AUMs available for livestock grazing in the planning area. Allocation percentages are not the same as utilization, as the allocation is used to identify the total number of AUMs for livestock, while utilization identifies the amount of vegetation used by livestock in a specific area. Allocation is not intended to prescribe what livestock can actually consume. Livestock use of specific vegetation types would be managed through the implementation of grazing use indicators developed on an allotment-specific basis.

LG-III-A- 3. Forage available for livestock use would likely change as the RMP is implemented, although allocation percentages would remain the same. Changes to AUMs in the future would be determined after adequate monitoring and site-specific NEPA analysis through future permit renewal processes.

Management Actions

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-III-MA- 1. Allotment and pasture boundaries may be modified to facilitate the use of permitted livestock grazing to achieve fuels reduction objectives. Modifications may include but not be limited to aggregating allotments into larger allotments and realigning pasture boundary fences to concentrate livestock use for fuels reduction.

LG-III-MA- 2. Utilization would be determined on a case-by-case basis to meet objectives in the *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management, Riparian Areas and Wetlands,* and *Special Status Species* sections.

LG-III-MA- 3. Reserve Common Allotments may be established to facilitate vegetation treatment projects and to provide increased livestock grazing management flexibility. Reserve Common Allotments may be established on acquired lands; in allotments where permits are relinquished, sold, or cancelled; or by agreement with a permittee; however, permits would not be cancelled for the purpose of establishing a Reserve Common Allotment. Reserve Common Allotments may be created from whole or partial allotments and can be permanent or temporary.

LG-III-MA- 4. Considerations for selecting areas to be used as Reserve Common Allotments include:

- Whether the area has special management concerns, such as habitat for Type 1 BLM Sensitive species, slickspot peppergrass, or redband trout; noxious weeds or invasive plants; or wild horses;
- Whether the area has intermingled private and/or State lands; and
- Whether the area can sustain grazing use without significant resource impacts.

LG-III-MA- 5. No more than 10% of the AUMs for livestock within the planning area can be within Reserve Common Allotments without approval from the BLM State Director.

LG-III-MA- 6. Priority for using Reserve Common Allotments would be as follows:

- Permittees and lessees whose normally permitted allotments are temporarily unavailable due to wildland fire,
- Permittees and lessees whose normally permitted allotments are under an approved vegetation treatment project (e.g., restoration, fuels treatments), and
- Permittees and lessees whose normally permitted allotments are temporarily unavailable due to insect outbreaks

LG-III-MA- 7. Permittees within the planning area would have the highest priority for using Reserve Common Allotments; permittees within the Twin Falls District would have second priority.

LG-III-MA- 8. When a Reserve Common Allotment is established, a management plan for the allotment will be developed to ensure achievement of or movement towards meeting Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health.

LG-III-MA- 9. TNR would be allowed except in the following areas:

- Pastures containing areas within a WSA boundary,
- The riparian pasture of the Lower Saylor Creek Allotment in the Sand Point ACEC,
- Pastures comprised of more than 50% big game winter range, or
- Pastures comprised of more than 50% native communities (by cover) excluding Sandberg/non-native areas.

LG-III-MA- 10. Criteria for issuing TNR in a particular pasture would include:

- TNR may be allowed in years where additional forage for livestock is temporarily available, as determined by utilization levels,
- TNR must be consistent with the drought management guidelines,
- TNR may not be allowed if grazing use criteria are exceeded in any pasture in planning area allotments within the operation of the permittee, and
- TNR must be consistent with other resource objectives.

LG-III-MA- 11. Manage livestock grazing in allotments containing more than 50% native plant communities to provide a variety of residual cover heights to meet the needs of the ground-nesting birds present in an allotment.

LG-III-MA- 12. Follow BLM guidelines for livestock grazing management for managing sage-grouse habitat (e.g., 2006 *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-Grouse in Idaho*, Owyhee County and Jarbidge Local Working Group Sage-grouse Plans).

LG-III-MA- 13. Livestock grazing may be considered on a case-by-case basis in a portion of big game winter range in native shrubland communities during the winter (December through March). No date restrictions on livestock grazing in big game winter range in other vegetation communities would be made.

LG-III-MA- 14. Adjust livestock grazing south of Sheep Creek so livestock seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in those pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat (Appendix H).

LG-III-MA- 15. In aspen groves, grazing management would allow for natural regeneration with a diversity of vegetation species and age class.

LG-III-MA- 16. Even though livestock grazing would not be authorized in the Jarbidge Canyons, trailing to the Wilkins Island Allotment would be permitted along the existing route across the East Fork of the Jarbidge River and up an un-named draw. Riders would be used to herd livestock to ensure livestock do not remain in the riparian zone after the crossing.

LG-III-MA- 17. Targeted grazing could be used as a tool to help meet objectives in the *Vegetation Communities, Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants*, and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections. Targeted grazing would be used as a vegetation treatment and would not be part of permitted livestock grazing use; it can be used throughout the planning area, including in areas unavailable for permitted livestock grazing use. Targeted grazing treatments are localized, short-term intensive grazing use to reduce fine fuels or reduce other undesirable vegetation. Targeted grazing could be accomplished using any kind of livestock (e.g., cattle, sheep, goats). Temporary water and fencing may be necessary to implement

targeted grazing treatments. Most targeted grazing treatments for fuels reduction would occur in the late spring and early summer.

Range Infrastructure

LG-III-O- 3. Manage (e.g. maintain, improve, build, realign, remove) range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments and support fire suppression efforts.

Range Infrastructure

LG-III-MA- 18. Consider installing or constructing new pipelines on a case-by-case basis where they would help meet resource objectives or to aid in fire suppression.

LG-III-MA- 19. Maintain existing pipelines for livestock and wild horse use and fire suppression. Modify any pipeline where monitoring determines the pipeline is causing resource objectives to not be met.

LG-III-MA- 20. Consider installing or constructing new reservoirs or wells on a case-by-case basis to meet resource objectives or aid in fire suppression.

LG-III-MA- 21. Maintain existing reservoirs or wells for livestock or wild horse use and fire suppression. Modify reservoirs and wells contributing to not meeting objectives for resources or fire suppression, as identified through monitoring.

LG-III-MA- 22. Consider new spring developments on a case-by-case basis. New spring developments must meet resource objectives, avoid or minimize ground disturbance, protect the spring source, and ensure adequate water to maintain the wetland. Other mitigation may be required to minimize impacts to cultural and natural resources and tribal rights, interests, and values.

LG-III-MA- 23. Modify spring developments with wetlands rated as NF, FAR-DN, or FAR to improve wetland areas by protecting the spring source and ensuring adequate water to support spring hydrology and associated riparian vegetation.

LG-III-MA- 24. Place salting, minerals, supplements, new troughs, new reservoirs, and new holding facilities more than 300 feet from canyon rims and playas. Avoid placing salting, minerals, supplements, troughs, reservoirs, and holding facilities in the protective corridor of the Oregon NHT, Kelton Freight Road, or Toana Freight Road. Ensure salting, minerals, supplements, new troughs, new reservoirs, and new holding facilities in other areas are located to avoid conflicts with other cultural resources as well.

LG-III-MA- 25. Adjust locations of livestock watering facilities and salting/supplements in sage-grouse habitat on a case-by-case basis to provide adequate nesting and winter cover.

LG-III-MA- 26. Consider installing or constructing new fences on a case-by-case basis to meet resource objectives.

LG-III-MA- 27. Remove fences that are not needed. Maintain fences to BLM specifications; the amount of fence in an allotment would be appropriate to objectives for livestock grazing and resource management. Modify, remove, or relocate fences contributing to not meeting resource objectives, as identified through monitoring.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

LG-IV-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to support restoration of the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function and to reduce fragmentation of habitat for sage-grouse and other native species.

Objectives

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-IV-O- 1. In native plant communities including the Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to help maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance, focusing on plant reproductive and physiological needs.

LG-IV-O- 2. In non-native perennial communities, manage livestock grazing to achieve restoration objectives outlined in the *Upland Vegetation* section.

Allocations

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-IV-A- 1. The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing (1,320,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 1,352,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative). The following areas would not be available for livestock grazing (145,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 113,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative):

- Canyons or riparian corridors associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers and the following creeks: Deer (NV), Dave, Rocky Canyon, and Salmon Falls;
- Inside Desert ACEC;
- Wildlife Tracts;
- Reference areas; and
- Areas not contained within grazing allotments.

See Maps 48 and 49 for locations.

LG-IV-A- 2. Allocate vegetation production as follows:

- Native perennial grass production
  - 75% to 85% to watershed and wildlife
  - Less than1% to wild horses
  - 15% to 25% to livestock
- Non-native perennial grass production
  - 70% to 80% to watershed and wildlife
  - Less than1% to wild horses
  - 20% to 30% to livestock
- Annual grass production
  - 100% to watershed and wildlife
- Shrub and forb production
  - 100% to watershed & wildlife

These vegetation allocations would be implemented during the permit renewal process. The purpose of allocating vegetation is to determine the total AUMs available for livestock grazing in the planning area. Allocation percentages are not the same as utilization, as the allocation is used to identify the total number of AUMs for livestock, while utilization identifies the amount of vegetation used by livestock in a specific area. Allocation is not intended to prescribe what livestock can actually consume. Livestock use of specific vegetation types would be managed through the implementation of grazing use indicators developed on an allotment-specific basis.

LG-IV-A- 3. Forage available for livestock use would likely change as the RMP is implemented, although allocation percentages would remain the same. Changes to AUMs in the future would be determined after adequate monitoring and site-specific NEPA analysis through future permit renewal processes.

Management Actions

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-IV-MA- 1. Utilization would be determined on a case-by-case basis to meet objectives in the *Upland Vegetation, Riparian Areas and Wetlands, Fish and Wildlife,* and *Special Status Species* sections.

LG-IV-MA- 2. Reserve Common Allotments may be established to facilitate vegetation treatment projects and to provide increased livestock grazing management flexibility. Reserve Common Allotments may be established on acquired lands; in allotments where permits are relinquished, sold, or cancelled; or by agreement with a permittee; however, permits would not be cancelled for the purpose of establishing a Reserve Common Allotment. Reserve Common Allotments may be created from whole or partial allotments and can be permanent or temporary.

LG-IV-MA- 3. Considerations for selecting areas to be used as Reserve Common Allotments include:

- Whether the area has special management concerns, such as habitat for Type 1 Sensitive species, slickspot peppergrass, or redband trout; noxious weeds or invasive plants; or wild horses;
- Whether the area has intermingled private and/or State lands; and
- Whether the area can sustain grazing use without significant resource impacts.

LG-IV-MA- 4. No more than 10% of the AUMs for livestock within the planning area can be within Reserve Common Allotments without approval from the State Director.

LG-IV-MA- 5. Priority for using Reserve Common Allotments would be as follows:

- Permittees and lessees whose normally permitted allotments are temporarily unavailable due to wildland fire,
- Permittees and lessees whose normally permitted allotments are under an approved vegetation treatment project (e.g., restoration, fuels treatments), and
- Permittees and lessees whose normally permitted allotments are temporarily unavailable due to insect outbreaks

LG-IV-MA- 6. Permittees within the planning area would have the highest priority for using Reserve Common Allotments; permittees within the Twin Falls District would have second priority.

LG-IV-MA- 7. When a Reserve Common Allotment is established, a management plan for the allotment will be developed to ensure achievement of or movement towards meeting Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health.

LG-IV-MA- 8. TNR would be allowed except in the following areas:

- Pastures containing areas within a WSA boundary,
- The riparian pasture of the Lower Saylor Creek Allotment in the Sand Point ACEC,
- Pastures comprised of more than 50% big game winter range, or

- Pastures comprised of more than 25% native communities (by cover) excluding Sandberg/non-native areas.

LG-IV-MA- 9. Criteria for issuing TNR in a particular pasture would include:

- TNR may be allowed in years where additional forage for livestock is temporarily available, as determined by utilization levels,
- TNR must be consistent with the drought management guidelines,
- TNR may not be allowed if grazing use criteria are exceeded in any pasture in planning area allotments within the operation of the permittee, and
- TNR must be consistent with other resource objectives.

LG-IV-MA- 10. Manage livestock grazing to provide a variety of residual cover heights to meet the needs of the ground-nesting birds present in an allotment.

LG-IV-MA- 11. Follow BLM guidelines for livestock grazing management for managing sage-grouse habitat (e.g., 2006 *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-Grouse in Idaho,* Owyhee County and Jarbidge Local Working Group Sage-grouse Plans).

LG-IV-MA- 12. Livestock grazing may be considered on a case-by-case basis in a portion of big game winter range in native shrubland communities during the winter (December through March). No date restrictions on livestock grazing in big game winter range in other vegetation communities would be made.

LG-IV-MA- 13. During big game calving, fawning, and lambing (Appendix H), livestock grazing management would provide adequate cover for big game species, appropriate to site potential.

LG-IV-MA- 14. Adjust livestock grazing so livestock seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in those pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat (Appendix H).

LG-IV-MA- 15. In aspen groves, grazing management would allow for natural regeneration with a diversity of vegetation species and age class.

LG-IV-MA- 16. Even though livestock grazing would not be authorized in the Jarbidge Canyons, trailing to the Wilkins Island Allotment would be permitted on existing roads using riders to herd livestock.

LG-IV-MA- 17. Targeted grazing could be used as a tool to help meet objectives in the *Vegetation Communities, Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants*, and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections. Targeted grazing would be used as a vegetation treatment and would not be part of permitted livestock grazing use; it can be used throughout the planning area, including in areas unavailable for permitted livestock grazing use. Targeted grazing treatments are localized, short-term intensive grazing use to reduce fine fuels or reduce other undesirable vegetation. Targeted grazing could be

accomplished using any kind of livestock (e.g., cattle, sheep, goats). Temporary water and fencing may be necessary to implement targeted grazing treatments. Most targeted grazing treatments for fuels reduction would occur in the late spring and early summer.

Range Infrastructure

LG-IV-O- 3. Manage (e.g., maintain, improve, build, realign, remove) range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments and support resource objectives.

Range Infrastructure

LG-IV-MA- 18. Consider installing or constructing new pipelines on a case-by-case basis where they would help meet resource objectives. New pipelines would not be allowed within WSAs; eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs; and ACECs.

LG-IV-MA- 19. Maintain existing pipelines for livestock or wild horse use. Modify any pipeline where monitoring determines the pipeline is causing resource objectives to not be met.

LG-IV-MA- 20. Consider installing or constructing new reservoirs or wells on a case-by-case basis where they would help meet resource objectives.

LG-IV-MA- 21. Maintain existing reservoirs or wells for livestock, wildlife, or wild horse use. Modify reservoirs or wells contributing to not meeting resource objectives, as identified through monitoring.

LG-IV-MA- 22. Consider new spring developments on a case-by-case basis. New spring developments must meet resource objectives, avoid or minimize ground disturbance, protect the spring source, and ensure adequate water to maintain the wetland. Other mitigation may be required to minimize impacts to cultural and natural resources and tribal rights, interests, and values.

LG-IV-MA- 23. Modify spring developments with wetlands rated as NF, FAR-DN, or FAR to improve wetland areas by protecting the spring source and ensuring adequate water to support spring hydrology and associated riparian vegetation.

LG-IV-MA- 24. Place salting, minerals, supplements, new holding facilities, or new troughs or reservoirs more than 300 feet away from playas, canyon rims, and the protective corridors of the Oregon NHT, Kelton Freight Road, or Toana Freight Road. Ensure salting, minerals, supplements, new troughs, new reservoirs, and new holding facilities in other areas are located to avoid conflicts with other cultural resources as well.

LG-IV-MA- 25. Adjust locations of livestock watering facilities and salting/supplements in sage-grouse and other upland game bird habitat on a case-by-case basis to provide adequate nesting and winter cover.

LG-IV-MA- 26. Avoid placing new water developments in sage-grouse habitat unless they would contribute to meeting resource objectives for sage-grouse. If a new water development is necessary, it should be located in a previously disturbed area.

LG-IV-MA- 27. Consider installing or constructing fences on a case-by-case basis to meet resource objectives.

LG-IV-MA- 28. Remove fences that are not needed. Maintain fences to BLM specifications; the amount of fence in an allotment would be appropriate to objectives for livestock grazing and resource management. Modify, remove, or relocate fences contributing to not meeting resource objectives, as identified through monitoring.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

LG-V-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to move vegetation toward historic plant communities that provide habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.

Objectives

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-V-O- 1. In native plant communities including the Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to help maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance, focusing on plant reproductive and physiological needs.

LG-V-O- 2. In non-native perennial communities, manage livestock grazing to maintain and improve shrub cover for sage-grouse.

Allocations

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-V-A- 1. The majority of the planning area would be available for livestock grazing (1,156,000 acres). The following areas would be not available for livestock grazing (309,000 acres):

- Canyons or riparian corridors associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers and the following creeks: Upper Cedar, Deer (ID), Deer (NV), Clover, Rocky Canyon, Flat, Shack, Dave, China, and Salmon Falls;
- Middle Snake, Sand Point, and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs;
- The Brown's Bench/China Mountain area;
- Wildlife Tracts;
- Reference areas; and
- Areas not contained within grazing allotments.

See Map 50 for locations.

LG-V-A- 2. Allocate vegetation production as follows:

- Native perennial grass production
  - 80% to 90% to watershed and wildlife
  - Less than1% to wild horses
  - 10% to 20% to livestock
- Non-native perennial grass production
  - 80% to 90% to watershed and wildlife
  - Less than 1% to wild horses
  - 10% to 20% to livestock
- Annual grass production
  - 100% to watershed and wildlife
- Shrub and forb production
  - 100% to watershed & wildlife

These vegetation allocations would be implemented during the permit renewal process. The purpose of allocating vegetation is to determine the total AUMs available for livestock grazing in the planning area. Allocation percentages are not the same as utilization, as the allocation is used to identify the total number of AUMs for livestock, while utilization identifies the amount of vegetation used by livestock in a specific area. Allocation is not intended to prescribe what livestock can actually consume. Livestock use of specific vegetation types would be managed through the implementation of grazing use indicators developed on an allotment-specific basis.

LG-V-A- 3. Forage available for livestock use would likely change as the RMP is implemented, although allocation percentages would

remain the same. Changes to AUMs in the future would be determined after adequate monitoring and site-specific NEPA analysis through future permit renewal processes.

Management Actions

Forage and Grazing Management Practices

LG-V-MA- 1. Utilization would be determined on a case-by-case basis to meet objectives in the *Upland Vegetation, Riparian Areas and Wetlands, Fish and Wildlife,* and *Special Status Species* sections.

LG-V-MA- 2. Forage on acquired lands and in allotments where permits are relinquished, sold, or cancelled would be held for the life of the plan for wildlife habitat and watershed protection. Reserve Common Allotments would not be established and new grazing permits would not be issued for these lands for the life of the plan.

LG-V-MA- 3. TNR would not be issued.

LG-V-MA- 4. Manage livestock grazing to provide a variety of residual cover heights to meet the needs of the ground-nesting birds present in an allotment.

LG-V-MA- 5. Follow BLM guidelines for livestock grazing management for managing sage-grouse habitat (e.g., 2006 *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-Grouse in Idaho*, Owyhee County and Jarbidge Local Working Group Sage-grouse Plans).

LG-V-MA- 6. Livestock grazing would not be allowed in big game winter range during the winter (December through March).

LG-V-MA- 7. Adjust livestock grazing so livestock seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in those pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat (Appendix H).

LG-V-MA- 8. In aspen groves, grazing management would allow for natural regeneration with a diversity of vegetation species and age class.

LG-V-MA- 9. Even though livestock grazing would not be authorized in the Jarbidge Canyons, trailing to the Wilkins Island Allotment would be permitted on existing roads using riders to herd livestock.

LG-V-MA- 10. Targeted grazing would not be allowed to be used as a tool to help meet objectives in the *Vegetation Communities, Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants,* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections

Range Infrastructure

LG-V-O- 3. Manage (e.g., maintain, improve, build, realign, remove) range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments and support resource objectives.

Range Infrastructure

LG-V-MA- 11. New pipelines would not be authorized.

LG-V-MA- 12. Maintain existing pipelines for livestock or wild horse use. Modify any pipeline where monitoring determines the pipeline is causing resource objectives to not be met.

LG-V-MA- 13. Consider installing or constructing new reservoirs or wells on a case-by-case basis where they would help meet resource objectives.

LG-V-MA- 14. Maintain existing reservoirs or wells for livestock, wildlife, or wild horse use. Modify reservoirs and wells contributing to not meeting resource objectives, as identified through monitoring.

LG-V-MA- 15. New spring developments would not be authorized.

LG-V-MA- 16. Modify spring developments with wetlands rated as NF, FAR-DN, or FAR to improve wetland areas by protecting the spring source and ensuring adequate water to support spring hydrology and associated riparian vegetation.

LG-V-MA- 17. Place salting, minerals, supplements, new holding facilities, or new troughs or reservoirs more than 300 feet from playas, canyon rims, and the protective corridors of the Oregon NHT, Kelton Freight Road, or Toana Freight Road. Ensure salting, minerals, supplements, new troughs, new reservoirs, and new holding facilities in other areas are located to avoid conflicts with other cultural resources as well.

LG-V-MA- 18. Adjust locations of livestock watering facilities and salting/supplements in sage-grouse and other upland game bird habitat on a case-by-case basis to provide adequate nesting and winter cover.

LG-V-MA- 19. Avoid placing new water developments in sage-grouse habitat unless they would contribute to meeting resource objectives for sage-grouse. If a new water development is necessary, it should be located in a previously disturbed area.

LG-V-MA- 20. Consider installing or constructing fences on a case-by-case basis to meet resource objectives.

LG-V-MA- 21. Remove fences that are not needed. Maintain fences to BLM specifications; the amount of fence in an allotment would be appropriate to objectives for livestock grazing and resource management. Modify, remove, or relocate fences contributing to not meeting resource objective, as identified through monitoring.

2.4.2. Recreation

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective

REC-NA-O- 1. Protect the Salmon Falls Creek Canyon (rim-to-rim) for its natural and scenic values through special designation and management as an SRMA.

Allocations

REC-NA-A- 1. Continue managing the following SRMAs:

- Hagerman-Owsley Bridge SRMA (2,700 acres)
- Oregon Trail SRMA (7,000 acres)
- Bruneau-Jarbidge River SRMA (57,000 acres)
- Jarbidge Forks SRMA (4,000 acres)
- Salmon Falls Creek SRMA (6,000 acres)

Note: These SRMAs were never mapped in the 1987 RMP.

REC-NA-O- 2. Designate and manage 5,000 acres of the forks of the Jarbidge River as an SRMA.

REC-NA-O- 3. Manage MUA 9 for its recreational and off-road vehicle values and designate it as an SRMA (Map 4).

Management Actions

REC-NA-MA- 1. Develop Recreation Activity Management Plans for the Hagerman-Owsley Bridge, Oregon Trail, Bruneau-Jarbidge River, Jarbidge Forks, and Salmon Falls Creek SRMAs.

REC-NA-MA- 2. Consider a variety of means to maintain or improve recreation opportunities.

REC-NA-MA- 3. Some areas may be subject to special restrictions to protect resources or eliminate or reduce conflicts among uses.

REC-NA-MA- 4. Provide and maintain recreation opportunities and facilities to meet existing or anticipated demand, for public safety, and to protect recreation resources.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

REC-CA-G- 1. Provide a variety of dispersed and developed recreational opportunities and experiences for visitors and residents while sustaining the recreation resource base and avoiding, minimizing, or compensating for resource impacts.

Objective

REC-CA-O- 1. Provide basic information on recreational opportunities in the Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). Provide access and minimal facilities (e.g., signs, protective fences) as needed to ensure visitor health and safety, reduce user conflict, and protect resources.

Allocations

See allocations for specific alternatives.

Management Actions

REC-CA-MA- 1. Develop implementation and monitoring plans for SRMAs to address specific needs.

REC-CA-MA- 2. Where appropriate, implement management methods to protect riparian resources, special status species, and wildlife habitat while enhancing recreation opportunities. Management methods may include, but not be limited to, limitation of visitor numbers, camping and travel controls, implementation of fees, and scheduling restrictions to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife during important seasonal periods.

REC-CA-MA- 3. Recreation activities in riparian areas would follow the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).

REC-CA-MA- 4. Dispersed camping would be allowed. Dispersed camping may be closed or limited seasonally or as impacts or environmental conditions warrant.

REC-CA-MA- 5. If campground fees are implemented, they would not apply to Federally recognized tribes exercising treaty rights or engaging in traditional cultural practices.

REC-CA-MA- 6. SRPs would be issued as a discretionary action as a means to contribute to meeting management objectives, provide opportunities for economic activity, facilitate recreational use of the public lands, control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors. Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

REC-CA-MA- 7. All SRPs would contain standard stipulations appropriate for the type of activity and may include additional stipulations necessary to protect lands or resources, reduce user conflicts, or minimize health and safety concerns (SRP Standard Form).

REC-CA-MA- 8. There would be no mechanized or motorized events in WSAs while these areas are managed under the IMP.

REC-CA-MA- 9. Consider SRPs within ACECs on a case-by-case basis with mitigation for negative impacts to relevant and important values.

REC-CA-MA- 10. Include standard stipulations to minimize impacts to bighorn sheep during lambing periods in SRPs for whitewater recreation.

REC-CA-MA- 11. Where monitoring determines whitewater use is impairing resources or recreational experience, additional management actions may be taken including, but not limited to:

- Restriction on number of launches per day,
- Implementation of fees for private use,
- Limitations on number of persons per day, or
- Other types of allocation systems.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

REC-I-O- 1. Manage 341,800 acres as SRMAs and 1,031,700 acres as an ERMA.

Allocations

REC-I-A- 1. Designate the following SRMAs:

- Deadman/Yahoo SRMA (36,000 acres)
- Balanced Rock SRMA (500 acres)
- Little Pilgrim SRMA (300 acres)
- Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA (14,000 acres)
- Jarbidge Forks SRMA (2,000 acres)

- Canyonlands SRMA (149,000 acres)
- Jarbidge Foothills SRMA (135,000 acres)
- Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA (5,000 acres)

See Map 51 for locations.

REC-I-A- 2. Lands within the planning area that are not identified as an SRMA would be considered as an ERMA (1,031,700 acres).

Management Actions

REC-I-MA- 1. The Deadman/Yahoo SRMA would consist of four Recreation Management Zones (RMZs) with the following management:

- Manage the Deadman, Pasadena, and Yahoo RMZs to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in off-road all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and motorcycle riding.
- Manage the Rosevear Gulch RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in motorized trail riding opportunities on a series of designated routes.

REC-I-MA- 2. Manage the Balanced Rock SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in hiking, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, and non-motorized boating.

REC-I-MA- 3. Manage the Little Pilgrim SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in sturgeon fishing and bird hunting.

REC-I-MA- 4. Manage the Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in whitewater boating, hiking, fishing, hunting, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, and primitive camping.

REC-I-MA- 5. Manage the Jarbidge Forks SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in fishing, rafting, picnicking, camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

REC-I-MA- 6. Manage the Canyonlands SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in non-motorized recreation experiences including hunting, fishing, hiking, equestrian activities, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

REC-I-MA- 7. Manage the Jarbidge Foothills SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in non-motorized recreation experiences including hunting, mountain biking, hiking, equestrian activities, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

REC-I-MA- 8. The Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA would consist of three RMZs with the following management:

- Manage the Antelope Bay RMZ to provide opportunities to engage in hunting, fishing, camping, boating, water sports, and motorized and non-motorized trail riding on a series of designated routes.
- Manage the Cedar Creek RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in fishing, camping, and boating.

- Manage the Lud's Point RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in hunting, fishing, primitive camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

See Appendix M for more information on the management and settings prescribed for each SRMA and the ERMA.

REC-I-MA- 9. Give priority for authorization of SRPs for events to applicants proposing to make use of less-crowded weekdays and focus on visitation on sites and areas resilient to repeated use.

REC-I-MA- 10. Issue and manage SRPs for a wide variety of uses to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, provide opportunities for private enterprise, manage user-group interaction, and limit the impacts of such uses upon natural and cultural resources, with

increased emphasis on realizing positive economic and community benefits through SRP management.

REC-I-MA- 11. Commercial SRPs would not be allowed in the HMA.

REC-I-MA- 12. Require organized group permits for groups with 50 or more people.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

REC-II-O- 1. Manage 21,300 acres as SRMAs and 1,352,200 acres as an ERMA.

Allocations

REC-II-A- 1. Designate the following SRMAs:

- Little Pilgrim SRMA (300 acres)
- Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA (14,000 acres)
- Jarbidge Forks SRMA (2,000 acres)
- Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA (5,000 acres)

See Map 52 for locations.

REC-II-A- 2. Lands within the planning area that are not identified as an SRMA would be considered as an ERMA (1,352,200 acres).

Management Actions

REC-II-MA- 1. Manage the Little Pilgrim SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in sturgeon fishing and bird hunting.

REC-II-MA- 2. Manage the Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in whitewater boating, hiking, fishing, hunting, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, and primitive camping.

REC-II-MA- 3. Manage the Jarbidge Forks SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in fishing, rafting, picnicking, camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

REC-II-MA- 4. The Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA would consist of three RMZs with the following management:

- Manage the Antelope Bay RMZ to provide opportunities to engage in hunting, fishing, camping, boating, water sports, and motorized and non-motorized trail riding on a series of designated routes.
- Manage the Cedar Creek RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in fishing, camping, and boating.
- Manage the Lud's Point RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in hunting, fishing, primitive camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

See Appendix M for more information on the management and settings prescribed for each SRMA and the ERMA.

REC-II-MA- 5. Partner with the State, counties, or local communities to create off-highway vehicle (OHV) parks at Deadman and Yahoo through land tenure adjustment or through a Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1954 (R&PP) lease. OHV parks would be linked by a designated route/trail corridor.

REC-II-MA- 6. Give priority for authorization of SRPs for events to applicants proposing to make use of less-crowded weekdays and focus on visitation on sites and areas resilient to repeated use.

REC-II-MA- 7. Issue and manage SRPs for a wide variety of uses to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, provide opportunities for private enterprise, manage user-group interaction, and limit the impacts of such uses upon natural and cultural resources, with increased emphasis on realizing positive economic and community benefits through SRP management.

REC-II-MA- 8. Require organized group permits for groups with 50 or more people.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

REC-III-O- 1. Manage 55,800 acres as SRMAs and 1,317,700 acres as an ERMA.

Allocations

REC-III-A- 1. Designate the following SRMAs:
- Deadman/Yahoo SRMA (34,000 acres)
- Balanced Rock SRMA (500 acres)
- Little Pilgrim SRMA (300 acres)
- Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA (14,000 acres)
- Jarbidge Forks SRMA (2,000 acres)
- Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA (5,000 acres)

See Map 53 for locations.

REC-III-A- 2. Lands within the planning area that are not identified as an SRMA would be considered as an ERMA (1,317,700 acres).

Management Actions

REC-III-MA- 1. The Deadman/Yahoo SRMA would consist of three RMZs with the following management:

- Manage the Deadman and Yahoo RMZs to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in off-road ATV and motorcycle riding.
- Manage the Rosevear Gulch RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in motorized trail riding opportunities on a series of designated routes.

REC-III-MA- 2. Manage the Balanced Rock SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in hiking, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, and non-motorized boating.

REC-III-MA- 3. Manage the Little Pilgrim SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in sturgeon fishing and bird hunting.

REC-III-MA- 4. Manage the Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in whitewater boating, hiking, fishing, hunting, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, and primitive camping.

REC-III-MA- 5. Manage the Jarbidge Forks SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in fishing, rafting, picnicking, camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

REC-III-MA- 6. The Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA would consist of three RMZs with the following management:

- Manage the Antelope Bay RMZ to provide opportunities to engage in hunting, fishing, camping, boating, water sports, and motorized and non-motorized trail riding on a series of designated routes.
- Manage the Cedar Creek RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in fishing, camping, and boating.
- Manage the Lud's Point RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in hunting, fishing, primitive camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

See Appendix M for more information on the management and settings prescribed for each SRMA and the ERMA.

REC-III-MA- 7. Give priority for authorization of SRPs for events to applicants proposing uses occurring outside fire season (October through May), that do not duplicate existing events, utilize facilities off public lands for overnight accommodation of guests, and focus on visitation on sites and areas resilient to repeated use.

REC-III-MA- 8. Place increased emphasis in SRPs on mitigating the impacts of recreation uses in order to support conservation of natural and cultural resource values.

REC-III-MA- 9. Commercial SRPs would not be allowed in the HMA.

REC-III-MA- 10. Require organized group permits for groups with 30 or more people.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

REC-IV-O- 1. Manage 204,000 acres as SRMAs and 1,169,570 acres as an ERMA.

Allocations

REC-IV-A- 1. Designate the following SRMAs:

- Deadman/Yahoo SRMA (34,000 acres)
- Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA (14,000 acres)
- Jarbidge Forks SRMA (2,000 acres)
- Canyonlands SRMA (149,000 acres)
- Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA (5,000 acres)

See Map 54 for locations.

REC-IV-A- 2. Lands within the planning area that are not identified as an SRMA would be considered as an ERMA (1,169,570 acres).

Management Actions

REC-IV-MA- 1. The Deadman/Yahoo SRMA would consist of three RMZs with the following management:

- Manage the Deadman and Yahoo RMZs to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in off-road ATV and motorcycle riding.
- Manage the Rosevear Gulch RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in motorized trail riding opportunities on a series of designated routes.

REC-IV-MA- 2. Manage the Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in whitewater boating, hiking, fishing, hunting, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, and primitive camping.

REC-IV-MA- 3. Manage the Jarbidge Forks SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in fishing, rafting, picnicking, camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

REC-IV-MA- 4. Manage the Canyonlands SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in non-motorized recreation experiences including hunting, fishing, hiking, equestrian activities, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

REC-IV-MA- 5. The Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA would consist of three RMZs with the following management:

- Manage the Antelope Bay RMZ to provide opportunities to engage in hunting, fishing, camping, boating, water sports, and motorized and non-motorized trail riding on a series of designated routes.
- Manage the Cedar Creek RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in fishing, camping, and boating.
- Manage the Lud's Point RMZ to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in hunting, fishing, primitive camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

See Appendix M for more information on the management and settings prescribed for each SRMA and the ERMA.

REC-IV-MA- 6. Give priority for authorization of SRPs for events to applicants proposing to make use of less-crowded weekdays, utilize facilities off public lands for overnight accommodation of guests, and focus on visitation on sites and areas resilient to repeated use.

REC-IV-MA- 7. Place increased emphasis in SRPs on mitigating the impacts of recreation uses in order to support conservation of natural and cultural resource values.

REC-IV-MA- 8. Commercial SRPs would not be allowed in the HMA.

REC-IV-MA- 9. Require organized group permits for groups with 30 or more people.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

REC-V-O- 1. Manage 19,000 acres as SRMAs and 1,354,500 acres as an ERMA.

Allocations

REC-V-A- 1. Designate the following SRMAs:

- Yahoo SRMA (3,000 acres)
- Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA (14,000 acres)
- Jarbidge Forks SRMA (2,000 acres)

See Map 55 for locations.

REC-V-A- 2. Lands within the planning area that are not identified as an SRMA would be considered as an ERMA (1,354,500 acres).

Management Actions

REC-V-MA- 1. Manage the Yahoo SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in off-road ATV and motorcycle riding.

REC-V-MA- 2. Manage the Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in whitewater boating, hiking, fishing, hunting, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, and primitive camping.

REC-V-MA- 3. Manage the Jarbidge Forks SRMA to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in fishing, rafting, picnicking, camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.

See Appendix M for more information on the management and settings prescribed for each SRMA and the ERMA.

REC-V-MA- 4. Give priority for authorization of SRPs for events to applicants proposing to make use of less-crowded weekdays, utilize facilities off public lands for overnight accommodation of guests, and focus on visitation on sites and areas resilient to repeated use.

REC-V-MA- 5. Place increased emphasis in SRPs on mitigating the impacts of recreation uses in order to support conservation of natural and cultural resource values.

REC-V-MA- 6. Commercial SRPs would not be allowed in the HMA.

REC-V-MA- 7. Require organized group permits for groups with 20 or more people.

2.4.3. Transportation and Travel

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective

No objective stated.

Allocations

TR-NA-A- 1. 1,062,000 acres would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use in MUAs 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16 (Map 4).

TR-NA-A- 2. 25,000 acres would be closed to motorized vehicle use in MUAs 10 and 14 (Map 4) including:

- Rim-to-rim in the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons within Bruneau River-Sheep Creek and Jarbidge River WSAs, and
- Salmon Falls Creek ACEC.

Cultural sites identified as special MUAs in the RMP would be closed to motorized vehicle use.

TR-NA-A- 3. 70,000 acres in the Bruneau-Sheep Creek and Jarbidge WSAs are limited to inventoried ways as depicted on Map 56. These acres were identified as open in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP; however, they are managed under the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review which states, “Mechanical transport, including all motorized devices as well as trail and mountain bikes may only be allowed on existing ways…that were designated prior to the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).”

TR-NA-A- 4. 216,000 acres would be limited to designated routes, including:

- Sand Point ACEC and surrounding paleontological deposits;
- Oregon NHT;
- Bighorn sheep habitat and Dry Lake Beds/Bruneau River and Post Office cultural areas in MUA 11;
- Devil Creek, Juniper Ranch, and Clover Creek cultural areas in MUA 12;
- Devil Creek Complex in MUA 13; and
- Devil Creek and bighorn sheep habitat in MUAs 15 and 16.

See Map 4 for MUA boundaries.

See Map 57 for locations of transportation and travel allocations.

TR-NA-A- 5. Crucial mule deer and pronghorn winter range within MUAs 15 and 16 would be limited seasonally for snow vehicles if IDFG determines harassment is occurring (Map 4).

Management Actions

TR-NA-MA- 1. Avoid constructing any roads within or closely adjacent to crucial wildlife habitat.

TR-NA-MA- 2. Roads would avoid riparian zones to the extent practicable.

TR-NA-MA- 3. Roads would not be built within 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

TR-CA-G- 1. Manage and provide for motorized, non-motorized, and non-mechanized access that would balance resource protection and use.

Objective

See objectives for specific alternatives.

Allocations

See allocations for specific alternatives.

Management Actions

TR-CA-MA- 1. Area designations apply to all off-highway vehicles (OHVs), which include any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding:

- Any nonamphibious registered motorboat;
- Any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes;
- Any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer or otherwise officially approved;
- Vehicles in official use; and
- Any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies (43 CFR 8340.0-5(a)).

Area and route designations also do not apply to vehicles being used by members of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes or the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to access traditional use areas of importance to the tribes or to vehicles being used by members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to exercise their tribally reserved treaty rights.

TR-CA-MA- 2. Whenever an authorized officer determines that motorized, non-motorized, or non-mechanized use would cause or is causing considerable adverse effects on resources, the area or trail would be restricted or closed to the type of use causing the adverse effects. Such limitations or closures are not OHV area designations.

TR-CA-MA- 3. Minimize construction and maintenance of roads within or adjacent to special status wildlife and fish habitat and big game winter range during important seasonal periods (Appendix H).

TR-CA-MA- 4. Continue to recognize valid agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with local highway districts for road maintenance.

TR-CA-MA- 5. Complete a Comprehensive Transportation and Travel Management Plan (CTTMP) within 5 years of the signing of the ROD. The CTTMP would be developed through a public process to determine the transportation and travel system for the planning area. The CTTMP would determine the routes and trails to be designated, modified, closed, or rehabilitated as well as the maintenance level, modes of travel, and seasonal and access

restrictions for designated routes. During the CTTMP process, additional data needs and a strategy to collect information will be identified. The NEPA analysis that accompanies the CTTMP would include, at a minimum, cumulative effects assessments of road density and fragmentation of sage-grouse habitat. Decisions made in the CTTMP will be limited to management of BLM roads.

TR-CA-MA- 6. Route designation would, at minimum, follow criteria outlined Federal regulations, such as 43 CFR 8342.1, which includes:

- Locating routes to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, air, or other resources of the public lands, and to prevent impairment of wilderness suitability;
- Locating routes to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats; special attention would be given to protect Endangered or Threatened species or their habitats;
- Locating routes to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle 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;
- Not locating routes in officially designated wilderness areas or primitive areas; locating routes in natural areas only if the authorized officer determines that off-road vehicle use in such locations would not adversely affect their natural, aesthetic, scenic, or other values for which such areas are established.

The authorized officer may add additional criteria in the CTTMP process, consistent with objectives in the RMP.

TR-CA-MA- 7. Route designation would also adhere to the following guidelines:

- Designated routes would comply with the guidelines contained in the ARMS (Appendix D).
- Conflict with cultural and paleontological resources would be minimized when designating routes.
- Designated routes may follow or cross the Oregon NHT and National Register of Historic Places-eligible and -listed segments of the Kelton Freight Road and Toana Freight Road in areas where previous disturbance has occurred and after consultation with SHPO.
- Where motorized vehicle use is allowed within the Oregon NHT protective corridor, travel would not degrade the trail.
- Designated routes within suitable and eligible WSR segments must maintain/enhance their ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification until Congress acts.
- Loop routes are preferred to dead end routes.
- Parking areas and turnouts would be considered under the same criteria used for routes.

The authorized officer may add additional guidelines in the CTTMP process, consistent with objectives in the RMP.

TR-CA-MA- 8. The considerations used to determine whether a specific route would be designated, modified, or closed as well as the maintenance level, mode of travel, and seasonal and access restrictions for designated routes include, but are not limited to:

- Does the route affect access to areas of cultural or religious concern for Native Americans?
- Is the route compatible with objectives outlined in the RMP?
- What is the route used for? When is it used and by whom?
- Is the route adequate to provide access for all of its intended purposes?
- Does the route provide access to existing rights, private land, or other agency lands (e.g., State, Forest Service, other BLM FOs)?
- Is the route necessary for emergency services?
- Does the route contribute to fire suppression capabilities?
- Does the route pose a threat to public safety?
- Do multiple or parallel routes access the same area? Are they used by different methods of transportation?
- Is the route re-vegetating and no longer receiving motorized use?
- Is the route necessary for authorized commercial activities, including livestock grazing, energy development, and recreation?
- Is the route impacting or does it present a threat to resource values (see questions below)? If so, does its purpose justify impacts or potential threats to resources?
    - Could the route affect areas of cultural or religious concern for Native Americans?
    - Could the route adversely affect sites that may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places?
    - Does the route affect known paleontological sites?
    - Could the route adversely affect Threatened or Endangered species or their habitat?
    - Does the route affect other special status species or their habitat?
    - Does the route have a high potential to encourage harassment or disruption to wildlife?
    - Is the route causing soil erosion?
    - Does the route traverse soils that are easily eroded or highly susceptible to damage?
    - Does the route go through a known infestation of noxious weeds?
    - Does the route have a high potential to encourage harassment or disruption to wild horses?
    - Is the route compatible with the VRM Class for the area?

The authorized officer may adjust these considerations in the CTTMP process, consistent with objectives in the RMP.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

TR-I-O- 1. Provide a transportation and travel system that facilitates multiple use, with an emphasis on recreational use, livestock grazing, and minimizing impacts to big game habitats.

Allocations

TR-I-A- 1. Designated areas in the Deadman/Yahoo SRMA would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use (3,600 acres).

TR-I-A- 2. Salmon Falls Creek ACEC north and south of Lily Grade crossing, non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics, and the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons rim-to-rim within the WSAs would be closed to motorized vehicle use (57,000 acres).

TR-I-A- 3. Travel would be limited to designated ways in the portions of WSAs not closed to motorized vehicle use (72,000 acres). Ways designated in the CTTMP must be identified as inventoried ways on Map 56. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel is limited to inventoried ways as depicted on Map 56.

TR-I-A- 4. Travel would be limited to designated routes in the remainder of the planning area (1,241,000 acres). Specific route designations would be made in an implementation-level travel and transportation management planning process following the completion of the RMP. Until route designation occurs, areas limited to designated routes would be managed as limited to existing routes as depicted on Map 56. Map 56 reflects the best GIS data available at the time of this publication; these data were compiled from routes identified on United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps and aerial photos (2004 National Agricultural Imagery Program [NAIP] imagery), supplemented with field data collected on the ground and reviewed by BLM staff. A more thorough review of the data will be performed as part of the CTTMP, which may include additional on-the-ground data collection and verification.

See Map 58 for locations of transportation and travel allocations.

TR-I-A- 5. Seasonal restrictions on travel within the HMA would be in place during foaling (March through July); motorized travel would not be allowed on primitive roads during this time.

Management Actions

TR-I-MA- 1. Motorized vehicle restrictions would apply to lessees, BLM permit holders, and ROW holders, but site-specific exceptions to motorized vehicle restrictions could be authorized in the lease, permits, or ROW.

TR-I-MA- 2. Other activities in areas limited or closed to motorized travel may be allowed on a case-by-case basis, but would require prior written permission of an authorized officer. These activities may include but not be limited to:

- Motorized cross-country travel for non-BLM government entities on official administrative business (e.g., noxious weed control, surveying, and animal damage control efforts).
- Motorized cross-country travel by entities requiring access to private lands, resources, or legal improvements within or adjacent to closed or limited areas.

TR-I-MA- 3. Access and use restrictions may be imposed to reduce risk of wildland fire during fire restrictions, as determined by an

authorized officer; restrictions may include, but not be limited to, closing primitive roads, trails, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use. Travel related to administrative uses and emergency services may continue during fire restrictions.

TR-I-MA- 4. Game retrieval using motorized vehicles would be allowed within 300 feet of a designated route, but would not be allowed within areas closed to motorized vehicle use or WSAs.

TR-I-MA- 5. Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site would be allowed within 25 feet of designated routes, but would not be allowed within areas closed to motorized vehicle use, riparian areas, or WSAs. Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site may be closed or limited seasonally or as impacts or environmental conditions warrant.

TR-I-MA- 6. Identify locations for and install gates and cattleguards along designated routes to minimize conflicts between motorized recreation activities and livestock grazing operations.

TR-I-MA- 7. Travel Management Areas (TMAs) contain lands with relatively homogeneous travel and transportation management characteristics and similar resource concerns or issues, as well as an overall focus for travel and transportation management. The priority resource or use emphasis for each TMA depends on the focus of the TMA and other objectives outlined in the RMP. The TMAs and their travel and transportation planning focus would be as follows:

- Snake River TMA (316,000 acres): Focus on balancing the needs for public access with resource objectives.
- Deadman/Yahoo TMA (41,000 acres): Focus on facilitating motorized recreation activities, including open play areas and a designated trail system.
- Devil Creek TMA (667,000 acres): Focus on balancing livestock grazing management needs with habitat restoration activities.
- Canyonlands TMA (213,000 acres): Focus on increasing core habitat size for mule deer and providing opportunities for non-motorized recreation experiences.
- Jarbidge Foothills TMA (137,000 acres): Focus on increasing core habitat size for mule deer and providing opportunities for non-motorized recreation experiences.

See Map 63 for locations of TMAs.

TR-I-MA- 8. The authorized officer has the authority to adjust TMA boundaries and their focus, consistent with objectives in the RMP, if necessary to facilitate CTTMP process.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

TR-II-O- 1. Provide a transportation and travel system to facilitate multiple use, with an emphasis on commercial use and minimizing impacts on native vegetation.

Allocations

TR-II-A- 1. No areas would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use.

TR-II-A- 2. The Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons rim-to-rim within the WSAs would be closed to motorized vehicle use (21,000 acres).

TR-II-A- 3. Travel would be limited to designated ways in the portions of WSAs not closed to motorized vehicle use (73,000 acres). Ways designated in the CTTMP must be identified as inventoried ways on Map 56. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel is limited to inventoried ways as depicted on Map 56.

TR-II-A- 4. Travel would be limited to designated routes in the remainder of the planning area (1,297,000 acres). Specific route designations would be made in an implementation-level travel and transportation management planning process following the completion of the RMP. Until route designation occurs, areas limited to designated routes would be managed as limited to existing routes as depicted on Map 56. Map 56 reflects the best GIS data available at the time of this publication; these data were compiled from routes identified on USGS topographic maps and aerial photos (2004 NAIP imagery), supplemented with field data collected on the ground and reviewed by BLM staff. A more thorough review of the data will be performed as part of the CTTMP, which may include additional on-the-ground data collection and verification.

See Map 59 for locations of transportation and travel allocations.

Management Actions

TR-II-MA- 1. Motorized vehicle restrictions would apply to lessees, BLM permit holders, and ROW holders, but site-specific exceptions to motorized vehicle restrictions could be authorized in the lease, permits, or ROW.

TR-II-MA- 2. Other activities in areas limited or closed to motorized travel may be allowed on a case-by-case basis, but would require prior written permission of an authorized officer. These activities may include but not be limited to:

- Motorized cross-country travel for non-BLM government entities on official administrative business (e.g., noxious weed control, surveying, and animal damage control efforts).
- Motorized cross-country travel by entities requiring access to private lands, resources, or legal improvements within or adjacent to closed or limited areas.

TR-II-MA- 3. Game retrieval using motorized vehicles would be allowed off designated routes, but would not be allowed within areas closed to motorized vehicle use or WSAs.

TR-II-MA- 4. Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site would be allowed within 100 feet of designated routes, but would not be allowed within areas closed to motorized vehicle use, riparian areas, or WSAs. Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site may be closed or limited seasonally or as impacts or environmental conditions warrant.

TR-II-MA- 5. Identify locations for and install gates and cattleguards along designated routes to minimize conflicts between motorized recreation activities and livestock grazing operations.

TR-II-MA- 6. TMAs contain lands with relatively homogeneous travel and transportation management characteristics and similar resource concerns or issues, as well as an overall focus for travel and transportation management. The priority resource or use emphasis for each TMA depends on the focus of the TMA and other objectives outlined in the RMP. The TMAs and their travel and transportation planning focus would be as follows:

- Bruneau Desert TMA (1,161,000 acres): Focus on facilitating commercial uses, while mitigating impacts to resources.
- Canyonlands TMA (213,000 acres): Focus on facilitating livestock grazing management, while mitigating impacts to resources.

See Map 64 for locations of TMAs.

TR-II-MA- 7. The authorized officer has the authority to adjust TMA boundaries and their focus, consistent with objectives in the RMP, if necessary to facilitate CTTMP process.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

TR-III-O- 1. A transportation and travel system would provide for multiple use, with an emphasis on wildland fire prevention and suppression activities.

Allocations

TR-III-A- 1. Designated areas in the Deadman/Yahoo SRMA would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use (3,570 acres).

TR-III-A- 2. Salmon Falls Creek ACEC north and south of Lily Grade crossing and the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons rim-to-rim within the WSAs would be closed to motorized vehicle use (27,000 acres).

TR-III-A- 3. Travel would be limited to designated ways in the portions of WSAs not closed to motorized vehicle use (72,000 acres). Ways designated in the CTTMP must be identified as inventoried ways on Map 56. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel is limited to inventoried ways as depicted on Map 56.

TR-III-A- 4. Travel would be limited to designated routes in the remainder of the planning area (1,275,000 acres). Specific route designations would be made in an implementation-level travel and transportation management planning process following the completion of the RMP. Until route designation occurs, areas limited to designated routes would be managed as limited to existing routes as depicted on Map 56. Map 56 reflects the best GIS data available at the time of this publication; these data were compiled from routes identified on USGS topographic maps and aerial photos (2004 NAIP imagery), supplemented with field data collected on the ground and reviewed by BLM staff. A more thorough review of the data will be performed as part of the CTTMP, which may include additional on-the-ground data collection and verification.

See Map 60 for locations of transportation and travel allocations.

TR-III-A- 5. Seasonal restrictions on travel within the HMA would be in place during foaling (March through July); motorized travel would not be allowed on primitive roads during this time.

Management Actions

TR-III-MA- 1. Motorized vehicle restrictions would apply to lessees, BLM permit holders, and ROW holders, but site-specific exceptions to motorized vehicle restrictions could be authorized in the lease, permits, or ROW.

TR-III-MA- 2. Other activities in areas limited or closed to motorized travel may be allowed on a case-by-case basis, but would require prior written permission of an authorized officer. These activities may include but not be limited to:

- Motorized cross-country travel for non-BLM government entities on official administrative business (e.g., noxious weed control, surveying, and animal damage control efforts).
- Motorized cross-country travel by entities requiring access to private lands, resources, or legal improvements within or adjacent to closed or limited areas.

TR-III-MA- 3. Close primitive roads, trails, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use to reduce risk of wildland fire during fire restrictions or when conditions dictate as determined by an authorized officer. Travel related to BLM administrative uses and emergency services may continue during fire restrictions.

TR-III-MA- 4. Game retrieval using motorized vehicles would not be allowed off designated routes.

TR-III-MA- 5. Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site would be allowed within 25 feet of designated routes, but would not be allowed within areas closed to motorized vehicle use, riparian areas, or WSAs. Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site may be closed or limited seasonally or as impacts or environmental conditions warrant.

TR-III-MA- 6. Identify locations for and install gates and cattleguards along designated routes to minimize conflicts between motorized recreation activities and livestock grazing operations and to facilitate fire suppression.

TR-III-MA- 7. TMAs contain lands with relatively homogeneous travel and transportation management characteristics and similar resource concerns or issues, as well as an overall focus for travel and transportation management. The priority resource or use emphasis for each TMA depends on the focus of the TMA and other objectives outlined in the RMP. The TMAs and their travel and transportation planning focus would be as follows:

- Snake River TMA (312,000 acres): Focus on improving public access and facilitating fire suppression operations and wildland fire prevention.
- Deadman/Yahoo TMA (34,000 acres): Focus on facilitating motorized recreation activities, including open play areas and a designated trail system.

- Devil Creek TMA (485,000 acres): Focus on improving access and facilitating fire suppression operations and wildland fire prevention.
- West Side TMA (405,000 acres): Focus on improving access and facilitating fire suppression operations and wildland fire prevention.
- Jarbidge Foothills TMA (137,000 acres): Focus on improving access and facilitating fire suppression operations and wildland fire prevention.

See Map 65 for locations of TMAs.

TR-III-MA- 8. The authorized officer has the authority to adjust TMA boundaries and their focus, consistent with objectives in the RMP, if necessary to facilitate CTTMP process.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

TR-IV-O- 1. Provide a transportation and travel system to facilitate multiple use and resource protection with an emphasis on meeting native vegetation and special status species goals.

Allocations

TR-IV-A- 1. Designated areas in the Deadman/Yahoo SRMA would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use (3,570 acres).

TR-IV-A- 2. Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics and the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons rim-to-rim within the WSAs would be closed to motorized vehicle use (74,000 acres).

TR-IV-A- 3. Travel would be limited to designated ways in the portions of WSAs not closed to motorized vehicle use (73,000 acres). Ways designated in the CTTMP must be identified as inventoried ways on Map 56. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel is limited to inventoried ways as depicted on Map 56.

TR-IV-A- 4. Travel would be limited to designated routes in the remainder of the planning area (1,223,000 acres). Specific route designations would be made in an implementation-level travel and transportation management planning process following the completion of the RMP. Until route designation occurs, areas limited to designated routes would be managed as limited to existing routes as depicted on Map 56. Map 56 reflects the best GIS data available at the time of this publication; these data were compiled from routes identified on USGS topographic maps and aerial photos (2004 NAIP imagery), supplemented with field data collected on the ground and reviewed by BLM staff. A more thorough review of the data will be performed as part of the CTTMP, which may include additional on-the-ground data collection and verification.

See Map 61 for locations of transportation and travel allocations.

Management Actions

TR-IV-MA- 1. Motorized vehicle restrictions would apply to lessees, BLM permit holders, and ROW holders, but site-specific exceptions

to motorized vehicle restrictions could be authorized in the lease, permits, or ROW.

TR-IV-MA- 2. Other activities in areas limited or closed to motorized travel may be allowed on a case-by-case basis, but would require prior written permission of an authorized officer. These activities may include but not be limited to:

- Motorized cross-country travel for non-BLM government entities on official administrative business (e.g., noxious weed control, surveying, and animal damage control efforts).
- Motorized cross-country travel by entities requiring access to private lands, resources, or legal improvements within or adjacent to closed or limited areas.

TR-IV-MA- 3. Access and use restrictions may be imposed to reduce risk of wildland fire during fire restrictions, as determined by an authorized officer; restrictions may include, but not be limited to, closing primitive roads, trails, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use. Travel related to administrative uses and emergency services may continue during fire restrictions.

TR-IV-MA- 4. Game retrieval using motorized vehicles would not be allowed off designated routes.

TR-IV-MA- 5. Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site would be allowed within 25 feet of designated routes, but would not be allowed within areas closed to motorized vehicle use, riparian areas, or WSAs. Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site may be closed or limited seasonally or as impacts or environmental conditions warrant.

TR-IV-MA- 6. Identify locations for and install gates and cattleguards along designated routes to minimize conflicts between motorized recreation activities and livestock grazing operations.

TR-IV-MA- 7. TMAs contain lands with relatively homogeneous travel and transportation management characteristics and similar resource concerns or issues, as well as an overall focus for travel and transportation management. The priority resource or use emphasis for each TMA depends on the focus of the TMA and other objectives outlined in the RMP. The TMAs and their travel and transportation planning focus would be as follows:

- Snake River TMA (323,000 acres): Focus on accommodating restoration while providing for public access.
- Deadman/Yahoo TMA (34,000 acres): Focus on facilitating motorized recreation activities, including open play areas and a designated trail system.
- Devil Creek TMA (666,000 acres): Focus on increasing core habitat size for sage-grouse and big game and accommodating habitat restoration activities, while providing for public access.
- Canyonlands TMA (213,000 acres): Focus on increasing core habitat size for sage-grouse and big game and providing opportunities for non-motorized recreation experiences.
- Jarbidge Foothills TMA (137,000 acres): Focus on increasing core habitat size for sage-grouse and big game and

accommodating habitat restoration activities, while providing for public access.

See Map 63 for locations of TMAs.

TR-IV-MA- 8. The authorized officer has the authority to adjust TMA boundaries and their focus, consistent with objectives in the RMP, if necessary to facilitate CTTMP process.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

TR-V-O- 1. Provide a transportation and travel system to facilitate multiple use and resource protection with an emphasis on meeting native vegetation and special status species goals.

Allocations

TR-V-A- 1. Designated areas in the Yahoo SRMA would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use (700 acres).

TR-V-A- 2. WSAs, including inventoried ways shown on Map 56, and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics would be closed to motorized vehicle use (147,000 acres).

TR-V-A- 3. Travel would be limited to designated routes in the remainder of the planning (1,226,000 acres). Specific route designations would be made in an implementation-level travel and transportation management planning process following the completion of the RMP. Until route designation occurs, areas limited to designated routes would be managed as limited to existing routes as depicted on Map 56. Map 56 reflects the best GIS data available at the time of this publication; these data were compiled from routes identified on USGS topographic maps and aerial photos (2004 NAIP imagery), supplemented with field data collected on the ground and reviewed by BLM staff. A more thorough review of the data will be performed as part of the CTTMP, which may include additional on-the-ground data collection and verification.

See Map 62 for locations of transportation and travel allocations.

Management Actions

TR-V-MA- 1. Motorized vehicle restrictions apply to lessees, BLM permit holders, and ROW holders, with no exceptions.

TR-V-MA- 2. Other activities in areas limited or closed to motorized travel may be allowed on a case-by-case basis, but would require prior written permission of an authorized officer. These activities may include but not be limited to:

- Motorized cross-country travel for non-BLM government entities on official administrative business (e.g., noxious weed control, surveying, and animal damage control efforts).
- Motorized cross-country travel by entities requiring access to private lands, resources, or legal improvements within or adjacent to closed or limited areas.

TR-V-MA- 3. Access and use restrictions may be imposed to reduce risk of wildland fire during fire restrictions, as determined by an authorized officer; restrictions may include, but not be limited to, closing primitive roads, trails, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use. Travel related to administrative uses and emergency services may continue during fire restrictions.

TR-V-MA- 4. Game retrieval using motorized vehicles would not be allowed off designated routes.

TR-V-MA- 5. Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site would be allowed within 25 feet of designated routes, but would not be allowed within areas closed to motorized vehicle use, riparian areas, or WSAs. Motorized cross-country travel to a camp site may be closed or limited seasonally or as impacts or environmental conditions warrant.

TR-V-MA- 6. Identify locations for and install gates and cattleguards along designated routes to minimize conflicts between motorized recreation activities and livestock grazing operations.

TR-V-MA- 7. TMAs contain lands with relatively homogeneous travel and transportation management characteristics and similar resource concerns or issues, as well as an overall focus for travel and transportation management. The priority resource or use emphasis for each TMA depends on the focus of the TMA and other objectives outlined in the RMP. The TMAs and their travel and transportation planning focus would be as follows:

- Snake River TMA (343,000 acres): Focus on accommodating habitat restoration activities.
- Yahoo TMA (3,000 acres): Focus on facilitating motorized recreation activities, including open play areas and a designated trail system.
- Devil Creek TMA (485,000 acres): Focus on increasing core habitat size for sage-grouse and other special status species and accommodating habitat restoration activities.
- West Side TMA (405,000 acres): Focus on increasing core habitat size for sage-grouse and other special status species and accommodating habitat restoration activities.
- Jarbidge Foothills TMA (137,000 acres): Focus on increasing core habitat size for sage-grouse and other special status species and accommodating habitat restoration activities.

See Map 66 for locations of TMAs.

TR-V-MA- 8. The authorized officer has the authority to adjust TMA boundaries and their focus, consistent with objectives in the RMP, if necessary to facilitate CTTMP process.

2.4.4. Land Use Authorizations

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective

No objective stated.

Allocations

LA-NA-A- 1. The following areas would be utility avoidance/restricted areas (110,000 acres):

- Paleontological sites at Glenns Ferry and Pasadena Valley (surface, underground);
- Sand Point ACEC (surface, underground);
- Dove Springs;
- 96 paleontological sites;
- All rutted segments of Oregon Trail (overhead, surface, underground);
- Recommended suitable wilderness area;
- Bruneau/Jarbidge River ACEC (overhead, surface, underground);
- 121 miles of WSR area;
- Portions of 24,080 acres of the Dry Lakes/Bruneau River Complex and Post Office Cultural areas (surface, underground);
- Portions of 4,480 acres of three cultural resource complexes at Juniper Ranch, Clover Creek, and Devil Creek (surface, underground);
- Salmon Falls Creek Canyon (overhead, surface, underground).

Utility corridors would avoid riparian areas to the extent possible.

See Map 68 for locations of utility avoidance/restricted areas.

Management Actions

LA-NA-MA- 1. Generally, public lands may be considered for the installation of public utilities, except where expressly closed by law or regulation. ROWs would be considered except where specifically identified in the RMP for avoidance.

LA-NA-MA- 2. Restrict future communication site needs to existing sites as much as possible.

LA-NA-MA- 3. Consider new communication sites if there is a demonstrated need and the resource conflicts are low or can be mitigated.

LA-NA-MA- 4. Restrict wind energy development from wildlife habitat where adverse effects could not be mitigated.

LA-NA-MA- 5. Consider alternative methods such as ROWs and cooperative agreements for meeting the withdrawal/classification objectives.

LA-NA-MA- 6. Withdrawal/classification modifications and extensions must provide for maximum possible multiple uses, with particular emphasis upon mineral exploration and development. When withdrawals are revoked, the lands continue to be in the retention category.

LA-NA-MA- 7. New withdrawals proposed will be handled on a case-by-case basis in accordance with Section 204 of FLPMA, with full public participation.

LA-NA-MA- 8. Land use permits for irrigated agricultural use of public land would be used sparingly and be restricted to resolve situations where other alternatives prove to be impractical, such as:

- Small areas of public land isolated between a farmed field and a canal, ditch or road; and
- Renewal for an circular pivot already authorized by a land use permit until the land is removed from agricultural production and rehabilitated or until the land is transferred from public ownership.
- In cases where a pivot must cross public land, the lands are to remain unfarmed and a land use permit would be issued only for the crossing pivot.

LA-NA-MA- 9. Treat soil erosion that occurs on public lands as a result of excess irrigation flows from private agricultural lands a trespass in order to stop the erosion and to rehabilitate the damage to public land.

LA-NA-MA- 10. Prevent agricultural trespass, including irrigation lines in the Sand Point ACEC.

LA-NA-MA- 11. Consider airport leases only when a definite need has been shown, supported by a specific development and management plan, and a showing of financial capability to carry out the project.

Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives

Goal

See goals in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objectives for specific alternatives.

Allocations

LA-C-A- 1. BLM would review all withdrawals on and classifications of public lands to eliminate all unnecessary withdrawals and classifications. Reviews would consider:

- For what purpose were the lands withdrawn?
- Is that purpose still being served?
- Are the lands suitable for return to the public domain?

Management Actions

LA-C-MA- 1. Implement the Programmatic Policies and Best Management Practices in the Wind Energy Development Program (Appendix N).

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

LA-CA-G- 1. Public needs for land use authorizations would be met with consideration for other resource values

Objective

See objectives for specific alternatives.

Allocations

LA-CA-A- 1. Applications for solar energy developments would be considered on a case-by-case basis; as of 2009, the planning area lacks potential for commercial solar energy development due to current technology.

LA-CA-A- 2. Retain existing withdrawals, with the option of a Section 24 restoration for power site classifications and power site reserves if needed, as provided for in the Federal Power Act of 1920.

Management Actions

LA-CA-MA- 1. Place new ROWs for pipelines and overhead lines within ROW corridors where practical; other locations would be considered on a case-by-case basis in areas not identified for ROW avoidance or exclusion, consistent with allocations listed above.

LA-CA-MA- 2. New ROWs would be located in disturbance corridors where practical.

LA-CA-MA- 3. New ROWs would follow the guidance in the ARMS (Appendix D).

LA-CA-MA- 4. New ROWs would meet VRM class objectives.

LA-CA-MA- 5. Co-locate new communication sites with existing sites where practical; communication sites present in 2009 are located at:

- Yahoo Creek,
- Lower Salmon Falls,
- Signal Butte,
- American Towers,
- Frog Hollow,
- Castleford Butte, and
- Black Butte.

See Map 67. Other locations would be considered on a case-by-case basis, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

LA-CA-MA- 6. BLM management activities and authorized uses on lands with existing withdrawals would be consistent with the purposes of the withdrawal. Proposed BLM management activities and authorized uses that are not consistent with the purposes of the withdrawal would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the proposal can be modified or whether the withdrawal is still necessary.

LA-CA-MA- 7. Land use permits for pivot crossings may be allowed, in accordance with policy and regulations. In cases where a pivot crosses public land, the lands are to remain unfarmed and unirrigated.

LA-CA-MA- 8. Consider airport leases on a case-by-case basis.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

LA-I-O- 1. Provide for the development of renewable energy resources, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, communication sites and other uses with consideration for resource objectives.

Allocations

LA-I-A- 1. The following areas would be avoidance areas for ROWs (896,000 acres); ROWs would be allowed in these areas only if the avoidance stipulations are met and if the area is not identified for ROW exclusion:

- Areas within USAF MOAs (852,000 acres): structures must be lower than 100 feet above ground level
- Oregon NHT protective corridor (11,000 acres): new surface or overhead ROWs would follow existing ROW or disturbance corridors; underground ROWs would be allowed with mitigation for disturbance within the protective corridor
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors (32,000 acres): ROWs must maintain/enhance the river segment's ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics (35,000 acres): ROWs must not impact naturalness, opportunities for solitude, or opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation in these areas
- Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs (88,000 acres): new ROWs would be restricted to ROW corridors and locations of existing ROWs

Several ROW avoidance areas overlap; where this occurs, all avoidance stipulations must be met. In addition, some ROW avoidance areas overlap with ROW exclusion areas; where this occurs, the more restrictive exclusion management applies. See Map 69 for locations of ROW avoidance areas.

LA-I-A- 2. The following areas would be exclusion areas for ROWs (95,000 acres); they would not be available for ROWs under any conditions:

- Sand Point ACEC
- WSAs

See Map 74 for locations of ROW exclusion areas.

LA-I-A- 3. Designate the following ROW corridors for utilities (e.g., transmission and phone lines, oil/gas pipelines):

- Pilgrim Gulch
- Shoestring
- Saylor Creek
- Balanced Rock
- Jarbidge

See Map 77 for locations of ROW corridors.

LA-I-A- 4. New communication sites could be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

LA-I-A- 5. Wind farms could be considered in areas with annual or non-native vegetation communities, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas. Map 79

displays areas meeting these criteria in 2009; the map can be updated as vegetation conditions change on the ground.

LA-I-A- 6. ROWs for roads could be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance, outside ROW exclusion areas, and consistent with the *Transportation and Travel* section.

Management Actions

LA-I-MA- 1. ROW construction and maintenance activities should avoid disturbing special status species and mule deer during important seasonal periods, unless the disturbance can be mitigated (Appendix H).

LA-I-MA- 2. Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines 1 to 3 miles away from active sage-grouse leks if it can be documented the structure would not conflict with the lek. If this cannot be documented, structures must be at least 3 miles away from active sage-grouse leks.

LA-I-MA- 3. Do not locate new communication sites in special status species habitat if the project would negatively affect special status species or their habitat, unless those impacts can be mitigated.

LA-I-MA- 4. Restrict wind energy site testing and monitoring and wind energy development from occupied habitat for special status plants and animals, and cultural resources where their direct and indirect adverse effects cannot be mitigated.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

LA-II-O- 1. Provide for the development of renewable energy resources, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, communication sites and other uses with consideration for resource objectives.

Allocations

LA-II-A- 1. The following areas would be avoidance areas for ROWs (878,000 acres); ROWs would be allowed in these areas only if the avoidance stipulations are met and if the area is not identified for ROW exclusion:

- Areas within USAF MOAs (852,000 acres): structures must be lower than 100 feet above ground level
- Oregon NHT protective corridor (11,000 acres): surface, overhead; and underground ROWs would be allowed with mitigation for disturbance within the protective corridor
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors (32,000 acres): ROWs must maintain/enhance the river segment's ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification

Several ROW avoidance areas overlap; where this occurs, all avoidance stipulations must be met. In addition, some ROW avoidance areas overlap with ROW exclusion areas; where this occurs, the more restrictive exclusion management applies. See Map 70 for locations of ROW avoidance areas.

LA-II-A- 2. The following areas would be exclusion areas for ROW (94,000 acres); they would not be available for ROWs under any conditions:

- WSAs

See Map 75 for locations of ROW exclusion areas.

LA-II-A- 3. Designate the following ROW corridors for utilities (e.g., transmission and phone lines, oil/gas pipelines):

- Pilgrim Gulch
- Shoestring
- Saylor Creek
- Balanced Rock
- Jarbidge
- China Mountain

See Map 77 for locations of ROW corridors.

LA-II-A- 4. New communication sites can be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

LA-II-A- 5. Wind farms can be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas (Map 80).

LA-II-A- 6. ROWs for roads could be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance, outside ROW exclusion areas, and consistent with the *Transportation and Travel* section.

Management Actions

LA-II-MA- 1. ROW construction and maintenance activities should avoid disturbing special status species during important seasonal periods, unless the disturbance can be mitigated (Appendix H).

LA-II-MA- 2. Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines more than 1 mile from active sage-grouse leks.

LA-II-MA- 3. Design new communication sites to mitigate impacts to special status species and their habitats where practical.

LA-II-MA- 4. Restrict wind turbines and meteorological towers from occupied habitat for Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, and Candidate species where their direct adverse effects cannot be mitigated.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

LA-III-O- 1. Provide for the development of renewable energy resources, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, communication sites and other uses with consideration for resource objectives and wildland fire prevention and suppression objectives.

Allocations

LA-III-A- 1. The following areas would be avoidance areas for ROWs (880,000 acres); ROWs would be allowed in these areas only if the avoidance stipulations are met and if the area is not identified for ROW exclusion:

- Areas within USAF MOAs (852,000 acres): structures must be lower than 100 feet above ground level
- Oregon NHT protective corridor (11,000 acres): new surface or overhead ROWs would follow existing ROW or disturbance corridors; underground ROWs would be allowed with mitigation for disturbance within the protective corridor
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors (32,000 acres): ROWs must maintain/enhance the river segment's ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification
- Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (57,000 acres): no new overhead ROWs would be allowed
- Salmon Falls Creek ACEC (2,700 acres): new ROWs would be restricted to ROW corridors and locations of existing ROWs

Several ROW avoidance areas overlap; where this occurs, all avoidance stipulations must be met. In addition, some ROW avoidance areas overlap with ROW exclusion areas; where this occurs, the more restrictive exclusion management applies. See Map 71 for locations of ROW avoidance areas.

LA-III-A- 2. The following areas would be exclusion areas for ROW (95,000 acres); they would not be available for ROWs under any conditions:

- Sand Point ACEC
- WSAs

See Map 74 for locations of ROW exclusion areas.

LA-III-A- 3. Designate the following ROW corridors for utilities (e.g., transmission and phone lines, oil/gas pipelines):

- Pilgrim Gulch
- Shoestring
- Saylor Creek
- Balanced Rock
- Jarbidge

See Map 77 for locations of ROW corridors.

LA-III-A- 4. New communication sites can be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

LA-III-A- 5. Wind farms can be considered in areas with annual or non-native vegetation communities, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas. Map 81 displays areas meeting these criteria in 2009; the map can be updated as vegetation conditions change on the ground.

LA-III-A- 6. ROWs for roads could be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance, outside ROW exclusion areas, and consistent with the *Transportation and Travel* section.

Management Actions

LA-III-MA- 1. ROW construction and maintenance activities should avoid disturbing special status species during important seasonal periods, unless the disturbance can be mitigated (Appendix H).

LA-III-MA- 2. Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines more than 3 miles from active sage-grouse leks.

LA-III-MA- 3. Design new communication sites to mitigate impacts to special status species and their habitats where practical.

LA-III-MA- 4. Restrict wind energy site testing and monitoring and wind energy development from occupied habitat for special status plants and animals, and cultural resources where their direct and indirect adverse effects cannot be mitigated.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

LA-IV-O- 1. Provide for the development of renewable energy resources, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, communication sites and other uses with consideration for resource objectives.

Allocations

LA-IV-A- 1. The following areas would be avoidance areas for ROWs (896,000 acres); ROWs would be allowed in these areas only if the avoidance stipulations are met and if the area is not identified for ROW exclusion:

- Areas within USAF MOAs (852,000 acres): structures must be lower than 100 feet above ground level
- Oregon NHT protective corridor (11,000 acres): new surface or overhead ROWs would follow existing ROW or disturbance corridors; underground ROWs would be allowed with mitigation for disturbance within the protective corridor
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors (32,000 acres): ROWs must maintain/enhance the river segment's ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification
- Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (123,000 acres): new ROWs would be restricted to ROW corridors and locations of existing ROWs

Several ROW avoidance areas overlap; where this occurs, all avoidance stipulations must be met. In addition, some ROW avoidance areas overlap with ROW exclusion areas; where this occurs, the more restrictive exclusion management applies. See Map 72 for locations of ROW avoidance areas.

LA-IV-A- 2. The following areas would be exclusion areas for ROW (148,000 acres); they would not be available for ROWs under any conditions:

- Sand Point ACEC
- WSAs
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics

See Map 76 for locations of ROW exclusion areas.

LA-IV-A- 3. Designate the following ROW corridors for utilities (e.g., transmission and phone lines, oil/gas pipelines):

- Pilgrim Gulch

- Shoestring
- Saylor Creek
- Balanced Rock
- Jarbidge

See Map 77 for locations of ROW corridors.

LA-IV-A- 4. New communication sites can be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

LA-IV-A- 5. Wind farms can be considered in areas with annual or non-native perennial communities, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas. Map 82 displays areas meeting these criteria in 2009; the map can be updated as vegetation conditions change on the ground.

LA-IV-A- 6. ROWs for roads could be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance, outside ROW exclusion areas, and consistent with the *Transportation and Travel* section.

Management Actions

LA-IV-MA- 1. ROW construction and maintenance activities should avoid disturbing special status species during important seasonal periods, unless the disturbance can be mitigated (Appendix H).

LA-IV-MA- 2. Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines more than 5 miles from active sage-grouse leks.

LA-IV-MA- 3. Do not locate new communication sites in special status species habitat if the project would negatively affect special status species or their habitat, unless those impacts can be mitigated.

LA-IV-MA- 4. Restrict wind energy site testing and monitoring and wind energy development from occupied and suitable habitat for special status species, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources where their direct and indirect adverse effects cannot be mitigated.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

LA-V-O- 1. Provide for the development of renewable energy resources, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, communication sites and other uses with consideration for resource objectives.

Allocations

LA-V-A- 1. The following areas would be avoidance areas for ROWs (1,229,000 acres); ROWs would be allowed in these areas only if the avoidance stipulations are met and if the area is not identified for ROW exclusion:

- Areas within USAF MOAs (852,000 acres): structures must be lower than 100 feet above ground level
- Oregon NHT protective corridor (11,000 acres): new surface or overhead ROWs would follow existing ROW or disturbance

corridors; underground ROWs would be allowed with mitigation for disturbance within the protective corridor
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSR corridors (32,000 acres): ROWs must maintain/enhance the river segment's ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification
- Sagebrush Sea ACEC (958,000 acres): new ROWs would be restricted to ROW corridors and locations of existing ROWs

Several ROW avoidance areas overlap; where this occurs, all avoidance stipulations must be met. In addition, some ROW avoidance areas overlap with ROW exclusion areas; where this occurs, the more restrictive exclusion management applies. See Map 73 for locations of ROW avoidance areas.

LA-V-A- 2. The following areas would be exclusion areas for ROW (148,000 acres); they would not be available for ROWs under any conditions:
- Sand Point ACEC
- WSAs
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics

See Map 76 for locations of ROW exclusion areas.

LA-V-A- 3. Designate the following ROW corridors for utilities (e.g., transmission and phone lines, oil/gas pipelines):
- Pilgrim Gulch
- Shoestring
- Balanced Rock
- Jarbidge

See Map 77 for locations of ROW corridors.

LA-V-A- 4. New communication sites can be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.

LA-V-A- 5. Wind farms can be considered in areas with annual or non-native perennial vegetation, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas. Map 83 displays areas meeting these criteria in 2009; the map can be updated as vegetation conditions change on the ground.

LA-V-A- 6. ROWs for roads could be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance, outside ROW exclusion areas, and consistent with the *Transportation and Travel* section.

Management Actions

LA-V-MA- 1. ROW construction and maintenance activities should avoid disturbing special status species during important seasonal periods, unless the disturbance can be mitigated (Appendix H).

LA-V-MA- 2. Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines more than 5 miles from active sage-grouse leks.

LA-V-MA- 3. Do not locate new communication sites in special status species habitat if the project would negatively affect special status species or their habitat.

LA-V-MA- 4. Restrict wind energy site testing and monitoring and wind energy development from occupied and suitable habitat for special status species, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources where their direct and indirect adverse effects cannot be mitigated.

2.4.5. Land Tenure

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective

LT-NA-O- 1. Retain public lands in Federal ownership to be managed by BLM according to the principles of multiple use and sustained yield, except those lands specifically identified in the plan or amendment as transfer areas.

Allocations

LT-NA-A- 1. Consider for transfer from federal ownership:

- 540 acres of public land through sale (T1; MUAs 4, 6, 7, 12, and 13),
- 1,600 acres through sale or exchange (T2; MUAs 4, 6, 7, 15, and 16), and
- 2,820 acres through exchange (T3; MUAs 7, 11, and 12).
- See Map 4 for MUA boundaries.

LT-NA-A- 2. Retain 1,301,550 acres of public lands across all MUAs, including all lands in the Bruneau Known Geothermal Resource Area and all subsurface ownership in MUA 15 (Map 4).

LT-NA-A- 3. Make available 66,990 acres of land for potential Desert Land Entry Act of 1877 (DLE) /Carey Act of 1894 (CA) development (T4; MUAs 4, 6, and 7).

See Map 84 for locations of Land Tenure Zones T1, T2, T3, and T4.

LT-NA-A- 4. Close 1,306,510 acres to agricultural entry in MUAs 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 (Map 4).

LT-NA-A- 5. Public lands that are to be retained in federal ownership may be considered for R&PP leases, private exchanges and state exchanges following amendment procedures.

Management Actions

Acquisition

LT-NA-MA- 1. Lands may be acquired by BLM as authorized by law, but only within retention areas. Lands to be acquired through exchange or purchase would be done to benefit one or more of the resource programs including, but not limited to cultural, paleontological, recreation, wildlife, and soils.

LT-NA-MA- 2. Continue an ongoing program of identifying and obtaining BLM access across non-bureau lands where needed to accomplish BLM objectives.

Transfer

LT-NA-MA- 3. Transfer of public land within a transfer area may be accomplished by any means authorized by law.

LT-NA-MA- 4. Lands that are mineral in character areas, WSAs, or designated wilderness areas would not be identified as transfer areas.

LT-NA-MA- 5. In agricultural development areas, maintain control of all lands necessary to prevent erosion resulting from irrigation and farming practices. These might include, but would not be limited to vegetation strips, slopes, drainage ways, and flood plains.

LT-NA-MA- 6. Manage transfer areas until transfer of title occurs. Management actions would be taken as necessary to meet resource or user needs. Public investments in transfer areas would be kept to a minimum.

LT-NA-MA- 7. When withdrawals are revoked, the lands continue to be in a retention category.

LT-NA-MA- 8. All disposals of public lands must be consistent with the planning requirements of FLPMA and must also be evaluated through the environmental assessment process as required by NEPA.

LT-NA-MA- 9. Consider the need to provide protection for existing rights, access, and future anticipated needs in all disposal actions. This protection would be provided for through the issuance of rights-of-way to existing users or reservations to the Federal government in areas of anticipated needs.

LT-NA-MA- 10. Design special water runoff stipulations on transferred lands in MUA 6 to protect public lands adjacent to and down slope of transfer lands (Map 4).

Exchange

LT-NA-MA- 11. Before an exchange can be completed, the BLM must determine that the public interest would be well served by making the exchange.

LT-NA-MA- 12. Full consideration for exchange would be given to improve Federal land management and the needs of State and local publics through an evaluation of the needs for lands for economic development, community expansion, recreation areas or opportunities, food, fiber, minerals, and wildlife.

LT-NA-MA- 13. Any lands delineated for transfer in the exchange only category (T3) but not needed for the exchange would be retained in federal ownership.

LT-NA-MA- 14. Exchanges would be allowed within crucial wildlife habitat only if the wildlife value of the offered lands meets or exceeds the wildlife value of the selected lands. Crucial wildlife habitat will not be sold.

Desert Land Entry and Carey Acts (DLE/CA)

LT-NA-MA- 15. Consideration for allowing the use of public lands for agricultural development under DLE/CA generally fall into the following four steps:

- Lands must be identified for disposal through the land use planning process.
- Lands must be desert in character and physically suited for agricultural development by irrigation. The following criteria are used to determine the suitability classification of potential agricultural lands:
  - If there is 60% or more Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Class I, II, or III soils in a 40-acre parcel, the parcel may be classified suitable for agriculture development. If there is more than 40% SCS Class IV or poorer soils in each 40-acre parcel, the entire parcel is unsuitable for classification.
  - Cropland in Capability Classes II through V (particularly subclass "e") that has an average annual erosion rate of more than three times that at which soil forms (4 to 5 tons per acre per year on the average for deep soils, lower for shallower soils) would be found unsuitable for agricultural development.
  - Any public lands containing known archaeological, paleontological, or historical values determined to be unique or possibly significant would be found unsuitable for disposal for agricultural development pending further analysis.
  - Any public lands where rare, Endangered, Threatened, or Sensitive species of plants or animals are known to live (or nest) would be found unsuitable for disposal for agricultural development, unless mitigation is possible.
  - Certain tracts of land identified for community needs such as landfills, gravel pits, sewage plants, schools, etc., would be found unsuitable for disposal for agriculture.
  - Certain tracts of land identified as valuable for wildlife habitat would be found unsuitable for disposal for agricultural development.
  - Public land that does not qualify for agricultural use or disposal under DLE/CA because of other public purpose would be found unsuitable for disposal under these laws. Those lands that became fragmented as a result of a DLE/CA action and not needed for other public purposes may be considered for disposal through sale or exchange.
  - Certain tracts of land identified as having agricultural limitations based on slope and/or flood plain management would be found unsuitable for agricultural development.
- An economic analysis of lands considered for agricultural development must show a high likelihood that the lands can be farmed at a profit over a long term.
- Applicants for agricultural development must show a legal right to appropriate water including a permit to drill a well if part of the operation. Applications for agricultural development that would contribute to the mining of groundwater would not be allowed. The Idaho Supreme Court Decision #13794 regarding use of Snake River water above Swan Falls Dam for agricultural development would be resolved before proceeding with the allowance to enter the land.
- The entryman for agricultural development must show compliance with cultivation, fund expenditure, irrigation system development, and publication requirements, and payment of required fees to obtain patent to the land.

LT-NA-MA- 16. Under CA development, the Bureau's primary concerns are retention vs. disposal determination and physical suitability of the land. Application processing and feasibility study evaluations are the responsibility of the State of Idaho.

LT-NA-MA- 17. Continue to work closely with IDWR under terms of a cooperative agreement to process DLE/CA applications.

LT-NA-MA- 18. Public lands under DLE/CA applications that are relinquished would generally revert to a retention category and would not be made available for further application for agricultural purposes. Some relinquished lands may be identified for possible transfer via exchange only.

Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives

Goal

See goals in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objectives in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

See objectives specific to each alternative and in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Actions

LT-C-MA- 1. Sales of public lands can be made upon consideration of the following criteria:

- The parcel, because of its location or other characteristics, is difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands, and is not suitable for management by another Federal department or agency; or
- The parcel was acquired for a specific purpose and is no longer required for that or any other Federal purpose; or
- Disposal of the parcel will serve important public objectives, including but not limited to, expansion of communities and economic development which cannot be achieved prudently or feasibly on land other than public land and which outweigh other public objectives and values. These include, but are not limited to, wildlife, grazing, recreation, and scenic values which would be served by maintaining such parcel in Federal ownership.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

LT-CA-G- 1. Manage land tenure to provide for public ownership of lands with high resource and multiple use values and to improve management efficiency.

Objective

LT-CA-O- 1. Improve BLM's ability to manage the land base and resource values, and help meet resource objectives through land tenure adjustments.

Allocations

LT-CA-A- 1. No new DLE/CA applications would be accepted for lands within the planning area.

Management Actions

LT-CA-MA- 1. Each land tenure adjustment proposal would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and evaluated to see if it meets

the intent of FLPMA, the guidelines for the relevant land tenure zones, and the priorities for retention, disposal, and acquisition. Before approval, land tenure adjustment proposals would be evaluated through the environmental analysis process as required by NEPA.

LT-CA-MA- 2. Land tenure adjustments with tribes, Federal and State agencies, or State and local governments would receive priority over land tenure adjustments with private individuals or businesses.

LT-CA-MA- 3. Initiate tribal consultation early in the process for any land tenure adjustments.

LT-CA-MA- 4. In general, lands with the following characteristics would be retained in Federal ownership:

- Those lands specifically identified by the tribes as having special importance related to treaty and/or traditional uses/values;
- Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, and Candidate species habitat;
- National Register eligible and listed properties; and
- Wildlife Tracts.

These lands could be disposed of if the transaction helped achieve resource objectives; see the *Cultural Resources* section for additional guidance for disposal of lands containing National Register properties or other important cultural resources. Lands acquired under Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) must be retained.

LT-CA-MA- 5. BLM's acquisition priorities (not in priority order) would include:

- Land identified by Shoshone-Paiute Tribes or Shoshone-Bannock Tribes;
- Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, or Candidate species habitat;
- BLM Type 2 Sensitive species habitat;
- Lands within special designations;
- Big game winter range;
- Riparian areas;
- Lands containing known archaeological, paleontological, or historical values determined to be unique or of traditional or scientific importance;
- Lands that would provide public access to public lands, including but not limited to river access;
- Lands that would help consolidate public land;
- Lands that would help improve livestock grazing management; and
- Lands in Zones 1 and 2.

LT-CA-MA- 6. Vegetation treatments, construction of new range infrastructure, and other public land improvements in areas involved in a land tenure transaction would be kept to a minimum.

LT-CA-MA- 7. Withdrawals on lands being considered for disposal must be revoked prior to disposal.

LT-CA-MA- 8. Disposal of public lands would be subject to all valid existing rights, including existing rights-of-way. Existing public access through those lands may be retained if necessary for BLM management or for accommodating uses.

LT-CA-MA- 9. Transactions within RCAs must follow the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).

LT-CA-MA- 10. Access across non-BLM lands would be identified and obtained where needed to accomplish BLM objectives, including access to the Bruneau and Snake Rivers and Wildlife Tracts, through easements or acquisitions.

LT-CA-MA- 11. Future access needs and priorities would be coordinated with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Idaho and Nevada state agencies, and local governments to ensure resource values are evaluated along with public needs.

LT-CA-MA- 12. BLM would seek to reduce or eliminate the split mineral estate whenever the opportunity arises.

LT-CA-MA- 13. DLE/CA applications submitted prior to 2009 (Case numbers IDD-7401, IDI-7402, IDI-27888, and IDI-27889) would be processed within 10 years of the signing of the ROD, and those lands meeting the criteria of the Acts would be disposed.

LT-CA-MA- 14. Manage newly acquired lands and lands that have been returned to BLM management through revocation of withdrawals in accordance with RMP management for adjacent lands.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

LT-I-A- 1. Zone 1 consists of lands for retention that are not available for disposal (1,109,000 acres). Zone 1 lands include the following:

- WSAs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs;
- The Bruneau-Jarbidge, Lower Bruneau Canyon, and Sand Point ACECs;
- Saylor Creek HMA;
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics; and
- Other consolidated public lands.

LT-I-A- 2. Zone 2 consists of lands for consolidation within the planning area (244,000 acres); these can be exchanged for other lands within Zones 1 and 2 or offered as R&PP leases. Zone 2 lands include the following:

- Selected lands near Indian Cove, Hammett, Glenns Ferry, and King Hill;

- Selected lands in the northeast corner of the planning area;
- Selected lands in the Jarbidge Foothills;
- Selected lands between Clover Creek and Cedar Creek Reservoir; and
- Selected lands near the Jarbidge River in Nevada.

LT-I-A- 3. Zone 3 consists of lands for sale, exchange for lands within Zones 1 and 2 or lands outside the planning area, or R&PP lease (20,000 acres). Zone 3 lands include:

- Selected lands near Hammett, Glenns Ferry, King Hill, and Roseworth.

See Map 85 for locations of Land Tenure Zones 1, 2, and 3.

LT-I-A- 4. 80 acres of public lands within Zone 3, identified for disposal prior to July 25, 2000, would continue to be available for disposal under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act of 2000 (FLTFA; Appendix O). Proceeds from the sale or exchange of these public lands may be used to purchase additional public lands, as provided for in FLTFA.

LT-I-A- 5. R&PP leases to State and local governments and non-profit organizations would be considered on a case-by-case basis on lands in Zones 2 and 3.

Management Actions

See management actions in *Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

LT-II-A- 1. Zone 1 consists of lands for retention that are not available for disposal (953,000 acres). Zone 1 lands include the following:

- WSAs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs;
- Saylor Creek Herd Area; and
- Other consolidated public lands.

LT-II-A- 2. Zone 2 consists of lands for consolidation within the planning area (374,000 acres); these can be exchanged for other lands within Zones 1 and 2 or offered as R&PP leases. Zone 2 lands include the following:

- Selected lands near Indian Cove and Hammett,
- Selected lands in the northeast corner of the planning area,
- Selected lands in the Jarbidge Foothills,
- Selected lands between Clover Creek and Cedar Creek Reservoir,

- Selected lands near the Jarbidge River in Nevada, and
- Lands adjacent to private lands not in Zone 3.

LT-II-A- 3. Zone 3 consists of lands for sale, exchange for lands within Zones 1 and 2 or lands outside the planning area, or R&PP lease (46,000 acres). Zone 3 lands include:

- Selected lands near Hammett, Glenns Ferry, King Hill, and Roseworth; and
- Selected lands between Castleford and Hagerman.

See Map 86 for locations of Land Tenure Zones 1, 2, and 3.

LT-II-A- 4. 339 acres of public lands within Zone 3, identified for disposal prior to July 25, 2000, would continue to be available for disposal under FLTFA (Appendix O). Proceeds from the sale or exchange of these public lands may be used to purchase additional public lands, as provided for in FLTFA.

LT-II-A- 5. R&PP leases to State and local governments and non-profit organizations would be considered on a case-by-case basis on lands in Zones 2 and 3.

Management Actions

See management actions in *Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

LT-III-A- 1. Zone 1 consists of lands for retention that are not available for disposal (1,109,000 acres). Zone 1 lands include the following:

- WSAs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs;
- Bruneau-Jarbidge and Sand Point ACECs;
- Saylor Creek HMA; and
- Other consolidated public lands.

LT-III-A- 2. Zone 2 consists of lands for consolidation within the planning area (244,000 acres); these can be exchanged for other lands within Zones 1 and 2 or offered as R&PP leases. Zone 2 lands include the following:

- Selected lands near Indian Cove, Hammett, Glenns Ferry, and King Hill;
- Selected lands in the northeast corner of the planning area;
- Selected lands in the Jarbidge Foothills;
- Selected lands between Clover Creek and Cedar Creek Reservoir; and
- Selected lands near the Jarbidge River in Nevada.

LT-III-A- 3. Zone 3 consists of lands for sale, exchange for lands within Zones 1 and 2 or lands outside the planning area, or R&PP lease (20,000 acres). Zone 3 lands include:

- Selected lands near Hammett, Glenns Ferry, King Hill, and Roseworth.

See Map 87 for locations of Land Tenure Zones 1, 2, and 3.

LT-III-A- 4. 80 acres of public lands within Zone 3, identified for disposal prior to July 25, 2000, would continue to be available for disposal under FLTFA (Appendix O). Proceeds from the sale or exchange of these public lands may be used to purchase additional public lands, as provided for in FLTFA.

LT-III-A- 5. R&PP leases to State and local governments and non-profit organizations would be considered on a case-by-case basis on lands in Zones 2 and 3.

Management Actions

See management actions in *Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

LT-IV-A- 1. Zone 1 consists of lands for retention that are not available for disposal (1,129,000 acres). Zone 1 lands include the following:

- WSAs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs;
- Bruneau-Jarbidge, Inside Desert, Lower Bruneau Canyon, and Sand Point ACECs;
- Saylor Creek HMA;
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics; and
- Other consolidated public lands.

LT-IV-A- 2. Zone 2 consists of lands for consolidation within the planning area (229,000 acres); these can be exchanged for other lands within Zones 1 and 2 or offered as R&PP leases. Zone 2 lands include the following:

- Selected lands near Glenns Ferry and Roseworth,
- Selected lands in the northeast corner of the planning area,
- Selected lands in the Jarbidge Foothills, and
- Selected lands between Clover Creek and Cedar Creek Reservoir.

LT-IV-A- 3. Zone 3 consists of lands for sale, exchange for lands within Zones 1 and 2 or lands outside the planning area, or R&PP lease (16,000 acres). Zone 3 lands include:

- Selected lands near Hammett, Glenns Ferry, and King Hill.

See Map 88 for locations of Land Tenure Zones 1, 2, and 3.

LT-IV-A- 4. 39 acres of public lands within Zone 3, identified for disposal prior to July 25, 2000, would continue to be available for disposal under FLTFA (Appendix O). Proceeds from the sale or exchange of these public lands may be used to purchase additional public lands, as provided for in FLTFA.

LT-IV-A- 5. R&PP leases to State and local governments and non-profit organizations would be considered on a case-by-case basis on lands in Zones 2 and 3.

Management Actions

See management actions in *Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

LT-V-A- 1. Zone 1 consists of lands for retention that are not available for disposal (1,279,000 acres). Zone 1 lands include the following:

- WSAs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs;
- Sand Point, Lower Bruneau Canyon, and Sagebrush Sea ACECs;
- Saylor Creek HMA;
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics; and
- Other consolidated public lands.

LT-V-A- 2. Zone 2 consists of lands for consolidation within the planning area (95,000 acres); these can be exchanged for other lands within zones 1 and 2 or offered as R&PP leases. Zone 2 lands include:

- Selected lands near Hammett, Glenns Ferry, and King Hill; and
- Selected lands in the northeast corner of the planning area.

LT-V-A- 3. Zone 3 consists of lands for sale, exchange for lands within Zones 1 and 2 or lands outside the planning area, or R&PP lease. No lands are identified for inclusion in Zone 3.

See Map 89 for locations of Land Tenure Zones 1, 2, and 3.

LT-V-A- 4. R&PP leases to State and local governments and non-profit organizations would be considered on a case-by-case basis on lands in Zone 2.

Management Actions

See management actions in *Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

2.4.6. Minerals

2.4.6.1. Leasable Minerals

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective

LE-NA-O- 1. Make 1,307,000 acres of the area available for leasable mineral exploration and development across all MUAs.

Allocations

LE-NA-A- 1. Generally, the public lands may be considered for energy and minerals leasing and sale.

LE-NA-A- 2. 1,302,525 acres would be open to leasing in MUAs 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 (Map 4).

LE-NA-A- 3. Crucial wildlife habitats shown below would be open to mineral leasing with No Surface Occupancy (NSO) during the following time periods:

- December through April in mule deer winter range;
- December through April in pronghorn winter range;
- May through June in pronghorn fawning range;
- December through mid February in sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse winter range;
- Mid February through June in sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse breeding grounds;
- April through June in within 2 miles of leks in sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse nesting and brood rearing habitat;
- December through March in bald eagle and peregrine falcon winter habitat;
- February through June within 0.75 miles of golden eagle nests;
- Mid March through June within 0.75 miles of ferruginous hawk, prairie falcon, and long-billed curlew nests;
- Mid March through June within 0.25 miles of white-faced ibis and Western burrowing owl nests; and
- Mid April through August within 0.75 miles of osprey nests.

LE-NA-A- 4. The following 284,000 acres in MUAs 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 would be open to mineral leasing with NSO year round:

- Oregon Trail;
- Paleontological sites and cultural resource complexes;
- Sand Point ACEC;
- Power site in MUA 9;
- WSAs;

- Bruneau, Jarbidge, Arch, and Salmon Falls Canyons;
- Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA;
- Bighorn sheep habitat; and
- Within 500 feet of reservoirs, ponds, lakes, streams, wetlands, marshes, and riparian areas.

LE-NA-A- 5. In addition, cultural sites identified as special MUAs in the RMP and areas within 1 mile of bald eagle and peregrine falcon nests, within essential nesting habitat for other birds of prey, and within 0.5 miles of heron rookeries would also be open to mineral leasing with no surface occupancy year round.

LE-NA-A- 6. 104,097 acres are closed to leasables in MUAs 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, and 16.

Management Actions

LE-NA-MA- 1. Approval of an application for lease or sale of energy and minerals is subject to an environmental analysis and may include stipulations to protect other resources.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

LE-CA-G- 1. Provide leasable mineral development opportunities where they are compatible with other resources.

Objective

See objectives for specific alternatives.

Allocations

LE-CA-A- 1. WSAs would be closed to mineral leasing.

Additional allocations for leasable minerals are found in management specific to each alternative.

Management Actions

LE-CA-MA- 1. The terms and conditions of the standard lease form (Form 3100-11, Offer to Lease and Lease for Oil and Gas) or future versions of the form would apply to all mineral leases.

LE-CA-MA- 2. The following stipulations for Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) Section 7 Consultation and Cultural Resource Protection would be used unless new stipulations are directed by BLM policy:

- *ESA Section 7 Consultation Stipulation* – The lease area may now or hereafter contain plants, animals, or their habitats determined to be Threatened, Endangered or other special status species. BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further its conservation and management objective to avoid BLM-approved activity that would contribute to a need to list such a species or their habitat. BLM may require modifications to or disapprove proposed activity that is likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a proposed or listed Threatened or Endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat. BLM would not approve any ground-disturbing activity that may affect

any such species or critical habitat until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the ESA, including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation.

- *Cultural Resource Protection Stipulation* – This lease may be found to contain historic properties and/or resources protected under NHPA, American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Executive Order 13007, or other statutes and executive orders. The BLM would not approve any ground- disturbing activities that may affect any such properties or resources until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the NHPA and other authorities. The BLM may require modification to exploration or development proposals to protect such properties, or disapprove any activity that is likely to result in adverse effects that cannot be successfully avoided, minimized, or mitigated.

LE-CA-MA- 3. Exceptions, waivers, and modifications may not be made for the following lease stipulations:

- Controlled Surface Use Stipulation for Special Status Species Habitat: ESA Section 7 Consultation
- Controlled Surface Use Stipulation for Cultural Resources: Cultural Resource Protection Stipulation

LE-CA-MA- 4. Site-specific resource condition objectives, lease stipulations, conditions of approval, and actions to achieve those objectives would be identified on a case-by-case basis.

LE-CA-MA- 5. Mineral leasing and development decisions also apply to geophysical exploration.

LE-CA-MA- 6. Exploration and development of non-energy leasable minerals would follow standard stipulations outlined above; additional stipulations would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

LE-I-O- 1. Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of leasable minerals where compatible with resource objectives.

Allocations

LE-I-A- 1. The majority of the planning area would be open to mineral leasing, subject to laws, regulations, and formal orders; the terms and conditions of the standard lease form; and stipulations for ESA Section 7 Consultation and Cultural Resource Protection. Areas that would be subject to additional moderate or major constraints specific to Alternative I are as follows:

- *Moderate constraints*: Big game winter range (December through March), key sage-grouse habitat (mid February through mid June), and RCAs in bull trout (August through November) and redband trout (May through June) spawning habitat would be open to mineral leasing with seasonal restrictions. RCAs would be open to mineral leasing, consistent with guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).

- *Major constraints*: The Oregon NHT protective corridor and the Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors would be open to mineral leasing with NSO.

LE-I-A- 2. Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs; non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics; and the Lower Bruneau Canyon, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Middle Snake, Salmon Falls Creek, and Sand Point ACECs would be closed to mineral leasing.

See Map 92 for locations of leasable mineral allocations.

LE-I-A- 3. Areas open or closed to exploration and development of non-energy leasable minerals would follow allocations outlined above.

Management Actions

LE-I-MA- 1. Exceptions, waivers, or modifications may be made for lease stipulations as described below. Public review is required for exceptions, waivers, or modifications to stipulations that involve an issue of major concern to the public; documentation requirements would follow those outlined in 43 CFR 3101.1-4.

- *NSO Stipulation for Oregon NHT Protective Corridor (13,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy is not allowed within the Oregon NHT protective corridor.
  - *Exception:* After coordination with SHPO, the authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the integrity of the trail.
  - *Waiver:* The authorized officer may grant a waiver if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would only impact non-contributing trail segments.
  - *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *NSO Stipulation for Kelton and Toana Freight Roads (20,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy would not be allowed within the Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors.
  - *Exception:* After coordination with SHPO, the authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the integrity of the trails.
  - *Waiver:* The authorized officer may grant a waiver if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would only impact non-contributing trail segments.
  - *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *Seasonal Restriction Stipulation for Big Game Winter Range (536,000 acres), Key Habitat for Sage-Grouse (264,000 acres), and Redband Trout Spawning Habitat (7,000 acres)* – No surface use would be allowed (e.g., exploration, construction, and drilling) within big game winter range from December through March, key sage-grouse habitat from mid February through mid June, or redband trout spawning habitat from May through June.

  - *Exception:* The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not affect the species or habitat during the critical season. An exception may also be granted if the proponent, BLM, and state wildlife agencies negotiate compensation or mitigation that would offset the anticipated impact to the species or habitat.
  - *Waiver:* The stipulation may be waived if after discussion with state wildlife agencies it is determined the described lands are incapable of serving the long-term requirements of the species and these areas no longer warrant consideration of habitat.
  - *Modification:* The authorized officer may modify the size and shape of the area under seasonal restrictions if an environmental analysis indicates the actual habitat suitability for the species is different. Time periods may be modified based on studies documental local periods of actual use.
- *Seasonal Restriction Stipulation for Bull Trout Spawning Habitat (900 acres)* – No surface use would be allowed (e.g., exploration, construction, and drilling) within RCAs in bull trout spawning habitat from August through November.
  - *Exception:* The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not affect the species or habitat during the critical season. An exception may also be granted if the proponent, BLM, FWS, and state wildlife agencies negotiate compensation or mitigation that would offset the anticipated impact to the species or habitat.
  - *Waiver:* The stipulation may be waived if after consulting with FWS and discussion with state wildlife agencies it is determined the described lands are incapable of serving the long-term requirements of the species and these areas no longer warrant consideration of habitat.
  - *Modification:* The authorized officer may modify the size and shape of the area under seasonal restrictions if an environmental analysis indicates the actual habitat suitability for the species is different. Time periods may be modified based on studies documenting local periods of actual use.
- *Controlled Surface Use Stipulation for Riparian Areas and Wetlands (53,000 acres)* – Surface use within RCAs must be consistent with the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D). Exceptions, waivers, and modifications may not be made.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

LE-II-O- 1. Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of leasable minerals where compatible with resource objectives.

Allocations

LE-II-A- 1. The majority of the planning area would be open to mineral leasing, subject to laws, regulations, and formal orders; the terms and conditions of the standard lease form; and stipulations for ESA Section 7 Consultation and Cultural Resource Protection. Areas that would be subject to additional moderate or major constraints specific to Alternative II are as follows:

- *Moderate constraints*: RCAs would be open to mineral leasing, consistent with guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).
- *Major constraints*: The Oregon NHT protective corridor and eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs would be open to mineral leasing with NSO.

See Map 93 for locations of leasable mineral allocations.

LE-II-A- 2. Areas open or closed to exploration and development of non-energy leasable minerals would follow allocations outlined above.

Management Actions

LE-II-MA- 1. Exceptions, waivers, or modifications may be made for lease stipulations as described below. Public review is required for exceptions, waivers, or modifications to stipulations that involve an issue of major concern to the public; documentation requirements would follow those outlined in 43 CFR 3101.1-4.

- *NSO Stipulation for Oregon NHT Protective Corridor (14,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy is not allowed within the Oregon NHT protective corridor.
  - *Exception:* After coordination with SHPO, the authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the integrity of the trail.
  - *Waiver:* The authorized officer may grant a waiver if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would only impact non-contributing trail segments.
  - *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *NSO Stipulation for Eligible, Suitable, and Designated WSRs (15,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy would not be allowed within the corridors of eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs.
  - *Exception:* The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the area's ORVs or its free-flowing nature.
  - *Waiver:* This stipulation may be waived if the environmental analysis finds a portion of the area does not contain the ORVs for which it was designated.
  - *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *Controlled Surface Use Stipulation for Riparian Areas and Wetlands (58,000 acres)* – Surface use within RCAs must be consistent with the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D). Exceptions, waivers, and modifications may not be made.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

LE-III-O- 1. Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of leasable minerals where compatible with resource and wildland fire prevention and suppression objectives.

Allocations

LE-III-A- 1. The majority of the planning area would be open to mineral leasing, subject to laws, regulations, and formal orders; and the terms and conditions of the standard lease form. However, exploration and development activities would not be allowed during fire restrictions. Areas that would be subject to additional major constraints specific to Alternative III are as follows:

- *Moderate constraints*: RCAs would be open to mineral leasing, consistent with guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).
- *Major constraints*: The Oregon NHT protective corridor and eligible, suitable, designated WSRs would be open to mineral leasing with no surface occupancy.

LE-III-A- 2. The Bruneau-Jarbidge and Sand Point ACECs would be closed to mineral leasing.

See Map 93 for locations of leasable mineral allocations.

LE-III-A- 3. Areas open or closed to exploration and development of non-energy leasable minerals would follow allocations outlined above.

Management Actions

LE-III-MA- 1. Exceptions, waivers, or modifications may be made for lease stipulations as described below. Public review is required for exceptions, waivers, or modifications to stipulations that involve an issue of major concern to the public; documentation requirements would follow those outlined in 43 CFR 3101.1-4.

- *NSO Stipulation for Oregon NHT Protective Corridor (14,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy is not allowed within the Oregon NHT protective corridor.
  - *Exception:* After coordination with SHPO, the authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the integrity of the trail.
  - *Waiver:* The authorized officer may grant a waiver if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would only impact non-contributing trail segments.
  - *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *NSO Stipulation for eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs (14,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy would not be allowed within the corridors of eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs.
  - *Exception:* The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the area's ORVs or its free-flowing nature.

  - *Waiver:* This stipulation may be waived if the environmental analysis finds a portion of the area does not contain the ORVs for which it was designated.
  - *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *Controlled Surface Use Stipulation for Riparian Areas and* Wetlands *(58,000 acres)* – Surface use within RCAs must be consistent with the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D). Exceptions, waivers, and modifications may not be made.

LE-III-MA- 2. The authorized office may restrict surface use (exploration, construction, and drilling) during fire restrictions.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

LE-IV-O- 1. Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of leasable minerals where compatible with resource objectives.

Allocations

LE-IV-A- 1. The majority of the planning area would be open to mineral leasing, subject to laws, regulations, and formal orders; the terms and conditions of the standard lease form; and stipulations for ESA Section 7 Consultation and Cultural Resource Protection. Areas that would be subject to additional moderate or major constraints specific Alternative IV are as follows:

- *Moderate constraints*: Big game winter range (December through March), key sage-grouse habitat (mid February through mid June), and RCAs in bull trout (August through November) and redband trout (May through June) spawning habitat would be open to mineral leasing with seasonal restrictions. RCAs would be open to mineral leasing, consistent with guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).
- *Major constraints*: The Oregon NHT protective corridor and the Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors would be open to mineral leasing with NSO.

LE-IV-A- 2. Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs; the Inside Desert, Lower Bruneau Canyon, Bruneau-Jarbidge, and Sand Point ACECs; and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics would be closed to mineral leasing.

See Maps 94 and 95 for locations of leasable mineral allocations.

LE-IV-A- 3. Areas open or closed to exploration and development of non-energy leasable minerals would follow allocations outlined above.

Management Actions

LE-IV-MA- 1. Exceptions, waivers, or modifications may be made for lease stipulations as described below. Public review is required for exceptions, waivers, or modifications to stipulations that involve an issue of major concern to the public; documentation requirements would follow those outlined in 43 CFR 3101.1-4.

- *NSO Stipulation for Oregon NHT Protective Corridor (13,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy is not allowed within the Oregon NHT protective corridor.

  - *Exception:* After coordination with SHPO, the authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the integrity of the trail.
  - *Waiver:* The authorized officer may grant a waiver if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would only impact non-contributing trail segments.
  - *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *NSO Stipulation for Kelton and Toana Freight Roads (20,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy would not be allowed within the Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors.
  - *Exception:* After coordination with SHPO, the authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the integrity of the trails.
  - *Waiver:* The authorized officer may grant a waiver if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would only impact non-contributing trail segments.
  - *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *Seasonal Restriction Stipulation for Big Game Winter Range (496,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 509,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative), Key Sage-Grouse Habitat (234,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 248,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative), and Redband Trout Spawning Habitat (6,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 7,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative)* – No surface use would be allowed (e.g., exploration, construction, and drilling) within big game winter range from December through March, key sage-grouse habitat from mid February through mid June, or RCAs in redband trout spawning habitat from May through June.
  - *Exception:* The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not affect the species or habitat during the critical season. An exception may also be granted if the proponent, BLM, and state wildlife agencies negotiate compensation or mitigation that would offset the anticipated impact to the species or habitat.
  - *Waiver:* The stipulation may be waived if after discussions with state wildlife agencies it is determined the described lands are incapable of serving the long-term requirements of the species and these areas no longer warrant consideration of habitat.
  - *Modification:* The authorized officer may modify the size and shape of the area under seasonal restrictions if an environmental analysis indicates the actual habitat suitability for the species is different. Time periods may be modified based on studies documental local periods of actual use.
- *Seasonal Restriction Stipulation for Bull Trout Spawning Habitat (700 acres)* – No surface use would be allowed (e.g., exploration, construction, and drilling) within RCAs in bull trout spawning habitat from August through November.
  - *Exception:* The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed

or conditioned would not affect the species or habitat during the critical season. An exception may also be granted if the proponent, BLM, FWS, and state wildlife agencies negotiate compensation or mitigation that would offset the anticipated impact to the species or habitat.

- *Waiver:* The stipulation may be waived if after consulting with FWS and discussions with state wildlife agencies it is determined the described lands are incapable of serving the long-term requirements of the species and these areas no longer warrant consideration of habitat.

- *Modification:* The authorized officer may modify the size and shape of the area under seasonal restrictions if an environmental analysis indicates the actual habitat suitability for the species is different. Time periods may be modified based on studies documenting local periods of actual use. Controlled Surface Use Stipulation for Riparian Areas and Wetlands (52,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 53,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative) – Surface use within RCAs must be consistent with the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D). Exceptions, waivers, and modifications may not be made.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

LE-V-O- 1. Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of leasable minerals where compatible with resource objectives.

Allocations

LE-V-A- 1. The majority of the planning area would be open to mineral leasing, subject to laws, regulations, and formal orders; the terms and conditions of the standard lease form; and stipulations for ESA Section 7 Consultation and Cultural Resource Protection. Areas that would be subject to additional moderate or major constraints specific to Alternative V are as follows:

- *Moderate constraints*: Key sage-grouse habitat (mid February through mid June), and RCAs in bull trout (August through November) and redband trout (May through June) spawning habitat would be open to mineral leasing with seasonal restrictions (Appendix H). RCAs would be open to mineral leasing, consistent with guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).
- *Major constraints*: The Oregon NHT protective corridor and the Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors would be open to mineral leasing with NSO.

LE-V-A- 2. Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs; the Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Sand Point ACECs; and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics would be closed to mineral leasing.

See Map 96 for locations of leasable mineral allocations.

LE-V-A- 3. Areas open or closed to exploration and development of non-energy leasable minerals would follow allocations outlined above.

Management Actions

LE-V-MA- 1. Exceptions, waivers, or modifications may be made for lease stipulations as described below. Public review is required for exceptions, waivers, or modifications to stipulations that involve an issue of major concern to the public; documentation requirements would follow those outlined in 43 CFR 3101.1-4.

- *NSO Stipulation for Oregon NHT Protective Corridor (13,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy is not allowed within the Oregon NHT protective corridor.
  - *Exception:* After coordination with SHPO, the authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the integrity of the trail.
  - *Waiver:* The authorized officer may grant a waiver if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would only impact non-contributing trail segments.
  - *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *NSO Stipulation for Toana and Kelton Roads (20,000 acres)* – Surface occupancy would not be allowed within the Kelton and Toana Freight Road corridors.
  - *Exception:* After coordination with SHPO, the authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not impair the integrity of the trails.
  - *Waiver:* The authorized officer may grant a waiver if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would only impact non-contributing trail segments.
  - *Modification:* This stipulation may not be modified.
- *Seasonal Restriction Stipulation for Key Sage-Grouse Habitat (255,000 acres) and Redband Trout Spawning Habitat (7,000 acres)* – No surface use is allowed (e.g., exploration, construction, and drilling) within key sage-grouse habitat from mid February through mid June, or RCAs in redband trout spawning habitat from May through June.
  - *Exception:* The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not affect the species or habitat during the critical season. An exception may also be granted if the proponent, BLM, FWS, and state wildlife agencies negotiate compensation or mitigation that would offset the anticipated impact to the species or habitat.
  - *Waiver:* The stipulation may be waived if after discussions with state wildlife agencies it is determined the described lands are incapable of serving the long-term requirements of the species and these areas no longer warrant consideration of habitat.
  - *Modification:* The authorized officer may modify the size and shape of the area under seasonal restrictions if an environmental analysis indicates the actual habitat suitability for the species is different. Time periods may be modified based on studies documenting local periods of actual use.
- *Seasonal Restriction Stipulation for Bull Trout Spawning Habitat (900 acres)* – No surface use would be allowed (e.g.,

exploration, construction, and drilling) within RCAs in bull trout spawning habitat from August through November.
  - *Exception:* The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental review determines the action as proposed or conditioned would not affect the species or habitat during the critical season. An exception may also be granted if the proponent, BLM, FWS, and state wildlife agencies negotiate compensation or mitigation that would offset the anticipated impact to the species or habitat.
  - *Waiver:* The stipulation may be waived if after consulting with FWS and state wildlife agencies it is determined the described lands are incapable of serving the long-term requirements of the species and these areas no longer warrant consideration of habitat.
  - *Modification:* The authorized officer may modify the size and shape of the area under seasonal restrictions if an environmental analysis indicates the actual habitat suitability for the species is different. Time periods may be modified based on studies documenting local periods of actual use.
- *Controlled Surface Use Stipulation for Riparian Areas and Wetlands (53,000 acres)* – Surface use within RCAs must be consistent with the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D). Exceptions, waivers, and modifications may not be made.

2.4.6.2. Salable Minerals

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective

SA-NA-O- 1. Manage 697 acres in MUAs 4, 6, 7, and 12 for material use sites.

Allocations

SA-NA-A- 1. Manage areas for material use sites as follows:
- 65 acres in MUA 4
- 28 acres in MUA 6
- 24 sites containing 524 acres in MUA 7
- 80 acres in MUA 12

Management Actions

SA-NA-MA- 1. New sites may be set up if it is determined that an existing site will not meet the applicant's needs and site impacts can be sufficiently mitigated.

Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives

Goal

See goals in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objectives for specific alternatives.

Allocations

See allocations for specific alternatives.

Management Actions

SA-C-MA- 1. The general policy shall be to promote the use of existing sites for mineral disposals.

SA-C-MA- 2. Exploration for new sites would be the responsibility of the applicant. Exploration would be allowed where appropriate under a letter of authorization from the authorized officer.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

SA-CA-G- 1. Provide salable mineral development opportunities where they are compatible with other resources.

Objective

See objectives for specific alternatives.

Allocations

See allocations for specific alternatives.

Management Actions

SA-CA-MA- 1. If activities related to salable mineral development cannot avoid special status species or their habitats, permits would include mitigation for any adverse effects on special status species and their habitats.

SA-CA-MA- 2. RCAs would be open to salable mineral development consistent with the guidelines in the ARMS (Appendix D).

SA-CA-MA- 3. All mineral material sites would be reclaimed in accordance with resource objectives for the adjacent area as specified in the permit.

SA-CA-MA- 4. Terms and Conditions for commercial salable mineral development include but may not be limited to:

- Crushing and blasting may be restricted during important time periods for Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, or Candidate species (Type 1 BLM Sensitive; Appendix H).
- No ground disturbance on sites with important cultural and paleontological resources.
- Any operation with ground disturbance would be responsible for control of noxious weeds and invasive plants.
- Topsoil would be stockpiled separate from overburden to facilitate reclamation.
- Disturbed areas would be recontoured to as near a natural landform as possible or to a slope no greater than 3:1.
- Seeding, mulching, and drainage may be required in accordance with site-specific requirements.
- A reclamation bond may be required before any authorized ground disturbance; the reclamation bond would be revisited every 2 years.
- Incremental interim reclamation would be required.
- Containment for hazardous materials would be required.
- Dust abatement would be required adjacent to private residences.

- During construction and use, runoff water should be diverted onto areas with vegetation capable of filtering runoff, or pass through settling basins.

SA-CA-MA- 5. Stipulations for community pits would be developed on a site-specific basis. Stipulations could include the following:

- Topsoil should be stock piled and placed back onto the pit upon completion of excavation.
- The pit area shall be fenced or the work slopes shall be leveled to a 2-to-1 slope at the end of each day.
- The permitee is responsible for all suppression costs resulting from any fires caused by the proposed action.
- When American antiquities or other objects of historic or scientific interest including, but not limited to, historic or prehistoric ruins, vertebrate fossils, or artifacts are discovered, the item(s) will be left intact and immediately brought to the attention of the authorized officer.
- The area shall be maintained free of trash and refuse during operations and at termination of the permit.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives.*

Objective

SA-I-O- 1. Provide salable minerals needed for community and economic purposes and facilitate their reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound development where available and compatible with resource objectives.

Allocations

SA-I-A- 1. The majority of the planning area would be open to salable mineral development (1,308,000 acres), subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations, except for the following areas which are closed to salable mineral development (187,000 acres):

- WSAs;
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
- The Kelton and Toana Freight Roads;
- Bruneau-Jarbidge, Lower Bruneau Canyon, Salmon Falls Creek, and Sand Point ACECs;
- Playas (300-feet buffer); and
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics.

See Map 97 for locations of salable mineral allocations.

Management Actions

SA-I-MA- 1. New salable mineral development or expansion of existing developments would not be allowed within the Middle Snake ACEC.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

SA-II-O- 1. Provide salable minerals needed for community and economic purposes and facilitate their reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound development where available and compatible with resource objectives.

Allocations

SA-II-A- 1. The majority of the planning area would be open to salable mineral development (1,401,000 acres), subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations, except for the following areas which are closed to salable mineral development (94,000 acres):

- WSAs.

See Map 98 for locations of salable mineral allocations.

Management Actions

SA-II-MA- 1. New sites may be set up if it is determined that an existing site will not meet the applicant's needs and site impacts can be sufficiently mitigated.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

SA-III-O- 1. Provide salable minerals needed for community and economic purposes and facilitate their reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound development where available and compatible with resource and wildland fire prevention and suppression objectives.

Allocations

SA-III-A- 1. The majority of the planning area would be open to salable mineral development (1,351,000 acres), subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations, except for the following areas which are closed to salable mineral development (144,000 acres):

- WSAs;
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
- The Kelton and Toana Freight Roads;
- Sand Point, Bruneau-Jarbidge, and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs; and
- Playas (300-ft buffer)

See Map 99 for locations of salable mineral allocations.

Management Actions

SA-III-MA- 1. New sites may be set up if it is determined that an existing site will not meet the applicant's needs and site impacts can be sufficiently mitigated.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

SA-IV-O- 1. Provide salable minerals needed for community and economic purposes and facilitate their reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound development where available and compatible with resource objectives.

Allocations

SA-IV-A- 1. The majority of the planning area would be open to salable mineral development (1,220,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 1,252,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative), subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations, except for the following areas which are closed to salable mineral development (275,000 acres in Alternative IV-A; 243,000 acres in Alternative IV-B, the Preferred Alternative):

- WSAs;
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
- The Kelton and Toana Freight Roads;
- Bruneau-Jarbidge, Inside Desert, Lower Bruneau Canyon, and Sand Point ACECs;
- Playas (300-feet buffer); and
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics.

See Map 100 for locations of salable mineral allocations.

Management Actions

SA-IV-MA- 1. New sites may be set up if it is determined that an existing site will not meet the applicant's needs and site impacts can be sufficiently mitigated.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives.*

Objective

SA-V-O- 1. Provide salable minerals needed for community and economic purposes and facilitate their reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound development where available and compatible with resource objectives.

Allocations

SA-V-A- 1. The majority of the planning area would be open to salable mineral development (1,297,000 acres), subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations, except for the following areas which are closed to salable mineral development (198,000 acres):

- WSAs;
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor;
- The Kelton and Toana Freight Roads,
- Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Sand Point ACECs;
- Playas (300-feet buffer); and
- Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics.

See Map 101 for locations of salable mineral allocations.

Management Actions

SA-V-MA- 1. New sites may be set up if it is determined that an existing site will not meet the applicant's needs and site impacts can be sufficiently mitigated.

2.4.6.3. Locatable Minerals

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective

LO-NA-O- 1. Make 1,395,000 acres of the area available for locatable minerals across all MUAs.

Allocations

LO-NA-A- 1. Generally, the public lands would be available for mineral exploration and development, subject to applicable regulations and Federal and State laws. Areas within the planning area would be available for exploration and development of locatable minerals except where specifically restricted or excluded. The public lands would be available for location of mining claims unless withdrawn.

LO-NA-A- 2. Recommend more than 217,943 acres for withdrawal from locatable entry in MUAs 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16. Areas include:

- Sand Point and Bruneau-Jarbidge ACECs;
- Oregon Trail;
- Paleontological sites and cultural resource complexes;
- Dove Springs;
- Deans Site;
- Designated wilderness;
- Bruneau, Jarbidge, and Salmon Falls Canyons; and
- Bighorn sheep habitat.

Recommendations by BLM for withdrawal are subject to final consideration by the Secretary of the Interior.

Management Action

LO-NA-MA- 1. Give special consideration for the mitigation of mining-related activities in riparian areas (i.e., tailing deposits, holding ponds, chemical dumps).

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

LO-CA-G- 1. Locatable mineral development would not cause unnecessary and undue degradation of resources.

Objective

LO-CA-O- 1. Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of locatable minerals.

Allocations

See allocations specific to each alternative.

Management Actions

LO-CA-MA- 1. Determine whether locatable mineral plans of operation cause unnecessary and undue degradation to resources, including habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species, on a case-by-case basis and identify stipulations or mitigation measures as appropriate.

LO-CA-MA- 2. Activities related to locatable mineral development negatively affecting riparian areas would be mitigated according to direction in the ARMS (Appendix D).

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives.*

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives.*

Allocations

LO-I-A- 1. The planning area would be available for location of mining claims unless withdrawn.

LO-I-A- 2. Recommend the following areas for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development (117,000 acres):

- Bruneau-Jarbidge, Middle Snake, Salmon Falls Creek, and Sand Point ACECs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor; and
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs.

See Map 102 for locations of areas recommended for withdrawal. Recommendations by BLM for withdrawal are subject to final consideration by the Secretary of the Interior.

Management Actions

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives.*

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives.*

Allocations

LO-II-A- 1. The planning area would be available for location of mining claims unless withdrawn.

LO-II-A- 2. Recommend the following areas for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development (46,000 acres):

- The Oregon NHT protective corridor and
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs.

See Map 103 for locations of areas recommended for withdrawal. Recommendations by BLM for withdrawal are subject to final consideration by the Secretary of the Interior.

Management Actions

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives.*

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives.*

Allocations

LO-III-A- 1. The planning area would be available for location of mining claims unless withdrawn.

LO-III-A- 2. Recommend the following areas for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development (92,000 acres):

- Bruneau-Jarbidge, Salmon Falls Creek, and Sand Point ACECs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor; and
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs.

See Map 104 for locations of areas recommended for withdrawal. Recommendations by BLM for withdrawal are subject to final consideration by the Secretary of the Interior.

Management Actions

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives.*

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives.*

Allocations

LO-IV-A- 1. The planning area would be available for location of mining claims unless withdrawn.

LO-IV-A- 2. Recommend the following areas for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development (148,000 acres):

- Bruneau-Jarbidge and Sand Point ACECs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor; and
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs.

See Map 105 for locations of areas recommended for withdrawal. Recommendations by BLM for withdrawal are subject to final consideration by the Secretary of the Interior.

Management Actions

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives.*

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives.*

Allocations

LO-V-A- 1. The planning area would be available for location of mining claims unless withdrawn.

LO-V-A- 2. Recommend the following areas for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development (53,000 acres):

- Middle Snake and Sand Point ACECs;
- The Oregon NHT protective corridor; and
- Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs.

See Map 106 for locations of areas recommended for withdrawal. Recommendations by BLM for withdrawal are subject to final consideration by the Secretary of the Interior.

Management Actions

See management action in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

2.5. SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

This section describes management specific to areas with special designations. Unless otherwise specified in the following sections, management described elsewhere in Chapter 2 applies to these areas as well.

2.5.1. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective

Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC

ACEC-NA-O- 1. Protect the cultural values of the Dry Lake/Bruneau River Complex and Arch Canyon and the scenic and recreation values of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers through special designation and management.

ACEC-NA-O- 2. Protect and enhance the Arch Canyon area and bighorn sheep habitat in the West Fork of the Bruneau River and the Jarbidge River system to a good ecological condition class and protect and maintain the cultural, geologic, scenic, and natural values present in the area.

Allocation

Bruneau Jarbidge ACEC

ACEC-NA-A- 1. Manage 85,000 acres of public land as the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (Map 107).

Management Actions

Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC

ACEC-NA-MA- 1. The management priority for the canyons is for bighorn sheep and other wildlife. Where necessary to prevent livestock access to canyons, livestock management measures (i.e., salting or fencing) will be implemented.

ACEC-NA-MA- 2. Activities or developments that would impair the scenic quality would not be allowed. The area would be managed as VRM Class I or II with the canyon system as the Key Observation Point.

ACEC-NA-MA- 3. Livestock water sources would not be developed within 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat within the ACEC unless adverse effects can be mitigated.

ACEC-NA-MA- 4. No conversions from cattle to sheep will be allowed in allotments containing bighorn sheep habitat, unless a satisfactory separation can be maintained by fences or topographic features.

ACEC-NA-MA- 5. The area would be recommended for withdrawal from the 1872 mining laws.

ACEC-NA-MA- 6. No surface occupancy would be allowed for oil and gas and geothermal exploration or development within the habitat area.

ACEC-NA-MA- 7. Retain public lands within bighorn sheep habitat within the ACEC, unless a proposed exchange would result in the acquisition of higher quality habitat.

ACEC-NA-MA- 8. The ACEC would be a utility avoidance area for overhead, surface, and underground developments. Retain the utility corridor near Murphy Hot Springs in the ACEC.

ACEC-NA-MA- 9. Maintain a low level of human disturbance in bighorn sheep habitat by not constructing or upgrading any roads that would lead to or encourage human disturbance in bighorn sheep habitat.

ACEC-NA-MA- 10. Motorized vehicle use within the ACEC would be allowed only on designated roads and trails.

ACEC-NA-MA- 11. The protection of Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive plant species would be given priority over livestock and recreation use.

ACEC-NA-MA- 12. Existing primitive recreation uses of the river canyon complex are compatible uses.

ACEC-NA-MA- 13. OHV use, livestock use, utility corridor use, mineral development, and hydro development are uses that need to be analyzed on a case-by-case basis to determine compatibility.

ACEC-NA-MA- 14. Permit no adverse habitat alteration of bighorn sheep or potential bighorn sheep habitats.

ACEC-NA-MA- 15. Develop a Multiple Use Management Plan for the ACEC.

Objective

Salmon Falls Creek ACEC

ACEC-NA-O- 3. Protect the Salmon Falls Creek Canyon (rim-to-rim) for its natural and scenic values through special designation and management.

Allocations

Salmon Falls Creek ACEC

ACEC-NA-A- 2. Manage 2,700 acres of public land as the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC (Map 107).

Management Actions

Salmon Falls Creek ACEC

ACEC-NA-MA- 16. No surface occupancy would be allowed for leasable minerals within the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC.

ACEC-NA-MA- 17. The ACEC would be closed to salable minerals.

ACEC-NA-MA- 18. Manage the ACEC as VRM Class II.

ACEC-NA-MA- 19. The ACEC would be a ROW avoidance area (overhead, surface, and underground).

ACEC-NA-MA- 20. Close the ACEC to agricultural entry.

ACEC-NA-MA- 21. Close the ACEC to all motorized vehicles.

ACEC-NA-MA- 22. The ACEC would be closed to livestock grazing.

ACEC-NA-MA- 23. Restrict any mechanized fire suppression equipment from the canyon within the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC.

ACEC-NA-MA- 24. Develop a Recreation Activity Management Plan for the ACEC.

Objective

Sand Point ACEC

ACEC-NA-O- 4. Protect and manage the Sand Point Paleontologic Area. Protect its paleontological and cultural resources from destruction and loss, protect the geologic features present, and ensure that its scenic and wildlife values are maintained.

Allocations

Sand Point ACEC

ACEC-NA-A- 3. Manage 810 acres of public land as the Sand Point ACEC (Map 107).

Management Actions

Sand Point ACEC

ACEC-NA-MA- 25. Manage the paleontological resources within the ACEC in accordance with the 1988 Sand Point Natural History Management Plan.

ACEC-NA-MA- 26. Prevent agricultural trespass, including irrigation lines. Prevent water erosion on the site and ensure that vegetative cover is maintained to minimize wind erosion. Prevent sediment discharge from entering the Snake River.

ACEC-NA-MA- 27. Mitigate erosion from irrigated agricultural lands onto adjacent public lands that could erode Sand Point paleontological deposits.

ACEC-NA-MA- 28. No surface-disturbing activities on the site would be allowed unless they are directly related to studies or research on the cultural, paleontological, or geological resources present or, unless they can be mitigated in such a way as to maximize the information gained on the cultural, paleontological and/or geological resource impacted in the Sand Point ACEC.

ACEC-NA-MA- 29. Any surface disturbance allowed in the Sand Point ACEC would be mitigated to blend with the topography and visual aspects of the site so as to be substantially unnoticeable. If this is not economically or practically feasible, the surface disturbance would not be allowed.

ACEC-NA-MA- 30. Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral location exploration and development and all types of land disposals.

ACEC-NA-MA- 31. The ACEC would be open to mineral leasing with NSO.

ACEC-NA-MA- 32. The ACEC would be a utility avoidance area for surface and underground development.

ACEC-NA-MA- 33. Obtain an easement, through the private lands that the access road traverses, to ensure access to the Sand Point ACEC.

ACEC-NA-MA- 34. Motorized vehicle use within the Sand Point ACEC would be limited to designated routes.

ACEC-NA-MA- 35. No new buildings would be allowed unless the structure is directly related to the preservation or interpretation of the site.

ACEC-NA-MA- 36. Any development on the tableland above the rim that would cause erosion on the site would be incompatible with the

purposes of this ACEC. The lands involved with this ACEC and already declared as suitable for CA development will be considered as unsuitable and lands involved would be retained in public ownership.

ACEC-NA-MA- 37. Existing uses of the site for hunting and fishing are compatible uses. The use of the site for paleontological materials collection by professionals is also compatible.

ACEC-NA-MA- 38. Motorized vehicle use off existing roads is incompatible.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

ACEC-CA-G- 1. ACECs will be managed to protect the important biological, cultural, scenic, and historic resources that meet the criteria for relevance and importance.

Objectives

See objectives for specific alternatives.

Allocations

See allocations specific to each alternative.

Management Actions

See management actions specific to each alternative.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC
ACEC-I-O- 1. Manage the lands within the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC to protect their fish, wildlife, botanical, scenic, and cultural resource values.

Allocation

Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC
ACEC-I-A- 1. Manage 85,000 acres of public land as the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (Map 108).

Management Actions

Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC
ACEC-I-MA- 1. All actions within the portions of the ACEC that are also within WSAs must be consistent with the IMP and with allocations and management actions made for WSAs.

ACEC-I-MA- 2. Areas within the ACEC with concentrated recreational and livestock grazing use would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication. Use of domestic sheep or goats to reduce noxious weeds would not be allowed within the ACEC to eliminate potential contact with bighorn sheep.

ACEC-I-MA- 3. The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

ACEC-I-MA- 4. MIST would be used to suppress wildland fires within the ACEC. Fire lines would be rehabilitated to help stabilize soils.

ACEC-I-MA- 5. Manage the portion of the Jarbidge ROW corridor within the ACEC as VRM Class III; manage the remainder of the ACEC as VRM Class I.

ACEC-I-MA- 6. Adjust livestock grazing so livestock seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in those pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat (Appendix H).

ACEC-I-MA- 7. Placing salt or other supplements would be prohibited within the ACEC to reduce livestock use of bighorn sheep habitat.

ACEC-I-MA- 8. Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity. Protective measures may include, but not be limited to, implementing a permit system for the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers in coordination with the Bruneau FO, requiring the use of certified weed-free forage and straw, and designating camping areas outside the ACEC.

ACEC-I-MA- 9. Consider SRPs within the ACEC on a case-by-case basis with mitigation for negative impacts to relevant and important values.

ACEC-I-MA- 10. Motorized vehicle use within the ACEC would be limited to designated routes. To avoid disturbing bighorn sheep during wintering and lambing periods or to protect other relevant and important values, seasonal closures of specific designated routes may be considered during the CTTMP.

ACEC-I-MA- 11. Continue to maintain the low level of human disturbance in bighorn sheep habitat by not constructing new roads or substantially improving other routes in the ACEC. Some designated routes within the ACEC, including the road to Indian Hot Springs, could have spot surface treatments to reduce resource damage due to road braiding and to improve public safety.

ACEC-I-MA- 12. The ACEC would be a ROW avoidance area; new ROWs would be restricted to ROW corridors and locations of existing ROWs.

ACEC-I-MA- 13. Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1; where practical, acquire private and/or State inholdings. The ACEC designation and management would apply to lands acquired within the ACEC boundary.

ACEC-I-MA- 14. The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

ACEC-I-MA- 15. The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

ACEC-I-MA- 16. Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

Objective

Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC

ACEC-I-O- 2. Manage the lands within the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC to protect their aquatic and botanical resources.

Allocation

Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC

ACEC-I-A- 2. Manage 1,100 acres of public lands as the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC (Map 108).

Management Actions

Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC

ACEC-I-MA- 17. All actions within the ACEC must be consistent with the IMP and with allocations and management actions made for WSAs, unless the WSA is released by Congress.

ACEC-I-MA- 18. Restore native upland and riparian plant communities within the ACEC to improve habitat for special status species.

ACEC-I-MA- 19. The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication.

ACEC-I-MA- 20. The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

ACEC-I-MA- 21. The ACEC's VRM Class would follow WSA guidelines. In the event the WSA is released, manage the ACEC as VRM Class III.

ACEC-I-MA- 22. The ACEC would be available for livestock grazing and new infrastructure as long as they are compatible with recovery of the area, including protecting seed production of special status plants and reducing impacts to their pollinators.

ACEC-I-MA- 23. Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1.

ACEC-I-MA- 24. The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

ACEC-I-MA- 25. The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

Objective

Middle Snake ACEC

ACEC-I-O- 3. Manage the lands within the Middle Snake ACEC to protect their fish and botanical values.

Allocation

Middle Snake ACEC

ACEC-I-A- 3. Manage 7,500 acres of public lands as the Middle Snake ACEC (Map 108).

Management Actions

Middle Snake ACEC

ACEC-I-MA- 26. Restore habitat for special status plants within the ACEC. Maintain existing high-quality special status plant habitat.

ACEC-I-MA- 27. Where habitat is suitable, transplant or seed special status plants within the ACEC.

ACEC-I-MA- 28. The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed

management techniques for control, containment, and where practical eradication. Special conditions would apply in habitat occupied by special status plant species.

ACEC-I-MA- 29. The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

ACEC-I-MA- 30. Mitigate the effects of surface-disturbing activities in the ACEC, such as recreation and transportation.

ACEC-I-MA- 31. Implement use restrictions within the ACEC in areas with slopes greater than 20%, or in areas where soils are rated severe or very severe for wind erosion or high for water erosion.

ACEC-I-MA- 32. Manage the ACEC as VRM Class III.

ACEC-I-MA- 33. The Asquena pasture within the ACEC would be available for livestock grazing; the remainder of the ACEC would not be available for livestock grazing.

ACEC-I-MA- 34. Livestock trailing through the ACEC would be allowed in the designated trailing corridor, but livestock would not be allowed to remain in the ACEC overnight.

ACEC-I-MA- 35. Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity. Protective measures may include, but not be limited to, improving access routes to recreational sites along the Snake River, installing barriers to protect relevant and important values, and implementing measures to address water quality and public health concerns.

ACEC-I-MA- 36. BLM-managed lands within the ACEC can be exchanged for non-BLM-managed lands, consistent with the *Land Tenure* section, in order to obtain lands with relevant and important values or to improve management. Where practical, acquire private and/or State inholdings. The ACEC designation and management would apply to lands acquired within the ACEC boundary.

ACEC-I-MA- 37. The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

ACEC-I-MA- 38. The ACEC would be closed to new salable mineral development and expansion of existing developments.

ACEC-I-MA- 39. Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

Objective

Salmon Falls Creek ACEC

ACEC-I-O- 4. Manage the lands within the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC to protect their scenic, fish, and botanical values.

Allocation

Salmon Falls Creek ACEC

ACEC-I-A- 4. Manage 2,700 acres of public land as the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC (Map 108).

Management Actions

Salmon Falls Creek ACEC

ACEC-I-MA- 40. All actions within the portion of the ACEC that is also a WSA must be consistent with the IMP and with allocations and management actions made for WSAs.

ACEC-I-MA- 41. Restore vegetation within the riparian area to benefit redband trout habitat (e.g., increasing shade in the riparian zone).

ACEC-I-MA- 42. Use native species for any vegetation treatments within the ACEC, including for ES&BAR.

ACEC-I-MA- 43. The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical eradication.

ACEC-I-MA- 44. The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

ACEC-I-MA- 45. MIST would be used to suppress wildland fires within the ACEC.

ACEC-I-MA- 46. Manage the portion of the Jarbidge ROW corridor within the ACEC as VRM Class III; manage the remainder of the ACEC as VRM Class I.

ACEC-I-MA- 47. The ACEC would remain closed to livestock grazing.

ACEC-I-MA- 48. Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity.

ACEC-I-MA- 49. The ACEC north and south of Lily Grade crossing would remain closed to motorized vehicle use.

ACEC-I-MA- 50. The ACEC would remain a ROW avoidance area; new ROWs would be restricted to the Jarbidge ROW corridor and locations of existing ROWs.

ACEC-I-MA- 51. Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1.

ACEC-I-MA- 52. The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

ACEC-I-MA- 53. The ACEC would remain closed to salable mineral development.

ACEC-I-MA- 54. Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

Objective

Sand Point ACEC

ACEC-I-O- 5. Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC to protect their historic, cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.

Allocation

Sand Point ACEC

ACEC-I-A- 5. Manage 950 acres of public land as the Sand Point ACEC (Map 108).

Management Actions

Sand Point ACEC

ACEC-I-MA- 55. Manage paleontological resources within the ACEC in accordance with the 1988 Sand Point Natural History Management Plan. Modify the 1988 plan to encompass the Morgan property extension and to be in conformance with the revised RMP.

ACEC-I-MA- 56. The ACEC would be closed to fossil collecting except under permit for scientific research.

ACEC-I-MA- 57. Limit BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses that may contribute to wind or water erosion in the ACEC.

ACEC-I-MA- 58. Work cooperatively with adjacent land owners to reduce or eliminate run-off from the agricultural fields that erode soils within the ACEC.

ACEC-I-MA- 59. No surface-disturbing activities would be allowed in the ACEC unless they are directly related to research on the ACEC's cultural, paleontological, or geological resources or they can be mitigated.

ACEC-I-MA- 60. MIST would be used to suppress wildland fires within the ACEC to protect the paleontological resources. The authorized officer may allow the use of bull dozers to construct control lines within the ACEC on a case-by-case basis. However, dozer lines would be rehabilitated to minimize erosion.

ACEC-I-MA- 61. Manage the ACEC as VRM Class III, except within the Oregon NHT protective corridor, which would be managed as VRM Class II.

ACEC-I-MA- 62. The ACEC would be available for livestock grazing.

ACEC-I-MA- 63. New range infrastructure may be considered if it does not impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC. Any infrastructure would be located so that it does not increase or encourage livestock trailing across fossil-bearing areas, cultural resource sites, or Oregon NHT ruts.

ACEC-I-MA- 64. Salt or other livestock supplements would not be placed within 0.25 miles of fossil-bearing areas or cultural resource sites. Locations off limits to salt or other livestock supplements would be made known to the livestock permittees.

ACEC-I-MA- 65. Motorized vehicle use within the ACEC would be limited to designated routes.

ACEC-I-MA- 66. Consider upgrading the Wilson Grade Road if there is increased need for access for fire suppression activities or research.

ACEC-I-MA- 67. Structures directly related to the preservation or interpretation of the site may be allowed (e.g., kiosks, protective barriers).

ACEC-I-MA- 68. The ACEC would be a ROW exclusion area.

ACEC-I-MA- 69. Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1.

ACEC-I-MA- 70. The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

ACEC-I-MA- 71. The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

ACEC-I-MA- 72. Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

No objective stated.

Allocation

ACEC-II-A- 1. No ACECs would be designated.

Management Actions

No management actions stated.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC
ACEC-III-O- 1. Manage the lands within the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC to protect their cultural, scenic, fish, wildlife, and botanical values.

Allocation

Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC
ACEC-III-A- 1. Manage 57,000 acres of public land as the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (Map 109).

Management Actions

Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC
ACEC-III-MA- 1. All actions within the portions of the ACEC that are also within WSAs must be consistent with the IMP and with allocations and management actions made for WSAs.

ACEC-III-MA- 2. The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication. Use of domestic sheep or goats to reduce noxious weeds would not be allowed within the ACEC to eliminate potential contact with bighorn sheep.

ACEC-III-MA- 3. The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

ACEC-III-MA- 4. Manage the ACEC as VRM Class I

ACEC-III-MA- 5. Placing salt or other supplements within the ACEC would be prohibited to reduce livestock use of bighorn sheep habitat and protect winter range.

ACEC-III-MA- 6. Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity. Protective measures may include, but not be limited to, implementing a permit system for the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers in coordination with the Bruneau FO, requiring the use of certified weed-free forage and straw, and designating camping areas outside the ACEC.

ACEC-III-MA- 7. SRPs within the ACEC would be considered on a case-by-case basis with mitigation for negative impacts to relevant and important values.

ACEC-III-MA- 8. Motorized vehicle use within the ACEC would be limited to designated routes. To avoid disturbing bighorn sheep during wintering and lambing periods or to protect other relevant and important values, seasonal closures of specific designated routes may be considered during the CTTMP.

ACEC-III-MA- 9. Some designated routes within and adjoining the ACEC, including the road to Indian Hot Springs, could be improved to reduce resource damage due to road braiding, improve public safety, and facilitate visitor traffic.

ACEC-III-MA- 10. The ACEC would be a ROW avoidance area; no overhead authorizations would be allowed.

ACEC-III-MA- 11. Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1; where practical, acquire private inholdings. The ACEC designation and management would apply to lands acquired within the ACEC boundary.

ACEC-III-MA- 12. The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

ACEC-III-MA- 13. The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

ACEC-III-MA- 14. Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

Objective

Salmon Falls Creek ACEC

ACEC-III-O- 2. Manage the lands within the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC to protect their scenic, fish, and botanical values.

Allocation

Salmon Falls Creek ACEC

ACEC-III-A- 2. Manage 2,700 acres of public land as the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC (Map 109).

Management Actions

Salmon Falls Creek ACEC

ACEC-III-MA- 15. All actions within the portion of the ACEC that is also a WSA must be consistent with the IMP and with allocations and management actions made for WSAs.

ACEC-III-MA- 16. Restore vegetation within the riparian area to benefit redband trout habitat (e.g., increasing shade in the riparian zone).

ACEC-III-MA- 17. Use native species for any vegetation treatments within the ACEC, including for ES&BAR.

ACEC-III-MA- 18. The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical eradication.

ACEC-III-MA- 19. The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

ACEC-III-MA- 20. MIST would be used to suppress wildland fires within the ACEC.

ACEC-III-MA- 21. Manage the portion of the Jarbidge ROW corridor within the ACEC as VRM Class III; manage the remainder of the ACEC as VRM Class I.

ACEC-III-MA- 22. The ACEC would remain closed to livestock grazing.

ACEC-III-MA- 23. Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity.

ACEC-III-MA- 24. The ACEC north and south of Lily Grade crossing would remain closed to motorized vehicle use.

ACEC-III-MA- 25. The ACEC would remain a ROW avoidance area; new ROWs would be restricted to the Jarbidge ROW corridor and locations of existing ROWs.

ACEC-III-MA- 26. Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1.

ACEC-III-MA- 27. The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

ACEC-III-MA- 28. The ACEC would remain closed to salable mineral development.

ACEC-III-MA- 29. Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

Objective

Sand Point ACEC

ACEC-III-O- 3. Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC to protect their historic, cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.

Allocation

Sand Point ACEC

ACEC-III-A- 3. Manage 950 acres of public land as the Sand Point ACEC (Map 109).

Management Actions

Sand Point ACEC

ACEC-III-MA- 30. Manage paleontological resources within the ACEC in accordance with the 1988 Sand Point Natural History Management Plan. Modify the 1988 plan to encompass the Morgan property extension and to be in conformance with the revised RMP.

ACEC-III-MA- 31. The ACEC would be closed to fossil collecting except under permit for scientific research.

ACEC-III-MA- 32. Limit BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses that may contribute to water or wind erosion in the ACEC.

ACEC-III-MA- 33. Work cooperatively with adjacent land owners to reduce or eliminate run-off from the agricultural fields that erode soils within the ACEC.

ACEC-III-MA- 34. No surface-disturbing activities would be allowed in the ACEC unless they are directly related to research on the ACEC's cultural, paleontological, or geological resources or they can be mitigated.

ACEC-III-MA- 35. MIST would be used to suppress wildland fires within the ACEC to protect the paleontological resources. The authorized officer may allow the use of bull dozers to construct control lines within the ACEC on a case-by-case basis. However, dozer lines would be rehabilitated to minimize erosion.

ACEC-III-MA- 36. Manage the ACEC as VRM Class III, except within the Oregon NHT protective corridor, which would be managed as VRM Class II.

ACEC-III-MA- 37. The ACEC would be available for livestock grazing.

ACEC-III-MA- 38. New range infrastructure may be considered if it does not impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC. Any infrastructure would be located so that it does not increase or encourage livestock trailing across fossil-bearing areas, cultural resource sites, or Oregon NHT ruts.

ACEC-III-MA- 39. Salt or other livestock supplements would not be placed within 0.25 miles of fossil-bearing areas or cultural resource sites. Locations off limits to salt or other livestock supplements would be made known to the livestock permittees.

ACEC-III-MA- 40. Motorized vehicle use within the ACEC would be limited to designated routes.

ACEC-III-MA- 41. Consider upgrading the Wilson Grade Road if there is increased need for access for fire suppression activities or research.

ACEC-III-MA- 42. Structures directly related to the preservation or interpretation of the site may be allowed (e.g., kiosks, protective barriers).

ACEC-III-MA- 43. The ACEC would be a ROW exclusion area.

ACEC-III-MA- 44. Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1.

ACEC-III-MA- 45. The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

ACEC-III-MA- 46. The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

ACEC-III-MA- 47. Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC
ACEC-IV-O- 1. Manage the lands within the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC to protect their cultural, scenic, fish, and botanical values.

Allocation

Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC
ACEC-IV-A- 1. Manage 123,000 acres of public land as the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (Map 110).

Management Actions

Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC
ACEC-IV-MA- 1. Restore playas occupied by Davis peppergrass to improve natural hydrologic function and habitat on a case-by-case basis. Restoration activities may include filling pit reservoirs, stabilizing erosion areas, and planting native species with similar pollinators.

ACEC-IV-MA- 2. Monitor juniper encroachment into the riparian area, and consider juniper treatments to improve bull trout habitat.

ACEC-IV-MA- 3. Areas within the ACEC with concentrated recreational and livestock grazing use would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication. Special stipulations would apply for noxious weed and invasive plants treatments in Davis peppergrass habitat. Use of domestic sheep or goats to reduce noxious weeds would not be allowed within the ACEC to eliminate potential contact with bighorn sheep.

ACEC-IV-MA- 4. The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

ACEC-IV-MA- 5. MIST would be used to suppress wildland fires within the ACEC. Fire lines would be rehabilitated to help stabilize soils.

ACEC-IV-MA- 6. Manage the portion of the Jarbidge ROW corridor within the ACEC as VRM Class III; manage the remainder of the ACEC as VRM Class I.

ACEC-IV-MA- 7. Adjust livestock grazing so livestock seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in those pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat (Appendix H).

ACEC-IV-MA- 8. Adjust livestock seasons of use or stocking rates on a pasture-specific basis to minimize conflicts with bull trout spawning (late August through early November) and Davis peppergrass during flowering and when playas are most likely to contain water (December through June).

ACEC-IV-MA- 9. Range infrastructure would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for retention, modification, or removal. New infrastructure would be allowed to the extent that it protects bull trout habitat, cultural resources, or botanical values. Prohibit placing of salt or other supplements within the ACEC to reduce livestock use of bighorn sheep habitat and protect big game winter range.

ACEC-IV-MA- 10. Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity. Protective measures may include, but not be limited to, implementing a permit system for the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers in coordination with the Bruneau FO, requiring the use of certified weed-free forage and straw, and designating camping areas outside the ACEC.

ACEC-IV-MA- 11. Consider SRPs within the ACEC on a case-by-case basis with mitigation for negative impacts to relevant and important values.

ACEC-IV-MA- 12. Motorized vehicle use within the ACEC would be limited to designated routes. To avoid disturbing bighorn sheep during wintering and lambing periods or to protect other relevant and important values, seasonal closures of specific designated routes may be considered during the CTTMP.

ACEC-IV-MA- 13. Continue to maintain the low level of human disturbance in bighorn sheep habitat by not constructing new roads or substantially improving other routes in the ACEC. Some designated routes within the ACEC, including the road to Indian Hot Springs, could have spot surface treatments to reduce resource damage due to road braiding and to improve public safety.

ACEC-IV-MA- 14. The ACEC would be a ROW avoidance area; new ROWs would be restricted to ROW corridors and locations of existing ROWs.

ACEC-IV-MA- 15. Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1; where practical, acquire private and/or State in holdings. The

ACEC designation and management would apply to lands acquired within the ACEC boundary.

ACEC-IV-MA- 16. The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

ACEC-IV-MA- 17. The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

ACEC-IV-MA- 18. Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

Objective

Inside Desert ACEC

ACEC-IV-O- 2. Manage the lands within the Inside Desert ACEC to protect their botanical values.

Allocations

Inside Desert ACEC

Alternative IV-A

ACEC-IV-A- 2. Manage 73,000 acres of public land as the Inside Desert ACEC (Map 110).

Alternative IV-B (the Preferred Alternative)

ACEC-IV-A- 3. Manage 41,000 acres of public land as the Inside Desert ACEC (Map 110).

Management Actions

Inside Desert ACEC

ACEC-IV-MA- 19. Restore slickspot peppergrass habitat by planting native shrubs, grasses, and forbs to improve ecological function and increase pollinators.

ACEC-IV-MA- 20. Seed only native species, with emphasis on plants with similar pollinators.

ACEC-IV-MA- 21. Where practical, vegetation treatments, including drill seeding, would avoid concentrations of slickspots.

ACEC-IV-MA- 22. The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication.

ACEC-IV-MA- 23. The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

ACEC-IV-MA- 24. Staging areas for fire suppression and rehabilitation activities would be located outside the ACEC.

ACEC-IV-MA- 25. Manage the ACEC as VRM Class III.

ACEC-IV-MA- 26. The ACEC would not be available for livestock grazing.

ACEC-IV-MA- 27. Remove troughs, fences, or other infrastructure within the ACEC.

ACEC-IV-MA- 28. Camping would not be allowed within the ACEC.

ACEC-IV-MA- 29. Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1; where practical, acquire State inholdings. The ACEC

designation and management would apply to lands acquired within the ACEC boundary.

ACEC-IV-MA- 30. The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

ACEC-IV-MA- 31. The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

Objectives

Jarbidge Foothills ACEC

Alternative IV-A

ACEC-IV-O- 3. Manage the lands within the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC to protect their cultural, fish, wildlife, and botanical values.

Allocations

Jarbidge Foothills ACEC

Alternative IV-A

ACEC-IV-A- 4. Manage 136,000 acres of public land as the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC (Map 110).

Management Actions

Jarbidge Foothills ACEC

Alternative IV-A

ACEC-IV-MA- 32. Improving, expanding, connecting, and restoring native plant communities would be a high priority within the ACEC.

ACEC-IV-MA- 33. Restore mountain shrub habitat for sage-grouse.

ACEC-IV-MA- 34. Restore habitat for Columbia spotted frogs (spotted frogs) in Rocky Canyon, Timber Canyon, Shack, and Bear Creeks.

ACEC-IV-MA- 35. Restore redband trout habitat and reduce habitat fragmentation in redband trout occupied watersheds.

ACEC-IV-MA- 36. The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication.

ACEC-IV-MA- 37. The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

ACEC-IV-MA- 38. Manage the majority of the ACEC as VRM Class III, where not otherwise designated as VRM Class I or II (see the *Visual Resources* section).

ACEC-IV-MA- 39. Livestock seasons of use or stocking rates would be adjusted within the ACEC to minimize conflicts with redband trout, sage-grouse wintering, breeding, and nesting periods (Appendix H); and restoration projects.

ACEC-IV-MA- 40. Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity. Protective measures may include but not be limited to

designating camping areas within the ACEC; requiring the use of certified weed-free forage and straw; and installing protective barriers to protect relevant and important values.

ACEC-IV-MA- 41. Routes would be designated through the CTTMP to increase core habitat size for sage-grouse.

ACEC-IV-MA- 42. BLM-managed lands within the ACEC can be exchanged for non-BLM-managed lands within the ACEC, consistent with the *Land Tenure* section; where practical, acquire private and/or State in holdings. The ACEC designation and management would apply to lands acquired within the ACEC boundary.

ACEC-IV-MA- 43. The ACEC would be available for salable mineral development; where practical, use existing mineral pits and minimize new salable mineral developments within ACEC. Seasonal closures that restrict use or activities at the pits during important seasonal periods for fish and wildlife may be included when existing salable mineral permits are reauthorized and in new permits.

Objective

Jarbidge Foothills ACEC

Alternative IV-B (the Preferred Alternative)

ACEC-IV-O- 4. Manage the lands within the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC to protect their cultural, wildlife, and botanical values.

Allocations

Alternative IV-B (the Preferred Alternative)

ACEC-IV-A- 5. Manage 66,000 acres of public lands as the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC (Map 110).

Management Actions

Jarbidge Foothills ACEC

Alternative IV-B (the Preferred Alternative)

ACEC-IV-MA- 44. Improving, expanding, connecting, and restoring native plant communities would be a high priority within the ACEC.

ACEC-IV-MA- 45. Restore mountain shrub habitat for sage-grouse.

ACEC-IV-MA- 46. The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication.

ACEC-IV-MA- 47. The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

ACEC-IV-MA- 48. Manage the majority of the ACEC as VRM Class III, where not otherwise designated as VRM Class I or II (see the *Visual Resources* section).

ACEC-IV-MA- 49. Livestock seasons of use or stocking rates would be adjusted within the ACEC to minimize conflicts with sage-grouse wintering, breeding, and nesting periods (Appendix H); and restoration projects.

ACEC-IV-MA- 50. Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity. Protective measures may include but not be limited to designating camping areas within the ACEC; requiring the use of certified weed-free forage and straw; and installing protective barriers to protect relevant and important values.

ACEC-IV-MA- 51. Routes would be designated through the CTTMP to increase core habitat size for sage-grouse.

ACEC-IV-MA- 52. BLM-managed lands within the ACEC can be exchanged for non-BLM-managed lands, consistent with the *Land Tenure* section; where practical, acquire private and/or State in holdings. The ACEC designation and management would apply to lands acquired within the ACEC boundary.

ACEC-IV-MA- 53. The ACEC would be available for salable mineral development; where practical, use existing mineral pits and minimize new salable mineral developments within ACEC. Seasonal closures that restrict use or activities at the pits during important seasonal periods for sage-grouse may be included when existing salable mineral permits are reauthorized and in new permits.

Objective

Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC

ACEC-IV-O- 5. Manage the lands within the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC to protect their fish and botanical resources.

Allocations

Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC

ACEC-IV-A- 6. Manage 1,100 acres of public land as the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC (Map 110).

Management Actions

Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC

ACEC-IV-MA- 54. All actions within the ACEC must be consistent with the IMP and with allocations and management actions made for WSAs, unless the WSA is released by Congress.

ACEC-IV-MA- 55. Restore native upland and riparian plant communities within the ACEC to improve habitat for special status species.

ACEC-IV-MA- 56. The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication.

ACEC-IV-MA- 57. The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

ACEC-IV-MA- 58. The ACEC's VRM Class would follow WSA guidelines. In the event the WSA is released, manage the ACEC as VRM Class III.

ACEC-IV-MA- 59. The ACEC would be available for livestock grazing and new infrastructure as long as they are compatible with

recovery of the area, including protecting seed production of special status plants and reducing impacts to their pollinators.

ACEC-IV-MA- 60. Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1.

ACEC-IV-MA- 61. The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

ACEC-IV-MA- 62. The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

Objective

Sand Point ACEC

ACEC-IV-O- 6. Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC to protect their historic, cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.

Allocation

Sand Point ACEC

ACEC-IV-A- 7. Manage 950 acres of public land as the Sand Point ACEC (Map 110).

Management Actions

Sand Point ACEC

ACEC-IV-MA- 63. Manage paleontological resources within the ACEC in accordance with the 1988 Sand Point Natural History Management Plan. Modify the 1988 plan to encompass the Morgan property extension and to be in conformance with the revised RMP.

ACEC-IV-MA- 64. The ACEC would be closed to fossil collecting except under permit for scientific research.

ACEC-IV-MA- 65. Limit BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses that may contribute to wind or water erosion in the ACEC.

ACEC-IV-MA- 66. Work cooperatively with adjacent land owners to reduce or eliminate run-off from the agricultural fields that erode soils within the ACEC.

ACEC-IV-MA- 67. No surface-disturbing activities would be allowed in the ACEC unless they are directly related to research on the ACEC's cultural, paleontological, or geological resources or unless they can be mitigated.

ACEC-IV-MA- 68. MIST would be used to suppress wildland fires within the ACEC to protect the paleontological resources. The authorized officer may allow the use of bull dozers to construct control lines within the ACEC on a case-by-case basis. However, dozer lines would be rehabilitated to minimize erosion.

ACEC-IV-MA- 69. Manage the ACEC as VRM Class III, except within the Oregon NHT protective corridor.

ACEC-IV-MA- 70. The ACEC would be available for livestock grazing.

ACEC-IV-MA- 71. New range infrastructure may be considered if it does not impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC. Any infrastructure would be located so that it does not increase or encourage livestock trailing across fossil-bearing areas, cultural resource sites, or Oregon NHT ruts.

ACEC-IV-MA- 72. Salt or other livestock supplements would not be placed within 0.25 miles of fossil-bearing areas or cultural resource sites. Locations off limits to salt or other livestock supplements would be made known to the livestock permittees.

ACEC-IV-MA- 73. Motorized vehicle use within the ACEC would be limited to designated routes.

ACEC-IV-MA- 74. Consider upgrading the Wilson Grade Road if there is increased need for access for fire suppression activities or research.

ACEC-IV-MA- 75. Structures directly related to the preservation or interpretation of the site may be allowed (e.g., kiosks, protective barriers).

ACEC-IV-MA- 76. The ACEC would be a ROW exclusion area.

ACEC-IV-MA- 77. Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1.

ACEC-IV-MA- 78. The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

ACEC-IV-MA- 79. The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

ACEC-IV-MA- 80. Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC
ACEC-V-O- 1. Manage the lands within the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC to protect their fish and botanical values.

Allocation

Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC
ACEC-V-A- 1. Manage 1,100 acres of public lands as the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC (Map 111).

Management Actions

Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC
ACEC-V-MA- 1. All actions within the ACEC must be consistent with the IMP and with allocations and management actions made for WSAs, unless the WSA is released by Congress.

ACEC-V-MA- 2. Restore native upland and riparian plant communities within the ACEC to improve habitat for special status species.

ACEC-V-MA- 3. The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication.

ACEC-V-MA- 4. The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

ACEC-V-MA- 5. The ACEC's VRM Class would follow WSA guidelines. In the event the WSA is released, manage the ACEC as VRM Class III.

ACEC-V-MA- 6. The ACEC would not be available for livestock grazing.

ACEC-V-MA- 7. Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1.

ACEC-V-MA- 8. The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

ACEC-V-MA- 9. The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

Objective

Middle Snake ACEC

ACEC-V-O- 2. Manage the lands within the Middle Snake ACEC to protect their fish and botanical values.

Allocation

Middle Snake ACEC

ACEC-V-A- 2. Manage 7,500 acres of public lands as the Middle Snake ACEC (Map 111).

Management Actions

Middle Snake ACEC

ACEC-V-MA- 10. Restore habitat for special status plants within the ACEC. Maintain existing high-quality special status plant habitat.

ACEC-V-MA- 11. Where habitat is suitable, transplant or seed special status plants within the ACEC.

ACEC-V-MA- 12. The ACEC would be a high priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatment with integrated weed management techniques for control, containment, and where practical, eradication. Special conditions would apply in habitat occupied by special status plant species.

ACEC-V-MA- 13. The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

ACEC-V-MA- 14. Mitigate the effects of surface-disturbing activities in the ACEC, such as recreation and transportation.

ACEC-V-MA- 15. Implement use restrictions within the ACEC in areas with slopes greater than 20%, or in areas where soils are rated severe or very severe for wind erosion or high for water erosion.

ACEC-V-MA- 16. Manage the ACEC as VRM Class III.

ACEC-V-MA- 17. The ACEC would not be available for livestock grazing.

ACEC-V-MA- 18. Livestock trailing through the ACEC would be allowed in the designated trailing corridor, but livestock would not be allowed to remain in the ACEC overnight.

ACEC-V-MA- 19. Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity. Protective measures may include, but not be

limited to, improving access routes to recreational sites along the Snake River, installing barriers to protect relevant and important values, and implementing measures to address water quality and public health concerns.

ACEC-V-MA- 20. The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

ACEC-V-MA- 21. BLM-managed lands within the ACEC can be exchanged for non-BLM-managed lands, consistent with the *Land Tenure* section, in order to obtain lands with relevant and important values or to improve management. Where practical, acquire private or State inholdings. The ACEC designation and management would apply to lands acquired within the ACEC boundary.

ACEC-V-MA- 22. The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

ACEC-V-MA- 23. Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

Objective

Sagebrush Sea ACEC

ACEC-V-O- 3. Manage the lands within the Sagebrush Sea ACEC to protect their cultural, fish, wildlife, and botanical values.

Allocations

Sagebrush Sea ACEC

ACEC-V-A- 3. Manage 958,000 acres of public land as the Sagebrush Sea ACEC (Map 111).

Management Actions

Sagebrush Sea ACEC

ACEC-V-MA- 24. All actions within the portions of the ACEC that are also within WSAs must be consistent with the IMP and with allocations and management actions made for WSAs.

ACEC-V-MA- 25. Improving, expanding, connecting, and restoring native plant communities through active and passive treatments for fuels, noxious weeds, invasive plants, and non-native perennial plant communities would be a high priority within the ACEC.

ACEC-V-MA- 26. Implement management actions that improve riparian condition and reduce habitat fragmentation in redband trout occupied streams.

ACEC-V-MA- 27. Within 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat, use of domestic sheep or goats to reduce noxious weeds would not be allowed to eliminate potential contact of domestic sheep or goats with bighorn sheep.

ACEC-V-MA- 28. Treatments would include only native plants. Special stipulations would apply for treatments in occupied slickspot and Davis peppergrass habitats, such as establishing buffer areas and not allowing aerial spraying in occupied habitat.

ACEC-V-MA- 29. Restore playas occupied by Davis peppergrass to improve natural hydrologic function and habitat on a case-by-case basis. Restoration activities may include filling pit reservoirs, stabilizing erosion areas, and planting native species with similar pollinators.

ACEC-V-MA- 30. BLM management activities and authorized uses would result in no net loss of native vegetation; this restriction would not apply to fire suppression activities.

ACEC-V-MA- 31. Manage the majority of the ACEC as VRM Class III, where not otherwise designated VRM Class I or II (see the *Visual Resources* section).

ACEC-V-MA- 32. The ACEC would be a Critical Suppression Area.

ACEC-V-MA- 33. Livestock grazing would be at reduced utilization levels.

ACEC-V-MA- 34. Livestock seasons of use or stocking rates would be adjusted within the ACEC on a pasture-specific basis to minimize conflicts with bighorn sheep lambing and sage-grouse breeding and nesting periods (Appendix H) and the active growing period of native grasses.

ACEC-V-MA- 35. Reduce livestock infrastructure and associated routes to amounts appropriate to ACEC objectives and the levels of livestock grazing within the ACEC. Livestock water troughs, corrals, or other related livestock facilities in reference areas within the Sagebrush ACEC would be removed. Pipelines would remain in the ground to minimize disturbance.

ACEC-V-MA- 36. Monitor recreational use within the ACEC. If this use reaches levels that impair the relevant and important values of the ACEC, implement protective measures appropriate to the type of recreational activity. Protective measures may include but not be limited to designating camping areas within the ACEC; requiring the use of certified weed-free forage and straw; and installing protective barriers to protect relevant and important values.

ACEC-V-MA- 37. Routes would be designated through the CTTMP to increase core habitat size for sage-grouse.

ACEC-V-MA- 38. The ACEC would be a ROW avoidance area; new ROWs would be restricted to ROW corridors and locations of existing ROWs.

ACEC-V-MA- 39. Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1; where practical, private and/or State inholdings would be acquired. Lands acquired within the ACEC would become part of the ACEC.

ACEC-V-MA- 40. The ACEC would be available for salable mineral development. Where practical, use existing mineral pits and minimize new salable mineral developments within the ACEC. Seasonal closures that restrict use or activities at the pits during important seasonal periods for fish and wildlife may be included when existing salable mineral permits are reauthorized and in new permits.

Objective

Sand Point ACEC

ACEC-V-O- 4. Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC to protect their historic, cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.

Allocation

Sand Point ACEC

ACEC-V-A- 4. Manage 950 acres of public land as the Sand Point ACEC (Map 111).

Management Actions

Sand Point ACEC

ACEC-V-MA- 41. Manage paleontological resources within the ACEC in accordance with the 1988 Sand Point Natural History Management Plan. Modify the 1988 plan to encompass the Morgan property extension and to be in conformance with the revised RMP.

ACEC-V-MA- 42. The ACEC would be closed to fossil collecting except under permit for scientific research.

ACEC-V-MA- 43. Limit BLM management activities and authorized and allowed uses that may contribute to wind or water erosion in the ACEC.

ACEC-V-MA- 44. Work cooperatively with adjacent land owners to reduce or eliminate run-off from the agricultural fields that erode soils within the ACEC.

ACEC-V-MA- 45. No surface-disturbing activities would be allowed unless they are directly related to studies or research on the cultural, paleontological, or geological resources present or unless they can be mitigated.

ACEC-V-MA- 46. MIST would be used to suppress wildland fires within the ACEC to protect the paleontological resources. The authorized officer may allow the use of bull dozers to construct control lines within the ACEC on a case-by-case basis. However, dozer lines would be rehabilitated to minimize erosion.

ACEC-V-MA- 47. Manage the ACEC as VRM Class III, except within the Oregon NHT protective corridor, which would be managed as VRM Class II.

ACEC-V-MA- 48. The ACEC would not be available for livestock grazing.

ACEC-V-MA- 49. Motorized vehicle use within the ACEC would be limited to designated routes.

ACEC-V-MA- 50. Consider upgrading the Wilson Grade Road if there is increased need for access for fire suppression activities or research.

ACEC-V-MA- 51. Structures directly related to the preservation or interpretation of the site may be allowed (e.g., kiosks, protective barriers).

ACEC-V-MA- 52. The ACEC would be a ROW exclusion area.

ACEC-V-MA- 53. Lands within the ACEC would be in Land Tenure Zone 1.

ACEC-V-MA- 54. The ACEC would be closed to mineral leasing.

ACEC-V-MA- 55. The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.

ACEC-V-MA- 56. Recommend lands within the ACEC for withdrawal from mining laws for locatable exploration and development.

2.5.2. National Historic Trails (NHTs)

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective	Management Actions
NHT-NA-O- 1. Protect and manage the Oregon NHT to preserve all remaining ruts and trail features; develop an interpretive marker program, signing, and facilities to serve trail users; and nominate to the National Register.	**NHT-NA-MA- 1.** Manage the Oregon NHT in accordance with guidelines established in the National Park Service Plan and in accordance with provisions of PL 90-543 and PL 95-625. **NHT-NA-MA- 2.** Develop a cultural plan for the Oregon Trail. **NHT-NA-MA- 3.** Develop a Recreation Activity Management Plan for the Oregon Trail. **NHT-NA-MA- 4.** Manage the Oregon Trail protective corridor as VRM Class I.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

NHT-CA-G- 1. The Oregon NHT corridor would be managed to preserve and protect the historic, scenic, and recreational values associated with the trail.

Objective	Management Actions
NHT-CA-O- 1. Protect, preserve, and provide opportunities to experience the historic, scenic, and recreational values of the Oregon NHT.	**NHT-CA-MA- 1.** Update BLM's 1984 Oregon Trail Management Plan and ensure consistency with the National Park Service's 1999 Oregon NHT Comprehensive Management and Use Plan. **NHT-CA-MA- 2.** Until the 1984 plan is updated and unless otherwise directed in this document, continue to manage the Trail in accordance with the 1984 plan and in cooperation with the National Park Service. **NHT-CA-MA- 3.** The protective corridor of the Oregon NHT includes 1/4 mile on either side of the trail or the visual horizon, whichever is less. **NHT-CA-MA- 4.** Manage the Oregon NHT protective corridor as an avoidance area for surface-disturbing activities, including but not limited to: • Placement of salting, supplemental feeding, watering, and holding facilities for livestock; • Staging areas for recreational activities and events; and • Staging areas for fire suppression and rehabilitation activities.

NHT-CA-MA- 5. If use of a designated route within the Oregon NHT protective corridor is degrading the trail, the route would be modified or closed.

NHT-CA-MA- 6. Manage the Oregon NHT protective corridor as VRM Class II; the foreground of the trail (1.25 miles on either side beyond the protective corridor) as well as the existing ROW corridors would be managed according to the *Visual Resources* section.

NHT-CA-MA- 7. Design and implement restoration projects to mitigate the effects of natural and human-caused disturbances within the Oregon NHT protective corridor.

NHT-CA-MA- 8. Lands within the Oregon NHT protective corridor are not available for disposal; non-BLM lands within the corridor are a high priority for acquisition.

NHT-CA-MA- 9. Recommend the Oregon NHT protective corridor for withdrawal from mineral entry.

NHT-CA-MA- 10. The Oregon NHT protective corridor is open to leasable mineral exploration and development with NSO.

NHT-CA-MA- 11. The Oregon NHT protective corridor is closed to new salable mineral development. Existing salable mineral developments could be renewed but the footprint could not be expanded.

NHT-CA-MA- 12. Proposed land use actions that could affect the Oregon NHT or the protective corridor would be analyzed to identify mitigation needs and ensure compliance with management objectives.

NHT-CA-MA- 13. Developments such as roads, trails, pipelines, and power lines may be allowed to cross the Oregon NHT in areas where previous disturbance has occurred and after consultation with SHPO.

NHT-CA-MA- 14. Surface-disturbing equipment, such as bulldozers and road graders, cannot be used on the Oregon NHT or within the protective corridor without management approval, unless to protect life or property.

NHT-CA-MA- 15. Use techniques that minimize surface disturbance within the Oregon NHT protective corridor during seeding projects (emergency stabilization, burned area rehabilitation, fuels treatments, or restoration). Trail remnants would not be disturbed during seeding operations.

NHT-CA-MA- 16. Minimize or prevent human-caused damage to Oregon NHT, including vandalism, unauthorized surface collection of artifacts, and unintentional disturbances, through educational and interpretive outreach programs.

NHT-CA-MA- 17. Install and maintain signs identifying the routes of the Oregon NHT.

2.5.3. Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs)

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal and Objective

WSR-NA-G- 1. Protect the scenic and recreational values of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers through special designation and management.

Objective

See *Goal and Objective*.

Allocations

See allocations in *Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives*.

Management Actions

WSR-NA-MA- 1. The Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers would be managed as components of the National Wild and Scenic River System until Congress acts.

WSR-NA-MA- 2. Recommend the rim-to-rim corridor surrounding the suitable segments of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers for withdrawal from mineral entry.

WSR-NA-MA- 3. Create a utility avoidance area for 121 miles of suitable WSR segments.

Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives

Goal

See goals in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objectives in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

WSR-C-A- 1. Segments recommended suitable for inclusion in the WSR system include:

- The Bruneau River from Blackrock Crossing to Hot Creek, and
- The Jarbidge River from the Jarbidge Forks to Bruneau River confluence.

WSR-C-A- 2. Segments eligible for inclusion in the WSR system include:

- Salmon Falls Creek from the Nevada border to Salmon Falls Reservoir and from Salmon Falls Dam to Balanced Rock Park;
- The Three Island, King Hill, and Hagerman reaches of the Snake River;
- Jarbidge River from the FO boundary to the Jarbidge Forks;
- Jarbidge River, East Fork from the FO boundary to Murphy Hot Springs and from Murphy Hot Springs to the Jarbidge Forks;
- Cougar Point Creek from the FO boundary to Jarbidge River, East Fork confluence; and
- Rocky Canyon Creek from its headwaters to Salmon Falls Creek, North Fork confluence.

Management Actions

See management specific to each alternative and in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal and Objective

WSR-CA-G- 1. Maintain or enhance the ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification of designated, suitable, and eligible WSR segments.

Objective

See *Goal and Objective*.

Allocations

See allocations in *Management Common to the No Action Alternative and All Action Alternatives*.

Management Actions

WSR-CA-MA- 1. Manage the designated segments of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers to maintain or enhance their ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and classification.

WSR-CA-MA- 2. Manage the suitable segments of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers to maintain or enhance their ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification until Congress acts.

WSR-CA-MA- 3. Protect or enhance the qualifying values of eligible segments pending a subsequent suitability determination or designation decision by Congress: their free-flowing characteristics cannot be modified, their ORVs and water quality are to be maintained or enhanced, and their tentative classification is to be maintained.

WSR-CA-MA- 4. Conduct suitability study and make suitability determinations on eligible segments entirely within the planning area within five years; coordinate suitability studies on segments forming the boundary with other FOs with those offices.

WSR-CA-MA- 5. Recommend designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors for withdrawal from mineral entry.

WSR-CA-MA- 6. Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be a ROW avoidance area; however, the existing utility corridor south of Murphy Hot Springs on Jarbidge River, East Fork and Jarbidge River would be retained. New ROWs within designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors must maintain/enhance the river segment's ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification.

WSR-CA-MA- 7. If, through legislation, Congress decides not to designate a suitable segment as part of the Wild and Scenic River System, the protective management outlined in this section would no longer apply and these segments would be managed according to direction in other sections of the RMP

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

See allocations in *Management Common to the No Action Alternative and All Action Alternatives*.

Management Actions

WSR-I-MA- 1. Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be closed to salable mineral development.

WSR-I-MA- 2. Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be closed to mineral leasing.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

See allocations in *Management Common to the No Action Alternative and All Action Alternatives*.

Management Actions

WSR-II-MA- 1. Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be open to salable mineral development.

WSR-II-MA- 2. Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be open to mineral leasing with no surface occupancy.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

See allocations in *Management Common to the No Action Alternative and All Action Alternatives*.

Management Actions

WSR-III-MA- 1. Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be closed to salable mineral development.

WSR-III-MA- 2. Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be open to mineral leasing with NSO.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

See allocations in *Management Common to the No Action Alternative and All Action Alternatives*.

Management Actions

WSR-IV-MA- 1. Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be closed to salable mineral development.

WSR-IV-MA- 2. Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be closed to mineral leasing.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

See allocations in *Management Common to the No Action Alternative and All Action Alternatives*.

Management Actions

WSR-V-MA- 1. Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be closed to salable mineral development.

WSR-V-MA- 2. Designated, suitable, and eligible WSR corridors would be closed to mineral leasing.

2.5.4. Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal and Objective

WSA-NA-G- 1. Manage 19,360 acres for wilderness in the planning area.

Objective

See *Goal and Objective*.

Allocations

See allocations in *Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives*.

Management Actions

WSA-NA-MA- 1. Manage the Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA, Jarbidge River WSA, and the Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA under the provisions of the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendations.

WSA-NA-MA- 2. Areas designated as wilderness by Congress would be managed in accordance with BLM wilderness management policy. Specific management provisions would be formulated in a

wilderness management plan developed for each area following designation.

WSA-NA-MA- 3. Areas determined by Congress to be nonsuitable for wilderness designation would be managed for other purposes. The tentative management scheme developed during the planning process would be given final consideration following Congressional action on the President's suitability recommendations. The following development is recommended in the Bruneau-Sheep Creek WSA and the Jarbidge River WSA if Congress does not designate these areas as wilderness:

- 14,600 acres of prescribed burning and drill seeding or interseeding specifically for wildlife,
- 1,500 acres of brush control and seeding,
- 4.3 miles of pasture fence,
- 1 spring development,
- 2 reservoir developments, and
- 1.4 miles of pipeline.

WSA-NA-MA- 4. Modify fences to allow for pronghorn and mule deer passage in areas where wildlife needs are not being met.

WSA-NA-MA- 5. Adjust livestock season of use, if necessary, to resolve any conflicts on mule deer, pronghorn and bighorn sheep ranges. These adjustments would entail the reduction in spring or fall livestock grazing use or excluding grazing use from a specific period(s) of a grazing year. Season of use changes would be made after monitoring is completed, and along with other needed grazing use adjustments, or when activity plans are completed. Priority would be given to resolving conflicts on crucial wildlife habitat areas in poor ecological condition.

Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives

Goal

See goals in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objectives in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative* and *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

WSA-C-A- 1. The Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA rim-to-rim and the Jarbidge River WSA rim-to-rim are recommended as suitable for wilderness.

WSA-C-A- 2. The plateaus within the Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA and Jarbidge River WSA, as well as the entire Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA are recommended nonsuitable for wilderness.

Management Actions

See management actions in *Management Specific to the No Action Alternative, Management Common to All Action Alternatives*, and management specific to each alternative.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal and Objective

WSA-CA-G- 1. Manage the Jarbidge River WSA, Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA, and Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA according to the IMP until designated as wilderness or released by Congress.

Objective

See *Goal and Objective*.

Allocations

See allocations in *Management Common to the No Action and All Action Alternatives*.

Management Actions

WSA-CA-MA- 1. Manage the Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA (64,000 acres), Jarbidge River WSA (28,000 acres), and Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA (2,000 acres) to preserve their wilderness values according to the IMP (BLM-H-8550-1) and continue to manage them in that manner until Congress either designates the lands as wilderness or releases them for other uses.

WSA-CA-MA- 2. Manage any designated wilderness according to the IMP until a Wilderness Management Plan is developed.

WSA-CA-MA- 3. Continue to manage released lands within ACEC, WSR, or SRMA boundaries according to management specified for the ACEC, WSR, or SRMA.

Management Specific to Alternative I

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

See allocations in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Action

WSA-I-MA- 1. If any lands within WSAs are released by Congress from wilderness study, manage the released lands in accordance with the associated legislation. If not otherwise directed by legislation, they would not be managed for their wilderness characteristics, but instead would be managed according to direction for adjacent non-wilderness lands.

Management Specific to Alternative II

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

See allocations in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Action

WSA-II-MA- 1. If any lands within WSAs are released by Congress from wilderness study, manage the released lands in accordance with the associated legislation. If not otherwise directed by

legislation, they would not be managed for their wilderness characteristics, but instead would be managed according to direction for adjacent non-wilderness lands.

Management Specific to Alternative III

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

See allocations in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Action

WSA-III-MA- 1. If any lands within WSAs are released by Congress from wilderness study, manage the released lands in accordance with the associated legislation. If not otherwise directed by legislation, they would not be managed for their wilderness characteristics, but instead would be managed according to direction for adjacent non-wilderness lands.

Management Specific to Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative)

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

See allocations in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Action

WSA-IV-MA- 1. If any lands within WSAs are released by Congress from wilderness study, manage the released lands in accordance with the associated legislation. If not otherwise directed by legislation, they would be managed for their wilderness characteristics according to the direction in the *Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics* section.

Management Specific to Alternative V

Goal

See goal in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Objective

See objective in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Allocations

See allocations in *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*.

Management Action

WSA-V-MA- 1. If any lands within WSAs are released by Congress from wilderness study, manage the released lands in accordance with the associated legislation. If not otherwise directed by legislation, they would be managed for their wilderness characteristics according to the direction in the *Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics* section.

2.6. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FEATURES

2.6.1. Social and Economic Conditions

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective	Management Actions
No objective stated.	**SE-NA-MA- 1.** BLM will ensure any management action undertaken in connection with this plan is cost-effective and takes into account local social and economic factors. Cost-effectiveness may be determined by any method deemed appropriate by the Bureau for the specific management action involved.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

SE-CA-G- 1. Management of the resources and uses of public lands would provide social and economic benefits to residents, businesses, visitors, and future generations.

Objective	Management Actions
SE-CA-O- 1. Provide opportunities for economic and social benefit while maintaining natural and cultural resource values.	**SE-CA-MA- 1.** Planning for BLM management activities and authorized uses would consider whether the activity or action could be designed to support the social, economic, and environmental health and sustainability of affected communities of place. **SE-CA-MA- 2.** Consider proposals from communities of place and interest that contribute to their social, economic, and environmental health and sustainability.

2.6.2. Hazardous Materials

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective	Management Actions
No objective stated.	No management actions stated.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal

HM-CA-G- 1. Ensure hazardous materials concerns on public lands remain a high priority.

Objective	Management Actions
HM-CA-O- 1. Mitigate issues related to hazardous materials.	**HM-CA-MA- 1.** Storage, treatment, or disposal of hazardous waste on public lands would not be allowed or permitted.

HM-CA-MA- 2. Use law enforcement and public outreach to discourage the disposal of hazardous waste on public lands.

HM-CA-MA- 3. Hazardous materials related to active mining is regulated by the Mining Safety and Health Administration (PL 91 173, Federal Mine Safety & Health Act of 1977); otherwise, storage and use of hazardous materials on public lands would not be allowed without BLM authorization.

HM-CA-MA- 4. Responses to hazardous materials incidents and sites will be as outlined and approved by the contingency plans for hazardous materials incidents (e.g., 2005 *Idaho BLM Contingency Plan for Hazardous Materials Incidents* and 2001 *Lower Snake River District Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan*).

HM-CA-MA- 5. Identify and mitigate unauthorized dumping sites and hazardous materials spills in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local regulations.

HM-CA-MA- 6. Develop interagency agreements with local law enforcement agencies to facilitate the enforcement of illegal dumping and hazardous material laws.

HM-CA-MA- 7. Coordinate with local government agencies during hazardous materials prevention and response activities.

2.6.3. Interpretation, Outreach, and Environmental Education

Management Specific to the No Action Alternative

Goal

No goal stated.

Objective	Management Actions
No objective stated.	No management actions stated.

Management Common to All Action Alternatives

Goal and Objective

IOE-CA-G- 1. Working with partners, provide interpretation, outreach, and environmental education to highlight the natural, cultural, and historic features of the planning area and to further resource protection and public safety.

Objective	Management Actions
See *Goal and Objective*.	**IOE-CA-MA- 1.** Focus education, interpretation, and outreach on resources and activities occurring within the planning area. **IOE-CA-MA- 2.** Partner with the tribes and Federal, State, and local agencies to educate the public on resource protection through activities such as education tours, kiosks at major entrances to the planning area, interpretive signs at OHV staging areas, information on the identification, control, and prevention of noxious weeds and invasive plants, and programs such as Tread Lightly!® and Leave No Trace®.

IOE-CA-MA- 3. Create displays highlighting natural, cultural, and historic features of the planning area for use at area fairs, schools, public lands day, and other events.

IOE-CA-MA- 4. Participate in events that educate youth about natural resources.

IOE-CA-MA- 5. Minimize or prevent human-caused damage to public land resources, including vandalism, illegal dumping, and unauthorized surface collection of fossils and artifacts, through educational and interpretive outreach programs.

IOE-CA-MA- 6. Foster the public's understanding of the role of fire in the ecosystem and the hazards associated with living in the WUI, and wildland fire prevention and suppression activities through methods such as:

- Tracting door to door,
- Using mass media,
- Providing outreach to local groups,
- Developing interpretive signs and kiosks, and
- Participating in the County Wildfire Protection Plan.

IOE-CA-MA- 7. Provide interpretation and education on special designations such as the Oregon NHT, WSAs, WSRs, and ACECs.

IOE-CA-MA- 8. Provide education and outreach on resource protection for recreational users.

2.7. MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF RMP DECISIONS

The regulations in 43 CFR 1610.4-9 require that land use plans establish intervals and standards for monitoring, based on the sensitivity of the resource decisions. Land use plan monitoring is the process of tracking the implementation of land use plan decisions (implementation monitoring) and collecting data/information necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of land use plan decisions (effectiveness monitoring). Appendix P describes the process to be used for monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of RMP decisions; other monitoring BLM conducts for other purposes are not described in this section.

2.8. SUMMARY TABLES

2.8.1. Summary Comparison of Alternatives

Table 2- 5 provides a summary of the primary differences between the six alternatives; differences between the two sub-alternatives of Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative) are described only where they occur. In general, only those resources and uses that have been identified as being a planning issue or are related to a planning issue have differences between the action alternatives.

Differences between the wording of goals, objectives, allocations, and management actions in the main text of Chapter 2 and the wording in the summary table should not be construed to confine or redefine management contained within alternatives. Some wording was modified to be more concise in the summary table. Sections are summarized in the order in which they appear in Chapter 2.

Table 2- 5. Summary Comparison of Alternatives

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Tribal Rights and Interests (TI)					
No goal stated.	***Goal TI-CA-G- 1. Manage public lands to protect resources and values associated with Native American treaty rights.*** ***Goal TI-CA-G- 2. Manage natural and cultural resources of importance to the tribes in a manner that respects tribal beliefs, traditions, and values.***				
Resources – Air and Atmospheric Values (AAV)					
No goal stated. *No objective stated.*	***Goal AAV-CA-G-1. Ensure BLM management activities and authorized uses contribute to maintaining the quality of the planning area's air resources.*** • Objective AAV-CA-O-1. Maintain the quality of air resources and limit impacts to air quality to meet NAAQS and DEQ air quality standards.				
Resources – Geologic Features (GE)					
No goal stated. *No objective stated.*	***Goal GE-CA-G- 1. Manage unique geologic features for their tribal, scientific, recreational, and educational use.*** • Objective GE-CA-O- 1. Protect unique geologic features and provide opportunities for their use and enjoyment.				
Resources – Soil Resources (SR)					
No goal stated. • Objective SR-NA-O- 1. Manage soils to maintain productivity and to minimize erosion.	***Goal SR-CA-G- 1. Maintain or enhance biological and physical functions and stability of soils.*** • Objective SR-CA-O- 1. Manage resources and uses to maintain or enhance biological and physical functions and stability of soils.				
Resources – Water Resources (WR)					
No goal stated. • Objective WR-NA-O- 1. Maintain or improve water quality in accordance with State and Federal standards.	***Goal WR-CA-G- 1. Maintain or improve the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of water resources.*** • Objective WR-CA-O- 1. Make progress towards meeting State and Federal water quality standards.				

<table>
<tr><th>No Action Alternative</th><th>Alternative I</th><th>Alternative II</th><th>Alternative III</th><th>Alternative IV</th><th>Alternative V</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Resources – Vegetation Communities – Upland Vegetation (UV)</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">No goal stated.</td><td colspan="5">Goal UV-CA-G- 1. Manage upland vegetation communities to promote soil stability, water infiltration, nutrient cycling, and energy flow; provide habitat for sage-grouse and other sagebrush steppe obligates; and provide for multiple use.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Goal UV-I-G- 1. Manage vegetation to enhance and sustain existing and historic uses and to improve big game winter range and habitat for sage-grouse.</td><td>Goal UV-II-G- 1. Manage vegetation to increase commercial uses while maintaining native plant communities and habitat for sage-grouse.</td><td>Goal UV-III-G- 1. Manage vegetation to reduce fire size and intensity while maintaining habitat for sage-grouse.</td><td>Goal UV-IV-G- 1. Manage vegetation to restore the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function and reduce fragmentation of habitat for sage-grouse and other native species.</td><td>Goal UV-V-G- 1. Manage vegetation to move toward historic vegetation communities by sustaining, improving, or increasing native plant communities that provide habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.</td></tr>
<tr>
<td>• Objective UV-NA-O- 1. Improve lands in poor ecological condition across the planning area. Improve lands in Salmon Falls Creek Canyon through natural plant succession and removal of livestock. Maintain lands that are in good and excellent ecological condition in the Bruneau-Sheep Creek and Jarbidge WSAs.
• Objective UV-NA-O- 2. Maintain non-native perennial communities.</td>
<td>• Objective UV-I-O- 1. Manage vegetation in VMA A to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table>
<tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr>
<tr><td>Annual</td><td>50,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>97,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>5,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>32,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>32,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>2,500</td></tr>
</table></td>
<td>• Objective UV-II-O- 1. Manage vegetation in VMA A to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table>
<tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr>
<tr><td>Annual</td><td>30,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>140,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>5,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>25,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>17,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>2,500</td></tr>
</table></td>
<td>• Objective UV-III-O- 1. Manage vegetation in VMA A to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table>
<tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr>
<tr><td>Annual</td><td>37,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>130,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>5,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>25,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>17,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>5,000</td></tr>
</table></td>
<td>• Objective UV-IV-O- 1. Manage vegetation in VMA A to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table>
<tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr>
<tr><td>Annual</td><td>30,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>87,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>5,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>12,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>82,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>2,500</td></tr>
</table></td>
<td>• Objective UV-V-O- 1. Manage vegetation in VMA A to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table>
<tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr>
<tr><td>Annual</td><td>55,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>72,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>30,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>25,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>35,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>2,500</td></tr>
</table></td>
</tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>No Action Alternative</th><th>Alternative I</th><th>Alternative II</th><th>Alternative III</th><th>Alternative IV</th><th>Alternative V</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Maintain non-native perennial communities for livestock on 349,000 acres throughout the planning area.

Implement seeding treatments for livestock on 11,000 acres in the Jarbidge Foothills and Diamond A Desert.

Implement brush control and seeding treatments for livestock on 13,000 acres in the middle third of the planning area.

Implement brush control treatments for livestock on 32,000 acres, primarily in the southern half of the planning area.

Implement interseeding or reseeding treatments for wildlife on 9,000 acres, primarily in the southern half of the planning area.</td><td>• Objective UV-I-O- 2. Manage vegetation in VMA B to achieve the VSG acres below:<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>17,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>147,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>17,500</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>97,500</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>335,000</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>15,000</td></tr></table></td><td>• Objective UV-II-O- 2. Manage vegetation in VMA B to achieve the VSG acres below:<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>7,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>220,000</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>17,500</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>195,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>175,000</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>15,000</td></tr></table></td><td>• Objective UV-III-O- 2. Manage vegetation in VMA B to achieve the VSG acres below:<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>10,000</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>215,000</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>25,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>90,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>270,000</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>20,000</td></tr></table></td><td>• Objective UV-IV-O- 2. Manage vegetation in VMA B to achieve the VSG acres below:<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>7,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>65,000</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>72,500</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>97,500</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>372,500</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>15,000</td></tr></table></td><td>• Objective UV-V-O- 2. Manage vegetation in VMA B to achieve the VSG acres below:<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>17,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>60,000</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>150,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>130,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>257,500</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>15,000</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>• Objective UV-I-O- 3. Manage vegetation in VMA C to achieve the VSG acres below:<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>7,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>37,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>5,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>65,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>195,000</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>2,500</td></tr></table></td><td>• Objective UV-II-O- 3. Manage vegetation in VMA C to achieve the VSG acres below:<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>7,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>67,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>10,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>132,500</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>92,500</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>2,500</td></tr></table></td><td>• Objective UV-III-O- 3. Manage vegetation in VMA C to achieve the VSG acres below:<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>7,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>60,000</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>22,500</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>60,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>157,500</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>5,000</td></tr></table></td><td>• Objective UV-IV-O- 3. Manage vegetation in VMA C to achieve the VSG acres below:<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>7,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>50,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>32,500</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>220,000</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>2,500</td></tr></table></td><td>• Objective UV-V-O- 3. Manage vegetation in VMA C to achieve the VSG acres below:<table><tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr><tr><td>Annual</td><td>7,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>17,500</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>62,500</td></tr><tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>65,000</td></tr><tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>157,500</td></tr><tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>2,500</td></tr></table></td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>No Action Alternative</th><th>Alternative I</th><th>Alternative II</th><th>Alternative III</th><th>Alternative IV</th><th>Alternative V</th></tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Objective UV-I-O- 4. Manage vegetation in VMA D to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table>
<tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr>
<tr><td>Annual</td><td>2,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>15,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>12,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>17,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>152,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>10,000</td></tr>
</table></td>
<td>• Objective UV-II-O- 4. Manage vegetation in VMA D to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table>
<tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr>
<tr><td>Annual</td><td>2,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>20,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>72,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>105,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>10,000</td></tr>
</table></td>
<td>• Objective UV-III-O- 4. Manage vegetation in VMA D to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table>
<tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr>
<tr><td>Annual</td><td>2,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>7,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>10,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>55,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>125,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>10,000</td></tr>
</table></td>
<td>• Objective UV-IV-O- 4. Manage vegetation in VMA D to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table>
<tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr>
<tr><td>Annual</td><td>2,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>5,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>7,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>185,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>10,000</td></tr>
</table></td>
<td>• Objective UV-V-O- 4. Manage vegetation in VMA D to achieve the VSG acres below:
<table>
<tr><th>VSG</th><th>Acres</th></tr>
<tr><td>Annual</td><td>2,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Perennial</td><td>2,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>Non-Native Understory</td><td>15,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Grassland</td><td>25,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native Shrubland</td><td>155,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Unvegetated Areas</td><td>10,000</td></tr>
</table></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The priority for vegetation treatments would be:
• Areas with unacceptable soil loss.
• Areas where grazing is at levels below preference.
• Areas where excessive annual vegetation is causing management problems or economic burdens.
• Areas where unacceptable wildlife habitat condition exists.
• Area for overall multiple use</td>
<td>Focus restoration treatments on habitat for sage-grouse, other special status species, and mule deer.

The priority for vegetation treatments would be:
• Treatments in VMA C to improve habitat for mule deer and sage-grouse.
• Treatments in VMA A to move toward perennial vegetation.</td>
<td>Focus restoration treatments on habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.

The priority for vegetation treatments would be:
• Treatments in VMA A to increase perennial forage for livestock.
• Treatments in VMA B to increase forage for livestock.</td>
<td>Focus vegetation treatments on protecting or restoring habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.

The priority for vegetation treatments would be:
• Treatments in VMA A to help lengthen the fire return interval.
• Treatments in VMA D to protect native shrubland communities.</td>
<td>Focus restoration treatments on habitat for sage-grouse, other special status species, mule deer, and pronghorn.

The priority for vegetation treatments would be:
• Treatments in VMA D to improve sage-grouse habitat.
• Treatments in VMA C to reconnect and expand habitat for sage-grouse.</td>
<td>Focus restoration treatments on habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.

The priority for vegetation treatments would be:
• Treatments in VMA A to move toward native perennial vegetation.
• Treatments in VMA C to reconnect and expand habitat for sage-grouse.</td>
</tr>
</table>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
improvement using seed mixtures for both wildlife and livestock.					
Targeted grazing and prescribed fire could be used as tools for vegetation treatments. Chemical control of sagebrush would not be allowed.	Targeted grazing could be used as a tool for vegetation treatments. Prescribed fire would not be allowed.	Targeted grazing could be used as a tool for vegetation treatments. Prescribed fire would not be allowed in native grassland or native shrubland communities.	Targeted grazing and prescribed fire could be used as tools for vegetation treatments.	Same as Alternative III.	Removal of grazing and prescribed fire could be used as tools for vegetation treatments. Targeted grazing would not be allowed. Chemical treatments could only be used after other methods have been exhausted.
Upland vegetation treatments **may use native species, including cultivars of native species, and non-native species** Projects to improve ecological condition to benefit wildlife or livestock will use seed mixtures that are normally found in that ecological zone.	Upland vegetation treatments **may use native species, including cultivars of native species, and non-native species**. Native species would be used when practical, with special emphasis on species of importance to the tribes.	**Non-native species** would be primarily used in upland vegetation treatments. **Fire-tolerant species would also be used**, primarily in annual communities.	**Fire-tolerant and fire-resistant species would have high priority** for upland vegetation treatments. Treatments **may also use other native species, including cultivars of native species, and non-native species**.	Same as Alternative I.	Upland vegetation treatments **may use only native species or cultivars of native species**.
No similar management action.	Create **75** ungrazed reference areas (**12,000 acres**) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities.	Create **52** ungrazed reference areas (**2,000 acres**) in native grassland and native shrubland communities, as well as non-native perennial communities that have burned multiple times in the last 20 years.	Create **75** ungrazed reference areas (**3,000 acres**) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities.	Same as Alternative I.	Create **40** ungrazed reference areas (**193,000 acres**) in annual, non-native perennial, non-native understory, native grassland, and native shrubland communities.
No similar management action.	Implement drought management guidelines during periods of drought to maintain or achieve long-term resource productivity (Appendix F).				
No similar management action.	Rest vegetation treatment areas from uses, including but not limited to livestock and wild horse grazing and recreational use, until treatment objectives are met and are predicted to be sustainable. This guideline would not apply to uses that do not conflict with the treatment objectives.				

<table>
<tr><th>No Action Alternative</th><th>Alternative I</th><th>Alternative II</th><th>Alternative III</th><th>Alternative IV</th><th>Alternative V</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Resources – Vegetation Communities – Riparian Areas and Wetlands (RI)</td></tr>
<tr><td>No goal stated.</td><td colspan="5">Goal RI-CA-G- 1. Provide healthy, functioning watersheds, riparian areas, and associated aquatic habitats.</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Objective RI-NA-O- 1. Maintain 1987 condition of riparian habitat in the northern half of the planning area, as well as the Diamond A Desert. Improve 44 miles of riparian habitat in the remainder of the planning area.</td><td>• Objective RI-I-O- 1. Maintain 85 miles of Priority 3 streams at PFC. Improve 60 miles of Priority 1 streams to achieve PFC. Improve the remaining 17 miles of Priority 1 streams and 63 miles of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC.</td><td>• Objective RI-II-O- 1. Maintain 85 miles of Priority 3 streams at PFC. Improve 77 miles of Priority 1 streams and 63 miles of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC.</td><td>• Objective RI-III-O- 1. Maintain 85 miles of Priority 3 streams at PFC. Improve 77 miles of Priority 1 streams and 21 miles of Priority 2 streams to achieve PFC. Improve the remaining 42 miles of Priority 2 streams to be moving toward PFC.</td><td>• Objective RI-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative III.</td><td>• Objective RI-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative III.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Use a 100- to 300-foot riparian buffer zone to protect riparian vegetation, fisheries, and water quality. Within the riparian buffer zone activities such as new road construction, use of herbicides and pesticides, and gravel extraction would be limited. Some activities would be excluded within 500 feet of riparian areas.</td><td colspan="5">Create Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) around riparian areas and wetlands that contain special status species or their habitat to protect riparian vegetation, fisheries, and water quality. RCA widths would be as follows:
• Category 1 – Fish-bearing streams: approximately 300 feet from the edge of the stream
• Category 2 – Permanently flowing non-fish-bearing streams: approximately 150 feet from the edge of the stream
• Category 3 – Ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands greater than 1 acre: approximately 150 feet from the edge of the wetland, pond, or lake
• Category 4 – Seasonally flowing or intermittent streams, wetlands less than 1 acre, landslides, and landslide-prone areas: approximately 50 feet from the edge of the stream, wetland, or landslide-prone area

Implement the Aquatic and Riparian Management Strategy (ARMS; Appendix D) to achieve riparian management objectives in RCAs and other riparian areas and wetlands. Use adaptive management as outlined in the ARMS to reduce impacts on riparian areas and wetlands from uses and activities.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Riparian and wetland habitat would have a high priority for protection and improvement in accordance with national policy. Manage watersheds to maintain or improve stream channel stability and overall watershed conditions.</td><td colspan="5">Riparian management priorities would include the following:
• Priority 1 streams – Streams rated as FAR or FAR-DN (77 miles); management emphasis for Priority 1 streams would be on restoration.
• Priority 2 streams – Streams rated as FAR-UP or NF (63 miles); management emphasis for Priority 2 streams would be on restoration.
• Priority 3 streams – Streams rated at PFC (85 miles); management emphasis for Priority 3 streams would be on maintaining proper function.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Stream reaches with game fish or habitat suitable for game fish would be a high priority for restoration.</td><td>Fish-bearing stream reaches, including reaches containing game and non-game fish, would be a high priority for restoration.</td><td>Stream reaches/riparian areas with the potential to serve as fire breaks would be a high priority for restoration.</td><td>Stream reaches containing special status species or their habitat would be a high priority for restoration.</td><td>Stream reaches containing special status species or their habitat would be a high priority for restoration.</td></tr>
</table>

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
No similar management action.	Create **10** ungrazed riparian reference areas (**3,000 acres**).	Create **10** ungrazed riparian reference areas (**1,000 acres**).	Same as Alternative II.	Same as Alternative I.	Create **6** ungrazed riparian reference areas (**23,000 acres**).
Resources – Fish and Wildlife – Fish (FI)					
No goal stated. • Objective FI-NA-O- 1. Maintain 1987 condition of fish habitat in MUAs 7 and 13; improve 39 miles of fisheries habitat in MUAs 10, 11, 12, and 15.	***Goal FI-I-G- 1. Manage public lands to promote diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitats for fish.*** • Objective FI-I-O- 1. Maintain or improve streams so 70% of the miles of fish-bearing streams are properly functioning for fish. The remaining 30% of fish-bearing streams would be moving toward properly functioning for fish in the life of the plan.	***Goal FI-II-G- 1. Manage public lands to maintain or improve habitat for fish.*** • Objective FI-II-O- 1. Maintain or improve all fish-bearing streams so they remain or are moving toward properly functioning for fish in the life of the plan.	***Goal FI-III-G- 1. Manage public lands to maintain habitat for fish while reducing wildland fire size and intensity.*** • Objective FI-III-O- 1. Same as Alternative II.	***Goal FI-IV-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.*** • Objective FI-IV-O- 1. Maintain or improve streams so 70% of the miles of fish-bearing streams and their perennial tributaries are properly functioning for fish. The remaining 30% of miles of fish-bearing streams and their perennial tributaries are moving toward properly functioning for fish in the life of the plan.	***Goal FI-V-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.*** • Objective FI-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative IV.
Resources – Fish and Wildlife – Wildlife (WI)					
No goal stated. • Objective WI-NA-O- 1. Maintain present levels of upland game nesting and cover habitat in the northern third of the planning area and in the Bruneau-Sheep Creek and Jarbidge River WSAs. • Objective WI-NA-O- 2. Manage the cheatgrass study area for curlews.	***Goal WI-I-G- 1. Manage public lands to promote diverse, structured, resilient, and connected habitats for wildlife.*** • Objective WI-I-O- 1. Maintain or improve habitat for big game species by managing uses and activities and actively restoring annual, non-native perennial, and native	***Goal WI-II-G- 1. Manage public lands to maintain or improve habitat for wildlife.*** • Objective WI-II-O- 1. Maintain or improve wildlife habitat in native communities while promoting commercial uses throughout the planning area.	***Goal WI-III-G- 1. Manage public lands to maintain habitat for wildlife while reducing wildland fire size and intensity.*** • Objective WI-III-O- 1. Maintain wildlife habitat in native communities while reducing wildland fire size and intensity throughout the planning area.	***Goal WI-IV-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.*** • Objective WI-IV-O- 1. Maintain or improve wildlife habitat by managing uses and activities and actively restoring annual, non-native perennial, and native communities.	***Goal WI-V-G- 1. Same as Alternative I*** • Objective WI-V-O- 1. Maintain or improve wildlife habitat by managing uses and activities and actively restoring annual and non-native perennial communities toward

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
• Objective WI-NA-O-3. Manage wildlife habitat to provide a diversity of vegetation and habitats. • Objective WI-NA-O- 4. Manage big game habitat to support 7,360 winter mule deer, 2,565 mule deer year-round, 1,932 pronghorn; and 364 bighorn sheep.	communities.				historic vegetation communities.
Priority for habitat management would be given to habitat for **Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, Candidate, and other BLM Sensitive species.**	**Mule deer and special status species, including bighorn sheep and sage-grouse**, have the highest priority for habitat management; secondary priorities are **pronghorn, chukar, and pheasant**.	**Sage-grouse and other special status species** are priority species for habitat management.	Same as Alternative II.	**Sage-grouse, other special status species, mule deer, and pronghorn** are priority species for habitat management.	Same as Alternative II.
Resources – Special Status Species (SS)					
No goal stated.	***Goal SS-CA-G- 1. Manage public lands to contribute to the conservation and recovery of sage-grouse and other special status species.***				
• Objective SS-NA-O- 1. Protect and enhance Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive species habitats in order to maintain or enhance populations within the planning area. Enhance, restore and/or maintain habitat conditions and availability for special status species and prevent all avoidable loss of habitat.	• Objective SS-I-O- 1. Maintain or improve the quality and quantity of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species by managing public land activities to sustain or benefit those species.	• Objective SS-II-O- 1. Maintain or improve the quality of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species by managing public land activities to sustain or benefit those species.	• Objective SS-III-O- 1. Same as Alternative II.	• Objective SS-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.	• Objective SS-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Maintain present areas for sage-grouse nesting habitat in the East Devil area, and improve sage-grouse nesting in the Bruneau-Sheep Creek and Jarbidge River WSAs. Where applicable, *Guidelines for Habitat Protection in Sage Grouse Range* (1973), *Sage Grouse Management Practices* (Western States Sage Grouse Committee, 1982), and *Habitat Requirements and Management Recommendations for Sage Grouse* (Call, 1979) would be followed.	Follow conservation plans, agreements, and strategies for special status species. Implement management actions described in the *Upland Vegetation* section to maintain or improve habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species. Maintain or improve the habitat for special status species by protecting and restoring their habitat, controlling noxious weeds and invasive plants, and minimizing direct habitat disturbance. BLM guidelines for sage-grouse habitat management would be used (e.g., 2006 *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho*, Owyhee County and Jarbidge Local Working Group Sage-grouse Plans). Sage-grouse would be used as an umbrella species for other special status sagebrush-obligate species. Manage native shrubland communities in a landscape context to ensure that the seasonal habitat needs of sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate species are met across the planning area, where site conditions are suitable.				
Maintain a separation of use between cattle and bighorn sheep by not developing livestock water sources within 1 mile of bighorn sheep habitat unless adverse impacts can be mitigated.	Management in bighorn sheep habitat includes: • Removing troughs within 1 mile of canyon rims • Removing fences and corrals within 1 mile of canyon rims, except boundary fences • Locating new troughs, reservoirs, permanent fences, and corrals at least 1 mile from canyon rims	Management in bighorn sheep habitat includes: • Keeping existing troughs and reservoirs • Keeping existing fences and corrals • Locating new troughs, reservoirs, permanent fences, and corrals within bighorn sheep habitat if they do not conflict with bighorn sheep	Same as Alternative II.	Management in bighorn sheep habitat includes: • Removing troughs and reservoirs within 1 mile of habitat • Removing fences and corrals within 1 mile habitat, except boundary fences • Locating new troughs, reservoirs, permanent fences, and corrals at least 1 mile from habitat.	Same as Alternative IV.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Protect the aquatic habitat of Sensitive and Candidate species in the Snake River below Lower Salmon Falls Dam.	Implement the ARMS and other management actions in the *Riparian Areas and Wetlands* section to maintain or improve habitat for special status fish and aquatic invertebrates and other special status species dependent on riparian areas and wetlands. Identify and implement specific habitat improvement projects in redband trout habitat to reduce habitat fragmentation and promote their long-term recovery. Identify and implement specific habitat improvement projects for bull trout as identified in *the Draft Recovery Plan for the Jarbidge River Distinct Population Segment of Bull Trout* (FWS, 2004).				
Resources – Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants (NW)					
No goal stated.	***Goal NW-CA-G- 1. Manage public lands to prevent, eliminate, or control noxious weeds and invasive plants.***				
No objective stated.	• Objective NW-I-O- 1. Reduce the number of acres containing noxious weeds **by at least 10%;** reduce the number of noxious weed species present.	• Objective NW-II-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.	• Objective NW-III-O- 1. Manage uses and treat noxious weeds such that there is **no net increase** in the number of acres containing noxious weeds; reduce the number of noxious weed species present.	• Objective NW-IV-O- 1. Reduce the number of acres containing noxious weeds **by at least 50%;** reduce the number of noxious weed species present.	• Objective NW-V-O- 1. Reduce the number of acres containing noxious weeds **by at least 20%;** reduce the number of noxious weed species present.
No objective stated.	• Objective NW-I-O- 2. Reduce cover of invasive plants in native communities to **<5%**; reduce cover of invasive plants in non-native perennial and non-native understory communities to **<10%**.	• Objective NW-II-O- 2. Reduce cover of invasive plants in native communities to **<10%**; reduce cover of invasive plants in non-native perennial and non-native understory communities to **<15%**.	• Objective NW-III-O- 2. Reduce cover of invasive plants in native communities to **<5%**; reduce cover of invasive plants in non-native perennial and non-native understory communities to **<5%**.	• Objective NW-IV-O- 2. Same as Alternative I.	• Objective NW-V-O- 2. Same as Alternative I.
Resources – Wildland Fire Ecology and Management – Wildland Fire Management (WFM)					
No goal stated.	***Goal WFM-CA-G- 1. Fire management strategies would result in firefighter and public safety and protection of property and natural and cultural resources, while considering suppression and rehabilitation costs.***				

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
No objective stated.	• Objective WFM-I-O- 1. Strive to reduce average wildland fire size and number of human-caused fire starts within WUI. • Objective WFM-I-O- 2. Reduce acres burned in vegetation types outside WUI where more wildland fires have burned than desired/historic.	• Objective WFM-II-O- 1. Same as Alternative I. • Objective WFM-II-O- 2. Same as Alternative I.	• Objective WFM-III-O- 1. Strive to reduce average wildland fire size, number of human-caused fire starts, and number of acres burned within and outside WUI throughout the planning area.	• Objective WFM-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative I. • Objective WFM-IV-O- 2. Same as Alternative I.	• Objective WFM-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative I. • Objective WFM-V-O- 2. Same as Alternative I.
Manage the entire planning area (1,374,000 acres) for full suppression.	Critical Suppression Areas would include **481,000 acres**: • WUI • Bruneau-Jarbidge, Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs • Key sage-grouse habitat	Critical Suppression Areas would include **172,000 acres**: • WUI	Critical Suppression Areas would include **469,000 acres**: • WUI • Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs • Key sage-grouse habitat	Critical Suppression Areas would include **594,000 acres** in Alternative IV-A and **555,000 acres** in Alternative IV-B: • WUI • Bruneau-Jarbidge, Inside Desert, Jarbidge Foothills, and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs • Key sage-grouse habitat	Critical Suppression Areas would include **1,067,000 acres**: • WUI • Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Sagebrush Sea ACECs • Key sage-grouse habitat
No similar management action.	Improve water availability for fire suppression **in high recreational use areas**, in accordance with Idaho and Nevada State Law regarding the appropriation and use of water.	Improve water availability for fire suppression **in native plant communities and WUI**, in accordance with Idaho State Law regarding the appropriation and use of water.	Improve water availability for fire suppression **throughout the planning area**, in accordance with Idaho State Law regarding the appropriation and use of water.	Same as Alternative III.	**Maintain water availability for fire suppression at 2009 levels**.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
No similar management action.	Consistent with other resource objectives, implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities.	Consistent with resource use objectives, implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities.	Implement measures to reduce response time for fire suppression activities.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.
No similar management action.	*No similar management action.*	*No similar management action.*	Authorized uses may be limited or prohibited to reduce risk of wildland fire.	Same as Alternative III.	Same as Alternative III.
Resources – Wildland Fire Ecology and Management – FRCC, Fuels, and Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation (FFE)					
No goal stated.	***Goal FFE-CA-G- 1. Reduce fire hazard to WUI.***				
No goal stated.	***Goal FFE-I-G- 1. Manage vegetation communities outside WUI to maintain or restore their fire regimes and mosaic of successional classes to within their historic range.***	***Goal FFE-II-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.***	***Goal FFE-III-G- 1. Manage vegetation communities to lengthen the fire return interval.***	***Goal FFE-IV-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.***	***Goal FFE-V-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.***
Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC)					
No objective stated.	• Objective FFE-CA-O- 1. Manage plant communities within WUI to reduce Relative Risk Rating as identified in the 2007 *Idaho Interagency Assessment of Wildland Fire Risk to Communities*.				
No objective stated.	• Objective FFE-I-O- 1. Manage plant communities outside WUI to move toward FRCC 1.	• Objective FFE-II-O- 1. Manage native plant communities outside WUI, excluding Sandberg/non-native areas, to move toward FRCC 1 .Manage non-native plant communities and Sandberg/non-native areas for commodity use, which may not be toward FRCC 1	• Objective FFE-III-O- 1. Manage native plant communities outside WUI to move toward FRCC 1. Manage non-native plant communities to reduce wildland fire size and intensity, which may not be toward FRCC 1.	• Objective FFE-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.	• Objective FFE-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Fuels Treatments					
No objective stated.	• Objective FFE-I-O- 2. Implement fuels treatments to protect Critical Suppression Areas; limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire; and maintain or improve vegetation.	• Objective FFE-II-O- 2. Same as Alternative I.	• Objective FFE-III-O- 2. Implement fuels treatments to protect Critical Suppression Areas and limit the spread, size, and intensity of wildland fire.	• Objective FFE-IV-O- 2. Same as Alternative I.	• Objective FFE-V-O- 2. Same as Alternative I.
No similar management action.	Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads with consideration for other resource and resource use objectives.	Same as Alternative I.	Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads as appropriate to reduce wildland fire size and intensity.	Implement fuels treatments to reduce fuel loads with consideration for other resource objectives.	Same as Alternative IV.
No similar management action.	Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on areas with high and high/moderate Relative Risk Ratings **in the northern portion of the planning area.**	Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on areas with high, high/moderate, and moderate Relative Risk Ratings **in the northern portion of the planning area and near Roseworth**.	Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on areas with high, high/moderate, and moderate Relative Risk Ratings **in the northern portion of the planning area and near Roseworth and Three Creek**.	Same as Alternative I.	Fuels treatments in WUI would focus on areas with high Relative Risk Ratings **in the northern portion of the planning area.**
No similar management action.	Outside SRMAs, fuel breaks would follow disturbance corridors or would protect restoration and ES&BAR treatments; fuel breaks for SRMAs could be used to protect adjacent areas, protect facilities, and protect high-use areas.	Fuel breaks would focus on protecting commercial facilities; fuel breaks would also be placed in non-native communities to protect native communities.	Fuel breaks would focus on strategic locations to disrupt the continuity of fuels and to protect structures and important resources such as habitat for sage-grouse and slickspot peppergrass.	Fuel breaks would follow disturbance corridors or would protect restoration or ES&BAR treatments.	Fuel breaks would only follow designated roads and designated primitive roads.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
No similar management action.	*No similar management action.*	Landscape-scale fuels reduction would occur primarily through increased allocation of vegetation for permitted livestock grazing and through increased livestock grazing utilization.	Landscape-scale fuels reduction would occur primarily through increased allocation of annual and non-native perennial vegetation for permitted livestock grazing and through increased livestock grazing utilization in annual and non-native perennial communities.	*No similar management action.*	*No similar management action.*
Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation (ES&BAR)					
• Objective FFE-NA-O-1. Rehabilitate public lands affected by wildland fires to accomplish multiple use objectives and designed to reduce fire size.	• Objective FFE-I-O- 3. Rehabilitate and stabilize areas to help stabilize soils, promote natural recovery, and establish pre-fire or historic vegetation communities.	• Objective FFE-II-O- 3. Same as Alternative I.	• Objective FFE-III-O- 3. Rehabilitate and stabilize areas to help stabilize soils, promote natural recovery, and establish fire-tolerant vegetation communities.	• Objective FFE-IV-O- 3. Same as Alternative I.	• Objective FFE-V-O- 3. Same as Alternative I.
No similar management action.	Rest burned areas from uses, including but not limited to livestock and wild horse grazing and recreational use, until ES&BAR objectives are met and are predicted to be sustainable or if the treatment is determined to be unsuccessful. This guideline would not apply to uses that do not conflict with the treatment objectives. Use seed mixes that would help stabilize soils and achieve objectives in the *Upland Vegetation*, *Riparian Areas and Wetlands*, *Fish and Wildlife*, and *Special Status Species* sections.				
Consider using temporary fences on a case-by-case basis.	Consider using temporary fences on a case-by-case basis. Temporary fences may only be considered when there are at least 2,000 unburned acres in the pasture.	Same as the No Action Alternative.	Same as Alternative II.	Consider using temporary fences on a case-by-case basis; however, **temporary fences would not be allowed in pastures with native plant communities**. Temporary fences may only be considered when there are at least 2,000 unburned acres in the pasture.	**Temporary fences would not be used**. Livestock grazing would be pulled back to pasture fences.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Resources – Wild Horses (WH)					
Goal WH-NA-G- 1. A viable, healthy population of wild horses will be maintained in accordance with Federal law. • Objective WH-NA-O- 2. Provide forage to support a herd of **50** wild horses.	***Goal WH-I-G- 1. The Saylor Creek Wild Horse HMA would be managed for a thriving natural ecological balance.*** • Objective WH-I-O- 2. Manage a **reproducing herd of 100 to 200** wild horses.	***Goal WH-II-G- 1. The Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Area would be managed for commercial uses.*** • Objective WH-II-O- 2. Manage the Saylor Creek Wild Horse Herd Area as an **unpopulated** herd area.	***Goal WH-III-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.*** • Objective WH-III-O- 2. Manage a **reproducing herd of 200 to 600** wild horses.	***Goal WH-IV-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.*** • Objective WH-IV-O- 2. Manage a **non-reproducing herd of up to 200** wild horses.	***Goal WH-V-G- 1. Same as Alternative I.*** • Objective WH-V-O- 2. Manage a **non-reproducing herd of up to 500** wild horses.
Resources – Paleontological Resources (PR)					
No goal stated. • Objective PR-NA-O- 1. Protect and manage paleontological sites in major paleontological areas in the northern portion of the planning area.	***Goal PR-CA-G- 1. Identify, manage, and protect paleontological resources for scientific research, educational purposes, and public use.*** • Objective PR-CA-O- 1. Identify, manage, and protect important paleontological sites.				
Resources – Cultural Resources (CR)					
No goal stated. • Objective CR-NA-O- 1. Protect the cultural values of significant cultural resource complexes through special designation and management.	***Goal CR-CA-G- 1. Identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources and ensure they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.*** • Objective CR-CA-O- 1. Manage and protect cultural resources according to their potential traditional, scientific, conservation, public, or experimental value. ***Goal CR-CA-G- 2. Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration or potential conflict with other resource uses by ensuring all authorizations for land use and resource use complies with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, Section 106.*** • Objective CR-CA-O- 2. Strive to limit the adverse effects of BLM decisions on important cultural resources.				
Resources – Visual Resources (VR)					
No goal stated.	***Goal VR-CA-G- 1. Maintain visual resource characteristics and values of public lands according to VRM classes.***				

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
VRM Class **Acres** I 129,000 II 112,000 III 292,000 IV 841,000	**VRM Class** **Acres** I 130,000 II 181,000 III 119,000 IV 944,000	**VRM Class** **Acres** I 103,000 II 11,000 III 19,000 IV 1,240,000	**VRM Class** **Acres** I 102,800 II 11,000 III 336,000 IV 924,000	**VRM Class** **Acres** I 128,000 II 70,000 III (IV-A) 366,000 (IV-B) 334,000 IV (IV-A) 810,000 (IV-B) 842,000	**VRM Class** **Acres** I 103,000 II 269,000 III 649,000 IV 353,000
Resources – Non-Wilderness Study Area Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (WC)					
No goal stated.	***Goal WC-CA-G- 1. Maintain wilderness characteristics of non-WSA lands as appropriate, considering manageability and the context of competing resource demands.***				
No objective stated.	• Objective WC-I-O- 1. Manage non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics in the western portion of the planning area (**39,000 acres**) for their undeveloped character and to provide opportunities for primitive recreational activities and solitude.	• Objective WC-II-O- 1. Non-WSA lands would not be managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.	• Objective WC-III-O- 1. Same as Alternative II.	• Objective WC-IV-O- 1. Manage non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (**53,000 acres**) for their undeveloped character and to provide opportunities for primitive recreational activities and solitude.	• Objective WC-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative IV.
Resource Uses – Livestock Grazing (LG)					
Forage and Grazing Management Practices					
No goal stated. • Objective LG-NA-O- 1. Design and establish grazing management practices to meet fisheries, riparian, and water quality needs.	***Goal LG-I-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to enhance and sustain existing and historic uses and to improve habitat for big game and sage-grouse.***	***Goal LG-II-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to maintain or improve the condition of forage resources while maintaining native plant communities and habitat for sage-grouse.***	***Goal LG-III-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to reduce wildland fire size and intensity while maintaining habitat for sage-grouse.***	***Goal LG-IV-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to support restoration of the resiliency of ecosystem structure and function and to reduce fragmentation of habitat for sage-grouse and other native species.***	***Goal LG-V-G- 1. Provide for livestock grazing through application of proper grazing management to move vegetation toward historic plant communities that provide habitat for sage-grouse and other special status species.***

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
• Objective LG-NA-O- 2. Establish livestock grazing systems and practices that recognize the physiological requirements of forbs and shrubs.	• Objective LG-I-O- 1. In native plant communities excluding Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to help maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance, focusing on plant reproductive and physiological needs.	• Objective LG-II-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.	• Objective LG-III-O- 1. In native plant communities including the Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to help maintain and improve native plant species diversity and abundance, focusing on plant reproductive and physiological needs.	• Objective LG-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative III.	• Objective LG-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative III.
	Objective LG-I-O- 2. In non-native perennial communities including Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to maintain and improve perennial plant species diversity and abundance, taking into account sage-grouse and big game habitat needs.	Objective LG-II-O- 2. In non-native perennial communities including Sandberg/non-native areas, manage livestock grazing to sustain the perennial forage base and allow for other commercial uses.	Objective LG-III-O- 2. Manage livestock grazing to reduce fuels in non-native perennial communities.	Objective LG-IV-O- 2. In non-native perennial communities, manage livestock grazing to achieve restoration objectives outlined in the *Upland Vegetation* section.	Objective LG-V-O- 2. In non-native perennial communities, manage livestock grazing to maintain and improve shrub cover for sage-grouse.
No similar objective.	• Objective LG-CA-O- 1. Manage livestock grazing in annual communities to achieve objectives in the *Upland Vegetation* and *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* sections.				
Allocate **1,414,000 acres** as available for livestock grazing and **51,000 acres** as not available for livestock grazing.	Allocate **1,381,000 acres** as available for livestock grazing and **84,000 acres** as not available for livestock grazing.	Allocate **1,406,000 acres** as available for livestock grazing and **59,000 acres** as not available for livestock grazing.	Allocate **1,404,000 acres** as available for livestock grazing and **61,000 acres** as not available for livestock grazing.	Allocate **1,320,000 acres** in Alternative IV-A and **1,352,000 acres** in Alt IV-B as available for livestock grazing and **145,000 acres** in Alternative IV-A and **113,000 acres** in Alternative IV-B as not available for livestock grazing.	Allocate **1,156,000 acres** as available for livestock grazing and **309,000 acres** as not available for livestock grazing.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
All areas not available to livestock grazing in this alternative are common to all alternatives.	Areas not available to livestock grazing in addition to those common to all alternatives include portions of the Middle Snake ACEC, Wildlife Tracts, reference areas, and areas open to cross-country motorized vehicle use.	Areas not available to livestock grazing in addition to those common to all alternatives include Wildlife Tracts and reference areas.	Same as Alternative II.	Areas not available to livestock grazing in addition to those common to all alternatives include bull trout streams, the Inside Desert ACEC, Wildlife Tracts, and reference areas.	Areas not available to livestock grazing in addition to those common to all alternatives include bull trout and redband trout streams; the Middle Snake, Sand Point, and Lower Bruneau Canyon ACECs; the Browns Bench/China Mountain area, Wildlife Tracts, and reference areas.
Continue allocating approximately 200,000 AUMs for livestock. As the plan is implemented, between 160,000 and 260,000 AUMs could be issued for livestock depending on implementation of treatments described in the *Upland Vegetation* section.	Allocate vegetation production to livestock as follows: • **25-35%** of native perennial grass production • **30-40%** of non-native perennial grass production • **20-30%** of annual grass production • **8-11%** of shrub and forb production	Allocate vegetation production to livestock as follows: • **40-50%** of native perennial grass production • **50-60%** of non-native perennial grass production • **70-80%** of annual grass production • **12-16%** of shrub and forb production	Allocate vegetation production to livestock as follows: • **35-45%** of native perennial grass production • **40-50%** of non-native perennial grass production • **40-50%** of annual grass production • **11-14%** of shrub and forb production	Allocate vegetation production to livestock as follows: • **15-25%** of native perennial grass production • **20-30%** of non-native perennial grass production • **0%** of annual grass production • **0%** of shrub and forb production	Allocate vegetation production to livestock as follows: • **10-20**% of native perennial grass production • **10-20%** of non-native perennial grass production • **0%** of annual grass production • **0%** of shrub and forb production
Develop grazing systems to maintain condition in MUA 4. Develop grazing management systems on fair condition range in MUA 11 to improve to good or better condition. Additional grazing systems would be implemented elsewhere.	Implement adaptive management using grazing use indicators to meet resource and special designation area objectives as feasible and following BLM policy Grazing permit renewal following the ROD would follow the process outlined in Appendix L. Allotment-specific decisions for livestock grazing management, including grazing use indicators and grazing use criteria, and adjustments to an allotment's Selective Management Category would be made at that time. Implement drought management guidelines during periods of drought to maintain or achieve long-term resource productivity (Appendix F). Manage livestock grazing to follow BLM guidelines for managing sage-grouse habitat (e.g., 2006 *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-Grouse in Idaho*, Owyhee County and Jarbidge Local Working Group Sage-grouse Plans).				

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Livestock season of use would be adjusted in MUAs 10, 15, and 16, if necessary, to resolve any conflicts on mule deer, pronghorn and bighorn sheep ranges. These adjustments would entail the reduction in spring or fall livestock grazing use from a specific period(s) of a grazing year.	Livestock grazing may be allowed in big game winter range in native shrubland communities during the winter. Adjust livestock grazing in the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC so seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat.	No date restrictions on livestock grazing in winter range would be made.	Livestock grazing may be allowed in big game winter range in native shrubland communities during the winter. Adjust livestock grazing south of Sheep Creek so seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat.	Livestock grazing may be allowed in big game winter range in native shrubland communities during the winter. Adjust livestock grazing so seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat.	Livestock grazing would not be allowed in big game winter range during the winter. Adjust livestock grazing so seasons of use would not overlap bighorn sheep breeding and winter periods in pastures that contain bighorn sheep habitat.
TNR would be allowed.	TNR would be allowed except in pastures containing WSA, the riparian pasture in the Sand Point ACEC, pastures with >50% big game winter range, or pastures with >50% native communities.	TNR would be allowed except in pastures containing areas within a WSA boundary.	Same as Alternative I.	TNR would be allowed except in pastures containing WSA, the riparian pasture in the Sand Point ACEC, pastures with >50% big game winter range, or pastures with >25% native communities.	TNR would not be issued.
Range Infrastructure					
• Objective LG-NA-O- 3. Design range infrastructure to achieve objectives in the *Vegetation Communities*, *Fish and Wildlife*, and *Livestock Grazing* objectives.	• Objective LG-I-O- 3. Manage range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments, consistent with resource objectives.	• Objective LG-II-O- 3. Manage range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments.	• Objective LG-III-O- 3. Manage range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments and support fire suppression efforts.	• Objective LG-IV-O- 3. Manage range infrastructure at levels appropriate to the amount of livestock use to provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments and support resource objectives.	• Objective LG-V-O- 3. Same as Alternative IV.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Install or construct new infrastructure as follows: • 161 miles of pipelines • 3 reservoirs, wells, or springs • 26 miles of fences	Consider installing or constructing new range infrastructure on a case-by-case basis where they would **help meet resource objectives**.	Consider installing or constructing new range infrastructure on a case-by-case basis **to promote livestock distribution or meet resource objectives**.	Consider installing or constructing new range infrastructure on a case-by-case basis where they would **help meet resource objectives or to aid in fire suppression**.	Same as Alternative I.	Consider installing or constructing new range infrastructure on a case-by-case basis where they would help meet resource objectives. **New pipelines and spring developments would not be authorized.**
Design new spring developments and modify selected existing spring developments to protect wetted areas.	Minimize disturbance at developed springs by using existing routes for access, redesigning the spring development, or limiting maintenance or reconstruction activities to areas disturbed during previous construction or to areas outside the wetland. Modify selected existing spring developments to improve wetland areas by protecting the spring source and ensuring adequate water to support spring hydrology and associated riparian vegetation. New spring developments must avoid or minimize ground disturbance, protect the spring source, and ensure adequate water to maintain the wetland. Other mitigation may be required to minimize impacts to cultural and natural resources and tribal rights, interests, and values.				
Resource Uses – Recreation (REC)					
No goal stated.	***Goal REC-CA-G- 1. Provide a variety of dispersed and developed recreational opportunities and experiences for visitors and residents while sustaining the recreation resource base and avoiding, minimizing, or compensating for resource impacts.***				
• Objective REC-NA-O-1. Protect the Salmon Falls Creek Canyon (rim-to-rim) for its natural and scenic values through special designation and management as an SRMA.	• Objective REC-I-O- 1. Manage **341,800 acres** as SRMAs and **1,031,700 acres** as an Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA).	• Objective REC-II-O- 1. Manage **21,300 acres** as SRMAs and **1,352,200 acres** as an ERMA.	• Objective REC-III-O- 1. Manage **55,800 acres** as SRMAs and **1,317,700 acres** as an ERMA.	• Objective REC-IV-O- 1. Manage **204,000 acres** as SRMAs and **1,169,570 acres** as an ERMA.	• Objective REC-V-O- 1. Manage **19,000 acres** as SRMAs and **1,354,5000 acres** as an ERMA.
Continue managing the Hagerman-Owsley Bridge (Yahoo) SRMA (**2,700 acres**).	The Deadman/Yahoo SRMA (**36,000 acres**) would consist of four Recreation Management Zones (RMZs): • Deadman (**13,000 acres**), Pasadena (**2,000 acres**), and Yahoo (**3,000 acres**) RMZs: off-road ATV and motorcycle riding. • Rosevear Gulch RMZ	*No similar management action.*	The Deadman/Yahoo SRMA (**34,000 acres**) would consist of three RMZs: • Deadman (**13,000 acres**) and Yahoo (**3,000 acres**) RMZs: off-road ATV and motorcycle riding. • Rosevear Gulch RMZ (**18,000 acres**): motorized trail riding	Same as Alternative III.	Manage the Yahoo SRMA (**3,000 acres**) for off-road ATV and motorcycle riding.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
	(**18,000 acres**): motorized trail riding opportunities on a series of designated routes.		opportunities on a series of designated routes.		
No similar management action.	Manage the Balanced Rock SRMA (**500 acres**) for visitors hiking, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, and non-motorized boating.	*No similar management action.*	Same as Alternative I.	*No similar management action.*	*No similar management action.*
No similar management action.	Manage the Little Pilgrim SRMA (**300 acres**) for sturgeon fishing and bird hunting.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	*No similar management action.*	*No similar management action.*
Continue managing the Bruneau-Jarbidge River SRMA (**57,000 acres**).	Manage the Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA (**14,000 acres**) for whitewater boating and primitive camping.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.
Continue managing the Jarbidge Forks SRMA (**4,000 acres**).	Manage the Jarbidge Forks SRMA (**2,000 acres**) for fishing, rafting, picnicking, camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.
No similar management action.	Manage the Canyonlands SRMA (**149,000 acres**) for non-motorized recreation experiences.	*No similar management action.*	*No similar management action.*	Same as Alternative I.	*No similar management action.*
No similar management action.	Manage the Jarbidge Foothills SRMA (**135,000 acres**) for non-motorized recreation experiences.	*No similar management action.*	*No similar management action.*	*No similar management action.*	*No similar management action.*
No similar management action.	The Salmon Falls Reservoir SRMA (**5,000 acres**) would consist of three RMZs: • Antelope Bay RMZ	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	*No similar management action.*

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
	(**2,000 acres**): hunting, fishing, camping, boating, water sports, and trail riding. • Cedar Creek RMZ (**1,000 acres**): fishing, camping, and boating. • Lud's Point RMZ (**2,000 acres**): hunting, fishing, primitive camping, and viewing wildlife and natural scenery.				
Continue managing the Oregon Trail SRMA (**7,000 acres**) and Salmon Falls Creek SRMA (**6,000 acres**).	*No similar management action.* *The Oregon Trail is managed as a National Historic Trail.* *Salmon Falls Creek is managed as a Wilderness Study Area and, in Alternatives I and III, as an ACEC as well.*				
Resource Uses – Transportation and Travel (TR)					
No goal stated.	***Goal TR-CA-G- 1. Manage and provide for motorized, non-motorized, and non-mechanized access that would balance resource protection and use.***				
No objective stated.	• Objective TR-I-O- 1. Provide a transportation and travel system that facilitates multiple use, with an **emphasis on recreational use, livestock grazing, and minimizing impacts to big game habitats.**	• Objective TR-II-O- 1. Provide a transportation and travel system to facilitate multiple use, with an **emphasis on commercial use and minimizing impacts on native vegetation.**	• Objective TR-III-O- 1. A transportation and travel system would provide for multiple use, with an **emphasis on wildland fire prevention and suppression activities.**	• Objective TR-IV-O- 1. Provide a transportation and travel system to facilitate multiple use and resource protection with an **emphasis on meeting native vegetation and special status species goals.**	• Objective TR-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative IV.
The majority of the planning area (**1,062,000 acres**) would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use.	Designated areas in the Deadman/Yahoo SRMA would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use (**3,600 acres**).	**No areas would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use**.	Designated areas in the Deadman/Yahoo SRMA would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use (**3,570 acres**).	Same as Alternative III.	Designated areas in the Yahoo SRMA would be open to cross-country motorized vehicle use (**700 acres**).

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Salmon Falls Creek ACEC and the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons (**25,000 acres**) would be closed to motorized vehicle use.	Salmon Falls Creek ACEC north and south of Lily Grade crossing, non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics, and the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons would be closed to motorized vehicle use (**57,000 acres**).	The Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons would be closed to motorized vehicle use (**21,000 acres**).	Salmon Falls Creek ACEC north and south of Lily Grade crossing and the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons would be closed to motorized vehicle use (**27,000 acres**).	Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics and the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons would be closed to motorized vehicle use (**74,000 acres**).	WSAs, **including inventoried ways**, and non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics would be closed to motorized vehicle use (**147,000 acres**).
Portions of WSAs not closed to motorized vehicle use (**70,000 acres**) would be limited to inventoried ways.	Portions of WSAs not closed to motorized vehicle use (**72,000 acres**) would be limited to designated ways. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel is limited to inventoried ways.	Portions of WSAs not closed to motorized vehicle use (**73,000 acres**) would be limited to designated ways. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel is limited to inventoried ways.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative II.	*No similar management action.*
Sand Point ACEC, the Oregon NHT, bighorn sheep habitat, and cultural resource complexes (**216,000 acres**) would be limited to designated routes.	Travel in the remainder of the planning area (**1,241,000 acres**) would be limited to designated routes. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel would be limited to existing routes.	Travel in the remainder of the planning area (**1,297,000 acres**) would be limited to designated routes. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel would be limited to existing routes.	Travel in the remainder of the planning area (**1,275,000 acres**) would be limited to designated routes. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel would be limited to existing routes.	Travel in the remainder of the planning area (**1,223,000 acres**) would be limited to designated routes. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel would be limited to existing routes.	Travel in the remainder of the planning (**1,226,000 acres**) would be limited to designated routes. Until the CTTMP is completed, travel would be limited to existing routes.
No similar management action.	Complete a Comprehensive Transportation and Travel Management Plan (CTTMP) within 5 years of the signing of the Record of Decision. The CTTMP would be developed through a public process to determine the transportation and travel system for the planning area. The CTTMP would determine the routes and trails to be designated, modified, or closed as well as the maintenance level, modes of travel, and seasonal and access restrictions for designated routes. During the CTTMP process, additional data needs and a strategy to collect information will be identified.				
No similar management action.	The focus for transportation and travel planning would be: • Balance needs for access with resource objectives on **316,000 acres** • Facilitate motorized recreation on **41,000 acres** • Balance livestock	The focus for transportation and travel planning would be: • Facilitate commercial uses while mitigating resource impacts on **1,161,000 acres** • Facilitate livestock grazing management while mitigating resource impacts on	The focus for transportation and travel planning would be: • Improve access and facilitate fire suppression and prevention on **1,339,000 acres** • Facilitate motorized recreation on **34,000 acres**	The focus for transportation and travel planning would be: • Accommodate restoration activities while providing access on **322,666 acres** • Facilitate motorized recreation on **34,000 acres** • Increase core habitat	The focus for transportation and travel planning would be: • Accommodate restoration activities on **343,000 acres** • Facilitate motorized recreation on **3,000 acres** • Increase core habitat size for sage-grouse

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
	grazing management with habitat restoration on **667,000 acres** • Increase core habitat size for mule deer and provide for non-motorized recreation on **350,000 acres**	**213,000 acres**		size for sage-grouse and big game and accommodate restoration activities while providing access on **804,000 acres** • Increase core habitat size for sage-grouse and big game and provide for non-motorized recreation on **213,000 acres**	and other special status species and accommodate restoration activities on **1,027,000 acres**
Resource Uses – Land Use Authorizations (LA)					
No goal stated.	***Goal LA-CA-G- 1. Public needs for land use authorizations would be met with consideration for other resource values.***				
No objective stated.	• Objective LA-I-O- 1. Provide for the development of renewable energy resources, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, communication sites and other uses with consideration for resource objectives.	• Objective LA-II-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.	• Objective LA-III-O- 1. Provide for the development of renewable energy resources, transportation routes, utility corridors, transmission lines, communication sites and other uses with consideration for resource objectives and wildland fire prevention and suppression objectives.	• Objective LA-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.	• Objective LA-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.
The following areas would be utility avoidance/ restricted areas (**110,000 acres**): • Paleontological sites at Glenns Ferry and Pasadena Valley • Cultural resource	The following areas would be ROW avoidance areas (**896,000 acres**): • Areas within USAF MOAs • Oregon NHT protective corridor • Eligible, suitable, and	The following areas would be ROW avoidance areas (**878,000 acres**): • Areas within USAF MOAs • Oregon NHT protective corridor • Eligible, suitable, and	The following areas would be ROW avoidance areas (**880,000 acres**): • Areas within USAF MOAs • Oregon NHT protective corridor • Eligible, suitable, and	The following areas would be ROW avoidance areas (**896,000 acres**): • Areas within USAF MOAs • Oregon NHT protective corridor • Eligible, suitable, and	The following areas would be ROW avoidance areas (**1,229,000 acres**): • Areas within USAF MOAs • Oregon NHT protective corridor • Eligible, suitable, and

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
complexes • Dove Springs • All rutted segments of Oregon Trail • Recommended suitable wilderness area • Bruneau-Jarbidge and Sand Point ACECs • Suitable WSR corridors • Salmon Falls Creek Canyon.	designated WSR corridors • Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics • Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs	designated WSR corridors	designated WSR corridors • Bruneau-Jarbidge and Salmon Falls Creek ACECs	designated WSR corridors • Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC	designated WSR corridors • Sagebrush Sea ACEC
No similar management action.	The following areas would be ROW exclusion areas (**95,000 acres**): • Sand Point ACEC • WSAs	The following areas would be ROW exclusion areas (**94,000 acres**): • WSAs	Same as Alternative I.	The following areas would be ROW exclusion areas (**148,000 acres**): • Sand Point ACEC • WSAs • Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics	Same as Alternative IV.
No similar management action.	Designate the Pilgrim Gulch, Shoestring, Saylor Creek, Balanced Rock, and Jarbidge ROW corridors.	Designate the Pilgrim Gulch, Shoestring, Saylor Creek, Balanced Rock, Jarbidge, and China Mountain ROW corridors.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Designate the Pilgrim Gulch, Shoestring, Balanced Rock, and Jarbidge ROW corridors.
Implement the Programmatic Policies and Best Management Practices in the Wind Energy Development Program (Appendix N).					
No similar management action.	Wind farms could be considered in areas with annual or non-native vegetation communities, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.	Wind farms can be considered throughout the planning area, consistent with stipulations for ROW avoidance areas and outside ROW exclusion areas.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Restrict wind energy development from wildlife habitat where adverse effects could not be mitigated.	Restrict wind energy site testing and monitoring and wind energy development from occupied habitat for special status plants and animals, and cultural resources where their direct and indirect adverse effects cannot be mitigated.	Restrict wind turbines and meteorological towers from occupied habitat for Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, and Candidate species where their direct adverse effects cannot be mitigated.	Same as Alternative I.	Restrict wind energy site testing and monitoring and wind energy development from occupied and suitable habitat for special status species, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources where their direct and indirect adverse effects cannot be mitigated.	Same as Alternative IV.
No similar management action.	Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines **1 to 3 miles** away from active sage-grouse leks if the structure would not conflict with the lek. If this cannot be documented, structures must be >3 miles away.	Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines **>1 mile** from active sage-grouse leks.	Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines **>3 miles** from active sage-grouse leks.	Locate new transmission and phone lines, communications towers, meteorological towers, and wind turbines **>5 miles** from active sage-grouse leks.	Same as Alternative IV.
Resource Uses – Land Tenure (LT)					
No goal stated. • Objective LT-NA-O- 1. Retain public lands in Federal ownership, except those lands specifically identified in the plan or amendment as transfer areas.	***Goal LT-CA-G- 1. Manage land tenure to provide for public ownership of lands with high resource and multiple use values and to improve management efficiency.*** • Objective LT-CA-O- 1. Improve BLM's ability to manage the land base and resource values, and help meet resource objectives through land tenure adjustments.				
Specific parcels were identified for disposal. Acres are crosswalked to Zones 1, 2, and 3 for comparison.	Lands available for disposal through land tenure adjustment would follow a three-zone system: • Zone 1: Lands zoned for retention that would not be available for disposal. • Zone 2: Lands zoned for consolidation in the planning area that can be exchanged for other lands in Zones 1 and 2 or offered as R&PP leases. • Zone 3: Lands zoned for sale, exchange for lands in Zones 1 or 2 or lands outside the planning area, or R&PP leases.				

No Action Alternative		Alternative I		Alternative II		Alternative III		Alternative IV		Alternative V	
Zone	**Acres**	**Zone**	**Acres**	**Zone**	**Acres**	**Zone**	**Acres**	**Zone**	**Acres**	**Zone**	**Acres**
1	1,302,000	1	1,109,000	1	953,000	1	1,109,000	1	1,129,000	1	1,279,000
2	3,000	2	244,000	2	374,000	2	244,000	2	229,000	2	95,000
3	2,000	3	20,000	3	46,000	3	20,000	3	16,000	3	0

Resource Uses – Minerals – Leasable Minerals (LE)					
No goal stated.	***Goal LE-CA-G- 1 Provide leasable mineral development opportunities where they are compatible with other resources.***				
• Objective LE-NA-O- 1. Make 1,306,844 acres of the area available for leasable mineral exploration and development across all MUAs.	• Objective LE-I-O- 1. Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of leasable minerals where compatible with resource objectives.	• Objective LE-II-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.	• Objective LE-III-O- 1. Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of leasable minerals where compatible with resource and wildland fire prevention and suppression objectives.	• Objective LE-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.	• Objective LE-V-O- 11. Same as Alternative I.
	All mineral leases would be subject to laws, regulations, and formal orders, the terms and conditions of the standard lease form; and stipulations for ESA Section 7 Consultation and Cultural Resource Protection; allocations below outline what, if any, additional constraints would apply.				
Allocate **1,303,000 acres** as open to mineral leasing.	Allocate **670,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing with no additional constraints.	Allocate **1,355,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing with no additional constraints.	Allocate **1,355,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing with no additional constraints.	Allocate **634,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate in Alternative IV-A and **648,000 acres** in Alternative IV-B as open to mineral leasing with no additional constraints.	Allocate **1,034,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing with no additional constraints
Allocate the following areas as open to mineral leasing, subject to moderate constraints: • Seasonal restrictions in big game winter range, pronghorn fawning range, key sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse habitats, raptor winter and nesting	Allocate **633,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to moderate constraints: • Seasonal restrictions in big game winter range, key sage-grouse habitat, and bull trout and redband trout habitat	Allocate **17,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to moderate constraints: • Controlled surface use restriction in RCAs	Allocate **17,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to moderate constraints: • Controlled surface use restriction in RCAs	Allocate **586,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate in Alternative IV-A and **604,000 acres** in Alternative IV-B as open to mineral leasing, subject to moderate constraints: • Seasonal restrictions in big game winter range, key sage-grouse habitat, and bull trout	Allocate **264,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to moderate constraints: • Seasonal restrictions in key sage-grouse habitat and bull trout and redband trout habitat • Controlled surface use

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
habitat	• Controlled surface use restriction in RCAs			and redband trout habitat • Controlled surface use restriction in RCAs	restriction in RCAs
Allocate **284,000 acres** as open to mineral leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO): • Oregon Trail • Sand Point ACEC and other paleontological sites and cultural resource complexes • WSAs, Bruneau-Jarbidge SRMA, and bighorn sheep habitat • Bruneau, Jarbidge, Arch, and Salmon Falls Canyons • Within 500 feet of riparian areas	Allocate **32,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO): • The Oregon NHT protective corridor • The Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors	Allocate **29,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO): • The Oregon NHT protective corridor • Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs	Allocate **28,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO): • The Oregon NHT protective corridor • Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs	Allocate **32,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate in Alternative IV-A and **32,000 acres** in Alternative IV-B as open to mineral leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO): • The Oregon NHT protective corridor • The Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors	Allocate **32,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to mineral leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO): • The Oregon NHT protective corridor The Kelton and Toana Freight Road protective corridors
Allocate **104,000 acres** as closed to mineral leasing.	Allocate **160,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as closed to mineral leasing in the following areas: • WSAs • Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs • Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics • Lower Bruneau Canyon, Bruneau-Jarbidge, Middle Snake, Salmon Falls Creek, and Sand Point	Allocate **94,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as closed to mineral leasing in the following areas: • WSAs	Allocate **96,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as closed to mineral leasing in the following areas: • WSAs • Bruneau-Jarbidge and Sand Point ACECs	Allocate **243,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate in Alternative IV-A and **211,000 acres** in Alternative IV-B as closed to mineral leasing in the following areas: • WSAs • Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs; the Inside Desert • Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics • Lower Bruneau	Allocate **165,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as closed to mineral leasing in the following areas: • WSAs • Eligible, suitable, and designated WSRs • Non-WSA lands managed for their wilderness characteristics • Lower Bruneau Canyon, Middle Snake, and Sand Point ACECs

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
	ACECs			Canyon, Bruneau-Jarbidge, and Sand Point ACECs	
Resource Uses – Minerals – Salable Minerals (SA)					
No goal stated.	***Goal SA-CA-G- 1. Provide salable mineral development opportunities where they are compatible with other resources.***				
• Objective SA-NA-O- 1. Manage 697 acres in MUAs 4, 6, 7, and 12 for material use sites.	• Objective SA-I-O- 1. Provide salable minerals needed for community and economic purposes and facilitate their reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound development where available and compatible with resource objectives.	• Objective SA-II-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.	• Objective SA-III-O- 1. Provide salable minerals needed for community and economic purposes and facilitate their reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound development where available and compatible with resource and wildland fire prevention and suppression objectives.	• Objective SA-IV-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.	• Objective SA-V-O- 1. Same as Alternative I.
Allocate **697 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to salable mineral development.	Allocate **1,308,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to salable mineral development, subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations.	Allocate **1,401,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to salable mineral development, subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations.	Allocate **1,351,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to salable mineral development, subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations.	Allocate **1,220,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate in Alternative IV-A, **1,252,000 acres** in Alternative IV-B as open to salable mineral development, subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations.	Allocate **1,297,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as open to salable mineral development, subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, stipulations, and 43 CFR 3600 regulations.
No similar management action.	Allocate **187,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as closed to salable mineral development.	Allocate **94,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as closed to salable mineral development.	Allocate **144,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as closed to salable mineral development.	Allocate **275,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate in Alternative IV-A, **243,000 acres** in Alternative IV-B as closed to salable mineral development.	Allocate **198,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate as closed to salable mineral development.
Resource Uses – Minerals – Locatable Minerals (LO)					
No goal stated. • Objective LO-NA-O- 1.	***Goal LO-CA-G- 1. Locatable mineral development would not cause unnecessary and undue degradation of resources.***				

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Make **1,395,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate available for locatable minerals.	• Objective LO-CA-O- 1. Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of locatable minerals.				
The planning area would be available for location of mining claims unless withdrawn.					
Recommend **218,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate for withdrawal from mineral entry.	Recommend **117,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate for withdrawal from mineral entry.	Recommend **46,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate for withdrawal from mineral entry.	Recommend **92,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate for withdrawal from mineral entry.	Recommend **148,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate for withdrawal from mineral entry.	Recommend **53,000 acres** of Federal mineral estate for withdrawal from mineral entry.
Special Designations – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)					
No goal stated.	***Goal ACEC-CA-G- 1. ACECs will be managed to protect the important biological, cultural, scenic, and historic resources that meet the criteria for relevance and importance.***				
• Objective ACEC-NA-O- 1. Protect the cultural and scenic values of the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC (**85,000 acres**). • Objective ACEC-NA-O- 2. Protect and enhance the Arch Canyon area, bighorn sheep habitat, and the Jarbidge River system and protect and maintain the cultural, geologic, scenic, and natural values present in the area. • Objective ACEC-NA-O- 3. Protect the Salmon Falls Creek Canyon (**2,700 acres**) for its natural and scenic values through ACEC designation and management. • Objective ACEC-NA-O- 4. Manage the Sand	• Objective ACEC-I-O- 1. Manage the lands within the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC to protect their fish, wildlife, botanical, scenic, and cultural resource values (**85,000 acres**). • Objective ACEC-I-O- 2. Manage the lands within the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC (**1,100 acres**) to protect their aquatic and botanical resources. • Objective ACEC-I-O- 3. Manage the lands within the Middle Snake ACEC (**7,500 acres**) to protect their fish and botanical values. • Objective ACEC-I-O- 4. Manage the lands within the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC (**2,700 acres**) to	*No similar objectives.*	• Objective ACEC-III-O- 1. Manage the lands within the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC to protect their cultural, scenic, fish, wildlife, and botanical values (**57,000 acres**). • Objective ACEC-III-O- 2. Manage the lands within the Salmon Falls Creek ACEC (**2,700 acres**) to protect their scenic, fish, and botanical values. • Objective ACEC-III-O- 3. Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC (**950 acres**) to protect their historic, cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.	• Objective ACEC-IV-O- 1. Manage the lands within the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC to protect their cultural, scenic, fish, and botanical values (**123,000 acres**). • Objective ACEC-IV-O- 2. Manage the lands within the Inside Desert ACEC (Alternative IV-A: **73,000 acres**; Alternative IV-B: **41,000 acres**) to protect their botanical values. • Objective ACEC-IV-O- 3. Manage the lands within the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC (Alt IV-A: **136,000 acres**) to protect their cultural, fish, wildlife, and botanical values. • Objective ACEC-IV-O-	• Objective ACEC-V-O- 1. Manage the lands within the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC (**1,100 acres**) to protect their aquatic and botanical resources. • Objective ACEC-V-O- 2. Manage the lands within the Middle Snake ACEC (**7,500 acres**) to protect their fish and botanical values. • Objective ACEC-V-O- 3. Manage the lands within the Sagebrush Sea ACEC (**958,000 acres**) to protect their cultural, fish, wildlife, and botanical values. • Objective ACEC-V-O- 4. Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC (**950 acres**) to protect their historic,

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Point ACEC (**810 acres**) to protect its paleontological and cultural resources, protect the geologic features present, and ensure that its scenic and wildlife values are maintained.	protect their scenic, fish, and botanical values. • Objective ACEC-I-O- 5. Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC (**950 acres**) to protect their historic, cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.			4. Manage the lands within the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC (Alternative IV-B: **66,000 acres**) to protect their cultural, wildlife, and botanical values. • Objective ACEC-IV-O- 5. Manage the lands within the Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC (**1,100 acres**) to protect their aquatic and botanical resources. • Objective ACEC-IV-O- 6. Manage the lands within the Sand Point ACEC (**950 acres**) to protect their historic, cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.	cultural, paleontological, and geologic values.
Special Designations – National Historic Trails (NHT)					
Goal NHT-NA-O- 1. Protect and manage the Oregon NHT to preserve all remaining ruts and trail features; develop an interpretive marker program, signing, and facilities to serve trail users; and nominate to the National Register.	***Goal NHT-CA-G- 1. The Oregon NHT corridor would be managed to preserve and protect the historic, scenic, and recreational values associated with the trail.*** • Objective NHT-CA-O- 1. Protect, preserve, and provide opportunities to experience the historic, scenic, and recreational values of the Oregon NHT.				
Special Designations – Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR)					
Goal WSR-NA-G- 1. Protect the scenic and recreational values of the Bruneau and Jarbidge	***Goal WSR-CA-G- 1. Maintain or enhance the ORVs, free-flowing character, water quality, and tentative classification of designated, suitable, and eligible WSR segments.***				

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Rivers through special designation and management.					
Special Designations – Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)					
Goal WSA-NA-G- 1 Manage 19,360 acres for wilderness in the planning area.	***Goal WSA-CA-G- 1. Manage the Jarbidge River WSA, Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA, and Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA according to the IMP until designated as wilderness or released by Congress.***				
Areas determined by Congress to be nonsuitable for wilderness designation would be managed for other purposes	If not otherwise directed by legislation, lands released from wilderness study would not be managed for their wilderness characteristics, but instead would be managed according to direction for adjacent non-wilderness lands.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	If not otherwise directed by legislation, lands released from wilderness study would be managed for their wilderness characteristics according to the direction in the *Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics* section.	Same as Alternative IV.
Social and Economic Features – Social and Economic Conditions (SE)					
No goal stated. *No similar objective.*	***Goal SE-CA-G- 1. Management of the resources and uses of public lands would provide social and economic benefits to residents, businesses, visitors, and future generations.*** • Objective SE-CA-O- 1. Provide opportunities for economic and social benefit while maintaining natural and cultural resource values.				
Social and Economic Features – Hazardous Materials (HM)					
No goal stated. *No objective stated.*	***Goal HM-CA-G- 1. Ensure hazardous materials concerns on public lands remain a high priority.*** • Objective HM-CA-O- 1. Mitigate issues related to hazardous materials.				
Social and Economic Features – Interpretation, Outreach, and Environmental Education (IOE)					
No goal stated.	***Goal IOE-CA-G- 1. Working with partners, provide interpretation, outreach, and environmental education to highlight the natural, cultural, and historic features of the planning area and to further resource protection and public safety.***				

2.8.2. Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Table 2- 6 provides a summary of the impacts on the human and natural environment in terms of the consequences that are proposed to occur from implementing the alternatives presented in Chapter 2; differences between the two sub-alternatives of Alternative IV (the Preferred Alternative) are described only where they occur. The effects of the various management actions in each alternative are discussed in detail in the environmental consequences section presented in Chapter 4.

Differences between the wording of environmental consequences in the main text of Chapter 4 and the wording in the summary table should not be construed to confine or redefine the analysis of impacts. Wording was modified to be more concise in the summary table. Sections are summarized in the order in which they appear in Chapter 4.

Table 2- 6. Summary Comparison of Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Impacts to Tribal Rights and Interests					
The No Action Alternative would result in the second most impacts to tribal rights and interests. • Highest impact to the natural resource base used by the tribes • Second highest impact to the physical integrity of cultural resources • Second highest risk to the future exercise of treaty rights and tribal interests from potential disposal of public land	Alternative I would result in the third fewest impacts to tribal rights and interests. • Second lowest impact to the natural resource base used by the tribes • Third lowest impact to the physical integrity of cultural resources • Third lowest risk to the future exercise of treaty rights and tribal interests from potential disposal of public land	Alternative II would result in more impacts to tribal rights and interests than any of the alternatives. • Highest impact to the natural resource base used by the tribes • Highest impact on the physical integrity of cultural resources • Highest risk to the future exercise of treaty rights and tribal interests from potential disposal of public land	Alternative III would result in the third most impacts to tribal rights and interests. • Second highest impact to the natural resource base used by the tribes • Third highest impact to the physical integrity of cultural resources • Third lowest risk to the future exercise of treaty rights and tribal interests from potential disposal of public land	Alternative IV would result in the second fewest impacts to tribal rights and interests. • Lowest impact to the natural resource base used by the tribes • Second lowest impact to the physical integrity of cultural resources • Second lowest risk to the future exercise of treaty rights and tribal interests from potential disposal of public land	Alternative V would result in fewer impacts to tribal rights and interests than any of the alternatives • Lowest impact to the natural resource base used by the tribes • Lowest impact to the physical integrity of cultural resources • Lowest risk to the future exercise of treaty rights and tribal interests from potential disposal of public land
Impacts to Air and Atmospheric Values					
Impacts to Air Quality					
The No Action Alternative would have the highest impact to air quality. • Maintains the current frequency of large fires • Maintains current levels of cross-country motorized vehicle use • No emissions of $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} expected from the use of prescribed fire	Alternative I would have the least impact to air quality. • Decreases frequency of large fire • Reduces acres open to cross-country motorized vehicle use • No emissions of $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} expected from the use of prescribed fire	Alternative II would have the second highest impact to air quality. • Maintains the current frequency of large fires • Eliminates acres open to cross-country motorized vehicle use • Approximately 2,000 tons of $PM_{2.5}$ and 2,000 tons of PM_{10} produced by prescribed fires over the life of the plan	Alternative III would have the third highest impact to air quality. • Decreases frequency of large fires • Reduces acres open to cross-country motorized vehicle use • Creates and maintains unvegetated fuel breaks • Approximately 2,000 tons of $PM_{2.5}$ and 2,000 tons of PM_{10} produced by prescribed fires over the life of the plan	Alternative IV would have the second lowest impact to air quality. • Largest decrease in frequency of large fires • Reduces acres open to cross-country motorized vehicle use • Approximately 3,000 tons of $PM_{2.5}$ and 4,000 tons of PM_{10} produced by prescribed fires over the life of the plan	Alternative V would have the third lowest impact to air quality. • Decreases frequency of large fires • Reduces acres open to cross-country motorized vehicle use • Approximately 700 tons of $PM_{2.5}$ and 1,000 tons of PM_{10} produced by prescribed fires over the life of the plan

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Impacts to Climate Change					
Emissions of CH_4 in Tg CO_2 equivalents per year through enteric fermentation are displayed below:					
0.03-0.05 Tg per year	0.04-0.06 Tg per year	0.08-0.10 Tg per year	0.06-0.08 Tg per year	0.02-0.03 Tg per year	0.01-0.02 Tg per year
Impacts to Geologic Features					
The No Action Alternative ranks fifth for maintaining geologic features, due to availability to salable mineral development and lack of management to maintain naturalness in areas with geologic features.	Alternative I ranks third for maintaining geologic features, due to leasable and salable mineral closures, recommendations for withdrawal from mineral entry, and complementary management for ACECs and naturalness in areas with geologic features.	Alternative II ranks last for maintaining geologic features, due to availability for leasable, salable, and locatable mineral development and lack of complementary management for ACECs or naturalness in areas with geologic features.	Alternative III ranks fourth for maintaining geologic features, due to availability for leasable, salable, and locatable mineral development but presence of complementary management through ACEC designations in areas with geologic features.	Alternative IV ranks first for maintaining geologic features, due to leasable and salable mineral closures, recommendations for withdrawal from mineral entry, and highest amount of complementary management for ACECs and naturalness in areas with geologic features.	Alternative V ranks second for maintaining geologic features, due to leasable and salable mineral closures, a smaller area recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry than Alternative IV, and complementary management for ACECs and naturalness in areas with geologic features.
Impacts to Soil Resources					
The No Action Alternative would do the least to reduce impacts to soil resources.	Alternative I ranks fourth for reducing impacts to soil resources.	Alternative II ranks sixth for reducing impacts to soil resources.	Alternative III ranks fifth for reducing impacts to soil resources.	Alternative IV-A would do the most to reduce impacts to soil resources. Alternative IV-B rates second due to the smaller geographic area affected.	Alternative V ranks third for reducing impacts to soil resources.
The No Action Alternative lacks specific actions that would be incorporated at as design features, stipulations, or closures to manage for soils, and particularly soils with higher hazard ratings for water and wind erosion.	Management actions tend to moderate impacts to soil resources while allowing for multiple uses. Alternative I would tend to maintain current conditions with some potential for improvement on soil resource conditions over the long term.	Higher livestock grazing allocations and amounts of livestock facilities would tend to reduce cover and would compact soils in facility locations. Impacts associated with roads would tend to increase erosion potential; density of roads would increase the proportion of soils compacted by use.	While less fire on the landscape would reduce impacts to soils, Alternative III would increase short- and long-term impacts from roads, fire suppression facilities, creation and maintenance of fuel breaks and fire-resistant plant communities, and use of livestock grazing to reduce fuels.	Both sub-alternatives would reduce soil impacts through upland vegetation treatments to restore native shrubland communities, fire management priorities that protect existing and restored native shrubland communities, reductions in livestock grazing allocations and facilities, and limits on other uses.	The more passive approach to vegetation treatments would reduce short-term impacts to soils, but long-term effects related to restoration of upland vegetation communities and soil function would cover a smaller geographic area than Alternatives IV-A and IV-B.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Impacts to Water Resources					
The No Action Alternative would result in the fewest miles of water quality impaired stream achieving State water quality standards. The No Action Alternative would have the highest risk to water resources and longest recovery time of degraded watershed conditions.	Alternative I is the third most likely to attain riparian objectives and State water quality standards in the life of the plan.	Alternative II is the fifth most likely to attain State water quality standards in the life of the plan. Alternative II would have the most resource uses and fewest miles at PFC.	Alternative III is the fourth most likely to attain riparian objectives and State water quality standards in the life of the plan. The attainment of the riparian objectives is less likely due to the increased resource uses in addition to the enhanced wildland fire suppression infrastructure.	Alternative IV has greatest potential to achieve State water quality standards of all alternatives. Active restoration is more likely to facilitate the achievement of State water quality standards within the life of the plan than passive restoration.	Alternative V would be the second most likely to attain riparian objectives and State water quality standards in the life of the plan. Passive restoration would have fewer short-term impacts and longer timeframes to meet riparian objectives and State water quality standards.
The No Action Alternative has no objectives to maintain or improve PFC.	PFC objectives include: • 145 miles at PFC • 80 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 85 miles at PFC • 140 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 183 miles at PFC • 42 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 183 miles at PFC • 42 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 183 miles at PFC • 42 miles toward PFC
The ARMS does not apply.	The ARMS applies and would mitigate impacts from authorized and allowed uses.				
Impacts to Upland Vegetation					
Acres of VSGs in the planning area following vegetation treatments are displayed below:					
Annual 112,000 Non-Native Perennial 431,000 Non-Native Understory 7,000 Native Grassland 424,000 Native Shrubland 367,000	Annual 75,000 Non-Native Perennial 299,000 Non-Native Understory 40,000 Native Grassland 211,000 Native Shrubland 715,000	Annual 47,000 Non-Native Perennial 448,000 Non-Native Understory 34,000 Native Grassland 424,000 Native Shrubland 388,000	Annual 53,000 Non-Native Perennial 415,000 Non-Native Understory 64,000 Native Grassland 230,000 Native Shrubland 568,000	Annual 112,000 Non-Native Perennial 431,000 Non-Native Understory 7,000 Native Grassland 424,000 Native Shrubland 367,000	Annual 81,000 Non-Native Perennial 152,000 Non-Native Understory 257,000 Native Grassland 245,000 Native Shrubland 605,000
Acres of seral stages in the planning area following vegetation treatments are displayed below:					
Early 424,000 Mid 91,000 Late 264,000 Uncharac-teristic 549,000	Early 213,000 Mid 437,000 Late 264,000 Uncharac-teristic 414,000	Early 426,000 Mid 110,000 Late 264,000 Uncharac-teristic 528,000	Early 232,000 Mid 295,000 Late 259,000 Uncharac-teristic 532,000	Early 152,000 Mid 581,000 Late 264,000 Uncharac-teristic 331,000	Early 247,000 Mid 327,000 Late 264,000 Uncharac-teristic 490,000

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
The No Action Alternative would increase the relative proportion of acreage occupied by non-native perennial communities while maintaining proportions of annual, native grassland, and native shrubland communities and reducing proportions of non-native understory communities.	Alternative I would create a landscape with greater species diversity and structural complexity compared to the No Action Alternative and Alternatives II and III. This diversity would promote improved landscape functions over 67% of the planning area, including water and nutrient cycling and soil stabilization.	Alternative II would create a relatively homogeneous landscape dominated by early-seral and uncharacteristic vegetation in VMAs A, B, and C. Limited species and structural diversity in areas dominated by non-native perennial vegetation would decrease water and nutrient cycling compared to shrubland communities.	Alternative III would create a landscape with more species diversity and structural complexity than would be created under either the No Action Alternative or Alternative II. Native communities, particularly shrublands, would be less continuous than in Alternatives I, IV, or V.	Alternative IV would create a landscape dominated by native communities with a variety of seral stages and the lowest proportion of uncharacteristic vegetation of all the alternatives. This would improve landscape, including water and nutrient cycling and soil stabilization.	Alternative V would create a landscape with large patches of native communities in a variety of seral stages interspersed with non-native perennial and non-native understory communities. This would improve landscape functions, including water and nutrient cycling and soil stabilization.
The lack of prioritization for wildland fire suppression would perpetuate the current trend of native shrubland loss.	Overall fire management priorities would promote protection of existing and restored native shrubland communities; however, suppression priorities would likely result in continued loss of native shrublands.	Overall fire management priorities would promote protection of native grassland and non-native perennial communities with no prioritization for shrubland communities. Continued loss of native shrublands is likely.	Overall fire management priorities would promote protection of native shrubland, as well as native grassland and non-native perennial communities and would reduce the potential for loss for existing shrubland patches.	Overall fire management priorities would promote the protection of existing and restored native shrubland communities. Suppression priorities would not be adequate to retain all native communities; however, native grasslands would be relatively resilient if burned.	Overall fire management priorities would promote protection of existing and restored native shrubland communities. In VMAs B, C, and D, opportunities would be limited for post wildland fire treatments; therefore, Alternative V would require more use of prescribed fire in these VMAs as part of vegetation treatments.
Livestock management actions would promote uniform use of perennial grass and dominance by non-native perennial and short-stature, early- and mid-seral grasses.	Livestock management actions would result in moderate, uniform use that would tend to reduce structural complexity for perennial herbaceous plants.	Livestock management actions would promote uniform use of perennial grass and long-term dominance by non-native perennial and short-stature, early- and mid-seral grasses.	Livestock management actions would result in moderate, uniform use that would tend to reduce structural complexity for perennial herbaceous plants.	Livestock management actions coupled with vegetation treatments would result in greater structural complexity for both woody and herbaceous vegetation compared to the No Action Alternative and Alternatives I, II, and III.	Livestock management actions coupled with vegetation treatments would result in the greatest potential for species diversity and structural complexity and the highest potential for landscape stability compared to all other alternatives.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Designation of 77% of the planning area as open to cross-country motorized vehicle use would result in continued creation of unplanned routes, fragmentation of plant communities, and introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants.	While cross-country motorized vehicle use and route density would decrease compared to the No Action Alternative, disturbance associated with fuel breaks and livestock management would be similar to the No Action Alternative or slightly increased. This would result in localized degradation of plant communities that could expand.	While cross-country motorized vehicle use would decrease compared to the No Action Alternative, increased allocations for livestock grazing as well as travel associated with commodity use would increase the amount of disturbed areas. This would result in localized degradation of plant communities and would increase the potential for expansion.	While cross-country motorized vehicle use would decrease, route density would remain similar to the No Action Alternative. Disturbance associated with fuel breaks and livestock management would be greater compared to the No Action Alternative and Alternatives I, IV, and V. This would result in localized degradation of plant communities.	Cross-country motorized vehicle use, route density, disturbance associated with fuel breaks and livestock management would be reduced compared to the No Action Alternative and Alternatives I, II, and III. This would reduce the potential for localized degradation of plant communities and expansion of disturbed areas.	Cross-country motorized vehicle use, route density, disturbance associated with fuel breaks and livestock management would be the least of all alternatives. This would reduce the potential for localized degradation of plant communities and expansion of disturbed areas.
Impacts to Riparian Areas and Wetlands					
The No Action Alternative has no objectives to maintain or improve PFC.	PFC objectives include: • 145 miles at PFC • 80 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 85 miles at PFC • 140 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 183 miles at PFC • 42 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 183 miles at PFC • 42 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 183 miles at PFC • 42 miles toward PFC
The ARMS does not apply.	The ARMS applies and would mitigate impacts from authorized and allowed uses.				
The No Action Alternative would result in the greatest potential to reduce habitat condition and PFC ratings of all alternatives and is the least likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan.	Alternative I is the third most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan.	Alternative II is the fifth most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives and would result in the fewest miles of riparian area at PFC within the life of the plan.	Alternative III is the fourth most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan. The attainment of the riparian objectives is less likely due to the increased resource uses in addition to the enhanced wildland fire suppression infrastructure.	Alternative IV is most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan. Alternative IV would have fewer areas available for authorized uses and less wildland fire infrastructure. Active restoration is more likely to achieve restoration objectives and in a shorter timeframe than passive restoration.	Alternative V is the second most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan. Alternative V would have the fewest areas available for land uses of all alternatives. Passive restoration would have fewer short-term impacts, but longer timeframes for riparian objectives to be met.
Impacts to Fish					
Impacts to fish would be the same as described for special status fish and aquatic invertebrates and riparian areas and wetlands.					

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Impacts to Wildlife					
The No Action Alternative would restore little habitat for wildlife in the sagebrush steppe and other guilds, but would maintain the second highest amount of habitat for grassland guild wildlife.	Alternative I would restore 300,000 acres of habitat for wildlife in the sagebrush steppe and other guilds and would have the third largest reduction in the amount of habitat for grassland guild wildlife.	Alternative II would restore no habitat for wildlife in the sagebrush steppe and other guilds, but would maintain the largest amount of habitat for grassland guild wildlife.	Alternative III would restore 185,000 acres of habitat for wildlife in the sagebrush steppe and other guilds and would maintain the third highest amount of habitat for grassland guild wildlife.	Alternative IV would restore 410,000 acres habitat for wildlife in the sagebrush steppe and other guilds and would have the largest reduction in the amount of habitat for grassland guild wildlife.	Alternative V would restore 409,000 acres of habitat for wildlife in the sagebrush steppe and other guilds and would have the second largest reduction in the amount of habitat for grassland guild wildlife.
The No Action Alternative would provide the third highest amount of residual cover for wildlife, as it would make the fewest acres unavailable for livestock grazing and allocate the third lowest amount of vegetation for livestock.	Alternative I would provide the third lowest amount of residual cover for wildlife, as it would make the fourth smallest acreage unavailable for livestock grazing and allocate the third highest amount of vegetation for livestock.	Alternative II would provide the least residual cover for wildlife, as it would make the second smallest acreage unavailable for to livestock grazing and allocate the highest amount of vegetation for livestock.	Alternative III would provide the second lowest amount of residual cover for wildlife, as it would make the third smallest acreage unavailable for livestock grazing and allocate the second highest amount of vegetation for livestock.	Alternative IV would provide the second highest amount of residual cover for wildlife, as it would make the second largest acreage unavailable for livestock grazing and allocate the second lowest amount of vegetation for livestock.	Alternative V would provide the most residual cover for wildlife, as it would make the largest acreage unavailable for livestock grazing and allocate the lowest amount of vegetation for livestock.
The No Action Alternative would decrease habitat patch size the most of all alternatives, due to the highest increase in new routes and infrastructure.	Alternative I would have the third lowest impact to habitat patch size. This alternative would have the third lowest amount of new roads and infrastructure, which partially offsets gains in habitat patch size due to restoration. New infrastructure would be encouraged to be located in existing disturbance areas.	Alternative II would have the second largest decrease in habitat patch size due to having the second largest amount of infrastructure and allowing new roads and new infrastructure to be constructed in areas that are currently undisturbed.	Alternative III would have the third largest decrease in habitat patch size due to having the third highest amount of new roads and other infrastructure, as well as the construction of unvegetated fuel breaks. These impacts would be partially offset by locating new infrastructure in existing disturbance areas.	Alternative IV would have the second lowest impact to habitat patch size. While the amount of habitat restoration would generally increase patch size, these gains would be offset by having more new roads and infrastructure than Alternative V.	Alternative V would have the lowest impact to habitat patch size of all the alternatives, due to restoration of habitat combined with the lowest amount of new roads and infrastructure. New infrastructure would be encouraged to be located in existing disturbance areas.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Impacts to Special Status Species					
Impacts to Special Status Fish and Aquatic Invertebrates					
The No Action Alternative would result in the least improvement in habitat and PFC ratings of all alternatives and is the least likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan.	Alternative I is the third most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan.	Alternative II is the fifth most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan. Increased commercial uses, combined with fewer miles achieving PFC and habitat condition objectives, would result in the most miles of special status aquatic species habitat in a reduced condition.	Alternative III is fourth most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan. The attainment of the riparian and habitat condition objectives is less likely due to the increased resource uses, in addition to the enhanced wildland fire suppression infrastructure.	Alternative IV is the most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan. Active restoration is more likely to achieve restoration objectives and in a shorter timeframe than passive restoration.	Alternative V is the second most likely to attain habitat condition and riparian objectives in the life of the plan. Passive restoration would have fewer short-term impacts, but longer timeframes for habitat and riparian objectives to be met.
The No Action Alternative has no objectives to maintain or improve PFC.	PFC objectives include: • 145 miles at PFC • 80 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 85 miles at PFC • 140 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 183 miles at PFC • 42 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 183 miles at PFC • 42 miles toward PFC	PFC objectives include: • 183 miles at PFC • 42 miles toward PFC
The ARMS does not apply.	The ARMS applies and would mitigate impacts from authorized and allowed uses.				
Impacts to Special Status Wildlife					
The No Action Alternative allows little restoration of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	Alternative I would restore third highest amount of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	Alternative II would restore the smallest amount of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	Alternative III would restore third smallest amount of habitat for sage grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	Alternative IV would restore the highest amount of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	Alternative V would restore second highest amount of habitat for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.
This alternative would provide the third highest amount of residual cover for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	This alternative would provide the third lowest amount of residual cover for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	This alternative would provide the least residual cover for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates	This alternative would provide the second lowest amount of residual cover for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	This alternative would provide the second highest amount of residual cover for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	This alternative would provide the most residual cover for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.
The No Action Alternative is expected to result in the most new roads and infrastructure in habitat for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	Alternative I is expected to result in the third lowest amount of new roads and infrastructure in habitat for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	Alternative II is expected to result in second highest amount of new roads and infrastructure in habitat for sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	Alternative III is expected to result in the third highest amount of new roads and infrastructure in sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.	Alternative IV is expected to result in the second lowest amount of new roads and infrastructure in sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates	Alternative V is expected to result in the least new roads and infrastructure in sage-grouse and other special status sagebrush obligates.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
The No Action Alternative would restore the smallest amount of habitat for spotted frogs and other special status riparian guild wildlife.	Alternative I would restore the second highest amount of habitat for spotted frogs and other special status riparian guild wildlife.	Same as the No Action Alternative.	Alternative III would restore highest amount of habitat for spotted frogs and other special status riparian guild wildlife.	Same as Alternative III.	Same as Alternative III.
Impacts to Special Status Plants					
The No Action Alternative ranks sixth for management of special status plants and their habitats as it would do little to restore potential habitat.	Alternative I ranks fourth for management of special status plants, due primarily to intermediate levels of habitat restoration and management that would reduce fire-related impacts to special status plants and their habitats and prevent impacts due to travel.	Alternative II would do the least to manage for special status plants and their habitats, due to low levels of habitat restoration combined with the highest amount and intensity of livestock use and impacts due to route densities. Critical fire suppression priorities would do little to protect special status plants and their habitats.	Alternative III ranks fifth for management of special status plants and their habitats due primarily to relatively high levels of habitat fragmentation from actions intended to reduce large wildland fires. Vegetated and unvegetated fuel breaks, combined with increased fire suppression infrastructure, would break up contiguous blocks of special status plant habitats. Critical fire suppression priorities do not fully protect occupied and potential habitats for special status plants.	Alternative IV ranks first in maintaining existing special status plant populations and maintaining or increasing occupied and potential habitats due primarily to actions that actively restore habitats. Management is included in Alternative IV to reduce fire-related impacts to special status plants and their habitats and to prevent impacts due to travel.	Alternative V ranks second for management of special status plants, due primarily to the passive restoration and noxious and invasive weed treatments, reducing acreage and increasing the time required for restoration. Alternative V provided the greatest amount of active management to reduce fire-related impacts to special status plants and to prevent impacts due to travel. However, allowing for more uses could result in indirect impacts to special status plants.
The No Action Alternative contains low levels of management for protection of existing special status plant populations. This includes indirect impacts from special management in the Bruneau-Jarbidge River ACEC.	ACEC management for special status plants and their habitats would only occur along the Bruneau, Jarbidge, Middle Snake, and Salmon Falls Creek drainages; populations in the interior of the planning area would not have elevated levels of management.	Under Alternative II there would be no ACEC designations and, therefore, no special management for special status plants and their habitats.	ACEC designations would only manage special status plants and habitats along the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers, in an area 2/3 the size under Alternative I; populations of special status plants throughout most of the planning area would not have elevated levels of management.	ACEC designations under Alternative IV-A would provide management for special status plants and their habitats throughout the planning area. Alternative IV-B was rated third due to reduced acreages for special management associated with ACECs.	ACEC designations under Alternative V would provide management for special status plants on the most acreage of all the alternatives, and, thus, for the most special status plants and their habitats.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Impacts to Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants					
The No Action Alternative ranks sixth in reducing potential for the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants.	Alternative I ranks fourth for reducing the potential for introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants.	Alternative II would do the least to reduce the potential for introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants.	Alternative III ranks fifth for reducing the potential for introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants.	Alternative IV-A does the most to reduce the potential for introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants. Alternative IV-B rates second due to the smaller geographic area affected.	Alternative V ranks third for reducing potential for introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants.
The No Action Alternative would do little to change current trends for noxious weeds and invasive plants through vegetation treatments, wildland fire management, travel management, or land use authorizations.	Management actions tend to reduce disturbance to vegetation and soil resources while allowing for multiple uses. Alternative I would tend to maintain current conditions with some potential for reduction of introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants over the long-term.	Higher livestock grazing allocations as well as increased amounts of livestock facilities would tend to reduce vegetation cover and disrupt soils in facility locations. Impacts associated with density of roads would increase potential for introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants.	While less fire on the landscape would reduce potential for noxious weed and invasive plant introduction and spread, the alternative would increase short- and long-term impacts resulting from roads, fire suppression facilities, creation and maintenance of fire breaks, and use of livestock grazing to reduce fuels.	Both sub-alternatives would reduce long-term potential for noxious weed and invasive plant introduction and spread through upland vegetation treatments to restore native shrubland communities, fire management priorities that protect native shrubland communities, reductions in livestock grazing allocations and facilities, and limits on other uses.	The more passive approach to vegetation treatments would reduce short-term impacts to existing vegetation and soils, long-term effects related to restoration of upland vegetation communities would cover a smaller geographic area compared to Alternatives IV-A and IV-B.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Impacts to Wildland Fire Ecology and Management – Wildland Fire Management					
The number of human-caused fires in the No Action Alternative would remain static or increase due to the combined impacts from land use authorizations, transportation and travel, and recreation actions and the lack of prevention actions.	The number of human-caused fires would decrease overall. The suppression actions in Alternative I would be second best at decreasing the number of human-caused fires. This effect would be augmented by travel management actions, but offset by recreation and land use authorizations management actions.	The number of human-caused fires would decrease overall. The suppression actions in Alternative II would be best at reducing the number of human-caused fires. This effect would be augmented by recreation management actions, but offset by travel and land use authorizations management actions.	The number of human-caused fires would increase overall. Even though the suppression actions in Alternative III would be best at reducing the number of human-caused fires, this effect would be offset by transportation and travel, recreation, and land use authorizations management actions.	The number of human-caused fires could increase at a slower rate than every alternative except for Alternative V. Even though the suppression actions in Alternative IV reduce the number of human-caused fires the least of all the alternatives, this effect would be offset by transportation and travel, recreation, and land use authorizations management actions.	The number of human-caused fires would increase at the slowest rate of all the alternatives. The suppression actions in Alternative V would be second best at reducing the number of human-caused fires. This effect would be augmented transportation and travel, recreation, and land use authorizations management actions.
In the short term, the trend toward large fires would continue. Few suppression actions are identified to reduce fire size, and no treatments would move vegetation toward fuels with a lower rate of spread.	In the short term, fire size would decrease through suppression actions, although to a lesser degree than Alternatives II and III. This would be offset by treatments on only 3% of the planning area moving vegetation toward fuels with a lower rate of spread.	In the short term, fire size would decrease through suppression and livestock grazing actions. This would be augmented by treatments on 5% of the planning area moving vegetation toward fuels with a lower rate of spread.	In the short term, fire size would decrease through suppression actions and livestock grazing actions. This would be augmented by treatments on 6% of the planning area moving vegetation toward fuels with a lower rate of spread.	In the short term, fire size would continue to increase until FRCC is improved, due to suppression actions reducing fire size least of all the alternatives and reduced levels of livestock grazing. This would be offset by treatments on 5% of the planning area moving vegetation toward fuels with a lower rate of spread.	In the short term, fire size would continue to increase until FRCC is improved. Even though suppression actions would decrease fire size, this would be offset by substantially reduced levels of livestock grazing and treatments on only 3% of the planning area moving vegetation toward fuels with a lower rate of spread.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Over the long term, fire size would continue an upward trend. Vegetation treatments would not improve FRCC, with no increase in acres similar to S-Class reference conditions as compared to the baseline; livestock grazing management may inhibit improvement in FRCC. No treatments are identified for WUI.	Over the long term, fire size would decrease due to moderate improvement in FRCC. Vegetation treatments would improve FRCC on 300,000 acres; livestock grazing management is least likely to either inhibit or heighten improvement in FRCC. Approximately 4,000 acres of fuels treatments in WUI would be implemented.	Over the long term, with no change to FRCC, fire size would return to an upward trend. Vegetation treatments and livestock grazing would play the least role in improving FRCC with no increase in acres similar to S-Class reference conditions as compared to the baseline. Among the alternatives, Approximately 5,000 acres of fuels treatments in WUI would be implemented.	Over the long term, fire size would continue an upward trend, although to a lesser degree than the No Action Alternative and Alternative II due to marginal improvement in FRCC. Vegetation treatments would improve FRCC on 180,000 acres; livestock grazing management would further inhibit improvement in FRCC over the long term. Approximately 6,000 acres of fuels treatments in WUI would be implemented.	Over the long term, fire size would decrease due to major improvement in FRCC. Vegetation treatments would improve FRCC on 373,000 acres; livestock grazing management would heighten improvement of FRCC. Approximately 4,000 acres of fuels treatments in WUI would be implemented; improvements in overall FRCC would also benefit WUI by reducing fire size in the long term.	Over the long term, fire size would decrease due to minor improvement in FRCC. Vegetation treatments would improve FRCC on 210,000 acres; livestock grazing management would heighten improvement of FRCC. Approximately 3,000 acres of fuels treatments in WUI would be implemented.
FRCC by Vegetation Type by VMA Following Full Implementation of the Plan (All Vegetation Types Currently as Shown under the No Action Alternative)					
VMA A:	***VMA A:***	***VMA A:***	***VMA A:***	***VMA A:***	***VMA A:***
Wy. sagebrush steppe 3	Wy. sagebrush steppe 3	Wy. sagebrush steppe 3	Wy. sagebrush steppe 3	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 3
VMA B:	***VMA B:***	***VMA B:***	***VMA B:***	***VMA B:***	***VMA B:***
Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2
VMA C:	***VMA C:***	***VMA C:***	***VMA C:***	***VMA C:***	***VMA C:***
Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1
Basin big sagebrush 3	Basin big sagebrush 2	Basin big sagebrush 3	Basin big sagebrush 2	Basin big sagebrush 1	Basin big sagebrush 2
Black/low sagebrush 3	Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 3	Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 2
VMA D:	***VMA D:***	***VMA D:***	***VMA D:***	***VMA D:***	***VMA D:***
Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 2	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1	Wy. sagebrush steppe 1
Basin big sagebrush 3	Basin big sagebrush 1	Basin big sagebrush 3	Basin big sagebrush 2	Basin big sagebrush 1	Basin big sagebrush 1
Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 2	Black/low sagebrush 1	Black/low sagebrush 2
Mtn big sagebrush 2	Mtn big sagebrush 2	Mtn big sagebrush 2	Mtn big sagebrush 1	Mtn big sagebrush 1	Mtn big sagebrush 2
Impacts to Wild Horses					
The number of wild horses in the HMA would be reduced to and maintained at 50.	A reproducing herd of 100 to 200 wild horses would be maintained.	Wild horses in the HMA would be gathered, and the HMA would be unpopulated.	A reproducing herd of 200 to 600 horses would be established and maintained.	Wild horses would be gathered and replaced by a non-reproducing herd up to 200.	Wild horses would be gathered and replaced by a non-reproducing herd up to 500.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
The No Action Alternative would have the most impact to wild horses, as it would result in: • The most difficulty in maintaining the genetic diversity of the herd • The least improvement in forage and water availability and stability • The most disruption to wild horses due to conflict with human activity and infrastructure	Alternative I would have the third highest impact to wild horses, as it would result in: • Some difficulty in maintaining the genetic diversity of the herd • Improvement in forage and water availability • The smallest reduction in disruption to wild horses, due to conflict with livestock grazing and vegetation treatments	Reducing the wild horse herd to zero would have the highest short-term effects on wild horses during the process of gathering and relocating wild horses. In the long term, genetic diversity of the herd, forage and water availability, and disruption to wild horses would no longer be an issue.	Alternative III would have the second lowest impact to wild horses, as it would result in: • The least difficulty in maintaining the genetic diversity of herd • Improvement in forage availability • Improvement to water systems to increase reliability and supply of water • Reduced disruption to wild horses, due to fewer conflicts with motorized recreation, removal of fences in the HMA, and the fewest vegetation treatments of the action alternatives, even though conflicts with livestock grazing would remain high	Alternative IV would have the least impact to wild horses, as it would result in: • No impacts to the genetic diversity of the herd • Improvement in forage availability • Potential difficulty in improving water availability due to reduced need for livestock water in the HMA • Highest overall reduction in disruption to wild horses, due to reductions in human activity and uses and realignment of fences in the HMA, even though conflicts with vegetation treatments may be high	Alternative V would have the second highest impact to wild horses, as it would result in: • No impacts to the genetic diversity of the herd • Less improvement in forage availability than Alternatives I, III, and IV, offset partially by the reduced allocation of vegetation for livestock • No increase in water availability due to the reduced need for livestock water in the HMA and new pipelines being prohibited. • Highest overall reduction in disruption to wild horses, due to reductions in human activity and uses

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Impacts to Paleontological Resources					
The No Action Alternative would have the second highest potential to affect the integrity of paleontological resources, as there would be: • The second most PFY Class 5 acres vulnerable to impacts from mineral, utility, and wind energy development and the most acres vulnerable to transportation-related impacts • More Class 5 acres retained in Federal ownership • Some special management for maintaining the integrity of paleontological resources	Alternative I would have the lowest potential to affect the integrity of paleontological resources, similar to Alternatives III, IV, and V, as there would be: • Fewer Class 5 acres vulnerable to impacts from transportation and mineral, utility, and wind energy development • More Class 5 acres retained in Federal ownership • More special management for maintaining the integrity of paleontological resources	Alternative II would have the highest potential to affect the integrity of paleontological resources, as there would be: • The most Class 5 acres vulnerable to impacts from mineral, utility, and wind energy development, even though impacts from transportation would be lowest • Fewer Class 5 acres retained in Federal ownership • No special management for maintaining the integrity of paleontological resources	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.
Impacts to Cultural Resources					
The No Action Alternative would result in the second highest level of impacts to the integrity and setting of cultural resources.	Alternative I would result in the third lowest level of impacts to the integrity and setting of cultural resources.	Alternative II would result in the highest level of impacts to the integrity and setting of cultural resources.	Alternative III would result in the third highest level of impacts to the integrity and setting of cultural resources.	Alternative IV would result in the second lowest level of impacts to the integrity and setting of cultural resources.	Alternative V would result in the lowest level of impacts to the integrity and setting of cultural resources.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Impacts to Visual Resources					
The No Action Alternative would support retaining the existing visual character of 94% of Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) Class I lands and 19% of VRI Class II lands.	Alternative I would support retaining the existing visual character of 99% of VRI Class I lands and 65% of VRI Class II lands.	Alternative II would support retaining the existing visual character of 97% of VRI Class I lands and 4% of VRI Class II lands.	Same as Alternative II.	Alternative IV would support retaining the existing visual character of 99.8% of VRI Class I lands and 80% of VRI Class II lands.	Same as Alternative IV.
Acres of Visual Resource Inventory Class I and II Lands whose Visual Character would be Retained					
VRI I 97,000 acres VRI II 11,000 acres	VRI I 102,000 acres VRI II 38,000 acres	VRI I 100,000 acres VRI II 2,000 acres	VRI I 100,000 acres VRI II 2,000 acres	VRI I 103,000 acres VRI II 47,000 acres	VRI I 103,000 acres VRI II 57,000 acres
Impacts to Non-Wilderness Study Area Lands with Wilderness Characteristics					
The No Action Alternative ranks fifth for management that maintains wilderness characteristics on non-WSA lands, as there would be no specific management for these values and few or no restrictions on land use authorizations or mineral development in these areas; management for visual resources would maintain some wilderness characteristics.	Alternative I ranks third for management that maintains wilderness characteristics on non-WSA lands, as there would be no specific management for some areas inventoried to contain these values, which have few mineral development and land use authorization restrictions, contributing to a decline in wilderness character.	Alternative II ranks sixth for management that maintains wilderness characteristics on non-WSA lands, as there would be no specific management for these values and few or no restrictions on land use authorizations or mineral development in these areas.	Alternative III ranks fourth for management that maintains wilderness characteristics on non-WSA lands, as there would be no specific management for these values, few or no restrictions on mineral development, but some restrictions on wind energy and utility development in these areas.	Alternative IV ranks first for management that maintains wilderness characteristics on non-WSA lands, as it would manage for all inventoried wilderness characteristics on non-WSA lands with minimal decreases in wilderness characteristics from other uses.	Alternative V ranks second for management that maintains wilderness characteristics on non-WSA lands, as it would manage for all inventoried wilderness characteristics on non-WSA lands but make more of these areas available for locatable mineral development than Alternative IV.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Impacts to Livestock Grazing					
Forage Available for Livestock at Initial and Full Implementation of the Plan Based on Areas Available for Livestock Grazing, Vegetation Allocation and Treatments, and 2006 Vegetation Production Data (for Comparison Purposes Only)					
Initial implementation: 200,000 AUMs *Full implementation:* 160,000-260,000AUMs	*Initial implementation:* 194,000-267,000 AUMs *Full implementation*[3]*:* 196,000-269,000 AUMs	*Initial implementation:* 352,000-427,000 AUMs *Full implementation:* 394,000-479,000 AUMs	*Initial implementation:* 279,000-352,000 AUMs *Full implementation:* 302,000-382,000 AUMs	***Alternative IV-A:*** *Initial implementation:* 100,000-156,000 AUMs *Full implementation:* 89,000-141,000 AUMs ***Alternative IV-B:*** *Initial implementation:* 103,000-161,000 AUMs *Full implementation:* 92,000-145,000 AUMs	*Initial implementation:* 50,000-100,000 AUMs *Full implementation:* 49,000-98,000 AUMs
The No Action alternative has a low level of limitation on infrastructure for livestock management.	Alternative I provides a moderate level of limitation on infrastructure for livestock management.	Same as the No Action Alternative.	Same as the No Action Alternative.	Alternative IV provides a high level of limitation on infrastructure for livestock management.	Alternative V provides the highest level of limitation on infrastructure for livestock management.
The level of effort required to minimize conflicts with livestock grazing would be low with regard to resources and high with regard to other uses.	The level of effort required to minimize conflicts with livestock grazing would be low with regard to resources and other uses.	Same as the No Action Alternative.	A moderate amount of effort would be required to minimize conflicts with livestock grazing with regard to resources and other uses.	Same as Alternative III.	The level of effort required to minimize conflicts with livestock grazing would be high with regard to resources and low with regard to other uses.
Impacts to Recreation					
Areas with focused recreation management would not change (77,000 acres). However, managing the SRMAs without clearly established boundaries does not address the existing or anticipated increase in demand of the recreational resources.	The SRMAs proposed in Alternative I would provide the broadest range of activity type among all alternatives, maintaining or enhancing existing opportunities. Areas with focused recreation management would increase to 342,000 acres.	The SRMAs proposed in Alternative II would maintain or enhance some existing opportunities, while minimizing conflict with resource uses. Areas with focused recreation management would decrease to 21,000 acres.	The SRMAs proposed in Alternative III would maintain or enhance existing opportunities. Areas with focused recreation management would decrease to 56,000 acres.	The SRMAs proposed in Alternative IV would maintain or enhance existing opportunities. Areas with focused recreation management would increase to 205,000 acres.	The SRMAs proposed in Alternative V would maintain some existing opportunities. Areas with focused recreation management would decrease to 19,000 acres.

[3] For all action alternatives, reflects the impact of vegetation treatments on forage availability.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
The type, number, and setting of motorized recreation opportunities would be maintained.	The type, number, and setting of motorized recreation opportunities would be enhanced.	The type, number, and setting of motorized recreation opportunities would be limited.	The type, number, and setting of motorized recreation opportunities would be enhanced.	The type, number, and setting of motorized recreation opportunities would be enhanced.	The type, number, and setting of motorized recreation opportunities would be limited.
The type, number, and setting of non-motorized recreation opportunities would be limited.	The type, number, and setting of non-motorized recreation opportunities would be enhanced.	The type, number, and setting of non-motorized recreation opportunities would be limited.	The type, number, and setting of non-motorized recreation opportunities would be maintained.	The type, number, and setting of non-motorized recreation opportunities would be enhanced.	The type, number, and setting of non-motorized recreation opportunities would be maintained.
Impacts to Transportation and Travel					
Travel management would be the least restrictive.	Travel management would be the third most restrictive but would continue to provide access within the majority of the planning area.	Travel management would be the second least restrictive.	Travel management would be the third least restrictive.	Travel management would be the second most restrictive but would continue to provide access within the majority of the planning area.	Travel management would be the most restrictive but would continue to provide access within the majority of the planning area; areas within WSAs currently accessible on inventoried ways would no longer be accessible through motorized modes of travel.
Route density is expected to increase as a result of the number of acres open to cross-country motorized vehicle use and available for ROW development.	Route density is expected to decrease overall; 49% of the planning area is expected to remain at the same route density, and 48% is expected to experience a decrease in route density.	Route density is expected to increase overall; 15% of the planning area is expected to remain at the same route density, and 85% is expected to experience an increase in route density.	Route density is expected to remain mostly unchanged; 98% of the planning area is expected to remain at the same route density, and 2% is expected to experience an increase in route density.	Route density is expected to decrease overall; 2% of the planning area is expected to experience an increase in route density, and 98% is expected to experience a decrease in route density.	Route density is expected to decrease overall; 1% of the planning area is expected to experience an increase in route density, and 99% is expected to experience a decrease in route density.
Impacts to Land Use Authorizations					
Availability of Public Lands for ROW Developments (Acres)					
Open 1,263,000 Avoidance 0 Exclusion 110,000	Open 476,000 Avoidance 803,000 Exclusion 95,000	Open 493,000 Avoidance 786,000 Exclusion 94,000	Open 493,000 Avoidance 786,000 Exclusion 95,000	Open 457,000 Avoidance 768,000 Exclusion 148,000	Open 144,000 Avoidance 1,082,000 Exclusion 148,000
98% of the high-interest area for utility development would be available for development.	92% of the high-interest area for utility development would be available for development.	100% of the high-interest area for utility development would be available for development.	92% of the high-interest area for utility development would be available for development.	91% of the high-interest area for utility development would be available for development.	77% of the high-interest area for utility development would be available for development.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
67% of lands within 2 miles of areas rated Fair or higher for wind resources would be available for utility-scale development.	26% of lands within 2 miles of areas rated Fair or higher for wind resources would be available for utility-scale development.	69% of lands within 2 miles of areas rated Fair or higher for wind resources would be available for utility-scale development.	26% of lands within 2 miles of areas rated Fair or higher for wind resources would be available for utility-scale development.	25% of lands within 2 miles of areas rated Fair or higher for wind resources would be available for utility-scale development.	18% of lands within 2 miles of areas rated Fair or higher for wind resources would be available for utility-scale development.
Impacts to Land Tenure					
Availability of Public Lands for Various Land Tenure Transactions (Acres)					
Sale 2,000	Sale 20,000	Sale 46,000	Sale 20,000	Sale 16,000	Sale 0
Exchange 4,000	Exchange 264,000	Exchange 420,000	Exchange 264,000	Exchange 245,000	Exchange 95,000
DLE/CA 67,000	DLE/CA 960	DLE/CA 960	DLE/CA 960	DLE/CA 960	DLE/CA 960
R&PP 1,368,000	R&PP 264,000	R&PP 420,000	R&PP 264,000	R&PP 245,000	R&PP 95,000
Impacts to Leasable Minerals					
Availability of Federal Mineral Estate for Mineral Leasing (Acres) (118,000 acres are already closed to mineral leasing by statute or public land order [PLO]. These acres are included in figures below.)					
Open 540,000 Open with Constraint 869,000 Closed 204,000	Open 322,000 Open with Constraint 1,013,000 Closed 278,000	Open 705,000 Open with Constraint 696,000 Closed 212,000	Open 705,000 Open with Constraint 694,000 Closed 213,000	***Alternative IV-A*** Open 76,000 Open with Constraint 1,176,000 Closed 360,000 ***Alternative IV-B*** Open 76,000 Open with Constraint 1,208,000 Closed 328,000	Open 96,000 Open with Constraint 1,234,000 Closed 283,000
Availability of Federal Mineral Estate in Potential Oil and Gas Areas for Mineral Leasing (Acres)					
Open 169,000 Open with Constraint 189,000 Closed 22,000	Open 80,000 Open with Constraint 285,000 Closed 15,000	Open 159,000 Open with Constraint 217,000 Closed 4,000	Open 159,000 Open with Constraint 216,000 Closed 5,000	Open 53,000 Open with Constraint 300,000 Closed 27,000	Open 57,000 Open with Constraint 290,000 Closed 34,000
Availability of Federal Mineral Estate in Potential Geothermal Areas for Mineral Leasing (Acres)					
Open 260,000 Open with Constraint 152,000 Closed 124,000	Open 165,000 Open with Constraint 256,000 Closed 115,000	Open 179,000 Open with Constraint 253,000 Closed 104,000	Open 179,000 Open with Constraint 252,000 Closed 105,000	Open 65,000 Open with Constraint 363,000 Closed 108,000	Open 65,000 Open with Constraint 363,000 Closed 108,000
In the next 20 years under the reasonably foreseeable development scenarios, approximately 90 acres would be developed for oil and gas and 200 acres for geothermal resources.					

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Impacts to Salable Minerals					
Availability of Federal Mineral Estate for Salable Mineral Development due to Minerals Actions (Acres) (118,000 acres are already closed to salable mineral development by statute or PLO. These acres are included in figures below.)					
Open 600 Open with Constraint 1,494,000 Closed 118,000	Open 512,000 Open with Constraint 795,000 Closed 306,000	Open 669,000 Open with Constraint 731,000 Closed 212,000	Open 655,000 Open with Constraint 695,000 Closed 262,000	***Alternative IV-A*** Open 97,000 Open with Constraint 1,122,000 Closed 394,000 ***Alternative IV-B*** Open 97,000 Open with Constraint 1,154,000 Closed 362,000	Open 97,000 Open with Constraint 1,199,000 Closed 316,000
Impacts to Locatable Minerals					
Availability of Federal Mineral Estate for Locatable Mineral Development, Assuming Recommendations for Withdrawal are Implemented (Acres) (118,000 acres are already withdrawn from mineral entry by statute or PLO. These acres are included in figures below.)					
Open 1,000,000 Open with Constraint 277,000 Closed 336,000	Open 463,000 Open with Constraint 914,000 Closed 235,000	Open 525,000 Open with Constraint 924,000 Closed 164,000	Open 525,000 Open with Constraint 878,000 Closed 210,000	Open 97,000 Open with Constraint 1,250,000 Closed 266,000	Open 97,000 Open with Constraint 1,345,000 Closed 170,000
Impacts to Areas of Critical Environmental Concern					
The No Action Alternative would have: • 3 ACECs designated • 89,000 acres under ACEC management • 23% of lands with relevant and important values under special management through ACEC designation	Alternative I would have: • 5 ACECs designated • 97,000 acres under ACEC management • 25% of lands with relevant and important values under special management through ACEC designation	Alternative II would have: • 0 ACECs designated • 0 acres under ACEC management • 0% of lands with relevant and important values under special management through ACEC designation	Alternative III would have: • 3 ACECs designated • 61,000 acres under ACEC management • 14% of lands with relevant and important values under special management through ACEC designation	Alternative IV would have: • 5 ACECs designated • 335,000 acres (Alternative IV-A) and 232,000 acres (Alternative IV-B) under ACEC management • 61% (Alternative IV-A) and 46% (Alternative IV-B) of lands with relevant and important values under special management through ACEC designation	Alternative V would have: • 4 ACECs designated • 968,000 acres under ACEC management • 83% of lands with relevant and important values under special management through ACEC designation

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Impacts to National Historic Trails					
The No Action Alternative ranks fifth for maintaining or improving the physical, visual, or acoustic setting of the Oregon NHT, due to: • No priority for treatments of upland vegetation and noxious weeds and invasive plants • Designation of nearly 60% of the visual foreground as VRM Class IV	Alternative I ranks second for maintaining or improving the physical, visual, or acoustic setting of the Oregon NHT, due to: • Priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatments • Designation of 96% of the visual foreground as VRM Class III	Alternative II ranks last for maintaining or improving the physical, visual, or acoustic setting of the Oregon NHT, due to: • No priority for treatments of upland vegetation and noxious weeds and invasive plants • Designation of 96% of the visual foreground as VRM Class IV and the highest amount of foreground available for wind development	Alternative III ranks fourth for maintaining or improving the physical, visual, or acoustic setting of the Oregon NHT, due to: • Priority for noxious weeds and invasive plants treatments, but not for upland vegetation treatments • Designation of 96% of the visual foreground as VRM Class III to reduce changes to the visual setting	Alternative IV ranks third for maintaining or improving the physical, visual, or acoustic setting of the Oregon NHT. This alternative is essentially identical to Alternative III, with slightly less protective corridor acres available for grazing, thus avoiding changes to the physical settings of the trail from this use.	Alternative V ranks first for maintaining or improving the physical, visual, or acoustic setting of the Oregon NHT. This alternative is essentially identical to Alternative I, with slightly less land available for utility corridor authorizations and the fewest corridor acres available for grazing, minimizing impacts to trail resources from this use.
Impacts to Wild and Scenic Rivers					
The No Action Alternative ranks second for management to maintain existing ORVs and tentative classification. Decreases to these values would be due to visual resource management for study rivers with scenic ORVs and leasable and locatable mineral development potential in study river corridors.	Alternative I ranks first for management to maintain existing ORVs and tentative classification. Impacts from management proposed in this alternative are essentially identical to Alternatives III, IV, and V.	Alternative II ranks last for management to maintain existing ORVs and tentative classification. Decreases to these values would be due to study river lands being available for salable mineral development and no complementary management from overlapping ACECs.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.	Same as Alternative I.
Impacts to Wilderness Study Areas					
Because WSAs would continue to be managed under the IMP, wilderness characteristics in WSAs would continue to be maintained or enhanced.					

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Wilderness characteristics on released WSA lands would have the second lowest potential of being indirectly maintained under the No Action Alternative.	Wilderness characteristics on released WSA lands would have the second highest potential of being indirectly maintained under Alternative I.	Wilderness characteristics on released WSA lands would have the lowest potential of being indirectly maintained under Alternative II.	Wilderness characteristics on released WSA lands would have the third lowest potential of being indirectly maintained under Alternative III.	Wilderness characteristics on released WSA lands would have the highest potential of being directly and indirectly maintained under Alternative IV.	Same as Alternative IV.
Impacts to Social Conditions					
The No Action Alternative would have negligible effects on quality of life of planning area stakeholder groups. • The rancher stakeholder group would have negligible effects to quality of life.	Alternative I would result in a minor increase in quality of life of planning area stakeholder groups. • The rancher stakeholder group would have negligible effects to quality of life. • The dispersed recreationist stakeholder group would have a minor increase in quality of life. • The hunters and fishermen stakeholder group would have a moderate increase in quality of life.	Alternative II would result in a negligible to minor increase in quality of life of planning area stakeholder groups. • The rancher stakeholder group would have a moderate to major increase in quality of life. • The dispersed recreationist stakeholder group would have a minor decrease in quality of life. • The hunters and fishermen stakeholder group would have a minor increase in quality of life.	Alternative III would result in a minor increase in quality of life of planning area stakeholder groups. • The rancher stakeholder group would have a minor to moderate increase in quality of life. • The dispersed recreationist stakeholder group would have a minor increase in quality of life.	Alternative IV would result in negligible impacts to quality of life of planning area stakeholder groups. • The rancher stakeholder group would have a negligible to minor decrease in quality of life. • The dispersed recreationist stakeholder group would have a minor increase in quality of life. • The hunters and fishermen stakeholder group would have a minor increase in quality of life. • The Type 1 Activist stakeholder group would have a major increase in quality of life.	Alternative V would result in negligible impacts to quality of life of planning area stakeholder groups. • The rancher stakeholder group would have a minor decrease in quality of life. • The Type 1 Activist stakeholder group would have a major increase in quality of life.

No Action Alternative	Alternative I	Alternative II	Alternative III	Alternative IV	Alternative V
Impacts to Economic Conditions					
Economic impacts at initial implementation of the plan would be negligible, as there would be no changes in the Cattle Ranching and Farming Sector baseline output, employment, or income.	Economic impacts at initial implementation would be negligible to minor positive. Changes in the Cattle Ranching and Farming Sector baseline output and employment would range from a <1% decrease to a 1% increase, while changes in income would range from a <1% decrease to a 3% increase.	Economic impacts at initial implementation would be minor to moderate positive. The Cattle Ranching and Farming Sector baseline output would increase between 3% and 5%, employment would increase between 4% and 6%, and income would increase between 6% and 9%.	Economic impacts at initial implementation would be minor positive. The Cattle Ranching and Farming Sector baseline output would increase between 2% and 3%, employment would increase between 2% and 4%, and income would increase between 3% and 6%.	Economic impacts at initial implementation would be minor negative. The Cattle Ranching and Farming Sector baseline output would decrease between 1% and 2%, employment would decrease between 1% and 3%, and income would decrease between 2% and 5%.	Economic impacts at initial implementation would be minor to moderate negative. The Cattle Ranching and Farming Sector baseline output would decrease between 2% and 3%, employment would decrease between 3% and 4%, and income would decrease between 5% and 7%.
Economic impacts at full implementation would range from minor negative to minor positive. Changes in baseline output would range from a 1% decrease to a 1% increase, changes in employment would range from a 1% decrease to a 2% increase, and changes in income would range from a 2% decrease to a 3% increase.	Economic impacts at full implementation would continue to be negligible to minor positive, as AUM levels are not projected to change substantially with full implementation of the plan (1% increase from initial values).	Economic impacts at full implementation would be moderate positive. Baseline output would increase between 4% and 6%, employment would increase between 5% and 7%, and income would increase between 8% and 11%.	Economic impacts at full implementation would be minor to moderate positive. Baseline output would increase between 2% and 4%, employment would increase between 3% and 5%, and income would increase between 4% and 7%.	Economic impacts at full implementation would continue to be minor negative. Even though projected AUM levels would decrease, baseline output would still decrease between 1% and 2%, employment would still decrease between 1% and 3%, and income would decrease between 3% and 5%.	Economic impacts at full implementation would continue to be minor to moderate negative, as AUM levels are not projected to change substantially with full implementation of the plan (1% decrease from initial values).

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CHAPTER 3:
AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

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Volume 1: Chapter 3

Affected Environment

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3.1. TRIBAL RIGHTS AND INTERESTS

The United States has a unique legal relationship with American Indian tribal governments as set forth in the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, Executive Orders, and court decisions. Since its formation, the United States has recognized Native American tribes as sovereign, domestic dependent nations under its protection.

All Federally recognized tribes have off-reservation interests in public lands, and many retain pre-existing rights reserved through treaty or Executive Order language and other relevant mandates. The relationship between Federal agencies and sovereign tribes is defined by numerous laws and regulations addressing the requirement of Federal agencies to notify or consult with Native American tribes and to consider their rights and interests when planning and implementing Federal undertakings.

The planning area is the homeland of four culturally and linguistically related tribes: the Northern Shoshone, Western Shoshone, Bannock, and Northern Paiute. In the latter half of the 19th century, reservations were established at Fort Hall near Blackfoot in eastern Idaho and at Duck Valley on the Nevada/Idaho border west of the Bruneau River. The composite tribes residing on these reservations today actively practice their culture and retain treaty and aboriginal rights and/or interests in the planning area.

The United States government has a trust responsibility to Federally recognized Native American tribes that covers lands, resources, money, or other assets held by the Federal government in trust or restricted against alienation for Native American tribes and Native American individuals. Additionally, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) must consider and protect off-reservation treaty-reserved fishing, hunting, gathering, and similar unrelinquished rights of access and resource use on the public lands it administers. This includes rights of access and use for ceremonial and other traditional cultural practices. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation have rights, reserved in the Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868, to hunt, fish, and gather on the unoccupied lands of the United States. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation assert aboriginal rights to their traditional homelands as their treaties with the United States were never ratified. Had they been ratified, the Boise Valley Treaty of 1864 and the Bruneau Valley Treaty of 1866 would have extinguished aboriginal title to the lands now Federally administered.

Consultation with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation over the years indicates the presence of a wide range of resources related to tribal rights and/or interests and ongoing use in the planning area. These include resources associated with practices like hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering food, medicinal plants, and other natural products; the availability of clean water and healthy plant and animal populations; as well as aboriginal archaeological sites, sacred sites, and traditional cultural properties. The retention of public land is of particular interest to the tribes, since off-reservation rights and/or interests are linked to Federal ownership.

3.2. RESOURCES

3.2.1. Air and Atmospheric Values

3.2.1.1. Air Quality

Air quality in a given location is described by the concentrations of various pollutants in the atmosphere, expressed in units of parts per million (ppm) or micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³). Air quality is determined by the type and amount of pollutants emitted into the atmosphere, the size and topography of the airshed, and meteorological conditions related to the prevailing winds, which are normally from the southwest for the planning area (WRCC, 2009). The significance of a pollutant concentration is determined by comparison with Federal and State air quality standards, which represent the maximum allowable concentrations of various pollutants necessary to protect public health and welfare with a reasonable margin of safety. Federal standards were established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and are referred to as the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

The EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards set NAAQS for six specific pollutants, called "criteria" pollutants: carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$), ozone, and sulfur oxides (EPA, 2007b). Within the planning area, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) adopted the NAAQS to regulate these pollutants at these particular levels.

According to EPA regulations, an area with air quality better than the NAAQS is designated as an attainment area, while an area with air quality worse than the NAAQS is classified as a non-attainment area. An unclassifiable area is one in which insufficient air quality monitoring data has been collected to justify formal classification. Many rural areas of Idaho, including the three Idaho counties of the planning area, are designated unclassifiable and generally accepted by the EPA as being in attainment of the NAAQS.

The two main factors affecting air quality in the planning area are particulate matter, such as dust and pollen, and smoke. These are a result of wind effects on exposed soils, dirt roads, and small disturbed areas; vehicle emissions; wildfires; and BLM's fire management activities. Visibility may be impacts for short periods of time from several hours to several days. Few outside influences on the air resources of the planning area exist except for adjacent private farming operations, which may contribute to a decline in air quality on a periodic basis as soils are tilled, plowed, and planted. The amount of particulate matter and smoke present depends on the time of year. Generally, the highest levels occur during the summer and early fall, when soils are dry and wildland fire activity is high. Other times of the year are typically wetter, helping to keep soils and particulate matter in place with weather conditions less suitable for wildland fire. Periodic air inversions make high levels of these pollutants worse, especially during the winter months.

There are few, if any, other activities, such as major industrial, mining or commercial activities, that degrade the air quality of the area. The planning area's lack of developments and relative remoteness makes it free from other recognized or "criteria" national ambient air quality pollutants such as carbon monoxide[1], lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, and sulfur oxides. None of these pollutants are known to occur in significant quantities or contribute to any air quality or atmospheric deposition problems in the planning area. According to DEQ, this region of the state and country is known to have relatively clean air (VanZandt, 2006).

The only monitored pollutants in the area are $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}. Monitoring data from DEQ's Twin Falls monitoring stations showed $PM_{2.5}$ to be below the national standard of 15 µg/m³ between 2000 and 2003 with a weighted annual average of 7.3 µg/m³ over that time period (EPA, 2009). PM_{10} was below the national standard of 50 µg/m³ between 1998 and 2002 with a weighted annual average of 24.2 µg/m³ (EPA, 2009). Limited $PM_{2.5}$ monitoring has occurred within the actual planning area; some data were

[1] Carbon monoxide may exist in very high quantities in localized areas for a short duration during wildfire.

collected by DEQ at the House Creek Ranch near Three Creek, Idaho, from 1999 to 2002. This particular sampling, done for baseline readings found $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations averaged 2.98 µg/m³ each year (EPA, 2009), well below the standard of 15 µg/m³. The House Creek Ranch numbers are very low, the lowest in the state, and therefore, the air quality is considered "very good to excellent" (VanZandt, 2006).

Other monitoring data is available from sites located in Boise, Mountain Home, Craters of the Moon, and Pocatello. However, these sites do not represent the planning area due to location, distance, population, or a combination of these factors. The Boise site is located 145 miles to the northwest and upwind from the planning area in area with a high population and amount of commercial activity. The Mountain Home site is 50 miles northwest and upwind of the planning area in an area with a moderate population and amount of commercial activity. The site in Craters of the Moon National Monument is 110 miles northeast of planning area in a remote and unpopulated area. The Pocatello site is located 92 miles east of the planning area with a moderate population and amount of commercial activity. Air and atmospheric values within the planning area are not expected to affect of be affected by activities these areas.

Air quality impacts from wildland fire are more significant than from other sources within the planning area. These air quality impacts include not only immediate impacts from smoke, but also impacts from the movement of soil particles from high winds after the fire and Emergency Stabilization & Burned Area Recovery (ES&BAR) treatments.

The Clean Air Act assigned airshed "classes" to indicate the criteria for pollutants, with Class I areas given the highest protection to air quality by restricting the level of degradation allowed. All BLM-managed lands in the planning area were designated as Class II airsheds. Class II airsheds allow moderate deterioration associated with moderate, well-controlled industrial and population growth. Though no areas in the planning area are designated as Class I airsheds, air quality concerns and abatement measures are applicable to areas with special designations including Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs).

Other activities that may affect air quality within the planning area are small-scale sand and gravel extraction operations. The sand and gravel activities create dust and noise from road use and crushing and blasting operations, but are very short-lived and infrequent (once in 10 years per site). During these activities, operators are required to comply with the air quality stipulation of their current permits, stating the site and haul roads shall be sprayed as necessary with water or other suitable material to hold down the dust created by these activities.

The planning area does not contain any areas sensitive to air quality. Areas most affected by the air quality of the planning area include the Jarbidge Wilderness in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest to the south of the planning area and the city of Twin Falls, Idaho (ID), to the east.

3.2.1.2. Climate and Meteorology

The planning area has an arid, four-season climate, influenced primarily by prevailing southwesterly winds from the Pacific Ocean. Temperatures and precipitation in the planning area varies widely, however, depending on latitude, elevation, and topography, among other factors. Temperatures in the planning area vary from a low between 11° Fahrenheit (F) and 23°F in the winter to a high of between 84°F and 96°F in the summer (Table 3- 1). The daily temperature range can be extreme and varies throughout the year, with narrower temperature ranges (18°F) in the winter and wider ranges (38°F) in the summer. Humidity is usually below 25% during the day in the summer, often down to 15% or lower. Wind in the planning area is typically from the southwest at an average of 10 miles per hour (WRCC, 2009).

The planning area receives an average of between 7 and 19 inches of precipitation a year, with an average of between 4 and 107 inches of snow a year (Table 3- 1). The source of most of this precipitation is the Pacific Ocean, while in the summer, particularly in the southern portion of the planning area, moisture from the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean region is brought in from the south as part of thunderstorm activity (WRCC, 2009). The seasonal distribution of precipitation differs between the

northern and southern portions of the planning area. In the north, only about a third of the annual precipitation occurs during the six-month period between May and October; further south, precipitation is more evenly spread out over the year, with more than half of the precipitation occurring between May and October in some locations. Flash floods occur a few times a year as a result of heavy rains associated with thunderstorms. Windstorms are common in the planning area, but tornadoes rarely, if ever, occur. Windstorms during most of the year are associated with cyclonic systems and their cold fronts, but windstorms in the summer months are associated with thunderstorms (WRCC, 2009).

Table 3- 1. Climate Data for Weather Stations in and Adjacent to the Planning Area

Location [A]	Latitude	Elevation (feet)	Average January Temperatures (°F)		Average July Temperatures (°F)		Average Annual Precipitation (inches)	Average Annual Snowfall (inches)
			High	Low	High	Low		
Bliss	42’57”	3,280	36.5	18.9	92.9	54.8	9.36	20.5
Glenns Ferry	42’56”	2,510	39.2	20.3	96.0	55.5	9.45	11.3
Bruneau	42’53”	2,530	40.5	23.4	93.4	56.9	7.44	4.0
Hagerman	42’48”	2,880	41.2	21.9	93.7	54.5	10.31	7.0
Castleford	42’33”	3,820	37.1	20.2	88.3	53.7	10.00	14.6
Three Creek	42’05”	5,460	39.2	11.5	86.2	42.1	12.93	73.1
Murphy Hot Springs	42’02”	5,160	41.4	18.4	85.9	47.6	13.15	24.5
Jackpot	41’59”	5,290	37.7	16.2	86.7	51.1	9.55	27.4
Jarbidge	41’56”	6,170	37.9	16.3	84.1	46.0	19.28	107.1

Source: (WRCC, 2009)
[A] Locations are listed from north to south. Weather stations at Three Creek and Murphy Hot Springs are located in the planning area; all other stations are located adjacent to the planning area.

The amount of precipitation also varies widely from year to year, and periods of drought or excess moisture are not uncommon. Generally, drought is defined as a deficiency in precipitation over an extended period of time, but different types of drought can be measured. Drought can be defined meteorologically based on current precipitation’s departure from the average. Agricultural drought reflects soil moisture not being sufficient to meet a specific crop’s requirements at a particular time; agricultural drought appears after meteorological drought. Hydrological drought refers to deficiencies in surface and subsurface water supplies that occur when precipitation is reduced over an extended period of time; this would generally appear after agricultural and meteorological drought. Drought could also be defined socioeconomically based on when water supply shortages are negatively affecting humans.

Since 1900, severe and extreme drought periods, as defined by the Palmer Drought Severity Index, which is an index of meteorological drought, occurred in southern Idaho during the 1920s and 30s, as well as in the early 1960s, 1966, 1977, and the late 1980s to early 1990s (Cook, et al., 2004; IDWR, 2001) moderate droughts have also occurred in the early 2000s. In contrast, very moist and extremely moist periods occurred during the early 1940s, the early 1980s, and the mid 1990s (Cook, et al., 2004).

3.2.1.3. Climate Change

The temperature of the planet’s atmosphere is regulated by a balance of radiation received from the sun and the amount of that radiation absorbed by the earth and atmosphere. Greenhouse gases (GHG) such as carbon dioxide (CO_2) and methane (CH_4) as well as water vapor and particulate matter in the atmosphere keep the planet’s temperature warmer overall than it would be if these gases were absent, allowing the planet to sustain life. Ongoing scientific research has identified the potential impacts of man-made GHG emissions and changes in biological carbon sequestration due to land management activities on global climate. Through complex interactions on a regional and global scale, these GHG emissions and net losses of biological carbon sinks cause a net warming effect of the atmosphere, primarily by decreasing the amount of heat energy radiated by the earth back into space. Although GHG levels have varied for millennia, recent industrialization and burning of fossil carbon fuels have caused GHG

concentrations (represented as CO_2 equivalents or $CO_2(e)$) to increase dramatically and are likely to contribute to overall global climatic changes. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently concluded that "warming of the climate system is unequivocal" and "most of the observed increase in globally average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations" (IPCC, 2007).

Global mean surface temperatures have increased nearly 1.8°F from 1890 to 2006. Models indicate that average temperature changes are likely to be greater in the Northern Hemisphere. Northern latitudes (above 24°N) have exhibited temperature increases of nearly 2.1°F since 1900, with nearly a 1.8°F increase since 1970 alone. Without additional meteorological monitoring systems, it is difficult to determine the spatial and temporal variability and change of climatic conditions, but increasing concentrations of GHGs are likely to accelerate the rate of climate change.

In 2001, the IPCC indicated that by the year 2100, global average surface temperatures would increase 2.6°F to 10.4°F above 1990 levels (IPCC, 2001). The National Academy of Sciences has confirmed these findings, but also has indicated there are uncertainties regarding how climate change may affect different regions. Computer model predictions indicate that increases in temperature will not be equally distributed, but are likely to be accentuated at higher latitudes. Warming during the winter months is expected to be greater than during the summer, and increases in daily minimum temperatures are more likely than increases in daily maximum temperatures. Increases in temperatures would increase water vapor in the atmosphere and reduce soil moisture, increasing generalized drought conditions, while at the same time enhancing heavy storm events. Although large-scale spatial shifts in precipitation distribution may occur, these changes are more uncertain and difficult to predict. Other unevenly distributed effects of climate change include altered sea levels, wildland fire occurrences, desert distribution, and plant and animal distribution.

As with any field of scientific study, there are uncertainties associated with the science of climate change. This does not imply that scientists do not have confidence in many aspects of climate change science. Some aspects of the science are known with virtual certainty, because they are based on well-known physical laws and documented trends (EPA, 2007a).

Several activities contribute to the phenomenon of climate change, including emissions of GHGs (especially CO_2 and CH_4) from fossil fuel development, large wildland fires, and activities using combustion engines; changes to the natural carbon cycle; and changes to radiative forces and reflectivity (albedo). It is important to note that GHGs will have a sustained climatic impact over different temporal scales. For example, recent emissions of CO_2 can influence climate for 100 years.

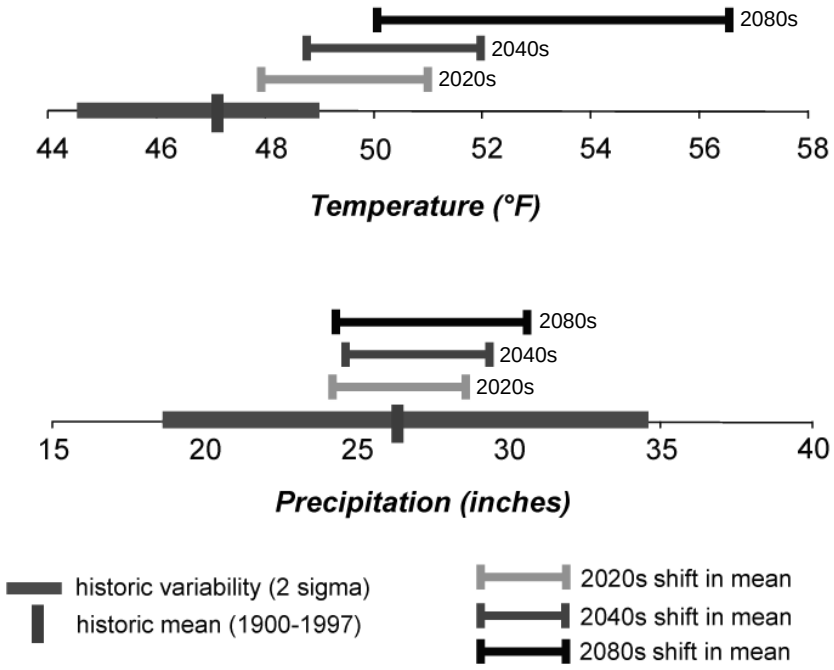
It may be difficult to discern whether global climate change is already affecting resources, let alone the planning area addressed in this RMP. In most cases, there is more information about potential or projected effects of global climate change on resources. It is important to note that projected changes are likely to occur over several decades to a century. Therefore, many of the projected changes associated with climate change described below may not be measurably discernible within the reasonably foreseeable future.

The University of Washington Climate Impacts Group has produced future climate scenarios for the Columbia River Basin in the Pacific Northwest; however, as of 2009, no climate change modeling studies specific to the State of Idaho or the Great Basin , much less the planning area, are available. General findings for the Columbia River Basin are described below, but it is not known how applicable these are to the planning area specifically.

The rate of warming in the Columbia River Basin over the next 50 years is projected to be approximately 0.5°F per decade, compared to 0.4°F per decade in the second half of the 20th Century (all from (Mote, et al., 2008)). The increase in temperature is expected to occur across all seasons, with greater increases in the summer. These increases in temperature are likely to exceed the range of variability observed during the 20th Century (Figure 3- 1).

Projections of changes in precipitation in the Columbia River Basin are less certain than estimates of changes in temperature. Climate models predict a wide range of change; as a result, annual precipitation will likely stay within the range of variability observed during the 20th Century (Figure 3- 1). The seasonal patterns of precipitation could change and a larger proportion of winter precipitation is expected to occur as rain rather than snow due to the warmer winter temperatures. An increase in winter precipitation seems more certain, but summer precipitation either may increase or decrease (Mote, et al., 2008).

Figure 3- 1. Comparison of Observed Year-to-Year Variability and Projected Shifts in Average Temperature and Precipitation from 20 Climate Models



Source: (Climate Impacts Group, 2008)

The uncertainty in the projections for future precipitation levels, particularly levels of summer precipitation, makes predicting changes in vegetation difficult. If summer precipitation levels remain the same or decrease, forested systems are expected to decline due to increased drought stress, increased probability of disturbance by insects or wildland fires, and reduced seedling survival (Mote, et al., 1999); vegetation would shift from forests, woodlands, and shrublands to grasslands and deserts (Chambers & Pellant, 2008). However, if summer precipitation increases, forested systems are expected to expand into areas currently dominated by grassland and shrub steppe communities (Chambers & Pellant, 2008; Mote, et al., 1999).

Because of the uncertainty in future levels of precipitation at the Pacific Northwest scale, the applicability of these projections for the planning area itself, and the specific impacts of any changes on resources and uses in the planning area, estimating potential impacts of climate change on resources and resource uses in the planning area would be speculative. As a result, these impacts will not be addressed further in this document.

3.2.2. Geologic Features

The topography of the planning area varies from deep river canyons of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers, to the foothills of the Jarbidge Mountains, to the broad plateaus of the Snake River Plain. The Snake River Plain covers an area of more than 10,000 square miles, and the underlying aquifer is estimated to contain more than twice the volume of water in Lake Erie (McLeod & Welhan, 1991).

The planning area contains numerous lava flows including the Dorsey Creek, Poison Creek, Long Draw, Bruneau Jasper, and Sheep Creek flows. Geologic features related to these lava flows include the deep river canyons, rhyolite hoodoos within the river canyons, and a natural arch known simply as "The Arch."

An important geologic formation, the Glenns Ferry Formation, lies in the northern part of the planning area (Malde, 1987). This formation consists of a Plio-Pleistocene body of lake and stream deposits several thousand feet thick. This formation is important from a paleontological standpoint and is discussed further in the *Paleontological Resources* section.

Geologic features also include caves. A cave is defined in the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 as any naturally occurring void, cavity, recess, or system of interconnected passages occurring beneath the surface of the Earth or within a cliff or ledge large enough to permit an individual to enter, whether or not the entrance is naturally formed or man-made. Cave resources are fragile due to their association with other resources such as groundwater hydrologic systems and biological communities (Moore & Sullivan, 1997). They may also be considered non-renewable due to paleontological and archaeological deposits, speleothems (formations inside caves), and biological resources.

In the planning area, caves are most commonly formed by the weathering of rock through water and wind erosion (erosional caves) or through the solidification of lava over and around a still flowing lava stream, which results in a long, hollow channel (lava tube).

Cave resources in the planning area have been largely unrecognized except by local cave enthusiasts. A quantitative inventory of caves in the planning area compiled by the BLM Boise District in 1990 revealed the location of approximately 19 caves identified as lava or erosional caves and approximately 80 others in need of further documentation. Two of the known caves are lava tubes, but erosional caves make up the majority of cave resources within the planning area. These typically occur at the base of rock outcrops and canyon walls. Spotted bat sightings in the canyons suggest these BLM Sensitive bats utilize the caves for shelter.

3.2.3. Soil Resources

Soil information and classification for the planning area is obtained from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) by means of four third-order soil surveys for southern Idaho and northern Nevada. These surveys consist of the following publications by the NRCS:

- Soil Survey of Elmore County Area, Idaho (1991)
- Soil Survey of Owyhee County Area, Part 1 (2003)
- Soil Survey of Jerome County and Part of Twin Falls County (2003)
- Soil Survey of Elko County, Northeast Part (1999)

These soil surveys were georeferenced and digitized as part of the NRCS Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO).

The soils of the planning area are highly diverse, variable, and complex. As with all soils, their makeup and composition are dependent on parent material, climate, location, topography, aspect, elevation, and time and age in place. The soils of the planning area range from very sandy and deep in the northern portion of the planning area to heavy with silts and clays and very shallow and rocky in the southern foothills region.

Most of the planning area contains soils with medium or greater potential for water erosion or moderate or greater potential for wind erosion. Some of these areas overlap (Table 3- 2, Map 5, and Map 6).

Accelerated erosion exhibited by plant pedestals were documented during *Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management* (S&G) assessments. The planning area has a long history of large and sometimes repeated wildland fires (Map 24), and some of this erosion is a result of vegetation removal by fire. Erosion resulting in rill and gully formation is estimated to be low over most of the planning area except on the sandy-alluvial soils of the Snake River Sediments and the clayey-rhyolitic soils of the Jarbidge Foothills. Some of the soils in these areas occur on steep slopes with naturally low vegetation cover and are inherently prone to erosion.

Table 3- 2. Erosion Potential in the Planning Area

	Acres	% of Planning Area
Water Erosion Potential		
Medium	853,000	62
High	437,000	32
Total	**1,290,000**	**94**
Wind Erosion Potential		
Moderate	904,000	66
Severe	200,000	15
Very Severe	19,000	1
Total	**1,123,000**	**82**

Increased soil bulk density occurs in areas with concentrated use, including roads, trails, and livestock water and mineral locations, and reflects increases in soil compaction. S&G assessments showed most assessed areas did not exhibit increased soil bulk density.

Biological soil crusts occur throughout the planning area. Detailed information regarding the occurrence of biological soil crusts is presented in the *Upland Vegetation* section.

3.2.4. Water Resources

The Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended in 1987, provides for the protection, restoration, or improvement of water quality; enables states to establish programs for regulating and managing non-point source pollution; and directs Federal agencies to comply with state water quality laws. Various Executive Orders and Department of the Interior (DOI) and BLM manuals also direct the BLM to maintain and improve water quality. DEQ has responsibility for protecting water quality within Idaho and enforcing specific water quality standards for each beneficial use (IDAPA 58.01.02).

The planning area contains three primary drainage basins or watersheds: the Bruneau River Watershed, the Salmon Falls Creek Watershed, and the Snake River Watershed. Many of the water courses in the planning area flow through lands not managed by BLM. Land management practices on both BLM and non-BLM lands can affect water quality and quantity. In many cases, BLM can only address water quality issues that arise from activities on BLM-managed land or through cooperative efforts with other Federal, State, and private land owners.

DEQ identifies streams that have impaired water quality in the State of Idaho. The standards used by DEQ to assess water quality are identified in Table 3- 3, and the streams within the planning area that do not meet these standards are provided in Table 3- 4. These same streams are also displayed in Map 7.

Bruneau River Watershed

The primary tributaries of the Bruneau River Watershed are the Jarbidge River and Clover Creek (East Fork of the Bruneau River). The tributaries of the Jarbidge River are Buck Creek, Columbet Creek, Cougar Creek, Dave Creek, Deer Creek, Dorsey Creek, Jack Creek, Poison Creek, and the East Fork of the Jarbidge River. The tributaries of Clover Creek are Big Flat Creek, Cherry Creek, Deadwood Creek, Deer Creek, Three Creek, and Pole Creek.

In 2001, EPA approved a *Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load Plan* for the Bruneau River and its tributaries (DEQ, 2000). This plan evaluated the following streams within the planning area: Poison Creek, Cougar Creek, Clover Creek, Three Creek, and the Bruneau River. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) were not developed for Poison Creek and Cougar Creek since these streams have intermittent flows. TMDLs have been developed for Bruneau River (nutrients), Clover Creek (*E. coli*), and Three Creek (sediment).

DEQ identified the Bruneau River and Three Creek as water quality limited due to sediment in 2000 (DEQ, 2000). Data collected on total suspended solids (TSS) reflects the amount of very fine sediments suspended in the water column. The creeks surveyed by DEQ for TSS include Dave Creek, Jack Creek,

Table 3- 3. Water Quality Standards for the State of Idaho

Indicator	Measurement	DEQ Standards
Sediment	Amount of total suspended solids (TSS)	50-52 mg/L[A] (monthly average)
		80 mg/L (weekly maximum)
Temperature	Maximum instantaneous temperature	72°F
	Maximum daily average temperature	66°F
Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	Amount of DO	>6.0 mg/L
Escherichia coli (E. coli)	Presence/absence	>126 cfu[B]/100ml[C]
Streamflow Alteration/Diversions	Presence/absence of dewatering	No dewatering
Nutrients	Presence/absence of Ammonia	The 30-day average of total ammonia nitrogen is not to exceed the Criterion Continuous Concentration[D] more than once every 3 years.
	Amount of total Phosphorus	0.1 mg/L free-flowing streams, 0.050 mg/L mouth of streams into lake/reservoir, 0.025 mg/L lake reservoir
Mercury[E]	Present/absence of Methyl Mercury	0.3 mg/kg[F] of fresh weight fish tissue

[A] milligrams per liter
[B] colony forming units
[C] milliliters; The concentration of *E. coli*, based on a minimum of five samples during any 30-day period.
[D] See IDAPA 58.01.02 for Criterion Continuous Concentration.
[E] Water quality monitoring for mercury is conducted by the EPA and Idaho DEQ (DEQ, 2007).
[F] milligrams per kilogram

Table 3- 4. DEQ Designated Water Quality Impaired Streams in the Planning Area

Watershed/River	Factors Limiting Water Quality[A]					
	Flow Alterations	***E. coli***	**Sediment**	**Temperature**	**Nutrients**	**Mercury**
Bruneau River Watershed						
Bruneau River	X		X	X	X	
Three Creek			X			
Jarbidge River				X		
Jarbidge River, East Fork				X		
Clover Creek[B]		X	X			
Poison Creek[B]			X			
Cougar Creek[B]			X			
Salmon Falls Creek Watershed						
Salmon Falls Creek		X	X	X	X	
Cedar Creek	X	X	X		X	
Salmon Falls Reservoir					X	X
Cedar Creek Reservoir	X				X	
House Creek[C]		X	X			
China Creek[D]		X	X	X	X	
Snake River Watershed						
Snake River	X		X	X	X	
Sailor Creek[B]			X			
Browns Creek[B]			X			
Deadman Creek[B]			X			

[A] DO is not identified as a factor limiting water quality because it is captured under Flow Alterations or Nutrients.
[B] These streams were recommended to be removed from the list of streams with impaired water quality (DEQ, 2009).
[C] Impaired stream reaches are in the headwater tributaries to House Creek.
[D] Impaired stream reaches are the lower reach of China Creek and the headwater tributaries to China Creek, including Browns Creek.

Deer Creek, Buck Creek, Jarbidge River, Big Flat Creek, Cherry Creek, Three Creek, and Deadwood Creek[2]. All of the streams sampled met the State water quality standard for TSS except Three Creek.

In 2006, BLM collected data on streambank stability, the percent of streambank covered with woody vegetation, and the number of pools dominated by fine sediments for the tributaries of Clover Creek occupied by Interior Columbia River redband trout (redband trout). This accounted for ten stream reaches (9 stream miles) surveyed within six streams. Streambank stability and covered streambanks are quantitative indicators that relate to sediment input within a stream. Five of the ten stream reaches surveyed had streambank stability and covered streambank ratings at or above the 80% considered good for fish-bearing streams. All ten reaches had fewer than 20% of their pools dominated by sediment, which indicates good pool quality. Lower Three Creek had the highest proportion of pools dominated by fine sediment (19%). This reach was dominated by dammed pools (beaver dams), which collect fine sediment.

DEQ identified the Bruneau River and the Jarbidge River and its East Fork as water quality limited due to elevated water temperature in 2000 (DEQ, 2000). In 2006, the BLM began using continuous water temperature recorders to monitor the seasonal trends in water temperature. For the five streams with water temperature monitoring in 2006, only the lower Jarbidge River did not meet the DEQ standard for maximum daily average temperature.

In 2007, water temperatures at all five monitoring sites in redband trout occupied streams met the Idaho standard for cold water biota (72ºF) or less with a maximum weekly (7-day) mean temperature (MWMT) of no greater than 66ºF occurring during a given year (June, July, August).

In 2007, the Jarbidge Field Office (FO) monitored water temperature at 11 locations in Columbia River Basin bull trout (bull trout) occupied streams in the Jarbidge Watershed. Two tributaries to the Jarbidge River (Jack Creek and Deer Creek, Nevada [NV]) met the criteria for bull trout rearing (55ºF) MWMT during June, July, and August. Bull trout spawning temperature (48ºF daily average) was reached by late August in higher elevation streams, in mid- September in lower elevation tributaries, and by the end of October in the Jarbidge River above the confluence with the East Fork and in its East Fork. Water temperatures during the warmest months of the year in these sections of the Jarbidge River were 5ºF to 10ºF warmer than required for successful bull trout rearing. This pattern in MWMTs during June, July, and August has been observed since 2002. Preliminary BLM water temperature data collected during the winter of 2006 to 2007 suggest that the lower Jarbidge River is suitable for bull trout over-wintering from late September to June.

From 1997 to 2002, the DEQ and BLM collected data for dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in 16 streams in the Bruneau River Watershed. According to these data, all of the streams sampled are in compliance with the DEQ criteria for DO.

From 1998 to 2002, the DEQ and BLM collected data for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli)* levels in the Jarbidge River, Clover Creek, Dave Creek, Jack Creek, Deer Creek (NV), Buck Creek, Columbet Creek, Dorsey Creek, East Fork of the Jarbidge River, Big Flat Creek, Cherry Creek, Three Creek, and Deadwood Creek. Of all the streams sampled, Lower Buck Creek, Columbet Creek, Deadwood Creek, and the middle reach of Three Creek did not meet State water quality standards for *E. coli*.

Known locations for diverting surface water in the Bruneau River Watershed include sites on Clover Creek, Buck Creek, Columbet Creek, Dorsey Creek, Cougar Creek, Big Flat Creek, Cherry Creek, Three Creek, Deadwood Creek, Deer Creek (ID), and Sanovia Creek. Surface waters are diverted from these streams for private land irrigation under water rights granted by Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), which frequently results in the lower reaches of these streams being completely dewatered.

[2] The *Salmon Falls Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Loads* was approved by the EPA in 2008.

Salmon Falls Creek Watershed

The primary tributaries in the Salmon Falls Creek Watershed include Bear Creek, Shack Creek, China Creek, Corral Creek, Browns Creek, Cedar Creek, Devil Creek, and the North Fork Salmon Falls Creek (Timber Canyon Creek). Tributaries of Cedar Creek include House Creek and Little House Creek. Player Creek is a tributary to China Creek. Rocky Canyon Creek and Chimney Creek are tributaries to the North Fork of Salmon Falls Creek. *The Salmon Falls Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Loads* was approved by the EPA in 2008 (DEQ, 2007).

Salmon Falls Creek and Cedar Creek were identified by DEQ as water quality limited due to sediment. The BLM has sampled total suspended solids (TSS) in China Creek, Cedar Creek, and House Creek and found those streams met the State water quality standard for TSS.

In 2006, BLM measured the number of pools dominated by fine sediments in the tributaries of Salmon Falls Creek occupied by redband trout. Ten reaches (13 stream miles) were surveyed. Streambank stability and streambanks covered with woody vegetation was above 80% for five of the ten reaches surveyed. Lower China Creek and Rocky Canyon had high amounts of fine sediment in the pools habitats. These streams have numerous beaver complexes that capture and store fine sediment.

DEQ identified Salmon Falls Creek to be water quality limited due to elevated water temperature. During the summer of 2007, the BLM used continuous water temperature recorders on seven streams at 13 locations in the redband trout tributaries to Salmon Falls Creek. All stream sites, with the exception of Lower China Creek, met the state standard for cold water biota (72ºF) or less with a maximum daily average of no greater than 66ºF. Several of the streams had sampling sites in the upper, middle, and lower reaches of the stream. These streams all exhibited a gradual increase in water temperature between the upper and lower sampling sites. For most streams, the increase varied from 1ºF to 5ºF, but for Cedar Creek, the increase was 12ºF over the 7-mile section of stream. The headwaters of Cedar Creek had the coolest MWMT (46ºF) recorded of all the streams sampled in the planning area in 2007.

From 1994 through 2002, DEQ and BLM measured *E. coli* levels for Salmon Falls Creek, China Creek, Cedar Creek, Timber Canyon Creek, House Creek, and Rocky Canyon Creek. Of these streams, lower Salmon Falls Creek, middle China Creek, Cedar Creek, Timber Canyon[3], upper House Creek, and Rocky Canyon Creek[4] did not meet the *E. coli* standard.

Known locations for diverting surface water in the Salmon Falls Creek Watershed include China Creek, Cedar Creek, Devil Creek, House Creek, Little House Creek, Player Creek, and Antelope Springs. Surface waters are diverted from these streams under water rights, which frequently results in the lower reaches of these streams being completely dewatered.

Nutrients are identified by DEQ to be a water quality limiting factor in Salmon Falls Creek, Salmon Falls Reservoir, Cedar Creek, and Cedar Creek Reservoir. In addition, DEQ listed both Salmon Falls Reservoir and Cedar Creek Reservoir as being water quality limited due to elevated mercury levels. In 2005, DEQ added a test for methyl mercury levels in the fatty tissues of fish to their list of sampling criteria; however, this information has not yet been published.

The *Department of Environmental Quality Working principles and Polices for the 2008 Integrated (303[d]/305[b]) Report* identified the following streams for delisting as impaired bodies of water: Cedar Creek Reservoir for *E. coli*, Cedar Creek from the reservoir to Salmon Falls Creek for flow alteration, House Creek from its source to Cedar Creek Reservoir for *E. coli*, and Salmon Falls Creek from the Devil Creek confluence to the Snake River for *E. coli (DEQ, 2009)*.

[3] While Timber Canyon did not meet standards for *E. coli*, it was not identified as water quality impaired for this factor.
[4] While Rocky Canyon Creek did not meet standards for *E. coli*, it was not identified as water quality impaired for this factor.

Snake River Watershed

With the exception of four prominent springs, there are few live surface waters in the northern portion of the planning area. Coyote Springs is the primary source of water for Yahoo Creek. This major spring normally discharges water at a rate of about 1 to 2 cubic feet per second (cfs) and flows for approximately 4 miles in a northeasterly direction to its confluence with the Snake River near Dolman Rapids. This spring and creek provide a water source for wildlife and domestic livestock.

The other three important springs associated with the Snake River include Ring, Tuana, and Pilgrim Springs. Ring Springs discharges a limited amount of surface flow into Salmon Falls Creek approximately 1 mile upstream of the confluence of Salmon Falls Creek and the Snake River. Tuana Springs is a low volume spring in Tuana Gulch. Pilgrim Spring lies in the lower portion of Pilgrim Gulch; the spring usually goes dry in mid to late summer. A fence keeps livestock from accessing the source of this spring.

In 2006, DEQ completed a *Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load Plan* for the Snake River section from King Hill to C.J. Strike Reservoir (DEQ, 2006). The TMDLs for the Snake River and C.J Strike Reservoir included standards for nutrients, sediment, and DO. Sediment was determined to be the most common listed pollutant in the watershed, though most loading comes primarily from upstream segments of the Snake River. Motorized recreation on BLM lands in Yahoo Creek and Rosevear Gulch in areas with highly erosive soils increases erosion rates and contributes fine sediments to the Snake River. Rills and gullies from these high use areas increases the amount of sediment delivered to the Snake River.

The *King Hill-C.J. Strike Reservoir Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load* also included an assessment for Browns Creek, Deadman Creek, and Sailor Creek (DEQ, 2006). However, since all the creeks were classified as intermittent, no TMDLs were developed. *Department of Environmental Quality Working principles and Polices for the 2008 Integrated (303[d]/305[b]) Report* included Browns Creek, Deadman Creek and Sailor Creek because all three drainages are nearly always dry from their headwaters to the Snake River (DEQ, 2009). As a result, the DEQ will no longer be assessing these streams for water quality.

DEQ identifies the Snake River as water quality limited due to elevated water temperature. Water temperature regimes in the Snake River are directly influenced by the operation of hydroelectric power plants managed by Idaho Power and the Bureau of Reclamation.

Playas

Playas are naturally occurring depressions in the land that seasonally contain pools of water. Playas collect water from small basins and have no external drainage. There are 54 playas totaling 1,380 acres within the planning area that range in size from 1 to 54 acres and are generally located south and west of Clover Creek. The playas provide a water source for livestock and wildlife when water is present. Typically, the playas lack water from late June into December. BLM has no water quality data for any of the playas scattered across the area.

3.2.5. Vegetation Communities

3.2.5.1. Upland Vegetation

Vegetation in the planning area was mapped in 2006 using field observation, field cover data, and 2004 National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) imagery. Fifty-five vegetation communities were classified based on dominant plants and mapped. These vegetation communities were subsequently organized into five classes and six sub-classes (Table 3- 5) according to national standards (Grossman, et al., 1998) with the exception of evergreen shrublands dominated by sagebrush. In the planning area, these communities were defined as having 10% or more shrub cover rather than the national standard of more than 25% shrub cover. This was done to provide consistency with defined habitat needs (Wisdom, et al., 2000) and proposed management objectives for greater sage-grouse (sage-grouse). Areas without vegetation data were classified “No Data”.

Vegetation communities were mapped using a minimum mapping unit of 20 acres. Resource specialists determined this as being the finest scale that could be achieved based on imagery resolution and the time and staffing available to map the entire planning area. It was also determined that this scale would be appropriate for landscape-level planning through aggregation into broader vegetation groups, but would also be useful for future implementation-level planning that would benefit from finer-scale information, such as grazing permit renewals, transportation and travel planning, and land use authorizations.

Vegetation Sub-Groups (VSGs)

Vegetation communities in the planning area are diverse and are primarily influenced by wildland fires, post-fire vegetation treatments, weather, livestock grazing, invasive plant introduction and spread, and cross-country motorized vehicle use. For management and analysis purposes, the 55 vegetation communities in the planning area were grouped into five vegetation sub-groups (VSGs; Table 3- 5). Vegetation communities were grouped into VSGs based on dominant vegetation and community structure, since communities with similar dominant vegetation and community structure were expected to have similar management objectives. All the Dwarf Shrubland Class and the Woodland Class were placed into the Native Shrubland VSG. The Shrubland Class was split into Native Shrubland, Non-Native Perennial, Non-Native Understory, and Annual VSGs. The Herbaceous Class was split into Annual, Native Grassland, and Non-Native Perennial VSGs. The Sparse Vegetation Class was put into the Unvegetated VSG.

Table 3- 5. Vegetation Communities with Associated Class, Sub-Class, and VSG Classifications in the Planning Area

Class	Sub-Class	Vegetation Community	Vegetation Sub-Groups
Dwarf Shrubland	Evergreen	Black sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass	Native Shrubland
		Black sagebrush/bluegrass	
		Low sagebrush/bluebunch-Idaho fescue	
		Low sagebrush/bluegrass	
		Low sagebrush/Idaho fescue	
		Low sagebrush/squirreltail	
		Shadscale	
		Winterfat/Indian ricegrass	
		Black sagebrush/crested wheatgrass	Non-Native Understory
		Low sagebrush/crested wheatgrass	
Herbaceous	Annual-Graminoid or Forb	Annual	Annual
	Perennial Graminoid	Basin wildrye	Native Grassland
		Bluebunch wheatgrass	
		Bluegrass	
		Idaho fescue	
		Needlegrass	
		Semi-wet meadow	
		Thurbers needlegrass	
		Western wheatgrass	
		Crested wheatgrass	Non-Native Perennial
		Intermediate wheatgrass	
Shrubland	Deciduous	Deciduous mountain brush	Native Shrubland
		Greasewood/basin wildrye	
	Evergreen	Rabbitbrush/annual	Annual
		Wyoming big sagebrush/annual	
		Basin big sagebrush	Native Shrubland
		Evergreen mountain brush	
		Fourwing saltbush/needlegrass	

Class	Sub-Class	Vegetation Community	Vegetation Sub-Groups
		Mountain big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass-Idaho fescue	
		Mountain big sagebrush/Idaho fescue	
		Rabbitbrush/bluebunch wheatgrass	
		Rabbitbrush/bluegrass	
		Rabbitbrush/Idaho fescue	
		Rabbitbrush/Thurbers needlegrass	
		Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass	
		Wyoming big sagebrush/bluegrass	
		Wyoming big sagebrush/Idaho fescue	
		Wyoming big sagebrush/Indian ricegrass	
		Wyoming big sagebrush/thickspike wheatgrass	
		Wyoming big sagebrush/Thurbers needlegrass	
		Basin big sagebrush/crested wheatgrass	Non-Native Understory
		Wyoming big sagebrush/crested wheatgrass	
		Wyoming big sagebrush/intermediate wheatgrass	
		Fourwing saltbush/crested wheatgrass	Non-Native Perennial
		Rabbitbrush/crested wheatgrass	
		Rabbitbrush/intermediate wheatgrass	
Sparse Vegetation	Consolidated Rocks	Breaks	Unvegetated
	Unconsolidated Material	Barren	
		Recent Burn	
		Sand Dune	
Woodland	Deciduous	Aspen	Native Shrubland
	Evergreen	Juniper	
		Mountain mahogany	

The Annual VSG includes vegetation communities that are primarily dominated by cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*), tumblemustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), or a combination of the three non-native species (Table 3- 5). Shrubs, such as rabbitbrush and Wyoming big sagebrush, may be present, but occur at less than 10% canopy cover. The Annual VSG is common in burned and disturbed areas in the planning area, but is not a naturally occurring VSG. Though primarily found in elevations less than 3,000 feet in the northern portion of the planning area, this VSG can be found throughout in burned or otherwise disturbed areas.

The Non-Native Perennial VSG includes five vegetation communities (Table 3- 5). These communities are dominated or co-dominated by seeded non-native perennial species including crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*) and intermediate wheatgrass (*Thinopyrum intermedium*). This VSG occurs throughout the planning area, where burned areas or other disturbed areas have been seeded with non-native perennial species. Native or seeded shrubs (e.g. four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*)) might occur in these communities at less than 10% canopy cover.

The Non-Native Understory VSG includes five vegetation communities (Table 3- 5). These communities are dominated by native shrubs in the overstory with non-native species dominating the understory. The overstory species include Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemesia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*), basin big sagebrush (*A. tridentata* ssp. *tridentata*), black sagebrush (*A. nova*), and low sagebrush (*A. arbuscula*). Understory species are non-native perennial grasses including crested wheatgrass and intermediate wheatgrass. This VSG occurs throughout the planning area, where native shrubs have re-established in areas that were seeded with non-native perennial grasses following fire or another disturbance.

The Native Grassland VSG includes eight vegetation communities (Table 3- 5). Communities in this VSG are dominated by native grasses such as basin wildrye (*Leymus cinereus*), bluebunch wheatgrass

(*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), needle-and-thread (*Hesperostipa comata*), Thurbers needlegrass (*Achnatherum thurberianum*), western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii),* and, in the semi-wet meadow community, herbaceous wetland species. This VSG occurs throughout the planning area, where fire or another disturbance has removed or greatly reduced the shrub canopy cover. The dominant vegetation communities in this VSG are the bluegrass and bluebunch wheatgrass communities. Bluegrass communities include those communities whose production is primarily from non-native perennial grasses, but whose cover is dominated by bluegrass; these are areas referred to as Sandberg/non-native perennial areas.

The Native Shrubland VSG includes 28 vegetation communities (Table 3- 5). Native Shrubland communities include low and tall shrub-dominated communities, as well as woodland communities. Native Shrubland communities are typically evergreen and either dominated or co-dominated by basin big sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush (*A. tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana*), Wyoming big sagebrush, subalpine sagebrush (*A. tridentata* ssp. *spiciformis*), low sagebrush, black sagebrush, early sagebrush (*A. longiloba*), shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*), ceanothus (*Ceanothus velutinus*), bud sage (*Picrothamnus desertorum*), bitterbush (*Purshia tridentata*), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseous* ssp. *consimmilis, C. nauseosus* ssp. *albicaulis, C. viscidiflorus*), and four-wing saltbush.

Basin big sagebrush communities occur in drainages throughout the planning area and in sandy areas in the north at lower elevations. Wyoming big sagebrush communities occur throughout the planning area. Shadscale communities are primarily near the canyon rims along the north and west edges of the planning area. Mountain big sagebrush and deciduous mountain brush communities are primarily found at higher elevations in the southern portion of the planning area, though some communities dominated by bitterbrush occur on sandy soils in the northern portion of the planning area. Deciduous shrub communities are often dominated or co-dominated by bitterbrush, snowberry (*Symphoricarpus oreophilus*), chokecherry (*Prunus* spp.), willows (*Salix spp.*), woods rose (*Rosa woodsii*), dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), or greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*). Deciduous shrub communities include woody riparian communities and mountain shrub communities that occur primarily in the southern end of the resource area. Shrubland communities disturbed by wildland fire may become dominated by rabbitbrush, which will lose dominance to other shrubs, particularly sagebrush, after several decades if there is an available seed source (i.e., adjacent shrub patches or if there area was seeded with shrubs following fire) and in the absence of continued disturbance by fire. Aspen communities require a disturbance, such as fire, to be maintained. Aspen stands have been invaded by juniper (*Juniperus* spp.) in areas where natural disturbance regimes have been altered (e.g., by suppression of wildland fires).

The Unvegetated VSG includes four vegetation communities that have less than 10% vegetation cover (Table 3- 5). This VSG includes Recent Burn areas, which may be present for up to two years following a fire.

Large wildland fires occurred in 2007, following completion of a vegetation mapping effort in 2006, resulting in over 500,000 acres of burned vegetation that were re-mapped as Recent Burn (Appendix Q). In order to facilitate analysis of proposed management on upland vegetation communities, resource staff evaluated pre-burn vegetation conditions, impacts to vegetation resulting from fire, and vegetation treatments, and created a map projecting VSG composition in areas mapped as Recent Burn and depicted as Unvegetated VSG in 2012 (see Appendix R for protocol; Map 10). Vegetation composition following 2007 wildland fires (post-fire) and the 2012 projected vegetation composition (baseline) of the planning area by VSG are presented in Table 3- 6. The 2012 projected vegetation composition was used as the baseline composition throughout the RMP. Vegetation in the areas mapped as Recent Burn and depicted as Unvegetated VSG in Map 10 was re-mapped at the community level during the 2009 field season; updated information will be incorporated into the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

Table 3- 6. Post-Fire and Baseline Vegetation Composition in the Planning Area by VSG (Percent)

VSG	Post-Fire Vegetation Composition	Baseline Vegetation Composition
Annual	8	9
Non-Native Perennial	20	25
Non-Native Understory	5	5
Native Grassland	7	31
Native Shrubland	27	28
Unvegetated Areas	34	2
No Data	<1	<1
Data include vegetation as of Fall 2007 (Appendix Q) and projected vegetation in areas burned in 2007 (baseline; see Appendix R for protocol).		

Vegetation Management Areas (VMAs)

Due to differences in vegetation response to management and disturbance along a north-south gradient, the planning area was divided into Vegetation Management Areas (VMAs; Map 8) based on potential natural community (PNC), elevation, and mean annual precipitation (see *Air and Atmospheric Values* section). The VMA boundary lines were further refined using pasture lines to facilitate proposed management of these areas as described in Chapter 2. The number of acres in each VMA is identified in Table 3- 7. Post-fire vegetation communities present in each VMA are listed in Appendix Q. Table 3- 8 identifies the percent of post-fire VSGs in each VMA, while Table 3- 9 identifies the percent of baseline VSGs by VMA.

Table 3- 7. Size of VMAs

VMA	Acres
A – Wyoming Sagebrush/Indian Ricegrass	222,000
B – Wyoming Sagebrush/Thurber's Needlegrass	630,000
C – Wyoming Sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass	313,000
D – Idaho Fescue (High Elevation)	209,000

Table 3- 8. Post-Fire Vegetation Composition by VSG by VMA (Percent)

VSG	VMA A	VMA B	VMA C	VMA D
Annual	33	4	<1	1
Non-Native Perennial	43	22	11	2
Non-Native Understory	2	4	7	6
Native Grassland	11	10	2	3
Native Shrubland	8	26	28	48
Unvegetated Areas	1	34	51	41
No Data	1	<1	<1	<1
Data include vegetation mapped as of Fall 2007 (Appendix Q).				

Table 3- 9. Baseline Vegetation Composition by VSG by VMA (Percent)

VSG	VMA A	VMA B	VMA C	VMA D
Annual	33	6	2	2
Non-Native Perennial	43	29	18	3
Non-Native Understory	2	4	7	6
Native Grassland	11	31	42	35
Native Shrubland	8	28	29	50
Unvegetated Areas	1	2	1	5
No Data	1	<1	<1	<1
Data include projected vegetation in areas burned in 2007 (see Appendix R for protocol).				

Biological Soil Crusts

Biological soil crusts are a complex mosaic of mosses, liverworts, lichens, fungi, algae, and cyanobacteria that occur as a thin layer of living organisms on the soil surface. Biological soil crusts are common in arid and semiarid plant communities worldwide. In areas where they occur, they have the potential to cover soil surfaces not occupied by vascular plants, litter, or rock. In the planning area, biological soil crusts occupy interspaces between shrubs and perennial grasses in native shrubland, non-native understory, native grassland, and non-native perennial communities. In many cases, biological soil crusts create rough topography on the soil surface that contributes to the structural complexity of the plant community.

Data collected in 2006 and 2007, prior to the 2007 wildland fires, recorded an average biological soil crust cover of 16% throughout the planning area (BLM, 2006). This is on the low end of the moderate[5] crust cover category. The Non-Native Understory and Native Shrubland VSGs had the highest average biological crust cover (24% and 20%, respectively), while in the Unvegetated and Annual VSGs average crust cover was very low and low (3% and 8%, respectively). The Non-Native Perennial and Native Grassland VSGs had a low average biological crust cover (13% and 11%, respectively).

Shadscale and Wyoming big sagebrush/Thurbers needlegrass vegetation communities had the highest average cover of biological soil crusts with 51% and 47% cover, respectively. Other communities with high crust cover were needlegrass (35%) and Wyoming big sagebrush/bluegrass (28%). Several communities were in the moderate crust cover range including Wyoming big sagebrush/crested wheatgrass, rabbitbrush/bluegrass, Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch, western wheatgrass, basin big sagebrush, low sagebrush/Idaho fescue, and low sagebrush/bluegrass. Aspen, greasewood/basin wildrye, and mountain big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass-Idaho fescue had no recorded cover of biological crust. All other communities had low crust cover.

Soil textures with the highest average biological crust cover were very fine sandy loam and gravelly silt loam (27% and 25%, respectively). Soil textures with moderate average biological crust cover were very stony silt loam, loam, stony silt loam, silt loam, very stony loam, and gravelly loam. No biological crust cover was recorded on soils with clay loam, gravelly sandy loam, loamy sand, and sand textures. All other soil textures had low average crust cover.

VMA A in the north, with generally coarse soil textures, had a low average biological crust cover (9%). VMA B and VMA C in the middle of the planning area have generally loamy soil texture and moderate vascular plant cover and had moderate average (24% and 19%, respectively) biological crust cover. In general, VMAs A, B, and C would be expected to have moderate to high biological crust cover in native shrubland communities due to low precipitation and naturally low to moderate vascular plant cover. VMA D at the southern end of the planning area also had low average biological crust cover (10%), which was likely due to dense vascular plant cover resulting from the VMA having the highest precipitation in the planning area.

3.2.5.2. Riparian Areas and Wetlands

Riparian areas are lands adjacent to or contiguous with permanent or intermittently flowing water bodies (Hansen & Hall, 2002). They are important from an ecological standpoint because they provide a transition zone between aquatic and upland areas as well as cover and food for wildlife and fish (Prichard, et al., 1998).They provide water quality benefits by filtering out nutrients from runoff, maintaining stream temperature by providing shade, and controlling erosion (Prichard, et al., 2003). Within the planning area, riparian areas and wetlands are generally associated with streams, rivers, and springs or seeps. There are approximately 316 miles of perennial streams and rivers on BLM-managed lands within the planning area (Table 3- 10).

[5] For comparative purposes within the planning area, the following scale was used: high crust cover = greater than 25%; moderate crust cover = 15-25%; low crust cover = 3-15%; very low crust cover = less than 3%.

Table 3- 10. Miles of Streams in the Planning Area by Stream Type

Stream Type	Miles	Percent for Planning Area
Perennial	316	8
Intermittent	512	12
Ephemeral	3,192	77
Ditches and Canals	102	3
Total	**4,122**	**100**

Riparian area vegetation can be categorized into three classes of vegetation: woodland, shrubland, or herbaceous. Tree species in the woodland class include aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and juniper (*Juniperus* spp.). Shrubby species in the riparian areas include willows (*Salix* spp.), wild rose (*Rosa woodsii*), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), chokecherry (*Prunus* spp.), and shrubby aspen. Many herbaceous wetland species occur in riparian areas.

Wetlands are communities that are wet long enough during the growing season to support a prevalence of wetland vegetation and produce wetland soils. In the planning area, wetlands are generally wet meadows associated with seeps or springs. Wetlands in the planning area include approximately 885 acres of playas and man-made ponds, 200 seeps or springs, and an unknown acreage of wet meadows.

Proper functioning condition (PFC) is a qualitative method for assessing the resilience of riparian and wetland areas to disturbance. Riparian and wetland areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris is present to:

- Dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows, thereby reducing erosion and improving water quality;
- Filter sediment, capture bedload, and aid floodplain development;
- Improve flood-water retention and ground-water recharge;
- Develop root masses that stabilize streambanks against cutting action;
- Develop diverse ponding and channel characteristics to provide the habitat and the water depth, duration, and temperature necessary for fish production, waterfowl breeding, and other uses; and
- Support greater biodiversity.

The PFC assessment is a broad-scale assessment that uses hydrology, vegetation, and erosion/deposition (soil) attributes and processes to qualitatively assess the condition of riparian and wetland areas. PFC determinations include ratings of PFC, functioning at risk with an upward trend (FAR-UP), functioning at risk with no apparent trend (FAR-NA), functioning at risk with a downward trend (FAR-DN), and non-functioning (NF). From 2001 to 2007, PFC assessments were conducted on 245 miles of riparian areas crossing BLM-managed lands within the planning area. Riparian areas on non-BLM lands in the planning area were not assessed.

PFC determinations are validated using site-specific data collected on a variety of stream channel characteristics such as streambank stability, pool frequency and quality, and riparian vegetation (see the *Special Status Aquatic Species* section). Site-specific instream habitat condition data were collected in 2006 using a condensed version of the *R1/R4 (Northern Intermountain Regions) Fish and Fish Habitat Handbook* (Overton, et al., 1997) on approximately 40 miles (13 streams) of the PFC-assessed riparian area to validate the PFC determinations. The process used to validate the PFC qualitative ratings using the quantitative fisheries data is described under *Methods and Assumptions* in the *Riparian Areas and Wetlands* section of Chapter 4. The miles of stream with each PFC rating are summarized in Table 3- 11. PFC data for wetlands is contained in Table 3- 12.

Based on these assessments, 85 miles (35%) of riparian areas in the planning area are at PFC; 128 miles (52%) are FAR, and 12 miles (5%) are NF. The FAR ratings includes FAR-UP (51 miles, 21%), FAR-DN (30 miles, 12%), and FAR-NA (47 miles, 19%). The condition of twenty miles (8%) of the

reaches assessed was unknown[6]. The characteristics of riparian areas within each rating category are discussed in the sections below.

Table 3- 11. PFC Ratings for Riparian Areas

PFC Rating [A]	Miles
PFC	85
FAR	
FAR-NA	47
FAR-DN	30
FAR-UP	51
NF	12
Unknown	20
Total	**245**

Table 3- 12. PFC Ratings for Wetlands

Functional Rating	Number of Wetlands	Acres of Wetlands
PFC	9	61
FAR	3	51
Total	**12**	**112**

Proper Functioning Condition (PFC)

Based on the PFC assessment forms, riparian reaches at PFC in the planning area are typically densely vegetated with multiple age classes of riparian-wetland vegetation such as willow, aspen, chokecherry, rose, currant, rush, and sedge. Sinuosity, width/depth ratio, and gradient are in balance with the landscape setting. Vegetation appears healthy and vigorous and is adequate to dissipate energy and protect streambanks during high-flow events. Streambanks are stable, and evidence of degradation is minimal. When beaver dams are present, the dams are actively maintained and stable. These reaches may have large woody material, such as aspen and juniper, and rocks and boulders present to dissipate energy.

Functioning-At-Risk, Upward Trend (FAR-UP)

FAR-UP riparian areas in the planning area generally have poor sinuosity and width/depth ratio (i.e., too wide for a given depth). Stabilizing species such as willow and sedge are found along the streambanks in these reaches but streambanks may show encroachment of upland species and are unstable in places. Erosion and deposition are often observed. Age-class distribution of riparian-wetland vegetation in these reaches is often diverse and willow regeneration is often visible. There is also a diverse composition of riparian-wetland vegetation. Noxious weeds such as Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), bull thistle (*C. vulgare*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), or tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.) are observed. When beaver dams are present, they are actively maintained and stable.

Functioning-At-Risk, No Apparent Trend (FAR-NA)

In the planning area, FAR-NA riparian areas show one or more of the following characteristics making them susceptible to degradation in the occurrence of a high streamflow event:

- The stream channel is too wide, off-setting the appropriate width/depth ratio;
- Poor sinuosity;
- Skewed age-class distribution of riparian-wetland vegetation;
- Encroachment of upland species such as sagebrush and cheatgrass;
- Reduced plant vigor;
- Unstable banks; or
- Excessive erosion/deposition in the stream channel.

[6] Data for areas where PFC data contained discrepancies were classified as “unknown.”

In some of these reaches, noxious weeds such as Canada thistle, bull thistle, Russian olive, purple loosestrife, or tamarisk may be present. When beaver dams are present, they are actively maintained and stable.

Functioning-At-Risk, Downward Trend (FAR-DN)

In the planning area, FAR-DN riparian areas do not typically have widening riparian zones or have zones achieving potential extent. The streambanks in these reaches are dominated by upland vegetation such as sagebrush and cheatgrass. Overflow channels as well as rocks or boulders and large woody material may be present in these reaches and adequate to dissipate energy in high flows. Riparian vegetation vigor is depressed, and the aspen and willows are in isolated stands, often near springs. Age-class distribution of riparian vegetation in these reaches is not diverse and vegetation present is primarily mature, indicating the riparian area may not be able to recover or maintain itself. Streambank vegetation is not dominated by stabilizing species such as willows and sedges. When beaver dams are present, they are unstable and not actively maintained.

Non-Functioning (NF)

NF riparian reaches in the planning area show little to no evidence of recent flooding. Most are dry and appear to have been dry for some time, primarily due to diversions upstream. The stream channel and floodplain are difficult to discern from the surrounding landscape. Little to no riparian vegetation is present in these reaches, and upland vegetation such as sagebrush and cheatgrass is the dominant vegetation observed in and around the stream channel. Streambanks lack stabilizing species such as willows and sedges, making them vulnerable to erosion, and species present do not have root masses capable of withstanding high streamflow events. Large woody material is absent, and rocks capable of dissipating energy in and around the stream channel are rarely observed. When beaver dams are present, they are unstable and not actively maintained.

3.2.6. Fish and Wildlife

3.2.6.1. Fish

Aquatic species in the planning area can be described in three broad categories:
Aquatic species Federally listed under the Endangered Species Act 1973 (ESA)

- Aquatic species identified on the BLM Sensitive species list for Idaho and Nevada
- All other native and non-native aquatic species present in the planning area.

Aquatic species included in the first two categories are discussed in the *Special Status Fish and Aquatic Invertebrates* section. Aquatic species included in the third category are discussed below under *Game and Non-Game Fish Species* and *Aquatic Nuisance Species.*

Game and Non-Game Fish Species

A variety of game and non-game fish are broadly distributed throughout the rivers, streams, and reservoirs in the planning area. Game fish populations are managed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) through angler harvest regulations and fish stocking programs. Non-game fish are native fish not managed by angler harvest regulations due to their small size, but important as forage fish for other fish and wildlife species.

Game fish commonly pursued by anglers include walleye, largemouth bass, small mouth bass, white crappie, black crappie, yellow perch, brook trout, rainbow trout, redband trout, white sturgeon, kokanee, and mountain whitefish[7]. Except for mountain whitefish, white sturgeon, and redband trout, these fish are not native to the planning area, but were stocked into reservoirs by IDFG to provide a recreational sport fishery. Historically, hatchery rainbow trout were also stocked by IDFG and NDOW in redband and bull trout streams.

[7] Redband trout and white sturgeon are also BLM Sensitive species and are addressed in detail in the *Special Status Fish and Aquatic Invertebrates* section.

Game fish in the planning area primarily occur in larger rivers and reservoirs, which have warmer water temperatures than the smaller stream habitats. On occasion, game fish have migrated to tributary streams where they compete with native fish for food and cover (BLM, 2006). Salmon Falls Reservoir is managed as a multi-resource fishery for game fish species that tolerate both warm and cool water conditions, such as rainbow trout and walleye. Cedar Creek Reservoir is managed by IDFG as a fishery for rainbow trout.

The Snake River and Salmon Falls Reservoir are the primary locations of other game fish in the planning area. Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, white crappie, black crappie, yellow perch, and other species inhabit the Snake River. Smallmouth bass, yellow perch, walleye, and black crappie are present in Salmon Falls Reservoir.

Sixteen non-game fish species in the planning area are members of the Cottidae (sculpin), Catostomidae (sucker), and Cyprinidae (minnow) families. These fish are native to the planning area and generally occur in the lower elevation, warmer water stream habitats. Four species of sculpin (Shoshone sculpin, mottled sculpin, Paiute sculpin, and shorthead sculpin) are present in 14 streams in the planning area (Appendix D). Members of the sculpin family are relatively short lived, requiring well-oxygenated water with good water quality. These fish require stream substrates with low amounts of fine sediment for successful spawning, egg survival, food and cover.

Three species of sucker are found in 14 streams in the planning area (Appendix D). One species, the large-scale sucker, can tolerate the warmer water temperatures commonly found in larger river systems like the Snake River. The other two species of sucker, mountain sucker and bridgelip sucker, are found in cool, fast-moving streams.

The minnow family is one of the most diverse groups in North America and represents the largest component of the native non-game fish resource in the planning area. These species include chiselmouth, redside shiner, speckled dace, longnose dace, peamouth chub, leopard dace, northern pikeminnow, and Utah chub. These species are found in 15 streams in the planning area (Appendix D). They can occupy a variety of habitats and stream conditions and adapt well to different environments and water temperature regimes.

IDFG's *Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy* identified 229 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCNs) in Idaho and established an ecological, habitat-based framework to aid in the conservation and management of these species (IDFG, 2005). The strategy provides recommendations for actions to improve the population status and habitat conditions of SGCN, describes an approach for long-term monitoring, and complements other conservation strategies, funding sources, planning initiatives, and legally mandated activities. The SGCN includes all Federally listed and Candidate species, as well as the majority of the BLM Sensitive and Watch species. Species in the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy are considered general wildlife unless designated by BLM as Sensitive or classified as Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, or Candidate under ESA by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). IDFG's *Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy* (IDFG, 2005) identified leopard dace as a SGCN; this identifies the species as at risk for decline. The leopard dace is not currently on the BLM Sensitive species list and is not managed under special status species management.

Aquatic Nuisance Species

Aquatic nuisance species are those plants and animals that are not native to an area, have the potential to spread uncontrollably, and can cause significant ecological or economic harm. In 2007, the Idaho Invasive Species Council (IISC) prepared a supplement to its 2005 *Strategic Action Plan for Invasive Species* to include an Aquatic Nuisance Species Plan for the State of Idaho. The plan was prepared as a statewide effort to limit the introduction and spread of aquatic nuisance species. Controlling the spread of aquatic nuisance species is an important management consideration in the planning area.

The IISC identified eight high-priority aquatic nuisance species as present in the planning area (Table 3-13). These species are considered by the IISC as likely to have an adverse impact to native aquatic resources, but are still in a potentially containable state with areas of local eradication possible. One

additional aquatic nuisance plant species, Hydrilla, has been found in the planning area since the IISC report was published in 2007.

Table 3- 13. Aquatic Nuisance Species Occurring or Potentially Occurring in the Planning Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	General Location by Watershed
Asian clam	*Corbicula fluminea*	Snake River and perennial tributaries
Curly-leaf pondweed	*Potamogeton crispus*	Snake River and perennial tributaries
Eurasian watermilfoil [A]	*Myriophyllum spicatum*	Bruneau River, Jarbidge River, Snake River and perennial tributaries
Hydrilla [B]	*Hydrilla verticallata*	Bruneau River below Hot Creek
New Zealand mudsnail	*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*	Bruneau River, Jarbidge River, Snake River and perennial tributaries, Salmon Falls Creek
Purple loosestrife [C]	*Lythrum salicaria*	Bruneau River, Jarbidge River, Snake River and tributaries, Salmon Falls Creek
Salt cedar (Tamarisk)	*Tamarix ramosissima*	Bruneau River, Jarbidge River, Salmon Falls Creek
Whirling Disease parasite	*Myxobolus cerebralis*	Upper Salmon Falls Creek, Salmon Falls Reservoir
Yellow iris [D]	*Iris pseudacorus*	Snake River, Salmon Falls Creek

[A] Eurasian watermilfoil has not been confirmed present in the planning area.
[B] Hydrilla was found in the lower Bruneau River in January 2008.
[C] Purple loosestrife has not been confirmed present in the Jarbidge River.
[D] Yellow iris is present in Twin Falls County but has not been identified in the planning area.
Note: The IISC report identifies aquatic and invasive species occurrence by county; these species may not occur in all locations in the county.
Source: 2005 Strategic Action Plan for Invasive Species

The New Zealand mudsnail is a non-native aquatic snail first documented in the middle Snake River from C.J Strike reservoir upstream to American Falls Reservoir in 1987. The exact time of arrival and source of the snails are unknown, but it has been speculated that they arrived from the commercial movement of aquaculture products such as trout eggs or live fish. These snails select river habitats similar to those used by the Snake River special status snails and can rapidly develop high-density colonies that can grow to 500,000 snails per square mile in some locations (FWS, 2007). The continued expansion of New Zealand mudsnail in the Snake River is a management concern for the rivers, reservoirs, and streams in the planning area as they out-compete native snails for food and habitat.

3.2.6.2. Wildlife

Over 300 vertebrate species are present in the planning area. Vertebrates are typically divided into general categories: fish (see *Fish* section), amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. The number of species in each of the categories found in the planning area is identified in Table 3- 14.

Table 3- 14. Number of Vertebrate Wildlife Species Found in the Planning Area by Wildlife Category

Category	Number of Species	Number of Non-Native Species
Amphibians	8	1
Reptiles	18	0
Birds	~220	7
Mammals	~60	4

Wildlife are classified by IDFG and NDOW into several broad categories including big game, upland game, migratory game birds, furbearing animals, protected non-game, and unprotected wildlife. IDFG and NDOW set hunting and trapping seasons, issue tags and licenses, establish methods of harvest, and develop population management and harvest objectives for game animals, upland game, migratory game birds, and furbearing animals. BLM is responsible for habitat management for these species, not the management of their populations.

Big Game

Big game in the planning area include mule deer, pronghorn, elk, California bighorn sheep (bighorn sheep), and mountain lion. Although a hunted big game species, bighorn sheep are BLM Sensitive species and are addressed in more detail in the *Special Status Wildlife* section.

Big game are affected by a number of important seasonal periods when forage, vegetation cover, or environmental conditions can limit production, recruitment, and survival (Appendix H). These periods are commonly associated with winter and reproduction.

Elk

Elk numbers increased in the planning area after transplants on Forest Service land in Nevada by NDOW during the early 1990s. Forty-seven elk were released in the Jarbidge Mountains in 1990, 31 in 1991, and 15 in 1995. Ninety-eight elk were introduced in the Bruneau River area between 1994 and 1996. NDOW is managing for a herd for 1,000 elk in the Jarbidge Mountains (NDOW, 2000) and another 1,250 head in the Bruneau River area. Current elk numbers are estimated to be about 1,500 to 1,800 in those Nevada hunt units (Martin, 2007). Elk numbers in the southern portion of the planning area generally increase in the late fall and winter. Elk numbers decline to some extent in the late spring as elk move back to Nevada to calve. IDFG does not have a specific population objective for elk in the planning area at this time.

Elk are primarily grazers, but will consume forbs and browse (Peek, 2003). Browse is typically consumed in the winter if herbaceous vegetation is covered by snow. The conversion of sagebrush steppe to perennial grassland does not appear to hinder the expansion of elk in the planning area; however, most of the observations of elk in the central portions of the planning area have been in sagebrush steppe habitats regardless of the time of year. Elk have been observed in numerous canyons, aspen stands, and mountain mahogany woodlands in the southern part of the planning area.

Mountain Lion

Mountain lions are widespread at low densities in the planning area. Because individual mountain lions have large territories, mountain lion numbers in a given area are naturally low, approximately 1 lion per 103 square miles (Pierce & Bleich, 2003). The distribution of mountain lions in the planning area is typically associated with canyons and the proximity and abundance of prey species. No important seasonal periods have been identified for mountain lion because they can breed year round; the timing of reproduction may be influenced by climate or prey abundance (Pierce & Bleich, 2003).

Mule Deer

Mule deer are one of the most abundant and widespread big game animals in the planning area. Historically, substantial numbers of mule deer from Nevada migrated to the planning area during the winter (IDFG, 2007). While IDFG has no population data for mule deer in the planning area, data from adjacent big game management units in southern Idaho indicate mule deer numbers and fawn recruitment have generally trended downward since the late 1980s (IDFG, 2008c). Similarly, data from adjacent management units in northern Nevada indicate a general declining trend in the number of wintering mule deer north of the Jarbidge Wilderness area (NDOW).

The habitat requirements of mule deer in the planning area vary seasonally. Mule deer diets consist of some browse year round, particularly in the fall and winter. Greater amounts of grasses and forbs are consumed in the spring and summer. In the spring, mule deer fawning habitat is characterized by dense stands of deciduous or coniferous trees or shrubs with diverse herbaceous understory. Mule deer winter range is characterized by low elevation, sagebrush steppe with southern exposures and mixed shrub-grasslands. Aspen and mountain mahogany stands, mountain shrub communities, and riparian areas are important seasonal habitats for mule deer fawning, foraging, hiding, and migrating.

Pronghorn

Pronghorn are widely distributed in the planning area. Pronghorn numbers throughout most of the planning area have generally declined since the early 1990s (IDFG, 2008c). Suspected reasons for the

decline include habitat alteration and fragmentation due to wildland fire, conversion of burned areas to non-native perennial grass, increases in invasive annuals, failure of seeded forbs (e.g., alfalfa) to persist in crested wheatgrass seedings, increased road and trail densities, and increased fence densities. Pronghorn are adapted to large open expanses and rarely jump fences (Sheldon, et al., 2006).

Pronghorn are typically associated with sagebrush steppe habitats, but readily use grasslands if there are adequate amounts of forbs. In sagebrush steppe habitats, pronghorn diets consist of sagebrush and other shrubs during all seasons, but particularly in the fall and winter (O'Gara & Yoakum, 2004). Forbs are preferred by pronghorn when they are available from spring through fall (O'Gara & Yoakum, 2004). The availability of forbs in shrub steppe habitats may have important implications for pronghorn because they are rich in nutritional values required for reproduction (Pyrah, 1987).

Big Game Winter Range

IDFG and NDOW provided updated maps to depict the distribution of big game winter range in the planning area (Map 19). Big game can be susceptible to high mortality during periods of prolonged deep snow and low temperatures due to difficulty moving, maintaining body temperature, and finding food. Snow 15 to 18 inches deep can preclude use of an area by mule deer (Gilbert, et al., 1970; Poole & Mowat, 2005). Increases in energy use for movement (Parker, et al., 1984), thermoregulation, and basic metabolic function during the winter are factors in increased mortality for mule deer fawns when compared to adult females (Hobbs, 1989). Even under optimal conditions, big game body condition declines throughout winter. The main survival strategy of wintering big game is to minimize energy loss and consume enough forage to prolong stored energy (fat) reserves. As a result, winter range is a crucial component of big game habitat. Cover, aspect, and elevation are important elements of winter range, and during severe weather, can be more important elements than forage availability. Winter range size is important because it allows flexibility in site selection during differing snow conditions and fluctuations in big game populations. Human disturbance of big game on winter ranges can displace animals from favored sites and increase energy expenditures.

Sagebrush, bitterbrush, serviceberry, chokecherry, and four-wing saltbush are important browse (shrub) species on big game winter ranges within the planning area. Dominant browse species vary among plant communities. Other species such as mountain snowberry, spiny hopsage, and shadscale may be important browse species when other forage is not present. Although rabbitbrush may be eaten by wintering big game, it generally has less nutritional value than other browse. Wildland fire has impacted big game winter range throughout the planning area. Sagebrush and other important browse species have been eliminated or reduced in on portions of the winter range due to wildland fires. Rabbitbrush, which responds by re-sprouting following burning (Tirmenstein, 1999a, 1999b), is prevalent on some winter ranges.

BLM conducted big game winter range evaluations in the southern portion of the planning area in 2006 and 2007. The evaluations indicated chokecherry, Utah serviceberry, and four-wing saltbush were most heavily utilized, although it is unknown what portion of this use is attributed to big game or fall and winter livestock grazing (Klott, et al., 2007). The evaluation also showed moderate hedging within most Wyoming big sagebrush and antelope bitterbrush sites. Relatively high amounts (10% to 29%) of rabbitbrush in winter ranges classified as salt desert shrub, low sagebrush, Wyoming big sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, and mountain shrub indicate higher disturbance sites; these disturbances can include fire, livestock grazing management, or use by wildlife. The majority of shrubs observed in the winter range evaluations were classified as mature; however, more than 20% of Wyoming big sagebrush was categorized as decadent or dead in most habitats. This may indicate sagebrush in winter range is old. There was no evidence such as numerous galls on stems of an insect outbreak as a cause of decadence or mortality.

Upland Game

Upland game include gray partridge (also called Hungarian partridge), ring-necked pheasant, chukar, California quail, mourning dove, dusky grouse (formerly blue grouse), mountain cottontail rabbits, greater sage-grouse (sage-grouse), Columbian sharp-tailed grouse (sharp-tailed grouse), and mountain quail.

Sage-grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, and mountain quail are BLM Sensitive species and are addressed in more detail in the *Special Status Wildlife* section.

Mountain Cottontail Rabbits

Mountain cottontail rabbits are widely distributed throughout the planning area and are found in a variety of plant communities including sagebrush steppe, mountain mahogany/deciduous mountain shrub, riparian, and canyonlands. Although no monitoring data is available for the bulk of the planning area, it is expected that cottontail rabbit numbers have generally declined due to the alteration and fragmentation of sagebrush communities.

Upland Game Birds

Upland game birds are affected by a number of important seasonal periods when forage, vegetation cover, or environmental conditions can limit production, recruitment, and survival (Appendix H). These periods are commonly associated with winter and reproduction.

Gray partridge, ring-necked pheasant, chukar, and California quail were introduced in Idaho in the early 1900s. The distributions of gray partridge, pheasant, and California quail in the planning area are closely tied to farmland. Pheasant and, to a lesser extent, gray partridge nest and forage in agricultural fields. Chukar are most commonly associated with deeply incised canyons such as Salmon Falls Creek, the Jarbidge River, and the Bruneau River, but also are present in areas with steep topography associated with volcanic buttes such as Notch Butte and Twin Buttes. Gray partridge, quail, and chukar numbers commonly experience short-term fluctuations, but have been generally stable throughout the planning area since the mid 1980s (Hayden, et al., 2006). The timing and amount of spring and winter precipitation typically accounts for most of the short-term variation observed in upland game bird populations. Ring-necked pheasant numbers have been generally stable at lower numbers following a precipitous decline during the 1980s (Hayden, et al., 2006). A series of severe winters in the mid 1980s; changes in farming practices such as the proliferation of sprinkler irrigation; and subsequent loss of suitable habitat such as canal and ditch banks, seasonal wetlands, and residual grain stubble are major factors associated with the decline of pheasants in southern Idaho (IDFG, 2007). Late fall and winter livestock grazing (Leptich, 1992) combined with increases in livestock water sources in allotments adjacent to farmland and wildlife tracts also may reduce available winter and nesting cover for pheasants (Leptich, 1992) and gray partridge.

Mourning doves are widely distributed in a number of habitats including sagebrush steppe, riparian, grassland, and mountain mahogany/ mountain shrub. No significant population trend has been detected for mourning doves in the western United States, including the entire State of Idaho, over the last 10 years; however, significant declines have occurred over the entire 42-year monitoring period (Dolton, et al., 2007). Although a few mourning doves are present in the planning area in the winter, the majority migrate.

No specific information is available regarding the status of dusky grouse populations in the planning area; however, this species typically occupies coniferous forests at higher elevations, a habitat that is rare within the planning area. In the planning area, dusky grouse have occasionally been observed in the Wilkins Island area. Dusky grouse likely move seasonally from conifer forest associated with the Jarbidge Mountains to the south.

Migratory Game Birds, Furbearing Animals, and Protected Non-Game Species

Migratory game birds in the planning area include ducks, geese, cranes, and other waterfowl. Furbearing animals include red fox, mink, river otter, badger, beaver, muskrat, raccoon, weasel, and bobcat. The majority of wildlife species in the planning area are classified as protected non-game including amphibians, reptiles, most birds, and several small mammals. These three categories of wildlife are addressed in the context of habitat guilds below and are not specifically addressed further as the alternatives are likely to affect these species primarily through impacts to their habitat.

Several of these species are of conservation concern due to broad changes in habitat, state or regional population declines, or a general lack of information. Wildlife appearing to have downward population trends in other regions may be categorized by BLM as Watch species[8] (Table 3- 15). Watch species do not receive any additional management emphasis by BLM and are considered general wildlife.

Table 3- 15. Idaho BLM "Watch" Wildlife Species Observed in the Planning Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Guild
Reptiles		
Night snake	*Hypsiglenia torquata*	Sagebrush steppe, Canyon/Cliff/Talus
Birds		
Brewer's blackbird	*Euphagus cyanocephalus*	Grassland, Riparian/Wetland
Cassin's finch	*Carpodacus cassinii*	Aspen
Cordilleran flycatcher	*Empidonax occidentalis*	Riparian/Wetland, Aspen
Grasshopper sparrow	*Ammodramus savannarum*	Grassland
Green-tailed towhee	*Pipilo chlorurus*	Mountain mahogany/Mountain shrub
Long-billed curlew	*Numenius americanus*	Grassland
Pinyon jay	*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*	Mountain mahogany/Mountain shrub
Red-naped sapsucker	*Sphyrapius nuchalis*	Aspen
Sage thrasher [A]	*Oreoscoptes montanus*	Sagebrush steppe
Short-eared owl	*Asio flammeus*	Sagebrush steppe, Grassland
Swainson's hawk	*Buteo swainsoni*	Sagebrush steppe, Aspen
Virginia's warbler	*Vermivora virginiae*	Riparian/Wetland, Mountain mahogany/Mountain shrub
Western burrowing owl	*Athene cunicularia*	Sagebrush steppe, Grassland
Wilson's phalarope	*Phalaropus tricolor*	Riparian/Wetland
Mammals		
Long-legged myotis	*Myotis volans*	Canyon/Cliff/Talus
Western pipestrelle	*Pipistrellus hesperus*	Canyon/Cliff/Talus
Western small-footed myotis	*Myotis ciliolabrum*	Canyon/Cliff/Talus
Yuma myotis	*Myotis ymanensis*	Canyon/Cliff/Talus

[A] Sage thrasher is a Sensitive species in Nevada and is addressed in the *Special Status Wildlife* section.

Table 3- 16 depicts SGCN wildlife found in the planning area that, for planning purposes, are considered general wildlife (IDFG, 2005).

In order to analyze impacts to protected non-game, furbearing animals, and migratory game birds, these species were placed into groups or guilds by habitat type, which consist of one or more vegetation communities. Although a species may be listed in one guild, the species may occur in other habitats in lesser numbers or during brief periods. Grouping wildlife that occur in similar habitats is a useful technique to analyze impacts at larger scales without analyzing each species individually (Wisdom, et al., 2000). Seven wildlife guilds were developed for analysis for the planning area. Five wildlife guilds are related to vegetation: sagebrush steppe, aspen, riparian, mountain mahogany/mountain shrub, and grassland. Two guilds are related to non-vegetative components. The duneland guild addresses a habitat specific to a soil type, and the canyonland guild addresses the geologic habitats of canyons, cliffs, and talus. The number of acres in each guild is identified in Table 3- 17.

Currently there are approximately 463,000 acres of sagebrush steppe, nearly 3,000 acres of aspen, 11,000 acres of mountain mahogany/mountain shrub, 847,000 acres of grassland, about 44,000 acres of canyonland, and 600 acres of duneland guild habitat in the planning area. There are approximately 316 miles of perennial stream that provide riparian habitat. Some guild habitats, such as aspen, occur primarily on the non-windy side of ridges, draws, basins, and riparian zones at higher (more than 5,000 feet) elevation in the planning area, whereas others are generally restricted to higher elevation rocky soil

[8] Watch species are also referred to as BLM Type 5 Sensitive species.

(mountain mahogany). These sites are naturally patchy due to topographic or soil factors. Sagebrush steppe habitats are often fairly continuous, occupying large expanses. The sagebrush steppe habitats in the planning area are interrupted by deep canyons.

Table 3- 16. Species of Greatest Conservation Need (Non-Special Status) Observed in the Planning Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Guild
Birds		
American avocet	*Recurvirostra americana*	Riparian/Wetland
Black-crowned night heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	Riparian/Wetland
Black-necked stilt	*Himantopus mexicanus*	Riparian/Wetland
Cattle egret	*Bubulus ibis*	Riparian/Wetland
Clark's grebe	*Aechmophorus clarkii*	Riparian/Wetland
Common loon	*Gavia immer*	Riparian/Wetland
Great egret	*Ardea alba*	Riparian/Wetland
Juniper titmouse	*Baeolophus ridgwayi*	Mountain mahogany/Mountain shrub
Merlin	*Falco columbarius*	Aspen
Northern pintail	*Anas acuta*	Riparian/Wetland
Sandhill crane	*Grus canadensis*	Riparian/Wetland
Snowy egret	*Egretta thula*	Riparian/Wetland
Western grebe	*Aechmophorus occidentalis*	Riparian/Wetland
Mammals		
California myotis	*Myotis californicus*	Riparian/Wetland, Sagebrush steppe
Invertebrates (terrestrial		
A tiger beetle	*Cicindela plutonica*	Unknown [A]

[A] Habitat is only described as "rangeland," so the species has not been assigned to a guild.
Source: (IDFG, 2005)

Table 3- 17. Acres of BLM-Managed Lands by Guild Habitat

Guild Habitat	Acres
Aspen	3,000
Canyonland	44,000
Duneland	600
Grassland	847,000
Mountain Mahogany/Mountain Shrub	11,000
Sagebrush Steppe	463,000
Other	5,000

Vegetation provides wildlife with food, cover, and structure for reproduction. A few wildlife species are found across multiple habitats and are considered habitat generalists, while the distribution of some wildlife species within the planning area is closely linked to a single habitat: aspen (e.g., yellow pine chipmunk, tree swallow), mountain mahogany/mountain shrub (e.g., Virginia warbler, spotted towhee), or canyonlands (e.g., white-throated swift, canyon wren, canyon mouse). A few birds (e.g., common nighthawk and killdeer) prefer open, sparsely vegetated areas for nesting, whereas others (e.g., short-eared owl, grasshopper sparrow, waterfowl) nest in tall dense cover. Herbaceous cover is less important for species that nest in shrubs or trees; however, it is important for small mammals and birds that forage, travel, or nest on the ground. Thick stands of cheatgrass can be too dense and hinder the movement of some species, such as lizards, making habitat less suitable and potentially increasing predation of lizards in cheatgrass-infested areas (Newbold, 2005).

Sagebrush Steppe Guild

The sagebrush steppe guild includes species such as:

- Belding's ground squirrel
- Black-tailed jackrabbit
- California myotis
- Mourning dove
- Night snake
- Sagebrush lizard

- Chisel-tooth kangaroo rat
- Deer mouse
- Gopher snake
- Gray flycatcher
- Green-tailed towhee
- Least chipmunk
- Mountain cottontail rabbit
- Sagebrush vole
- Short-eared owl
- Short-horned lizard
- Swainson's hawk
- Vagrant shrew
- Vesper sparrow
- Western burrowing owl

The sagebrush steppe guild is associated with vegetation communities that typically have a shrub overstory dominated by one or more sagebrush species including low sagebrush, black sagebrush, Wyoming big sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, and basin big sagebrush. Spiny hopsage, bitterbrush, rabbitbrush, and other shrub species may be present in varying amounts. Vegetation communities associated with wildlife in the sagebrush steppe guild are shown in Table 3- 18.

These communities occur at elevations ranging from 3,000 feet to over 7,500 feet. Shrub cover in sagebrush steppe vegetation communities ranges from 10% to 30%. Overstory shrub composition may include a variety of shrubs depending on the range site. The amount and composition of grasses and forbs are variable depending on precipitation, soils, elevation, and the amount, type, and degree of past disturbances.

Based on soil site descriptions, sagebrush steppe plant communities were historically the dominant overstory vegetation on 93% of the planning area. Throughout the planning area, wildland fire and historic vegetation manipulation projects have resulted in a substantial loss of sagebrush steppe habitat. Since 1987, 723,000 acres of sagebrush steppe habitat in the planning area has burned. This has altered the amount and distribution of sagebrush steppe habitat, particularly in the northern portion of the planning area. The Murphy Complex Fire burned roughly 500,000 acres in 2007. Of this, roughly 200,000 acres was sagebrush steppe, which reduced the total amount of sagebrush habitat and increased the distance between large (greater than 640 acre) blocks of sagebrush habitat. This large fire also eliminated a number of remaining sagebrush islands from previous wildland fires. In 2008, 35 areas of sagebrush exceed 3,000 acres (Table 3- 19). Islands of sagebrush steppe less than 20 acres in size were not included because the vegetation mapping units were greater than 20 acres. Remaining sagebrush steppe communities are further fragmented by roads, trails, fences, water pipelines, and power lines.

Sagebrush provides structure to support the nests of some species, overhead cover for a number of ground-nesting species, and hiding cover for birds and small mammals while foraging. Some species forage on sagebrush itself, while others forage on insects found on sagebrush stems and leaves. Sagebrush provides crucial seasonal browse for big game. Dead sagebrush stems and branches provide material for constructing nests for some raptors such as red-tailed and Swainson's hawks.

Aspen Guild

The aspen guild includes species such as:

- American robin
- Cassin's finch
- Common flicker
- Cordilleran flycatcher
- Downy woodpecker
- House wren
- Merlin
- Mountain bluebird
- Mountain chickadee
- Red-breasted nuthatch
- Red-naped sapsucker
- Sharp-shinned hawk
- Swainson's hawk
- Tree swallow
- Yellow-rumped warbler
- Yellow-pine chipmunk
- Furbearing animals

Table 3- 18. Vegetation Communities Associated with Wildlife in the Sagebrush Steppe Guild by Vegetation Sub-Group

Vegetation Sub-Group	Vegetation Community
Native Shrub	Black sagebrush/bluebunch
	Black sagebrush/bluegrass
	Low sage/bluebunch-Idaho fescue
	Low sage/bluegrass
	Low sage/Idaho fescue
	Low sage/squirreltail
	Shadscale
	Winterfat/Indian ricegrass
	Greasewood/basin wildrye
	Basin big sagebrush
	Fourwing saltbush/needlegrass
	Mountain big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass-Idaho fescue
	Mountain big sagebrush/Idaho fescue
	Rabbitbrush/bluebunch wheatgrass
	Rabbitbrush/bluegrass
	Rabbitbrush/Idaho fescue
	Rabbitbrush/Thurbers needlegrass
	Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass
	Wyoming big sagebrush/bluegrass
	Wyoming big sagebrush/Idaho fescue
	Wyoming big sagebrush/Indian ricegrass
	Wyoming big sagebrush/thickspike wheatgrass
	Wyoming big sagebrush/Thurbers needles grass
Non-Native Perennial	Fourwing saltbush/crested wheatgrass
	Rabbitbrush/crested wheatgrass
	Rabbitbrush/intermediate wheatgrass
Non-Native Understory	Black sagebrush/crested wheatgrass
	Low sage/crested wheatgrass
	Basin big sagebrush/crested wheatgrass
	Wyoming big sagebrush/crested wheatgrass
	Wyoming big sagebrush/intermediate wheatgrass
Annual	Rabbitbrush/annual
	Wyoming big sagebrush/annual

Table 3- 19. Shrubland Patches by Size Category, 2008

Patch Size Category	Number of Patches
20 – 160 acres	645
160 – 640 acres	207
640 – 3,000 acres	102
Greater than 3,000 acres	35

Aspen plant communities comprise less than 1% of the planning area and are included in the Native Shrubland VSG due to their small size and scattered distribution. Aspen communities have an overstory dominated by quaking aspen. Quaking aspen are generally short- to moderately-lived (50 to 100 years) trees that usually grow as interconnected clones. Aspen patches in the planning area are typically small, ranging from less than 1 acre to 20 acres. Tree size varies from less than 1 inch to 12 inches in diameter. Old decadent stands of aspen can be burned to stimulate new sprouts from the roots. Low intensity fires result in stands containing trees of varying ages, whereas high-intensity fires result in new, even-aged stands (Duchesne & Hawkes, 2000). Cutting aspen stands can also stimulate the growth of aspen sprouts. Heavy browsing of aspen sprouts by ungulates including elk (Bartos, et al., 1994), mule deer (Kay & Bartos, 2000), or livestock (Kay & Bartos, 2000) after fire or cutting decreases the number of

aspen sprouts and may result in elimination of aspen stands (Bartos, et al., 1994). Tree heights are variable but can reach 40 feet. Understory shrubs in these communities can include mountain big sagebrush, wood rose, mountain snowberry, chokecherry, and serviceberry. Herbaceous vegetation may include Columbia needlegrass, Idaho fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, geranium, horsemint, and a variety of other species. Junipers are encroaching in some aspen stands; however, the condition of the majority of aspen stands has not been evaluated.

Aspen communities provide unique and important habitats for foraging and fawning big game, and nesting and foraging birds and small mammals.

Riparian/Wetland Guild

The riparian/wetland guild includes species such as:

- American avocet
- Beaver
- Belted kingfisher
- Black-crowned night heron
- Black-necked stilt
- Brewer's blackbird
- California myotis
- Cattle egret
- Cinnamon teal
- Clark's grebe
- Common loon
- Cordilleran flycatcher
- Fox sparrow
- Great egret
- Lazuli bunting
- Long-tailed vole
- Mallard
- Mink
- Muskrat
- Northern pintail
- Pacific chorus frog
- River otter
- Rubber boa
- Sandhill crane
- Snowy egret
- Spotted sandpiper
- Virginia's warbler
- Water shrew
- Western grebe
- Western jumping mouse
- Western terrestrial gartersnake
- Wilson's phalarope
- Yellow breasted chat
- Yellow warbler

A variety of riparian plant communities occur in the planning area including semi-wet meadow, willow/graminoid, aspen, black cottonwood, and Rocky mountain juniper. These communities are associated with approximately 316 miles of perennial rivers and streams, 102 miles of ditches and canals, approximately 885 acres of playas and man-made ponds, 200 seeps or springs, and an unknown acreage of wet meadows. The majority of these communities were not mapped in the vegetation mapping process as they were too small to detect with the 20-acre minimum mapping unit. Based on the amount of streams and wetlands, these communities are estimated to occupy 1% of the planning area. Many of the semi-wet meadow communities (Native Grassland VSG) and juniper communities (Native Shrubland VSG) that were mapped are associated with riparian areas and wetlands.

Semi-wet meadow sites are dominated by a variety of grasses, rushes, sedges, and some forbs. Willow/graminoid sites may have one to five willow species as well as a variety of grasses, rushes, and sedges. Willow heights can vary from 8 to 20 feet depending on species. Aspen and black cottonwood riparian zones contain taller trees with diverse understory vegetation. Junipers are replacing aspen and black cottonwood in the overstory at some sites, limiting growth of shrubs and herbaceous species in the understory. Rocky mountain juniper riparian zones typically possess a less diverse understory. Willows, currant, and dogwood are usually limited to the stream edge when present. If the juniper canopy is closed and the site is minimally disturbed, moss occupies the ground surface. Grasses and forbs are limited to openings in the tree canopy.

Riparian vegetation provides high-value habitat for a majority of wildlife in the planning area. The majority of terrestrial wildlife species may be found in these communities on at least a seasonal basis. For example, riparian communities provide fawning and calving habitat for mule deer and elk. Other wildlife species are found exclusively in these areas (e.g., water shrew, Pacific chorus frog, yellow-breasted chat, Wilson's phalarope, and cinnamon teal).

Mountain Mahogany/Mountain Shrub Guild

The mountain mahogany/ mountain shrub guild includes species such as:

- Black-throated gray warbler
- Blue-gray gnatcatcher
- Green-tailed towhee
- Juniper towhee
- Pinyon jay
- Spotted towhee
- Virginia's warbler
- White-crowned sparrow

Mountain mahogany/ mountain shrub communities (deciduous mountain brush, evergreen mountain brush, and mountain mahogany) comprise less than 1% of the planning area; these communities belong to the Native Shrubland VSG due to their naturally small size and scattered distribution. Mountain mahogany is a long-lived, short-statured tree (3 to 35 feet tall) occupying rocky sites (Gucker, 2006) at elevations above 5,000 feet. Associated shrub species may include mountain big sagebrush, mountain snowberry, wild rose, serviceberry, and chokecherry. Native herbaceous species may include bluebunch wheatgrass, Sandberg bluegrass, buckwheat, and geranium. Mountain shrub communities usually occur in small patches (1 to 30 acres) and include chokecherry, serviceberry, rose, and bitterbrush. Scouler willow and bittercherry are present at some sites. Because of shrub density, the herbaceous understory may be diverse but limited.

Although these plant communities cover small areas, they provide important seasonal habitats for certain wildlife species including big game winter range, fawning and calving habitat for mule deer and elk, and nesting and foraging habitat for birds and small mammals.

Grassland Guild

The grassland guild includes species such as:

- Badger
- Brewer's blackbird
- Grasshopper sparrow
- Harvest mouse
- Horned lark
- Lark sparrow
- Long-billed curlew
- Mountain vole
- Savannah sparrow
- Short-eared owl
- Western burrowing owl
- Western meadowlark

Thirty-three percent of the planning area is mapped as some form of grassland; however, based on soil site description, less than 1% of the planning area should be grassland. Seeding crested wheatgrass following wildland fires has greatly increased the amount of grassland habitat in the planning area.

Grassland communities are dominated by grasses and typically have low amounts of shrub cover. Shrub cover is less than 2% in most grassland habitats throughout the planning area. Vegetation communities associated with wildlife in the grassland guild are shown in Table 3- 20.

Savannah sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, western meadow lark, and short-eared owl prefer taller grassland habitats. Long-billed curlew nest in short grass areas; however, brooding occurs in areas with taller grass cover. Horned larks nest in both tall and short grass areas locally. Mosaics in residual herbaceous heights provide suitable habitat for all grassland species.

Table 3- 20. Vegetation Communities Associated with Wildlife in the Grassland Guild

Vegetation Sub-Group	Vegetation Community
Native Grassland	Basin wildrye
	Bluebunch wheatgrass
	Bluegrass
	Idaho fescue
	Needlegrass
	Thurbers needlegrass
	Western wheatgrass
Non-Native Perennial	Crested wheatgrass
	Intermediate wheatgrass
Annual	Annual

Canyonland Guild

The canyonland guild includes species such as:

- Barn swallow
- Canyon mouse
- Canyon wren
- Cliff swallow
- Golden eagle
- Little brown bat
- Long-legged myotis
- Night snake
- Red-tailed hawk
- Rock wren
- Say's phoebe
- Side-blotched lizard
- Spotted skunk
- Western fence lizard
- Western pipestrelle
- Western rattlesnake
- Western small-footed myotis
- White-throated swift
- Yellow-bellied marmot
- Yuma myotis

The canyonland habitat comprises about 4% of the planning area. This habitat is associated with steep rocky slopes, canyons, cliffs, in several larger drainages. The majority of the canyon habitats are associated with the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers as well as Salmon Falls and Clover Creeks. Other canyon areas include portions of Devil Creek, Sailor Creek, Poison Creek, and Cedar Creek. The steep slopes are frequently interrupted by cliffs, terraces, and benches. Cliff height varies substantially with the planning area; some cliffs can be less than 10 feet high, while others can be up to 900 feet.

Many of the areas mapped as breaks and barren vegetation communities (Unvegetated VSG) include canyonland habitats. Vegetation is present in gaps between rocks, but these areas were not mapped in the vegetation mapping process if they were too small to detect with the 20-acre minimum mapping unit. The presence of native grasses, including bluebunch wheatgrass, basin wildrye, and Sandberg bluegrass, varies with elevation and past disturbance. The shrub component is typically dominated by big sagebrush, but may also include rose, currant, and limited amounts of rock oceanspray. Canyons contain the majority of juniper in the planning area. Juniper stands in some locations are dense enough to limit growth of understory vegetation. Cheatgrass is prevalent in some portions of the canyons (Salmon Falls Creek, Clover Creek, Bruneau River, Jarbidge River, and Cedar Creek) that have received past disturbance primarily from wildland fire and, to some extent, livestock. Steep topography and rocky soils in the canyons prevented restoration.

Cliffs provide nesting habitat for a variety of raptor and other birds and roosting areas for numerous bat species. Some talus slopes are used by reptiles for over wintering. Canyon areas also provide important security and winter habitat for mule deer.

Duneland Guild

The dune lands guild includes species such as:

- Leopard lizard
- Ord's kangaroo rat

- Western whiptail

Duneland habitat is limited (less than 1%) within the planning area, found only in a few scattered areas at lower elevations (less than 4,000 feet) between Bruneau Dunes State Park and Hagerman. The dune landform consists of a series of alternating depressions and mounds formed by wind-deposited sand. A number of dunes and dune interspaces are sparsely vegetated. The majority of the dunes are low (3 to10 feet). Duneland habitats include areas mapped as sand dune (Unvegetated VSG), as well as other vegetation communities that are too small to detect with the 20-acre minimum mapping unit.

The native plant communities in this habitat have been substantially altered by wildland fire. The understory contains cheatgrass and, in some cases, crested wheatgrass. Historically, the duneland understory would have included Indian ricegrass, needle-and-thread grass, and a number of forbs including annual lupine, annual milkvetch, purple nama, sand lily, sand penstemon, pale evening primrose, and scurf-pea. The current shrub overstory is limited (less than 10% cover) or absent and includes basin big sagebrush, bitterbrush, or rabbitbrush. In several areas, the dunelands have been stabilized by plantings of crested wheatgrass. Wildland fires since the mid-1970s and invasion by cheatgrass have reduced native grasses, forbs, and shrubs.

Unprotected Wildlife

Unprotected wildlife include the house mouse, Norway rat, feral cat, starling, English sparrow, rock doves, jack rabbits, coyotes, weasels, skunks, and a few rodents. House mouse, Norway rat, feral cats, starlings, English sparrow, and rock doves are introduced species. They are usually associated with private lands and may be considered pests. Unprotected wildlife species are not addressed further, as these animals are relatively abundant and widespread and are not likely to be affected by decisions in the alternatives.

3.2.7. Special Status Species

Special status wildlife include species officially listed or proposed for listing as Endangered or Threatened under ESA, candidates for listing as Endangered or Threatened under ESA (Candidate), and species designated by the BLM State Director as Sensitive. The BLM manages special status species under the policy established in BLM Manual 6840 in addition to requirements set forth under ESA. State laws protecting species apply to all BLM programs and actions to the extent that they are consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).

Endangered or Threatened species are species officially listed by the Secretary of the Interior under ESA and for which a final rule has been published in the *Federal Register*. Proposed species are species that have been officially proposed for listing as Endangered or Threatened by the Secretary of the Interior and for which a proposed rule has been published in the *Federal Register*. Candidate species are species designated as candidates for listing as Endangered or Threatened by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and are included on a list published in the *Federal Register*. Candidate status indicates existing information warrants listing of the species, but other species have higher priority for listing.

Sensitive species are those species designated by the BLM State Director in cooperation with State wildlife agencies (e.g., IDFG) after reviewing current information within the state and adjoining states. Species are added to or removed from the BLM Sensitive List periodically, typically every five to seven years. Idaho BLM ranks Sensitive plant species into four types:

- **Type 1. Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Species** – These species are listed by the FWS as Threatened or Endangered, or they are Proposed or Candidates for listing under ESA.
- **Type 2**. **Range-wide/Globally Imperiled Species – High Endangerment** – These species have a high likelihood of being listed in the foreseeable future due to their global rarity and significant endangerment factors.
- **Type 3. Range-wide/Globally Imperiled Species – Moderate Endangerment** – These species are globally rare with moderate endangerment factors. Their global rarity and inherent risks associated with rarity make them imperiled species.

- **Type 4**. **Species of Concern** – These species are generally rare in Idaho with small populations or localized distribution and currently have low threat levels. However, due to the small populations and habitat area, certain future land uses in close proximity could significantly jeopardize these species.

Idaho BLM ranks Sensitive fish and wildlife species into four types.

- **Type 1. Threatened, Endangered, Proposed and Candidate Species –** These species are listed by FWS or NMFS as Threatened or Endangered, or they are Proposed or Candidates for listing under ESA.
- **Type 2. Range-wide/Globally Imperiled Species –** These species are experiencing significant declines throughout their range with a high likelihood of being listed in the foreseeable future due to their rarity and/or significant endangerment factors.
- **Type 3. Regional/State Imperiled Species –** These species are experiencing significant declines in population or habitat and are in danger of regional or local extinctions in Idaho in the foreseeable future if factors contributing to their decline continue.
- **Type 4. Peripheral Species –** These are species that are generally rare in Idaho with the majority of the breeding range largely outside the state.

Type NV species are considered Sensitive by Nevada BLM.

Idaho BLM also added a Type 5 (Watch) category. Watch list species are not considered BLM Sensitive species, and associated Sensitive species policy guidance does not apply. Watch list species include species that may be added to the Sensitive species list depending on new information concerning threats, species biology, or statewide trends. Species presently classified as Watch species are considered general wildlife.

3.2.7.1. Special Status Plants

Table 3- 21 identifies the special status plants in the planning area. Because a portion of the planning area is in the State of Nevada, plants listed by the Nevada BLM in conjunction with the Nevada Natural Heritage Program as Sensitive that occur or may occur in the planning area are also included. These plants are noted as NV in Table 3- 21.

Special status plants can be rare due to associations with specific substrates or plant communities or because human-related disturbance has reduced population numbers, available habitat, or degraded habitat condition. Disturbances include, but are not limited to, construction and maintenance of roads, trails, or other access-related infrastructure; livestock grazing and associated facilities including wells, pipelines, troughs, corrals, and fences; cross-country motorized vehicle use; modification of habitat by noxious weeds or invasive plants; altered fire regimes; and establishment of uncharacteristic vegetation.

Sensitive plant populations are inventoried and monitored for population numbers, viability, and habitat quality following standard guidelines and protocols (IDFG, 2008b; USDI, 2001). Inventory and monitoring for special status plants are on-going and often associated with project planning and permit renewals. Intensive special status plant inventory and monitoring occurred in the planning area between 2003 and 2006. This inventory and monitoring provided information on population status, habitat quality, and threats to special status plants in the planning area (Table 3- 22). Inventories were not complete or exhaustive, and some populations and habitat conditions are dynamic. Additional population monitoring of slickspot peppergrass is conducted and reported annually following the Habitat Integrity and Population (HIP) Monitoring Protocol (Colket, 2005).

The association of special status plants with specific vegetation communities and VSGs, the VSGs in which each species is currently found in the planning area, and the location of each species in the planning area by VMA is summarized in Table 3- 23.

Table 3- 21. Special Status Plants Occurring or Potentially Occurring in the Planning Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	2008 Status
Annual/Biennial Forbs		
Alkali cleomella	*Cleomella plocasperma*	Type 3
Desert pincushion	*Chaenactis stevioides*	Type 4
Least phacelia	*Phacelia minutissima*	Type 3, NV
Rigid threadbush	*Nemacladus rigidus*	Type 4
Slickspot peppergrass	*Lepidium papilliferum*	Type 1
Spreading gilia	*Ipomopsis polycladon* [syn. *Gilia polycladon*]	Type 3
White eatonella	*Eatonella nivea*	Type 4
White-margin waxplant	*Glyptopleura marginata*	Type 4
Perennial Forbs		
American wood sage	*Teucrium canadense* var. *occidentale*	Type 3
Broadleaf fleabane	*Erigeron latus*	Type NV
Bruneau River phlox	*Linanthus glabrum* [syn. *Leptodactylon glabrum*]	Type 3, NV
Calcareous buckwheat	*Eriogonum ochrocephalum* var. *calcareum*	Type 3
Chatterbox orchid	*Epipactis gigantea*	Type 3
Cusick's primrose [A]	*Primula cusickiana* var. *cusickiana*	Type 5, NV
Davis peppergrass	*Lepidium davisii*	Type 3, NV
Four-wing milkvetch	*Astragalus tetrapterus*	Type 3
Greeley's wavewing	*Cymopterus acaulis* var. *greeleyorum*	Type 3
Janish penstemon	*Penstemon janishiae*	Type 3
Lewis buckwheat	*Eriogonum lewisii*	Type NV
Matted cowpie buckwheat	*Eriogonum shockleyi* [syn. *Eriogonum shockleyi* var. *shockleyi*]	Type 3
Newberry's milkvetch	*Astragalus newberryi* var. *castoreus*	Type 4
Owyhee milkvetch	*Astragalus yoder-williamsii*	Type 3, NV
Packard's cowpie buckwheat	*Eriogonum shockleyi* [syn. *Eriogonum shockleyi* var. *packardiae*]	Type 3
Spine-node milkvetch	*Peteria thompsoniae*	Type 4
Two-headed onion	*Allium anceps*	Type 3
Non-Vascular Plants		
Earth lichen	*Catapyrenium congestum*	Type 4
Woven-spore lichen	*Texosporium sancti-jacobi*	Type 2

[A] Plants with Type 5 status are Watch species for Idaho. This is not a protective designation under BLM policy; however, Idaho Type 5 plants that are Sensitive in Nevada are listed.

Table 3- 22. Status of Special Status Plants in the Planning Area

Name	Status in Planning Area [A]			
	Recent Inventory/ Monitoring	Population Vigor	Habitat Quality	Common Threats in the Planning Area
Annual/Biennial Forbs				
Alkali cleomella	No	No Data	No Data	No Data
Desert pincushion	Yes	No Data	No Data	No Data
Least phacelia	No	No Data	No Data	No Data
Rigid threadbush	Yes	Poor	Good	Invasive plants
Slickspot peppergrass	Yes	Fair	Fair	Livestock, noxious weeds and invasive plants, wildfire
Spreading gilia	Yes	Poor	Fair	Livestock, invasive plants
White eatonella	Yes	No Data	No Data	No Data
White-margin waxplant	Yes	No Data	Fair to Poor	Livestock, invasive plants, wildfire
Perennial Forbs				
American wood sage	No	No Data	No Data	no data
Broadleaf fleabane	Yes	Good	Good	Cross-country motorized vehicle use, invasive plants
Bruneau River phlox	Yes	Good	Good	Recreational activities
Calcareous buckwheat	Yes	Good	Fair to Good	Livestock, noxious weeds and invasive plants, wildfire
Chatterbox orchid	Yes	No Data	No Data	No Data
Cusick's primrose	Yes	Good	Good	Juniper encroachment, wildfire
Davis peppergrass	Yes	Good	Fair to Good	livestock, invasive plants
Four-wing milkvetch	No	No Data	No Data	No Data
Greeley's wavewing	Yes	Poor to Fair	Poor to Fair	Livestock, noxious weeds and invasive plants, wildfire
Janish penstemon	Yes	Good	Poor to Fair	Livestock, invasive plants, wildfire
Lewis buckwheat	Yes	No Data	No Data	No Data
Matted cowpie buckwheat	Yes	Fair	Fair	Cross-country motorized vehicle use, livestock, noxious weeds and invasive plants, wildfire
Newberry's milkvetch	No	No Data	No Data	No Data
Owyhee milkvetch	Yes	No Data	No Data	No Data
Packard's cowpie buckwheat	Yes	No Data	No Data	No Data
Spine-node milkvetch	Yes	Good to Excellent	Fair	Livestock, noxious weeds and invasive plants, wildfire
Two-headed onion	No	No Data	No Data	No Data
Non-Vascular Plants				
Earth lichen	No	Good	Fair	Livestock trampling
Woven-spore lichen	No	No Data	No Data	No Data

[A] Status as of December 2006. Special status plants with the notation of "no data" have past documented occurrences and potential habitat within the planning area, but have not been recently located.

Table 3- 23. Native and Current Habitat and Location of Special Status Plants in the Planning Area

Species	Native Habitat		Habitat Currently Occupied (VSG[A])	Location by VMA
	Vegetation Community	VSG		
Annual/Biennial Forbs				
Alkali cleomella [B]	Greasewood/Basin wildrye	Native Shrubland	Annual	A
	Salt desert shrub		Non-Native Perennial	A
Desert pincushion [B]	Salt desert shrub	Native Grassland	No Data	No Data
	Needlegrass with Indian ricegrass	Native Shrubland		
	Wyoming big sagebrush			
Least phacelia	Aspen	Native Shrubland	Native Shrubland	D
	Semi-wet meadow with tall forbs, snow-drift areas			
Rigid threadbush [B]	Salt desert shrub	Native Shrubland	Annual	A
	Wyoming big sagebrush		Native Shrubland	A
Slickspot peppergrass	Wyoming big sagebrush	Native Shrubland	Annual	A[C], B
			Native Grassland	A[C], B, C
			Native Shrubland	A[C], B, C
			Non-Native Perennial	A[C], B, C
			Non-Native Understory	A[C], B, C
Spreading gilia [B]	Salt desert shrub	Native Shrubland	Annual	A
	Low sagebrush		Native Shrubland	A
	Wyoming big sagebrush		Non-Native Perennial	A
White eatonella [B]	Salt desert shrub	Native Shrubland	No Data	No Data
	Wyoming big sagebrush			
White-margin waxplant[4]	Greasewood/Basin wildrye	Native Shrubland	Annual	A
	Salt desert shrub		Native Shrubland	A, D
Perennial Forbs				
American wood sage	Semi-wet meadows, riparian areas, wetlands, or hot springs	Riparian/wetland	Riparian/wetland	No Data
Broadleaf fleabane	Low sagebrush	Native Shrubland	Native Shrubland	D
	Wyoming big sagebrush			
Bruneau River phlox	Rhyolitic canyon walls	N/A	N/A	B
Calcareous buckwheat	Salt desert shrub	Native Shrubland	Annual	A, B
			Native Grassland	A, B
			Native Shrubland	A, B
			Non-Native Perennial	A
Chatterbox orchid	Semi-wet meadows, riparian areas, wetlands, or hot springs	Riparian/wetland	Riparian/wetland	A
Cusick's primrose [D]	Mountain big sagebrush	Native Shrubland	Native Shrubland	D
Davis peppergrass	Large hard-bottomed playas within Wyoming big sagebrush and salt desert shrub	Native Shrubland	Native Grassland	B
			Native Shrubland	B
			Non-Native Perennial	B
Four-wing milkvetch	Wyoming big sagebrush	Native Shrubland	Annual	D
			Native Shrubland	D
Greeley's wavewing	Needlegrass with Indian ricegrass	Native Grassland	Annual	A
	Salt desert shrub	Native Shrubland	Native Grassland	A, B
			Native Shrubland	A
	Wyoming big sagebrush		Non-Native Perennial	A

Species	Native Habitat		Habitat Currently Occupied (VSG[A])	Location by VMA
	Vegetation Community	VSG		
Janish penstemon	Salt desert shrub	Native Shrubland	Annual	A
	Low sagebrush		Native Grassland	A
Lewis buckwheat	Low sagebrush	Native Shrubland	Native Shrubland	D
Matted cowpie buckwheat	Salt desert shrub	Native Shrubland	Annual	A
	Wyoming big sagebrush		Native Grassland	A
			Native Shrubland	A
			Non-Native Perennial	A
			Non-Native Understory	A
Newberry's milkvetch	Salt desert shrub	Native Shrubland	Native Grassland	D
	Wyoming big sagebrush		Native Shrubland	D
			Non-Native Perennial	D
			Non-Native Understory	D
Owyhee milkvetch	Low sagebrush	Native Shrubland	Native Shrubland	D
	Mountain big sagebrush			
Packard's cowpie buckwheat	Salt desert shrub	Native Shrubland	Native Shrubland	A
	Wyoming big sagebrush		Native Shrubland	A, B
Spine-node milkvetch	Salt desert shrub	Native Shrubland	Annual	A
			Native Shrubland	A
			Non-Native Perennial	A
Two-headed onion	Low sagebrush	Native Shrubland	Native Shrubland	D
Non-Vascular Plants				
Earth lichen	Salt desert shrub	Native Shrubland	Native Grassland	B
			Native Shrubland	C
Woven-spore lichen	Wyoming big sagebrush	Native Shrubland	No Data	No Data

[A] Based on the 2012 projected vegetation composition (baseline).
[B] Desert Annual Guild.
[C] Historic population, known only from collections.
[D] Type 5 (Watch) species for the Jarbidge FO; Sensitive for the Elko FO.
Note: Data are for known current and historical populations. Projected VSG is for the broad vegetation type where populations are documented. Habitat might be present as inclusions within VSGs. Species with no data for projected VSGs and/or VMAs are listed as special status species for the planning area by the Idaho and Nevada state directors, but there are no known occurrences within the planning area boundary.
Data source: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Natural Heritage Program (INHP); and BLM field inventory.

3.2.7.2. Special Status Fish and Aquatic Invertebrates

The planning area contains three primary drainage basins, or watersheds: the Snake River Watershed, the Salmon Falls Creek Watershed, and the Bruneau River Watershed (see the *Water Resources* section and Map 17). These watersheds essentially define the north, east, and west boundaries of the planning area. The southeast portion of the planning area is defined by the headwater tributaries of the North Fork of Salmon Falls Creek and Wilson Creek, both of which drain into Salmon Falls Creek in Nevada. The southwest portion of the planning area is defined by portions of several upper tributary reaches to Clover Creek, the Jarbidge River and its East Fork, and four small tributaries to the Bruneau River, all of which are south of the Nevada state line.

Fish

The planning area contains four special status fish species (Table 3- 24). The general distribution of these special status fish species and the watersheds in which they occur is described below.

Table 3- 24. Special Status Fish in the Planning Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	2008 Status	Watershed
Columbia River Basin bull trout	*Salvelinus confluentus*	Type 1; Threatened	Bruneau River
Interior Columbia River redband trout	*Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdeneri*	Type 2	Bruneau River, Salmon Falls Creek
Snake River white sturgeon	*Acipenser transmontanus*	Type 2	Snake River
Shoshone sculpin	*Cottus greenei*	Type 2	Snake River

Columbia River Basin Bull Trout

The Jarbidge River watershed contains migratory, or fluvial, Columbia River Basin bull trout (bull trout) and six local populations of resident bull trout that occupy the Jarbidge River and its East Fork. Bull trout are present in the headwaters of the East Fork of the Jarbidge River, Cougar, Fall, Slide, and Dave Creeks. Bull trout are also present in Pine Creek and Jack Creek. Although Cougar, Fall, Pine, and Slide Creeks are managed by the Forest Service, all of these streams, as well as the streams managed by BLM, are essential to the long-term conservation of Jarbidge River bull trout. Dave Creek, a western tributary to the East Fork of the Jarbidge River, contains a local population of resident (non-migratory) bull trout and may provide spawning and rearing habitat for fluvial bull trout. This local population of bull trout could be a significant factor in future bull trout recovery efforts because of its suitability for spawning and connectivity to other bull trout streams in the Jarbidge River Watershed.

In 2002, BLM completed stream habitat surveys on Dave Creek, the Jarbidge River and its East Fork, Buck Creek, and Deer Creek. These surveys were completed on sections of stream that had not been previously surveyed and were representative of larger stream reaches with similar habitat characteristics such as stream gradient, width, and depth. These data are summarized in Table 3- 25. The objectives for bull trout and redband trout habitat are summarized in the Aquatic and Riparian Management Strategy (ARMS; Appendix D).

Table 3- 25. Stream Habitat Data for Streams Containing Bull Trout

Stream	Streambank Stability (%)	Sediment (%)	Embedded Fines (%)	Large Woody Debris (#/mile)	Pools (#/Mile)	Large Pools [A,B] (% of pools >1.6 feet)
Bull Trout Criteria [A]	**80**	**<12**	**<20**	**48**	**60**	**60**
Dave Creek	74	37	50-75	97	150	60
East Fork of the Jarbidge River	77	N/A	>31	31	51	45
Jarbidge River	77	>20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Buck Creek	100	25	50-75	15	170	73
Deer Creek	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	142	N/A

[A] Sources: (Overton, et al., 1995; USDA, 1995)
[B] Number is percent of the total number of pools/mile
N/A indicates data not available

The BLM began monitoring water temperatures in the Jarbidge Watershed with continuous water temperature recorders in 2002. Water temperature data for Dave Creek, the Jarbidge River and its East Fork, and Buck Creek indicate water temperatures in July and August exceed the 59°F MWMT considered to be functioning properly for bull trout rearing and migration by 1°F to 12°F. The water temperature requirements for bull trout include temperatures ranging from approximately 39°F to 48°F for spawning and 39°F to 53°F for summertime rearing. Generally, bull trout spawning occurs from mid-September through late October as water temperatures decline to 48°F and colder. Adult bull trout have not been found in the lower Jarbidge River when water temperatures exceed 57ºF.

In 2006 and 2008, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) used passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags to study bull trout movements in the Jarbidge Watershed. PIT tag detector stations installed at

the mouth of selected streams were used to monitor tagged fish as they moved between streams. To date, USGS has PIT tagged approximately 1,200 bull trout in the Jarbidge Watershed. Preliminary data indicate that very few bull trout migrate between the Jarbidge River above the confluence with its East Fork and the East Fork of the Jarbidge River. This is supported by genetic sampling by the USGS during PIT tagging operations.

In 2007, the Murphy Complex Fires burned riparian areas in the Jarbidge River below the confluence with its East Fork and in portions of Columbet, Dorsey, and Cougar Creeks. Approximately 50 miles of stream habitat were affected by wildland fire. Fire severity within the riparian areas was low along the Jarbidge River and moderate to high in Columbet, Dorsey, and Cougar Creeks. Fire severity in the upland areas adjacent to these streams was also moderate to high. The riparian woody vegetation for these burned stream reaches consisted of mature willow and aspen; some woody vegetation mortality is likely to occur. In areas with low fire severity, the willow and aspen have re-sprouted and are recovering from the fire.

When the Murphy Complex Fires were actively burning, bull trout were in the East Fork of the Jarbidge River, the Jarbidge River above the confluence with its East Fork, and their suitable headwater tributaries. Therefore, the fire did not directly affect bull trout. It is likely there will be an increase in sediment inputs to the lower Jarbidge River until the burned upland and riparian vegetation has recovered. The impacts of this instream sediment on suitable bull trout overwintering habitat in the lower Jarbidge River are unknown.

Interior Columbia River Redband Trout

Interior Columbia River redband trout (redband trout), a subspecies of rainbow trout, are a BLM Sensitive species. Redband trout are found in the Bruneau River and its tributaries, including the Jarbidge River. Redband trout have been found in the headwater tributaries to Clover Creek; the lower portion of Clover Creek was not surveyed because the stream has been dewatered by private diversions upstream under legal water rights issued by IDWR and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). Redband trout are also present in Salmon Falls Creek and several of its tributaries that drain to the Jarbidge Foothills in the southern portion of the planning area. Many of the streams containing redband trout run dry before reaching their confluence with other tributaries, resulting in populations that are locally isolated at certain times of the year.

In 2006, the BLM completed 25 miles of stream habitat survey on 14 streams containing redband trout. These streams were divided into 49 reaches based on stream gradient, width, and depth. Based on these surveys, the stream habitat conditions consisted of 12 miles of streams (45%) that were properly functioning for redband trout, 11 miles of streams (44%) that were functioning at risk, and 3 miles of streams (11%) that were functioning at an unacceptable level for redband trout. The 2006 habitat data were also used to determine the condition of streambanks for the redband trout occupied streams. Half of the 49 stream reaches surveyed had streambank stability ratings of 80% or higher and are functioning properly. The remaining 25 stream reaches had streambank stability ratings of 50% to 80% (21 reaches) or less than 50% (4 reaches) and are in need of improvement in streambank condition.

The stream habitat surveys assessed the number of pools per mile for each reach. Pool frequencies in 43 stream reaches were rated as functioning properly for redband trout, two were rated as functioning at risk, and four were considered functioning at an unacceptable level for redband trout. The highest pool frequencies were found in the headwaters of Cedar Creek (122 to 127 pools per mile) and the lowest pool frequencies were found in Flat Creek (34 to 41 pools per mile). In general, pool frequencies were higher in the headwater reaches that had boulders and large woody debris to form pools and lower in reaches with low stream gradient and limited boulders and instream woody debris. The standard for large pools, such as those that are 3 feet deep or more, was met in 25 of the stream reaches. Twenty-three of the stream reaches were functioning at risk or functioning at an unacceptable level for redband trout due to their limited occurrence of large pools. Some of these reaches may have limited potential to form large pools due to low stream gradient.

During the summer of 2007, 19 water temperature recorders were placed in the redband streams within the Salmon Falls Creek Watershed. All 19 of the streams monitored met the State standards for cold

water biota, and in some areas with groundwater influence, water temperatures were cold enough to meet the more stringent standards for bull trout rearing and spawning.

The 2006 stream survey identified 33 stream reaches containing natural or human-caused migration barriers (e.g., culverts at road crossings, dewatered stream reaches, areas with unstable streambanks devoid of vegetation) that prevent redband trout from moving throughout a stream. The remaining 16 stream reaches did not have barriers that would inhibit or prevent fish movement.

In 2007, the Murphy Complex Fires burned riparian areas in five of the redband streams surveyed in 2006; approximately 6 miles of stream habitat were affected. The streams that burned include: Rocky Canyon (1.2 mi), Bear Creek (0.6 mi), Deer Creek (2.0 mi), Lower Three Creek (0.7 mi), Middle Three Creek (0.3 mi), and Timber Canyon Creek (1.4 mi). Fire severity within the riparian areas was generally low to moderate, with few areas experiencing high fire severity. In the areas where the fire burned through the riparian area, the effects were localized and limited to short sections of streams. The riparian woody vegetation for these burned stream reaches consisted of mature willow and aspen; some vegetation mortality is likely to have occurred. In areas with low fire severity, the willow and aspen have re-sprouted and are recovering from the fire. The upland areas within many redband trout watersheds experienced moderate to high fire severity. Delayed effects from upslope erosion are expected to occur as these burned areas recover from the fire over time.

Snake River White Sturgeon

White sturgeon are the largest and longest lived of the freshwater and anadromous fish in North America and are highly adapted to the large river systems in which they evolved (Idaho Power Company, 2003). White sturgeon are found in the Snake River in fragmented sub-populations between the Upper Salmon Falls Dam, Lower Salmon Falls Dam, Bliss Dam, and the Bliss rapids. The current population of white sturgeon between Upper Salmon Falls Dam and Lower Salmon Falls Dam consists of potentially remnant native fish stocks and hatchery-reared fish. This population of fish is not self supporting and relies on the reproduction of hatchery-stocked white sturgeon. The Snake River reaches above the Bliss Dam Reservoir have small populations of white sturgeon with little or no detectable naturally spawned offspring reaching sexual maturity. The portions of the Snake River downstream from the Bliss Dam are free-flowing; this segment contains the best habitat in the upper Snake River. Because of the free-flowing nature of this reach, sturgeon are able to reproduce naturally and do not require hatchery supplementation to sustain the population; this is the upper-most reach of the Snake River with a self-sustaining population of sturgeon.

Factors that have played a role in the decline of white sturgeon in the Snake River include habitat alteration, reduction in water quality, historic exploitation by humans, and population fragmentation by hydroelectric dams. The construction of hydroelectric dams has blocked the movements of and restricted white sturgeon to river fragments that may no longer provide the full spectrum of habitats necessary for them to complete their lifecycle. Hydroelectric system operations result in daily flow fluctuation for power production. This flow fluctuation affects recruitment of juveniles by reducing the availability of spawning, incubation, and larval habitats for white sturgeon, particularly during low water years when peak operations can result in the scouring of eggs and embryos from the riverbed. Sturgeon are also sensitive to a variety of water quality problems, including changes in water temperature, decreases in DO, additions of nutrients, and the presence of contaminants. All of these water quality concerns occur in the Snake River reaches within the planning area.

Shoshone Sculpin

Shoshone sculpin are found in 52 locations within 26 springs and streams in the Hagerman Valley (FWS, 1995); however, they have only been documented in one location upstream of Bliss Bridge within the planning area. The number of Shoshone sculpin captured during fisheries surveys by Idaho Power from 1986 to 1990 varied by reach in Upper Salmon Falls Reservoir (116), below Upper Salmon Falls Reservoir (7), Lower Salmon Reservoir (95), below Lower Salmon Falls Reservoir (20), and Bliss Reservoir (6) (Lepla & Chandler, 1995).

Shoshone sculpin are only found in association with groundwater outflows or upwelling from stream bottoms. The occurrence of this fish decreases when there is less influence of spring water on water quality (Wallace & Griffith, 1982). They are normally associated with cover, either in the form of rocks, cobble, gravel, and/or submerged vegetation. Young sculpin less than 1.2 to 1.6 centimeters in total length are often found on sand or mud substrate as long as vegetation is present. Shoshone sculpin use rocky substrates for spawning during a prolonged breeding season from May through July, possibly into August. There is evidence that female sculpin can spawn more than once a year.

Aquatic Invertebrates

The planning area contains eight special status mollusk species (Table 3- 26). The Bruneau hot springsnail occurs in the lower Bruneau River; the other special status mollusks all occur in the Snake River.

In general, the habitat requirements for Snake River snails include cold, clean, well-oxygenated, flowing water of low turbidity, although each species has slightly different habitat preferences. With the arrival of the early European settlers in Idaho and the development of hydroelectric power, the Snake River ecosystem has undergone significant transformation from a primarily free-flowing, cold water system to a slower moving, warmer water system. The special status aquatic mollusks identified above occur mainly in the remaining free-flowing reaches or in spring alcove habitats of the Snake River. The fauna dependant on the free-flowing reaches of the middle Snake River have been declining since the early 1900s due to fragmentation of remaining free-flowing habitats and deteriorating water quality.

Table 3- 26. Special Status Aquatic Mollusks in the Planning Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	2008 Status
Bliss Rapids snail	*Taylorconcha serpenticola*	Type 1; Threatened
Bruneau hot springsnail	*Pyrgulopsis bruneauensis*	Type 1; Endangered
California floater	*Anodonta californiensis*	Type 3
Columbia pebblesnail	*Fluminicola columbianus*	Type 3
Short-face lanx	*Fisherola nuttalli*	Type 2
Snake River physa snail	*Physa natricina*	Type 1; Endangered
Utah valvata snail	*Valvata utahensis*	Type 1; Endangered

Bliss Rapids Snail

Currently, the Bliss Rapids snail is found in free-flowing reaches of the Snake River between the Upper Salmon Falls Dam and King Hill and in a few spring habitats in the Hagerman Valley (Thousand Springs, Banbury Springs, Box Canyon Springs, and Niagara Springs). The Bliss Rapids snail prefers gravel to boulder-sized substrates. This species can be quite abundant, especially on smooth rock surfaces covered with red algae.

Bruneau Hot Springsnail

The Bruneau hot springsnail is only found in warm water springs and seeps along a 5.5 mile reach of the lower Bruneau River near Hot Creek. This snail is small (less than 0.25 inches) and reproduces best in water between 75°F to 95°F. The primary threat to this species is the declining thermal water table due to groundwater pumping on private land, which has reduced the number of geothermal springs on which this species depends. Invasive plant species (e.g., reed canary grass and reed) and non-native fish are also threats.

California Floater

The California floater, a freshwater mussel, is found in the Snake River in scattered locations between Bliss and Alkali Creek. The California floater prefers habitats immediately upstream or downstream of rapids in mud-sand substrates with good water quality. Although there is some information on the distribution of this species in Idaho, little is known about the life cycle of the California floater.

Columbia Pebblesnail

The Columbia pebblesnail is found in the Snake River below Lower Salmon Falls Dam and in the tailwaters of the Bliss Dam. The pebblesnail lives in flowing waters and uses gravel- to boulder-sized substrate at the edges or downstream of rapids and whitewater areas (FWS, 1995). Life cycle and habitat requirements for this species are not well understood.

Short-Face Lanx

The short-face lanx is a flat cone-like, freshwater mollusk that is found in the Snake River from the Rupert, Idaho area downstream to near King Hill. The short-face lanx lives in steady to strong currents on the underside of large rocks (Taylor, 1985). The numerous dams on the Snake River have fragmented the habitats used by this mollusk. In general, there is little information on the life cycle or habitat requirements for this species.

Snake River Physa

The current distribution for the Snake River physa includes a few scattered sites between King Hill and Hagerman in free-flowing reaches of the Snake River. It is believed that fewer than 50 specimens of this species have been collected in the Snake River (FWS, 1995). The Snake River physa snails are found on the underside of gravel- to boulder-sized rock in swift current at the margins of rapids. Other life cycle information (e.g., reproduction, food habits) are largely unknown for this species.

Utah Valvata Snail

The current distribution for the Utah valvata snail includes sites in the Hagerman Valley and scattered locations from American Falls Reservoir to King Hill Creek. These snails are found in mud, silt, and fine sand substrates in shallow shoreline water and in pools adjacent to rapids or perennial-flowing waters associated with large spring complexes. This species is currently under a five-year status review by the FWS to determine the need for continued protection under the ESA.

3.2.7.3. Special Status Wildlife

There are 37 wildlife species on the Idaho BLM Sensitive List in the planning area. The Sensitive species list includes a variety of terrestrial invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals (Table 3- 27).

American white pelican, bald eagle, trumpeter swan, and white-faced ibis are not known to breed within the planning area. Because public land in the planning area lacks suitable nesting habitat for these species, and the numbers present in the planning area are low at other times, these species are not addressed further.

Wildlife species are affected by a number of important seasonal periods when forage, vegetation cover, or environmental conditions can limit production, recruitment, and survival (Appendix H). These periods are commonly associated with winter and reproduction.

Habitat Guilds

In order to analyze impacts to the diverse number of special status wildlife, species were placed into guilds by habitat. Although a species may be listed in one guild, the species may occur in other habitats on a seasonal basis or in lesser numbers. For example, sharp-tailed grouse are found across multiple habitats during nesting including sagebrush steppe and grassland; however, they concentrate in deciduous mountain shrub, aspen, and riparian zones during winter.

The *Fish and Wildlife* section contains descriptions of vegetation communities for each habitat guild (i.e., sagebrush steppe, aspen, riparian/wetland, mountain mahogany/ mountain shrub, canyonland, and duneland). Special status wildlife species within each guild are presented below.

Sagebrush Steppe Guild

Special status wildlife in the sagebrush steppe guild include:

- Black-throated sparrow
- Brewer's sparrow
- Ferruginous hawk
- Greater sage-grouse
- Kit fox
- Loggerhead shrike
- Longnose snake
- Piute ground squirrel
- Pygmy rabbit
- Sage sparrow
- Western ground snake
- Wyoming ground squirrel

Limited data are available for special status wildlife associated with the sagebrush steppe guild. Although the western ground snake and longnose snake are grouped in the sagebrush steppe guild, both species are primarily found at lower elevations, less than 3,800 feet, in areas with more sandy soils. They are not specific to dunelands and are therefore included in the sagebrush steppe guild.

Approximately, 1,277,000 acres of the planning area historically contained sagebrush steppe habitat. Sagebrush habitat for black-throated sparrow, Brewer's sparrow, loggerhead shrike, and sage sparrow has been reduced by wildfire by about 310,000 acres between 1987 and 2006, compared to a reduction of approximately 135,000 acres between 1957 and 1987. Currently about 463,000 acres of sagebrush steppe remain in the planning area. Ferruginous hawks nest in the northern portion of the planning area; however, they infrequently nest and seldom successfully fledge young. Because nearly all the nests in the northern portion of the planning area are on the ground, mammalian predators may be a factor. Active ferruginous hawk nests in the planning area have declined from 63 to approximately 20 since 1983.

Wildfires have also eliminated several nest trees and altered the habitat used by their prey, mainly jackrabbits, mountain cottontail rabbits, and ground squirrels (Bechard & Schmutz, 1995).

Sagebrush steppe guild habitat includes the key sage-grouse habitat within the planning area. Key sage-grouse habitat is defined by the Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee as "areas of generally intact sagebrush that provide sage-grouse habitat during some portion of the year (Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee, 2006). The majority of sage-grouse leks in the planning area are located within key sage-grouse habitat. Male sage-grouse gather in an area (lek) to display (strut) and mate during the breeding season in the spring (Connelly, et al., 2004). The same area is frequently used year after year. Female sage-grouse attend leks to breed, and most nest within 3 miles of the lek. The number of sage-grouse leks and numbers of sage-grouse on leks have declined throughout most of the planning area since the 1960s. Between 1983 and 2006, active leks in the planning area declined from 152 to 39 due to habitat change. In 2007, the Murphy Complex Fires burned approximately 30% of the remaining occupied sage-grouse habitat in the planning area. There are nearly 200,000 acres of sagebrush steppe habitat within 1 mile of a livestock water source and 3 miles of an active or status unknown sage-grouse lek[9], There are 0.9 miles of fence and nearly 0.4 miles of water pipelines per square mile in sage-grouse habitat within 3 miles of sage-grouse leks. Hundreds of miles of fences, water pipelines, routes and other infrastructure for management of livestock are present in the planning area, which contributes to habitat fragmentation (Freilich, et al., 2003).

Habitat for kit fox and pygmy rabbit has been reduced to a similar extent as Brewer's sparrow habitat. The majority of the known occupied pygmy rabbit habitat burned in the Murphy Complex and 2006 Sailor Cap fires. Following the fires, numerous site visits in the winter of 2007 were not able to locate pygmy rabbits or active rabbit burrows in the areas where they had been previously documented.

Piute and Wyoming ground squirrels are found in both sagebrush and grassland habitats. During a drought period and prolonged winter in southern Idaho between the summer of 1992 and the 1992/1993 winter, ground squirrel populations were more stable in sagebrush habitat than in grassland habitat (Van Horne, et al., 1997).

[9] Unknown sage-grouse leks are those where activity has not been documented in the last five years; however, the leks have not been checked frequently enough to establish they are inactive.

Table 3- 27. Special Status Wildlife in the Planning Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	2008 Status
Invertebrates (terrestrial)		
Bruneau Dunes tiger beetle	*Cicindela waynei waynei*	Type 2
Amphibians		
Columbia spotted frog	*Rana luteiventris*	Type 1, NV; Candidate
Northern leopard frog	*Rana pipiens*	Type 2
Western toad	*Bufo boreas*	Type 3
Woodhouse toad	*Bufo woodhousii*	Type 3
Reptiles		
Great Basin black-collared lizard	*Crotaphytus bicinctores*	Type 3
Longnose snake	*Rhinocheilus lecontei*	Type 3
Western groundsnake	*Sonora semiannulata*	Type 3
Birds		
American white pelican	*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*	Type 2
Bald eagle [A]	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	Type 2
Black-throated sparrow	*Amphispiza bilineata*	Type 4
Brewer's sparrow	*Spizella breweri*	Type 3, NV
Calliope hummingbird	*Stellula calliope*	Type 3
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse [B]	*Tympanuchus phasianellus columbianus*	Type 3
Ferruginous hawk [B]	*Buteo regalis*	Type 3
Greater sage-grouse [B]	*Centrocercus urophasianus*	Type 2
Lewis woodpecker	*Melanerpes lewis*	Type 3
Loggerhead shrike	*Lanius ludovicianus*	Type 3, NV
Mountain quail [B]	*Oreortyx pictus*	Type 3
Northern goshawk	*Accipter gentilis*	Type 3, NV
Peregrine falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	Type 3
Prairie falcon	*Falco mexicanus*	Type 4
Sage sparrow	*Amphispiza belli*	Type 3
Sage thrasher [B]	*Oreoscoptes montanus*	Type 5, NV
Trumpeter swan	*Cygnus buccinator*	Type 3
Willow flycatcher	*Empidonax traillii*	Type 3
White-faced ibis	*Plegadis chihi*	Type 4
Yellow-billed cuckoo [B]	*Coccyzus americanus*	Type 1, Candidate
Mammals		
California bighorn sheep	*Ovis canadensis californiana*	Type 3
Fringed myotis	*Myotis thysandodes*	Type 3
Kit fox	*Vulpes macrotis*	Type 4
Pallid bat	*Antrozous pallidus*	Type NV
Piute [Great Basin] ground squirrel	*Spermophilus mollis*	Type 3
Pygmy rabbit [B]	*Brachylagus idahoensis*	Type 2
Spotted bat	*Euderma maculatum*	Type 3
Townsend big-eared bat	*Corynorhinus townsendii*	Type 3, NV
Wyoming ground squirrel	*Spermophilus elegans*	Type 4

[A] Bald eagle was delisted by the FWS in July 2007(Federal Register 72 (130):37346-37372); BLM and IDFG have not determined the type category, if any, to which the species would be assigned.
[B] Species for which the FWS received a petition to list the species as Threatened or Endangered and conducted a status review

Aspen Guild

Special status wildlife in the aspen guild include:

- Lewis woodpecker
- Northern goshawk
- Willow flycatcher

There are no data on local populations of Lewis woodpecker, northern goshawk, or willow flycatcher. Large diameter (greater than 10 inches) aspen provide suitable nesting habitat for both Lewis woodpecker and northern goshawk. Willow flycatchers may use younger (10 to 30 years) as well as older aspen. No goshawk nests have been confirmed in the planning area. Several Lewis woodpecker nests have been documented in the planning area. None of these species are monitored on an annual basis.

Riparian/Wetland Guild

Special status wildlife in the riparian guild include:

- Calliope hummingbird
- Columbia spotted frog
- Mountain quail
- Northern leopard frog
- Western toad
- Willow flycatcher
- Woodhouse toad
- Yellow-billed cuckoo

BLM has limited population data for the majority of special status wildlife associated with the riparian guild. Historically, Columbia spotted frogs (spotted frogs) were reported in Bear, Shack, Rocky Canyon, and Timber Canyon drainages in relatively close proximity. Habitat is marginal for spotted frogs due to diminished water flows and limited slack water habitat (e.g., behind beaver ponds) as beaver no longer occupy these drainages. Beaver ponds that were present in Bear and Shack Creeks and Timber Canyon when spotted frogs were found have failed and no longer provide suitable spotted frog habitat. All three drainages have experienced down cutting, which lowered the water table and reduced water permanence during the summer. Although willows and aspen are present along substantial portions of the creeks, the reduced water permanence inhibits beaver re-colonizing the creeks. Spotted frogs have been most frequently observed in Rocky Canyon, which has numerous stable beaver dams. Currently, occupied spotted frog habitat is vegetated primarily by sedges and rushes and may not need much livestock use to maintain habitat. Since the late 1990s, grazing use has been reduced use along Rocky Canyon Creek through herding, contributing to an increase in sedges and rushes along the banks. Beaver have also increased the number of ponds. As a result of both improved management and increasing beaver activity, spotted frog numbers have increased in Rocky Canyon since 1998.

Western toads have been found at two locations in the northern portion of the planning area since 2005. Woodhouse toad and northern leopard frogs were documented in the planning area in the 1970s and 1980s, but they were not documented in the planning area during inventories conducted in 1993, 1994, 2006, and 2007.

On a few occasions, Calliope hummingbirds have been observed during the nesting period in early summer at the headwater springs of Cedar Creek. Willow flycatchers have been detected in willow-dominated riparian zones in Deer Creek, Flat Creek, and Cedar Creek and a few aspen stands in the Monument Springs area. Yellow-billed cuckoo are observed rarely within the planning area. All observations are from islands along the Snake River near Hammett. Mountain quail are discussed in the mountain mahogany/mountain shrub guild.

Mountain Mahogany/Mountain Shrub Guild

Special status wildlife in the mountain mahogany/mountain shrub guild include:

- Columbian sharp-tailed grouse
- Mountain quail

Sharp-tailed grouse use several habitats seasonally; they nest in grassland, sagebrush steppe, and mountain shrub areas if suitable herbaceous cover and desirable forbs are present. During the winter, they consume insect galls on sagebrush and eat aspen leaf buds as well as fruit and leaf buds from deciduous shrubs (e.g., chokecherry, serviceberry, currant, rose, willow) in aspen, riparian, and mountain mahogany/mountain shrub patches. From 1999 to 2005, sharp-tailed grouse were transplanted onto private lands in the planning area. Two leks were known to be active within the planning area (one on private, the other on public land); however, the Murphy Complex Fire burned one of the leks. The impact of this is not yet known.

Historically, a few mountain quail were harvested in the planning area in the 1960s and 1970s, but IDFG check station data suggest mountain quail were not very abundant. The last report of mountain quail in the planning area was around 2001 (IDFG, 2008c). No mountain quail were detected during surveys conducted in 1994 in Cougar Creek, Dorsey Creek, Clover Creek, Deer Creek, and Columbet Creek (BLM & IDFG, 1994) and in 2003 and 2004 in Cougar Creek, Deep Creek, and Columbet Creek (IDFG, 2008c). Riparian zones are also important summer habitats for mountain quail.

Grassland Guild

No special status wildlife in the planning area are linked primarily to grassland habitat types at this time. During the life of the plan, wildlife population changes may result in grassland guild species being added to the Idaho BLM Sensitive List.

Canyonland Guild

Special status wildlife in the canyonland guild include:

- California bighorn sheep
- Fringed myotis
- Great Basin black-collared lizard
- Pallid bat
- Peregrine falcon
- Prairie falcon
- Spotted bat
- Townsend big-eared bat

Limited population data are available for special status wildlife in the canyonland guild. Great Basin black-collared lizards are known to be present in the northern portion of the Bruneau Canyon. Peregrine falcons are rarely observed in the planning area, while prairie falcons have been observed in numerous locations. Prairie falcons are known to nest in the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons as well as canyons associated with Cedar, Clover, Devil, Flat, Sailor, and Salmon Falls Creeks.

California bighorn sheep (bighorn sheep) are the only special status wildlife species in the canyon guild for which population data is available. Bighorn sheep numbers in the planning area appear to be increasing following a precipitous population decline in 1998 and 2000 (IDFG, 2007). The current population is estimated to be approximately 200 sheep. Bighorn sheep use canyon habitats and seasonally forage on adjacent plateaus and avoid areas with conifers (Krausman & Bowyer, 2003; Tilton & Willard, 1982). Continuing juniper expansion in bighorn sheep habitat may restrict the use of travel corridors and reduce the use of available habitat. Several thousand acres of bighorn sheep habitat burned in the 2007 Murphy Complex Fire. Monitoring of vegetation recovery from previous wildfires indicate that cheatgrass establishes within canyon habitat following fire. Cheatgrass out-competes most native grass, forb and shrub seedlings, reducing the recruitment of both native annual and perennial plants, which provide higher quality forage for bighorn sheep throughout the year.

Fringed myotis, pallid bats, spotted bats, and Townsend big-eared bats have been documented in several major canyons (e.g., Jarbidge River and Salmon Falls Creek); however, little is known about their status in the planning area.

Duneland Guild

The only special status wildlife species within this guild is the Bruneau Dunes tiger beetle (tiger beetle). The entire global distribution for this narrow endemic tiger beetle has contracted by over 50% since the early 1990s and is found in the Bruneau Dunes State Park, adjacent to the planning area. The tiger beetle population in the planning area appears to have been extirpated by 2008. Monitoring conducted in the 1990s indicated this species was declining since the early 1990s (Baker & Munger, 2000). The tiger beetle habitat within the nominated ACEC has been invaded by cheatgrass and Russian thistle (Baker & Munger, 2000) and planted with crested wheatgrass, reducing habitat for tiger beetle larvae. Increases in invasive plants in dune interspaces where the females deposit eggs has reduced habitat. Without treatment of invasive plants on adjoining BLM land, this tiger beetle species could go extinct.

The planning area contains a small, isolated duneland habitat that was occupied by the tiger beetle in 1993 approximately 8 miles east of Bruneau Dunes State Park (Baker, et al., 1994). A permanent water trough was installed about 0.3 miles from tiger beetle habitat in an area where water was previously

hauled for seasonally grazing sheep and cattle. Trailing by cattle increased in larval habitat as a result of the more permanent water source. Bauer reported that livestock trampling collapsed burrows and increased larval tiger beetle mortality (Bauer, 1991). Cheatgrass and other invasive annual cover has increased (Baker & Munger, 2000), reducing habitat for tiger beetle larvae. Belnap and Phillips reported cheatgrass can invade ungrazed sites (Belnap & Phillips, 2001). Without fencing, livestock are expected to continue to trail through tiger beetle habitat while foraging adjacent uplands.

Habitat Fragmentation

Fragmentation occurs when a large contiguous tract of a vegetation type is converted to other vegetation types or land uses such that only scattered or isolated fragments of the original vegetation type remain or when human-created structures or occasionally barriers partition continuous habitats into smaller habitats (Faaborg, et al., 1995; Franklin, et al., 2002). An edge is the area where one habitat changes to another. Wildland fire can create abrupt edges changing forest or shrubland to grassland. Edges can also be made by dividing forest or shrublands by unvegetated areas such as roads. For some species the amount of edge for the size of patch (edge to interior habitat ratio) also influences the use of a habitat patch (Davis, 2004).

The level of landscape transformation necessary to fragment a habitat varies by species. For many species, fragmentation by roads, powerlines, or fences is not expected to limit wildlife movements. In some instances, fences can form barriers to movements. For example, accumulations of weeds or snow along fences, net wire fence, or tall (greater than 7 feet) fences can limit or block pronghorn movements (Autenrieth, et al., 2006). The probability of successfully raising young may be reduced as the size of the habitat patch decreases or amount of edge or infrastructure increases (Davis, 2004; Humple & Holmes, 2006; Vander Haegen, et al., 2002). In general, wildlife species that use specialized habitats (e.g., sagebrush vole) or are generally restricted to a type of habitat are more affected by fragmentation than habitat generalists (e.g., deer mouse), which are abundant in nearly all habitats.

Species with large home ranges are more affected by fragmentation than species with small home ranges (Hanser & Huntly, 2006). Hanser & Huntly also stated that once a local population of sagebrush-obligate mammals were extirpated, the sagebrush islands closer to a large block of sagebrush habitat were likely to be repopulated, whereas islands of sagebrush steppe at greater distances were unlikely to be re-populated. In Florida, researchers found isolated reptile populations are vulnerable to extirpation by localized catastrophic events, whereas extirpation risk is less when populations are not isolated (Hokit & Branch, 2003). This could apply to the isolated population of black collared lizards in the lower Bruneau Canyon.

Sage-grouse are dependent on large, contiguous areas of sagebrush habitat that support adequate sagebrush canopy cover and perennial grass and forb understories for breeding, brood-rearing, and wintering (Connelly, et al., 2004; Connelly, et al., 2000; Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee, 2006). Sage-grouse populations in areas where formerly extensive sagebrush habitat is broken into small patches are at risk from increased predation and loss of habitat. As patches of sage-grouse habitat are lost, the ability of the landscape to support sage-grouse is reduced. Sagebrush patches within large expanses of grass-forb dominated habitat may be effectively smaller than the patch size since these patches apparently receive much less use along their edge (Shepherd III, 2006). The loss of habitat patches and wildlife movement corridors reduces connectivity and genetic interchange between sage-grouse populations (Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee, 2006).

The scientific literature for wildlife indicates roads, pipelines, and powerlines are forms of habitat fragmentation for some wildlife species (Connelly, et al., 2004; Idaho Sage-grouse Advisory Committee, 2006; Shaffer, et al., 2002). Although infrastructure developments (e.g., roads, fences, powerlines) usually do not create physical barriers to wildlife movements, disturbance associated with human use of infrastructure developments and behavioral avoidance of man-made structures can displace wildlife from otherwise suitable habitat (Andrews & Gibbons, 2005; Barton & Holmes, 2007; Connelly, et al., 2004; Lyon & Anderson, 2003; Pitman, et al., 2005; Rost & Bailey, 1979; Sheldon, et al., 2006). With regard to roads, fragmentation can result from traffic and habitat edge avoidance (Ingelfinger & Anderson, 2004). Infrastructure such as powerlines, fences, and corrals provide perch sites used by raptors and ravens

which can influence predation (Steenhof, et al., 1993) and cowbird nest parasitism (Shaffer, et al., 2002). Roads, pipelines, and fences may create pathways which facilitate movements for some predators (Frey & Conover, 2006; James & Stuart-Smith, 2000), increasing the potential for predation in close proximity to the road, pipeline, or fence. This type of infrastructure can also create a discrete edge. In sagebrush communities in Wyoming, Ingelfinger and Anderson wrote that some sagebrush obligates appear to avoid abrupt edges created by roads (Ingelfinger & Anderson, 2004).

Disturbance areas (e.g. ditches, ruts, or other areas where vegetation has been reduced or removed) associated with infrastructure development can also serve as corridors and starting points for the expansion of non-native invasive plants (Trombulak & Frissell, 2000). Map 22 depicts some of the infrastructure development that currently exists in the planning area; water sources in the figure have a 1 mile buffer to account for areas with greater concentration of livestock use. Within 0.5 miles of water sources herbaceous vegetation is often shorter due to utilization by livestock, whereas herbaceous vegetation is usually taller more than 1 mile from water. The differences in herbaceous utilization provide mosaics which meet the nesting requirements for a variety of grassland nesting species

3.2.8. Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants

Noxious weeds are defined in Idaho statute as any plant having the potential to cause injury to public health, crops, livestock, land, or other property. Noxious weeds are designated by the Director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA; Idaho Statute 22-2402). Invasive plants are non-native species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health (Executive Order 13112).

The 2006 Idaho Noxious Weed List contains 57 weed species. According to the ISDA or the NRCS, 31 of these are known to occur within Elmore, Owyhee, or Twin Falls Counties, Idaho (Table 3- 28). Fifteen of these noxious weeds are known to occur in the planning area. In addition to the Idaho State Noxious Weed List, Twin Falls County has a noxious weed list consisting of two weeds: halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus) and St. John's wort (Hypericum perforatum), both of which are known to occur in the planning area.*

The 2005 Nevada Noxious Weed List contains 47 weed species. According to the NRCS, 16 of these are known to occur within Elko County, Nevada (Table 3- 29). Eight of these species are known to occur in the planning area.

Comprehensive noxious weed and invasive plant inventories have not been completed by BLM in the planning area; however, some documentation exists of noxious weeds and invasive plants and their locations. BLM weed treatments documented from 1996 through 2006 provided locations of 13 noxious weeds and 1 invasive plant. The vegetation mapping effort (see the *Upland Vegetation* section) documented vegetation communities dominated by annual invasive plants; some locations for noxious weeds and invasive plants were also documented during the 2006 Ecological Site Inventory (ESI) data collection (Table 3- 30).

Recent surveys of riparian areas in the planning area show increases in the presence of Canada thistle. Furthermore, reed and reed canary grass dominate the vegetation on some parts of Salmon Falls Creek, Clover Creek, and the Bruneau River. Russian olive dominates much of the tree component along the Snake River, and tamarisk has increased along Salmon Falls Creek and the Snake River.

Noxious weeds and invasive plants can displace native plants, degrade wildlife habitats, reduce recreational opportunities, and impact water quality, runoff, and sedimentation (BLM, 2007). Noxious weeds and invasive plants can change the composition, structure, and productivity of vegetation communities as well as the state of ecological sites (West, 1999). The cost and complexity of managing noxious weeds and invasive plants and restoring native habitats increases with size and dominance of populations. Tribes, Federal and State agencies, counties, and private landowners are concerned with impacts associated with noxious weeds and invasive plants and are pursuing control or eradication on lands under their ownership or jurisdiction (BLM, 2007).

Table 3- 28. Idaho Noxious Weeds Occurring in Elmore, Owyhee, or Twin Falls Counties

Common Name	Scientific Name	Occurrence by County			Known to Occur in the Planning Area
		Elmore	Owyhee	Twin Falls	
Black henbane	*Hyoscyamus niger*	X	X	X	X
Buffalobur [A]	*Solanum rostratum*		X		
Canada thistle	*Cirsium arvense*	X	X	X	X
Dalmatian toadflax	*Linaria dalmatica*	X	X	X	
Diffuse knapweed	*Centaurea diffusa*	X	X	X	X
Dyer's woad	*Isatis tinctoria*		X	X	
Eurasian watermilfoil	*Myriophyllum spicatum*		X		
Field bindweed	*Convolvulus arvensis*	X	X	X	X
Giant knotweed	*Polygonum sachalinense*			X	
Hoary alyssum	*Berteroa incana*			X	
Hoary cress (whitetop)	*Cardaria draba*	X	X	X	X
Japanese knotweed	*Polygonum cuspidatum*		X	X	
Johnsongrass	*Sorghum halepense*	X			
Jointed goatgrass	*Aegilops cylindrica*	X		X	
Leafy spurge	*Euphorbia esula*	X	X	X	
Musk thistle	*Carduus nutans*	X	X	X	X
Orange hawkweed	*Hieracium aurantiacum*	X			
Oxeye daisy	*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*		X	X	X
Perennial pepperweed	*Lepidium latifolium*	X	X	X	X
Perennial sowthistle	*Sonchus arvensis*	X	X	X	
Poison hemlock	*Conium maculatum*	X	X	X	
Puncturevine	*Tribulus terrestris*	X	X	X	X
Purple loosestrife	*Lythrum salicaria*	X	X	X	X
Rush skeletonweed	*Chondrilla juncea*	X	X	X	X
Russian knapweed	*Acroptilon repens*	X	X	X	X
Salt cedar (Tamarisk)	*Tamarix ssp.*	X	X	X	X
Scotch broom	*Cytisus scoparius*		X		
Scotch thistle	*Onopordum acanthium*	X	X	X	X
Spotted knapweed	*Centaurea maculosa*	X	X	X	X
Yellow starthistle	*Centaurea solstitialis*	X	X	X	
Yellow toadflax	*Linaria vulgaris*	X		X	

[A] Species is native.
Sources: (BLM, 2006; IASCD, 2004; ISDA, 2006; NRCS, 2006)

Noxious weeds and invasive plants can spread and invade from areas of high disturbance into adjacent native and non-native perennial plant communities. Mechanisms for introduction and spread include but are not limited to cross-country motorized travel, passenger vehicles, road maintenance, recreational use, wild horse and wildlife movements, livestock movements and management activities including facility construction and maintenance, wind, gravel pit and mining operations, and fire suppression activities. Noxious weeds and invasive plants can also spread to public land from adjacent private lands. Increased occurrence of wildland fire over the past 20 years (see the *Wildland Fire Ecology and Management* section) has created opportunities for introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants, especially cheatgrass (Jessop & Anderson, 2007; Kinter, et al., 2007). Some invasive plants dry earlier during spring and summer compared to native vegetation. This, coupled with periodic high biomass production, can contribute to wildland fire risk by increasing availability of fine fuels (BLM, 2004). Annual grasslands dominated with cheatgrass and other annual invasive plants are of particular concern because of this increased wildland fire risk and their ability to expand rapidly into disturbed areas. Rehabilitation or restoration treatments, such as seeding burned or otherwise disturbed areas with native or non-native perennial vegetation, reduce potential for introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants (Evans & Young, 1978; Thompson, et al., 2006).

Table 3- 29. Nevada Noxious Weeds Occurring in Elko County

Common Name	Scientific Name	Known to Occur in the Planning Area
Black henbane	*Hyoscyamus niger*	X
Canada thistle	*Cirsium arvense*	X
Dyer's woad	*Isatis tinctoria*	
Hoary cress (whitetop)	*Cardaria draba*	X
Houndstongue	*Cynoglossum officinale*	
Leafy spurge	*Euphorbia esula*	
Mayweed chamomile	*Anthemis cotula*	
Perennial pepperweed	*Lepidium latifolium*	X
Poison hemlock	*Conium maculatum*	
Puncturevine	*Tribulus terrestris*	X
Salt cedar (Tamarisk)	*Tamarix spp*	X
Sow thistle	*Sonchus arvensis*	
Spotted knapweed	*Centaurea maculosa*	X
Water hemlock [A]	*Cicuta maculata*	X
Yellow starthistle	*Centaurea solstitialis*	
Yellow toadflax	*Linaria vulgaris*	

[A] Species is native.
Sources: BLM, (Nevada Department of Agriculture, 2008; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, 2003)

Table 3- 30. Invasive Plants Occurring in the Planning Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat	Range [A]	Dominance [B]
Annual wheatgrass	*Eremopyrum triticeum*	Upland	Numerous	Locally abundant
Barnyard grass	*Echinochloa crus-gall*	Riparian	Rare	Uncommon
Bittersweet nightshade	*Solanum dulcamara*	Riparian	Restricted	Uncommon
Bulbous bluegrass	*Poa bulbosa*	Upland	Numerous	Locally abundant
Bull thistle	*Cirsium vulgare*	Riparian	Numerous	Uncommon
Bur buttercup	*Ranunculus testiculatus*	Upland	Widespread	Locally abundant
Burdock	*Arctium* sp.	Riparian	Numerous	Uncommon
Cheatgrass	*Bromus tectorum*	Upland	Widespread	Dominant
Clasping pepperweed	*Lepidium perfoliatum*	Upland	Widespread	Locally abundant
Cocklebur	*Xanthium* sp.	Riparian	Numerous	Uncommon
Common dandelion	*Taraxacum officinale*	Upland	Widespread	Common
Common mullein	*Verbascum thapsus*	Upland	Restricted	Common
Curly-leaf pondweed	*Potamogeton crispus*	Riparian	Restricted	Locally abundant
Field pennycress	*Thlaspi arvense*	Upland	Restricted	Locally abundant
Flixweed	*Descurainia sophia*	Upland	Widespread	Common
Forage kochia [C]	*Kochia prostrata*	Upland	Numerous	Common
Halogeton	*Halogeton glomeratus*	Upland	Widespread	Common
Hydrilla	*Hydrilla verticallata*	Riparian	Restricted	Locally abundant
Japanese brome	*Bromus japonicus*	Upland	Restricted	Common
Kentucky bluegrass	*Poa pratensis*	Upland	Widespread	Locally abundant
Kochia	*Kochia scoparia*	Upland	Numerous	Locally abundant
Littlepod false flax	*Camelina microcarpa*	Upland	Rare	Uncommon
Meadow fescue	*Festuca pratensis*	Upland	Restricted	Uncommon
Medusahead	*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*	Upland	Restricted	Locally abundant
Missouri iris	*Iris missouriensis*	Riparian	Restricted	Uncommon
Poverty weed	*Iva axillaris*	Upland	Restricted	Locally abundant
Prickly lettuce	*Lactuca serriola*	Upland	Widespread	Uncommon
Prostrate knotweed	*Polygonum aviculare*	Upland	Widespread	Uncommon
Purple mustard	*Chorispora tenella*	Upland	Numerous	Dominant

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat	Range [A]	Dominance [B]
Rabbitfoot grass	*Polypogon monspeliensis*	Riparian	Restricted	Locally abundant
Reed	*Phragmites australis*	Riparian	Numerous	Dominant
Reed canary grass	*Phalaris arundinacea*	Riparian	Widespread	Dominant
Russian olive	*Elaeagnus angustifolia*	Riparian	Widespread	Dominant
Russian thistle	*Salsola* sp.	Upland	Widespread	Locally abundant
Smooth brome [C]	*Bromus inermis*	Upland	Restricted	Locally abundant
Soft brome	*Bromus mollis*	Upland	Rare	Uncommon
Stork's bill	*Erodium cicutarium*	Upland	Widespread	Locally abundant
Tall oatgrass	*Arrhenatherum elatius*	Riparian	Rare	Uncommon
Teasel	*Dipsacus sylvestris*	Riparian	Numerous	Locally abundant
Tumble mustard	*Sisymbrium altissimum*	Upland	Widespread	Locally abundant
Western tansymustard	*Descurainia pinnata*	Upland	Widespread	Locally abundant
Yellow iris	*Iris pseudacorus*	Riparian	Restricted	Locally abundant

[A] Range: Rare = species found only in one or two locations; Restricted = species limited to few areas; Numerous = species found in numerous areas; Wide spread = species found over large areas
[B] Dominance: Dominant = readily dominates sites; Locally abundant = abundant in patches and may dominate small sites; Common = numerous but scattered; Uncommon = present in low amounts.
[C] Forage kochia may be invasive in certain habitats. This species was seeded in the past by BLM in portions of the planning area.
Sources: http://plants.usda.gov/, Idaho Invasive Species Council 2007, and BLM. The list shown above was compiled by BLM staff based on observations in the field. The list was then reviewed and approved by the JFO Interdisciplinary Team.

3.2.9. Wildland Fire Ecology and Management

Wildland Fire Suppression Activities

The Twin Falls District of the BLM manages wildland fires on BLM, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and State lands by cooperative agreements. A contractual agreement also exists with Department of Defense (DOD), United States Air Force (USAF), which requires suppression of fires on DOD lands by BLM. BLM will suppress wildland fires on private lands when those fires pose a threat to BLM lands. The fire management organization performs management tasks that include: preparing firefighting personnel and equipment for wildland fire activities; suppressing wildland fires; preventing and educating the public about wildland fire; planning and implementing fuel activities including prescribed fire, vegetation inventory, and mechanical and chemical treatments; providing funding to communities for education, fuels, and prevention activities through the community assistance program; and implementing ES&BAR measures such as seeding and restoring vegetation on a wildland fire to minimize soil loss.

Every wildland fire is managed to protect firefighters and the public, protect values as defined in a land use plan, and minimize cost, in priority order. While human life is the single overriding priority, other values could include communities, property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources. Suppression strategy on wildland fires is in accordance with management objectives and based on fire location and current and expected conditions for weather, fuels, and fire behavior. The strategy, Appropriate Management Response (AMR), can vary from monitoring when fire spread and values are predicted to be very low to responding with all available suppression resources when spread and values are predicted to be high. Allowing a wildland fire that has been caused by lightning to fulfill its role in the ecosystem and accomplish resource objectives, Wildland Fire Use, is not allowed under 1987 Jarbidge RMP.

Wildland Fire History

Between 1987 and 2007, an average of 66,000 acres burned in the planning area each year, with a total of 1,394,000 acres burning during that 21-year period. The number of acres burned each year varied from a low of 700 acres in 1993 to high of 505,000 acres in 2007. The majority of the total acres (713,000) only burned once during this 21-year period. A total of 304,000 acres burned more than once; 750 acres

burned five times between 1987 and 2007. These figures are based on fires greater than 10 acres and include all areas burned regardless of ownerships.

During this time there were 486 fires for an average of 23 fires per year. The majority of wildland fire ignitions in the planning area (61%) were caused by lightning, while human-caused fires comprised 39%. This includes all wildland fire ignitions and not just those that resulted in wildland fires greater than 10 acres.

Table 3- 31 displays historical fire data for each VMA including the percentage of the total fires in each VMA, average number of fires per year, and average number of fires caused by humans per year.

Table 3- 31. Fire Data by VMA

Fire Data	VMA A	VMA B	VMA C	VMA D
Percent of Fires	25	46	15	14
Average Number of Fires per Year	6	11	3	3
Average Number of Human-Caused Fires per Year	2	5	1	1

Table 3- 32 identifies the specific causes of human-caused fires by VMA.

Table 3- 32. Fire Data by Human Cause by VMA

Cause Class for Human-Caused Fires	VMA A	VMA B	VMA C	VMA D
Campfire	0		15	19
Equipment	5	7	2	1
Fire Use	0	1	1	0
Juveniles	0	1	0	0
Miscellaneous	3	10	0	1
Unknown	8	16	7	2

Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC)

National and State BLM fire policy requires current and desired resource conditions related to fire management to be described in terms of three condition classes. These condition classes are collectively referred to as Fire Regime Condition Classes (FRCC) and are delineated as FRCC 1, FRCC 2, and FRCC 3. FRCC is a classification of the amount of departure from the Historic Fire Regime (HFR) (Hann & Bunnell, 2001). The HFR can be defined by one of five regimes as displayed in Table 3- 33 and is based on the number of years between fires (fire return interval) and the amount of vegetation altered by fire (severity). Departure from HFR is based on the comparison of current fire return interval and fire severity to the historical fire return interval and fire severity. Fire return interval and severity are based on vegetation, fuel composition, fire frequency, fire severity, fire pattern, and disturbance.

FRCC 1 (low departure) is considered to be within the historic range of variability of a given HFR, while FRCC 2 (moderate departure) and FRCC 3 (high departure) are outside the historic range of variability. HFR in the planning area was determined based on potential vegetation. HFR is further defined in the LANDFIRE models used to describe the planning area's HFR. Table 3- 34 assigns the potential natural vegetation groups (PNVGs) in the planning area from the LANDFIRE[10] model to an HFR, a PNC (based on information from SSURGO), and a VSG. HFR definitions are defined in the Cohesive Strategy (USDI and USDA, 2006).

[10] Current LANDFIRE nomenclature for PNVG is Biophysical Setting (BpS).

Table 3- 33. Historic Fire Regime Definitions

Historic Fire Regime	Fire Return Interval	Fire Severity
I	0-35 years	Low (surface fires most common) to mixed severity with less than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation replaced.
II	0-35 years	High (stand replacement) severity with greater than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation replaced.
III	35-100+ years	Mixed severity with less than 75% of the overstory vegetation replaced.
IV	35-100+ years	High (stand replacement) severity with greater than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation replaced.
V	200+ years	High (stand replacement) severity.

Successional classes (S-Classes) within each PNVG correspond to the VSGs outlined in the *Upland Vegetation* section. In general, the early successional S-Class (S-Class A) corresponds to the Native Grassland VSG. Later successional classes (S-Classes B, C, D, and E) correspond to the Native Shrubland VSG. Annual, Non-Native Perennial, and Non-Native Understory VSGs belong to the uncharacteristic S-Class (S-Class U). The reference condition for each S-Class indicates the proportion of each S-Class that would comprise the historical vegetation mosaic. This is compared to the existing proportions of each S-Class to determine S-Class Similarity and FRCC for each PNVG.

Table 3- 34. Historic Fire Regimes by LANDFIRE Models (PNVGs) Crosswalked to Potential Natural Communities and VSGs

LANDFIRE Model (PNVG)	HFR	Potential Natural Community	VSG
Basin Big Sagebrush (R2SBBB)	IV	Basin big sagebrush	Native Shrubland
Black and Low Sagebrush (R2BDW)	III	Black sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass	
		Black sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass/Idaho fescue	
		Black sagebrush/Idaho fescue	
		Low sagebrush/Idaho fescue	
Curlleaf Mountain Mahogany (R2MTMA)	III	Mountain mahogany	
Mountain Big Sagebrush (R2SBMT)	IV	Evergreen mountain brush	
		Mountain big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass/Idaho fescue	
	V	Mountain big sagebrush/Idaho fescue	
Mountain Shrubland with Tree (R2MSHBwt)	I	Deciduous mountain brush	
Salt Desert Shrub (R2SDSH)	V	Greasewood/basin wildrye	
		Salt desert shrub	
		Winterfat/Indian ricegrass	
Stable Aspen (R2ASPN)	I	Aspen	
Wyoming Sagebrush Steppe (R2SBWYse)	IV	Wyoming sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass	
		Wyoming sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass/annual	
		Wyoming sagebrush/Indian ricegrass	
		Wyoming sagebrush/Thurbers needlegrass	
Not Classified	Not Rated	Semi-wet meadow	Native Grassland
		Agricultural land	Unvegetated
		Barren	
		Breaks	
		Sand dunes	
		Water	
		No data	

In the FRCC analysis for the planning area, alteration to the vegetation S-Classes had more influence than the changes in fire frequency and severity in determining FRCC ratings for each PNVG. Because FRCC is a landscape-scale analysis, the results should not be interpreted to indicate the condition of each acre within a PNVG as the FRCC rating applies to an entire PNVG.

Table 3- 35. Acres, S-Class Similarity, and FRCC Rating for PNVGs by VMA

PNVG	Acres of PNVG[A]	S-Class Similarity	FRCC Rating
VMA A			
Basin Big Sagebrush (R2SBBB)	600	2%	FRCC 3
Mountain Shrubland with Tree (R2MSHBwt)	<100	34%	FRCC 2
Salt Desert Shrub (R2DSH)	2,000	0%	FRCC 3
Wyoming Sagebrush Steppe (R2BWYse)	213,000	19%	FRCC 3
VMA B			
Basin Big Sagebrush (R2SBBB)	200	39%	FRCC 2
Black and Low Sagebrush (R2SBDW)	300	47%	FRCC 2
Mountain Shrubland with Tree (R2MSHBwt)	400	32%	FRCC 3
Salt Desert Shrub (R2DSH)	4,000	65%	FRCC 2
Wyoming Sagebrush Steppe (R2BWYse)	603,000	47%	FRCC 2
VMA C			
Basin Big Sagebrush (R2SBBB)	9,000	16%	FRCC 3
Black and Low Sagebrush (R2SBDW)	10,000	32%	FRCC 3
Mountain Big Sagebrush (R2SBMT)	800	33%	FRCC 2
Mountain Shrubland with Tree (R2MSHBwt)	<100	5%	FRCC 3
Stable Aspen (R2ASPN)	<100	20%	FRCC 2
Wyoming Sagebrush Steppe (R2BWYse)	285,000	48%	FRCC 2
VMA D			
Basin Big Sagebrush (R2SBBB)	18,000	16%	FRCC 3
Black and Low Sagebrush (R2SBDW)	101,000	34%	FRCC 2
Curlleaf Mountain Mahogany (R2SBMT)	3,000	18%	FRCC 3
Mountain Big Sagebrush (R2SBMT)	35,000	64%	FRCC 2
Mountain Shrubland with Tree (R2MSHBwt)	6,000	29%	FRCC 3
Stable Aspen (R2ASPN)	3,000	38%	FRCC 2
Wyoming Sagebrush Steppe (R2BWYse)	28,000	64%	FRCC 2

[A] Analysis was based on 2012 projected vegetation, used as the baseline vegetation composition for the RMP.

Fuel Models

Fuels models are used to describe fuel characteristics based on quantity, type, and spatial arrangement of fuel. Fuel models are used as input in fire behavior modeling to estimate or predict potential fire behavior and effects such as flame length and rate of spread under various environmental parameters. Flame length corresponds to fireline intensity, while rate of spread relates to fire size. Fuel models do not account for fire return interval, changes in landscape patterns, or length of fire season. Fuel models were assigned to each PNVG S-Class using *Standard Fire Behavior Fuel Models* (Scott & Burgan, 2005). Because the size of wildland fire is a concern in the planning area, changes to rate of spread are an important characteristic in evaluating fire size. Table 3- 36 shows the acres of vegetation with each rate of spread rating by VMA.

Table 3- 36. Fire Rate of Spread Rating by VMA

Rate of Spread Rating	VMA A	VMA B	VMA C	VMA D
Extreme	0	0	0	0
Very High	73,000	36,000	6,000	9,000
High	134,000	449,000	248,000	52,000
Moderate	0	<100	4,000	50,000
Low	9,000	119,000	41,000	34,000
Very Low	0	3,000	6,000	50,000
Non-Burnable	6,000	22,000	8,000	15,000

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Communities at Risk (CAR) are Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) communities near Federal lands that are at high risk from wildland fire. An initial list of all CARs was identified in the *Federal Register*, Volume 66 (2001), pages 751-777. One CAR, Three Creek, is located within the boundary of the planning area and is listed in the Fire Management Plan. CARs located outside the boundary, but that may still be impacted by fire management activities in the planning area, include Bliss, Glenns Ferry, Hammett, Castleford, and Hagerman. The community of Murphy Hot Springs was not initially listed in the *Federal Register* as a CAR, but has since been identified as a Community of Interest. Communities of Interest are WUI areas identified after the 2001 Federal Register Notice.

FRCC is not an appropriate measure of wildland fire risk for WUI areas, because these areas may be maintained in an altered vegetative state to protect life and property. Instead, Relative Risk Ratings are used. Relative risk to WUI areas relates to vegetation condition and helps determine treatment areas for fuels reduction projects. The *2007 Idaho Interagency Assessment of Wildland Fire Risk to Communities* maps communities most at risk from wildland fire in Idaho by assigning Relative Risk Ratings by Hydrologic Unit Codes. Approximately 167,302 acres are rated “moderate” or above in the WUI located within the planning area (Table 3- 37, Map 25).

Table 3- 37. Relative Risk Ratings for WUI

Relative Risk Rating	Number of Acres
High	6,000
Moderate-High	84,000
Moderate	77,000
Low-Moderate	116,000
Low	30,000
No Known CAR	<100
Nevada/No Data	19,000
Total	**332,000**

A primary concern are hazardous acres, or those areas in the planning area that have Relative Risk Ratings of “moderate” or above and have fuels with rates of spread of “high” or above. Table 3- 38 shows the number of hazardous acres in WUI by VMA.

Table 3- 38. Hazardous Acres in WUI by VMA

	VMA A	VMA B	VMA C	VMA D
Hazardous Acres	31,000	27,000	5,000	9,000

A County Wildfire Protection Plan identifies WUI and WUI priorities for fuels treatments and hazard mitigation in each county. Three County Wildfire Protection Plans were completed for the following counties in the planning area: Twin Falls, Owyhee, and Elmore. These plans are completed annually on an interagency basis with participation by BLM.

3.2.10. Wild Horses

The Saylor Creek Herd Management Area (HMA) is located in the northern portion of the planning area approximately 5 miles south of Glenns Ferry and consists of 94,987 acres. The HMA contains portions of eight livestock grazing allotments, which are divided into 10 pastures. Vegetation within the HMA is dominated by the Non-Native Perennial and Non-Native Understory VSGs (54%), followed by the Annual Grassland VSG (27%), and the Native Grassland and Native Shrubland VSG (19%). Wild horses consume the same amount of forage as cattle, approximately 1 AUMs per month.[11] Because the wild horse herd is present in the HMA year round, adequate forage must be available year round as well. Rangeland health of the HMA is important to long-term sustainability of forage available to the wild horse herd. Providing adequate forage for wild horses may mean modifying livestock grazing specific use periods (seasons and lengths of stay), utilization levels, and periods of rest or deferment, as there is limited to no opportunity to control the timing, seasons of use, or levels of utilization by wild horses grazing. These types of control of grazing impacts are important to maintaining rangeland health standards and the sustainability of forage available to the wild horse herd.

There are no naturally occurring perennial water sources (e.g., streams, springs) in the HMA. One ephemeral stream, Saylor Creek, carries water a few days each year during spring runoff, but the flow is inconsistent between years because it is dependent on winter and spring precipitation. Wild horses rely solely on water sources installed to facilitate livestock management and support the horse herd. Currently, the HMA has approximately 93 miles of pipelines and 69 troughs providing water to livestock and the wild horse herd. All pipelines are supplied by drilled wells.

In 2005, there were an estimated 360 horses in the HMA. The majority of the horses were collected in an emergency gather following the 2005 Clover Fire; ten to fifteen horses eluded safe capture and remained in the HMA. In February 2006, 98 horses including 32 studs, 33 mares, and 33 yearlings were returned to the HMA. A group of approximately 20 studs was released into the Grindstone Allotment. Half of the remaining 78 animals were released in the Twin Buttes Allotment and the other half into the Thompson and Black Mesa allotments. Within approximately one year, the studs had breached the allotment division fence between the Grindstone and Thompson allotments and joined the herd in the Thompson and Black Mesa allotments. Early in 2007, the majority of the wild horses in the Thompson and Black Mesa Allotments (all but five horses) breached the allotment division fence and merged with the horse herd in the West Pasture of the Twin Buttes Allotment, where they remain to date. The 2008 census flight estimated the population between 140 and 150 head.

Horses can move freely throughout the West Pasture of the Twin Buttes Allotment (approximately 36,000 acres) but allotment boundary fences normally prevent access to the remainder of the HMA. Within the West Pasture of the Twin Buttes Allotment, the horses spend the majority of their time in one of two favored areas. The horses will venture into other areas of the pasture but will retreat back to favored areas to avoid human contact.

BLM regulations direct that wild horses be managed as self-sustaining populations of healthy animals in balance with other uses and the productive capacity of their habitat (43 CFR 4700.0-6(a)). Self-sustaining refers to the process whereby established populations are able to persist and successfully produce viable offspring. The absolute size a population must attain to achieve a self-sustaining condition varies based on the demographic and sociological features of the herd and adjoining herds and should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. In many cases, it is not necessary that populations be isolated genetic units, but both naturally-occurring and management-induced mixing (introduction or removal of individuals) can be considered in order to maintain sufficient genetic diversity within these populations (Coates-Markle, 2000). The Saylor Creek HMA does not have any adjoining HMAs to allow for natural mixing of genetic material. As a result, genetic diversity must be aided through herd management. Coates-Markle discusses multiple options for consideration to ensure genetic diversity is maintained in a population, such as:

- altering population age structure through removals to promote higher numbers of reproductively successful animals,

[11] Based on the average weight of wild horses; domestic horses consume 1.25 AUMs per month.

- altering breeding sex ratios through removals to encourage a more even participation of breeding males and females,
- increasing generation intervals and reducing the rate of loss of genetic material by removing or using contraception on younger mares, and
- periodically introducing breeding females from other genetically similar herds to help in conservation efforts.

In this last scenario, only one or two breeding animals per generation (approximately 10 years) would need to be introduced in order to maintain the genetic resources in small populations of less than 200 animals (Coates-Markle, 2000). Prior to their release from the 2005 gather, 31 of the 33 released mares were treated with the chemical birth control Porcine Zona Pellucida. Longevity of the drug is approximately two years; normal reproduction rates of approximately one foal per year are expected to return in 2009.

3.2.11. Paleontological Resources

Paleontological resources, or fossils, constitute a fragile and non-renewable scientific record of the history of life on earth and represent an important and critical component of America's natural heritage. BLM manages paleontological resources for their scientific, educational, and recreational values, to mitigate adverse effects as necessary, and to vigorously pursue the protection of fossil resources from theft, destruction, and other illegal or unauthorized uses (BLM Manual 8270).

The term "fossil" refers to the remains or traces of an organism preserved by natural forces in the earth's crust. It does not include what are commonly known as "fossil fuels" such as coal, oil and gas, bitumen, lignite, or tar sands. Fossils are integrally associated with specific geologic formations and may occur throughout those formations. For this reason, the condition of paleontological resources is directly linked to soil and landform stability.

Paleontological resources within the planning area are overwhelmingly associated with the Glenns Ferry Formation, a geologic unit composed of poorly consolidated lake and stream deposits, inter-bedded by occasional basalt flows and volcanic ash. The Glenns Ferry Formation was deposited between the Pliocene and early Pleistocene Epochs and dates from approximately 5 million to 1.5 million years ago. The primary fossil-bearing deposits date to the Blancan land mammal age and range between 3 and 4 million years old, although some materials may be assigned to the earlier Chalk Hills Formation and the Hemphillian land mammal age of the Late Miocene Epoch. Hemphillian fauna lived between 9 and 5 million years ago.

A variety of vertebrate and invertebrate species have been identified within the planning area. These include mastodon, camel, horse, llama, giant ground sloth, rhinoceros, sabre-tooth cat, many smaller mammals, suckers, minnows and other fish, as well as snails and other freshwater mollusks. Plant fossils, represented primarily by petrified wood fragments, are less common but have been found at a few locations. Fossil localities have been recorded across the northern portion of the planning area, from the Bruneau River to Hagerman and from the Snake River as far south as Notch Butte in northeast Owyhee County.

The 1987 Jarbidge RMP identified several areas where paleontological resources were concentrated and deserving of special protection. Two of these areas, the Hagerman Fossil Beds and the Sand Point area near Hammett, have been recognized since the early 20th century as nationally important paleontological sites and were designated as ACECs in the 1987 Jarbidge Resource Management Plan (RMP) with the primary objective of protecting the fossil deposits. The Hagerman Fossil Beds were originally designated a National Natural Landmark in 1975. In 1988, the Hagerman Fossil Beds ACEC was designated a National Monument and was transferred to the National Park Service. BLM-managed lands are located along the northern and southern borders of the Monument. The Sand Point ACEC, at the time it was established, was adversely affected by grazing, private collecting, motorized recreational use, illegal digging, mining, and other activities (BLM, 1988). Vehicular access restrictions and construction of a fence across the southern boundary have greatly reduced the level of surface disturbance attributable to livestock and human activities in the ACEC since the mid 1990s.

No large-scale, systematic paleontological inventories have been conducted within the planning area. Still, approximately 200 fossil localities are recorded on lands in the planning area. Because paleontological resources are closely tied to particular sedimentary geologic units, the probability of finding fossils can be broadly predicted from the geologic units present at or near the ground surface. Therefore, in the absence of large-scale paleontological inventories, geologic mapping can be used to assess the potential occurrence of fossils. For planning purposes, BLM employs the Potential Fossil Yield Classification system, which classifies geologic units based on their relative abundance of vertebrate fossils or scientifically significant invertebrate or plant fossils as well as their sensitivity to adverse impacts (BLM IM 2008-009). For the planning area, fossil-bearing geologic units were classified according to the guidance provided in Instruction Memorandum No. 2008-009 and the recommendations of professional paleontologists who possess extensive experience with the paleontology and geology of Idaho (Winterfeld & Rapp, 2009). In this five-tier classification system, Potential Fossil Yield (PFY) Class 1 areas have very low potential for paleontological resources and PFY Class 5 areas have very high potential.

- PFY Class 1 units are igneous or metamorphic in origin and have a very low potential for paleontological resources. These units include the vast rhyolite and basalt lava flows that account for almost 83% of the planning area.
- PFY Class 2 units are composed of sedimentary deposits that are not likely to bear fossils. Locally, they consist of ancient metamorphosed limestone outcrops in the extreme southwestern portion of the planning area (Bushnell, 1967) where they comprise less than 1% of the ground surface of the planning area.
- PFY Class 3 units consist of fossiliferous sedimentary formations where fossil content varies in importance, abundance, and occurrence. In the planning area, PFY Class 3 units are composed of Late Pliocene and Pleistocene gravels covering approximately 8% of the ground surface. While these units are known to contain widely scattered vertebrate and invertebrate fossils, the number of known localities is very low and the potential for project impacts to the integrity of an important fossil locality, though greater than in PFY Class 1 and 2 units, is also relatively low.
- PFY Class 4 units are sedimentary deposits with a high occurrence of important fossils. PFY Class 4 units for south-central Idaho are restricted to stratified cave deposits containing the remains of extinct Pleistocene fauna (Winterfeld & Rapp, 2009). No Class 4 units are currently recorded within the planning area.
- PFY Class 5 units are highly fossiliferous geologic formations that consistently and predictably produce vertebrate or scientifically important invertebrate or plant fossils. In the planning area, both the Glenns Ferry and Chalk Hills formations are assigned to Class 5. These Miocene and Pliocene lake bed sediments comprise approximately 9% of the ground surface in the northern portion of the planning area and account for the vast majority of known fossil localities in the planning area.

Table 3- 39 identifies the number of acres in each PFY Class in the planning area.

Table 3- 39. Acres of BLM-Managed Lands by PFY Class

	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5
Acres	1,137,000	2,000	113,000	0	121,000

3.2.12. Cultural Resources

Cultural resources consist of locations of human activity, occupation, or use identified through field inventory, historic documentation, or oral evidence. The term includes archaeological, historic, and architectural properties and sites or places of traditional cultural or religious importance to Native American tribes or other social or cultural groups. BLM manages cultural resources under its jurisdiction or control according to their relative importance. Management objectives include protecting against impairment, destruction, inadvertent loss, and accommodating uses determined appropriate through consultation and planning.

Since the late 1950s, hundreds of cultural resource inventories have been conducted in the area, ranging from large-scale inventories for ES&BAR activities following wildland fires to small-scale surveys for such

things as livestock water systems, fences, right of ways (ROWs), and land use permits. Not all inventories were associated with surface-disturbing projects; a few studies have also been conducted for planning purposes and for scientific research, including the *Class II Cultural Resource Inventory of the Boise District, BLM* (Young, 1984) which formed the basis for some of the cultural resource management actions in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP. As of January 2008, approximately 22% of the planning area has been inventoried at the Cultural Resource Class III level, the most intensive survey level. As a result, approximately 4,650 cultural resources have been recorded. These represent a wide variety of site types and chronological periods. Approximately 73% of the recorded resources are prehistoric sites (i.e., Native American sites that predate European contact), 23% are historic sites (i.e., post-contact Native American, Euro-American, Chinese, or Basque sites up through World War II),and 4% contain both prehistoric and historic components. Together, these resources document an almost continuous record of human occupation in the planning area for the past 12,000 years. An additional 16,500 unrecorded cultural resources are estimated to be present within the planning area.

Lithic scatters are the most common type of prehistoric site found in the planning area. These sites contain stone tools and/or stone flakes produced during the manufacture or maintenance of stone tools and may represent short-term hunting camps, tool manufacturing or repair locations, or butchering sites. Other prehistoric site types include streamside camps, cave and rock shelter camps, hunting blinds, rock alignments and cairns, vision quest sites, tool-stone quarries, battle sites, fishing locations, ceremonial sites, burials, and rock art sites.

Most of the historic sites in the planning area are related to the early livestock industry (ca. 1880 to World War II) and are represented by cow and sheep camps, herder's monuments, rock fences and corrals, and a few abandoned line shacks. Other historic sites include failed homesteads, trash dumps, irrigation ditches, miners' cabins, and transportation systems. The latter category includes the nationally significant Oregon Trail (see the *National Historic Trails* section) and regionally significant portions of the Kelton and Toana[12] Freight Roads. Intact segments of these three wagon roads have been determined eligible for or are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

One category of cultural resources that may or may not contain artifacts or other physical remains is the traditional cultural property (TCP). These places may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places because of their association with a living community's cultural practices or beliefs rooted in the community's history. TCPs play an important role in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community and are identified through scoping and consultation rather than field inventory. Examples of TCPs include locations where Native Americans have historically gone to perform ceremonial activities in accordance with traditional cultural rules of practice or a location where a community has traditionally carried out economic, artistic, or other cultural practices important in maintaining its historical identity (Parker & King, 1998). In the planning area, contemporary members of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes maintain cultural ties to the land and resources, although places of importance to traditional ranching and farming communities may also be considered TCPs.

Based on an analysis of the site documentation that occurred during initial site recording, approximately 55% of sites in the planning area were in good or excellent condition when discovered, 31% were in fair condition, and 14% were in poor condition.[13] The condition of cultural resources in the planning area varies with terrain, access, and visibility, as well as past and current land use patterns. Because cultural resources are often exposed on the earth's surface, they are subject to natural and human forces that can damage their integrity. Natural forces such as erosion, animal burrowing, wildfire and post-fire exposure, deterioration, and decay have affected and will continue to affect cultural resources to varying degrees.

[12] There are several spellings for this word within the region, including "Tuana" and "Tuanna." Place names established on USGS quad maps have not been changed in this document, with the exception of the Toana Road, which is the spelling used in the National Register listing.

[13] These are qualitative assessments made by a variety of researchers over a number of years. Data collection during site recording includes a summary assessment of site condition, an estimate of the percentage of the site area that is disturbed, and identification of the impacting agents. The following criteria, taken from the Intermountain Antiquities Computer System User's Guide (University of Utah, et al., 1990) define the condition classes: excellent = virtually undisturbed, good = 75% undisturbed, fair = 50-75% undisturbed, and poor = more than 50% disturbed.

Human actions and decisions, past and present, including public land disposals, concentrated livestock use in riparian settings, construction projects, cross-country motorized vehicle use, unauthorized artifact collecting, looting, and other inadvertent and purposeful human damage, are also known to have impacted sites in the planning area. BLM, through the planning process, has much more control over the quantity and degree of future human-related, versus natural, impacts to cultural resources

To aid in the evaluation of alternatives, BLM developed a model to characterize the relative density and distribution of cultural resources in the planning area. The model combines the results of two previous archaeological studies, a large-scale sample survey of the southern half of the planning area (Young, 1984) and a synthesis of 11 burned-area rehabilitation inventories conducted between 1994 and 1996 (Fawcett, 1997), and augments those findings with data from more recent inventories. These studies indicate that elevation and proximity to water are reliable indicators of archaeological site density. Site density is highest at elevations above 5,000 feet and lowest below 3,500 feet. Density is characterized as moderate between 3,500 and 5,000 feet. Within these elevation zones, sites cluster near water and prominent topographic features.

3.2.13. Visual Resources

The Jarbidge planning area is known for its unique geology of broad, gently rolling plateau lands with deeply incised rivers, which provide a variety of scenic values. Water availability influences the distribution of plant communities and is based on the rain shadow effect, distribution of soil types, slope, and aspect. Dry lowland areas in the north support salt desert shrub communities, which change to sagebrush steppe with increasing elevation and moisture in the south. At higher elevations in the south, juniper, aspen, and mountain mahogany are present. A few areas contain limber pine and subalpine fir. Surface water is generally limited to scattered perennial springs and creeks. Creeks are typically located in the deeper draws and canyons.

BLM has a responsibility to ensure scenic values of the public lands are considered before allowing uses that may have negative visual impacts. To address the importance of scenic values, BLM designed the visual resource management (VRM) system to help identify visual values and minimize visual impacts to the landscape character of public lands. In order to fulfill these requirements, an interdisciplinary team conducted a visual resource inventory (VRI) of the planning area between October 2007 and March 2008 (BLM, 2008a).

The visual resource inventory process has three steps: a scenic quality rating, a sensitivity rating, and a distance zone analysis. Scenic quality is a measure of the visual appeal of a tract of land. In the visual resource inventory process, public lands are given an A, B, or C rating based on the apparent scenic quality, which is determined using seven key factors: landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modification. Areas with the most visual appeal are rated A, while areas with the least visual appeal are rated C; areas with intermediate appeal are rated B. In the planning area, areas rated as A typically contained changes in topography, deeply incised canyons, unique geologic features such as hoodoos, and native vegetation communities that provided a variety of vegetation species. Areas rated as B typically contained slight changes of topography and some variation in vegetation species. Areas rated as C typically contained no change in topography and very few vegetation species. During the visual resource inventory, scenic quality rating A was given to 183,000 acres, scenic quality rating B was given to 242,000 acres, and scenic quality rating C was given to 1,389,000 acres.

Sensitivity levels are a measure of the public concern for scenic quality. During the sensitivity rating, public lands are assigned high, medium, or low sensitivity by analyzing six indicators of public concern: type of user, amount of use, public interest, adjacent land uses, special areas, and other factors. During the VRI, a high sensitivity rating was given to 136,000 acres, a medium sensitivity rating was given to 235,000 acres, and a low sensitivity rating was given to 1,443,000 acres in the planning area.

A distance zone analysis was conducted by selecting the base routes and rivers with recreational use as travel routes and performing a viewshed analysis, which identifies areas that can be seen from one or more observation points or lines.

The result of the inventory process is the assignment of VRI Classes. VRI Class I is assigned to areas where a management decision has been made previously to maintain a natural landscape. This includes areas such as Wilderness Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs) with a scenic Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV), and other Congressionally and administratively designated areas where decisions have been made to preserve a natural landscape. Classes II, III, and IV are assigned based on a combination of scenic quality, sensitivity level, and distance zones by combining overlays for these factors generated through the inventory process.

After overlaying the scenic quality, sensitivity, and distance zone maps and applying the criteria for assigning VRI Classes, 103,000 BLM-managed acres were identified as VRI Class I, 60,000 acres as VRI

Class II, 51,000 acres as VRI Class III, and 1,160,000 acres as VRI Class IV. Map 34 displays the results of the VRI.

3.2.14. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Consistent with Section 201 of FLPMA, which requires the Secretary of the Interior to "prepare and maintain on a continuing basis an inventory of all public lands and their resource and other values," and *BLM Handbook H-1601-1, Land Use Planning*, the Jarbidge RMP Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) evaluated and identified BLM-managed lands with wilderness characteristics outside existing WSAs.

Wilderness characteristics are features of the land associated with the concept of wilderness, including naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Areas have a high degree of naturalness when affected primarily by the forces of nature and where the imprint of human activity is substantially unnoticeable. Assessing an area for naturalness includes examining the area for attributes such as the presence or absence of roads and trails, fences, and other infrastructure; the nature and extent of landscape modifications; the presence of native vegetation communities; and the connectivity of habitats.

Areas have outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation when the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people are rare or infrequent; where visitors can be isolated, alone, or secluded from others; where the use of the area is through non-motorized, non-mechanical means; and where no or minimal developed recreation facilities are encountered.

Areas evaluated for wilderness characteristics consisted of roadless areas greater than 5,000 acres or roadless areas greater than 1,000 acres adjacent to a WSA. These areas were evaluated for the presence of naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation (BLM, 2008b). Seven areas outside WSAs were identified as having wilderness characteristics (Table 3- 40; Map 42).

Table 3- 40. Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (Acres)

Area Name	Size
Black Canyon	8,000
Columbet Table	4,000
Corral Creek	6,000
East Fork Jarbidge	6,000
Hole in the Ground	7,000
Long Draw	17,000
Salmon Falls Creek	5,000
Total	**53,000**

3.3. RESOURCE USES

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) directs that in addition to managing the public lands "in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archaeological values; that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; [and] that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife" (Sec. 102 (8)), the public lands will be managed in a manner that will "provide food and habitat for…domestic animals; and that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use" (Sec. 102 (8)) and "in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands" (Sec. 102 (12)). In addition, FLPMA identifies the "principal or major uses" of public lands as "domestic livestock grazing, fish and wildlife development and utilization, mineral exploration and production, rights-of-way, outdoor recreation, and timber production" (Sec. 103(l)).

As such, the BLM manages public lands for a variety of resource uses. Resource uses occurring in the planning area are discussed in this section.

3.3.1. Livestock Grazing

The planning area is divided into 93 grazing allotments on 1,323,000 acres of BLM-managed lands with about 70 permit holders (permittees). Additionally, livestock grazing on 92,000 acres of military withdrawal lands is managed by BLM in accordance with Public Land Order (PLO) 1027 as amended by PLO 4902. Salmon Falls Creek Canyon was identified in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP as unavailable to livestock grazing. The Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons are not contained within grazing allotments; therefore, these canyons and other areas not within grazing allotments are not grazed, even though the 1987 Jarbidge RMP does not specifically make these areas unavailable for livestock grazing.

Permits or leases are issued to authorize use on BLM-administered lands available for livestock grazing. Grazing permits describe terms and conditions for annual grazing use to achieve management and resource objectives. Mandatory terms and conditions include the allotment(s) to be used, the period-of-use (dates), number and kind of livestock, and the level of allowed grazing use in animal unit months (AUMs). Allowable use includes both active and suspended AUMs. Active-use AUMs are those available for grazing use. Suspended-use AUMs are generally on permits as a result of past reductions in grazing use and are not available for use until a grazing decision and supporting National Environmental Policy Act of 1964 (NEPA) documentation is issued by the authorized officer. Other terms and conditions may include, but are not limited to, locations of supplements, provisions for temporary delay in grazing use, and management methods to use to achieve objectives (43 CFR 4130.3). Permits generally cover a 10-year period and are renewable if the BLM determines the terms and conditions of the expiring permit are being met.

Permit holders must submit grazing applications annually prior to livestock turnout. Annual applications allow permittees to apply for adjustments in annual grazing use within the terms and conditions of the grazing permit. The amount of grazing that occurs each year can be affected by such factors as drought, wildfire, and market conditions. A bill is issued to the permittee specific to the amount of grazing use authorized for that season.

Currently, 188,802 AUMs of active use are authorized on the allotments within the planning area, including 12,154 AUMs in Saylor Creek Air Force Range (Appendix T); 96% of the AUMs are allocated to livestock, 4% to domestic sheep, and less than 1% to domestic horses. Interim grazing measures pursuant to stipulated settlement agreements (SSAs) govern 112,620 of these AUMs. In addition to permitted AUMs, a maximum of 17,071 AUMs of non-renewable use can be issued annually in 18

allotments in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.6-2 and the authority of DOI appropriations acts.[14] The 28 allotments under the 2005 SSA (CV-04-181-S-BLW; Appendix A) and the 2 allotments under the 2003 SSA (CV-02-521-S-MHW) are only allowed active use as described in the interim measures. Authorized active use AUMs are summarized in Table 3- 41.

Table 3- 41. AUMs Authorized in the Planning Area for the 2007 Grazing Year

Legal Obligation	Number of Allotments	Current Permits (AUMs)	Nonrenewable Authorizations (AUMs)
2003 SSA for CV-02-521-S-MHW (Judge Williams)	2	27,888	0
2005 SSA for CV-04-181-S-BLW (Judge Winmill)	28	84,732	0
Non-Renewable Grazing Permits under DOI Appropriations Acts	18	27,320	17,071
Other Allotments	45	48,862	0
Total	**93**	**188,802**	**17,071**

Actual use (grazing use that actually occurred) has varied annually based on factors such as forage production, resource conditions, wildfire, court decisions, and individual livestock grazing operations. Actual grazing use since the 1987 Jarbidge RMP has been as high as approximately 217,000 AUMs in 1997 (a high precipitation year) and as low as approximately 109,000 AUMs in 1988 (a low precipitation year). Between 2002 and 2006, the average actual use was approximately 173,000 AUMs.

Livestock grazing use occurs within the planning area year long. Generally, the lower elevation rangeland of the northern third of the planning area is grazed in the fall, winter, and spring. The higher elevation in the middle third is grazed in the spring, summer, and fall, and the high elevations in the southern third is grazed primarily in the summer and fall.

Range Infrastructure

Effective management of livestock grazing is dependent on the use of infrastructure to meet resource objectives. Range improvements include specialized treatments and infrastructure used to improve range resources or their use by grazing animals (Vallentine, 1989). Infrastructure such as water developments and fences provide a more effective means to control livestock movement and the timing and duration of grazing periods. The planning area contains complex systems of pipelines supplied by creeks, springs, and wells that provide water throughout much of the planning area. In addition to providing water for livestock, some pipeline systems distribute water used for wildfire suppression and serve as a source of water for wild horses and wildlife. Reservoirs were developed by constructing low earthen dams and excavating pits in playas. Vegetation treatments that improve forage availability, such as non-native perennial seedings, are addressed in the *Upland Vegetation* section. Table 3- 42 shows the range infrastructure currently in the planning area.

Table 3- 42. Types and Approximate Amount of Existing Range Infrastructure

Type of Range Infrastructure	Amount
Cattleguards	130
Fences	2,000 miles
Reservoirs and Stock Ponds	100
Spring Developments	25
Pipelines	900 miles
Wells	15
Corrals	25
Cow Camps	5

[14] This rider appears in the following: section 142 of PL 108-108 (FY 2004); section 132 of PL 108-447 (FY 2005); section 123 of PL 109-54 (FY 2006); and section 116 of PL 110-161 (FY 2008). In FY 2005 and 2008, the section was contained in a consolidated appropriations act. In FY 2007, DOI operated under a year-long continuing resolution.

3.3.2. Recreation

BLM accounts for different types of recreation use through the Recreation Management Information System (RMIS). RMIS measures participation in 65 types of recreation activities. RMIS calculates increases or decreases in use for:

- recreation sites
- dispersed use areas
- Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)
- road, trail, river, or special designation area segments

RMIS data sources can include information from fee envelopes, traffic or trail counter data, self-registration forms, use reports from recreation permittees, or, as largely the case in the planning area, observations and professional judgment. During Fiscal Years 1999-2007, the planning area averaged 47,000 visits a year or 48,000 visitor days a year[15].

Recreation Management Areas

Recreation Management Areas are BLM's primary means of managing recreational use of the public lands. Public lands are designated as either a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) or Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). SRMAs require a recreation investment where more intensive recreation management is needed and where recreation is a principal management objective. These areas often have high levels of recreation activity, contain valuable natural resources, or require recreational settings that need special management (e.g., an area with high scenic value). ERMAs constitute all public lands outside SRMAs and are areas where structured recreational opportunities are not provided. Recreation may not be the primary management objective in these areas, and recreational activities are subject to few restrictions. Five SRMAs are identified in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP (Table 3-43); however, specific boundaries were not delineated in that document.

Table 3- 43. SRMAs Identified in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP

SRMA	Acres	Type of Opportunity	Setting
Bruneau-Jarbidge River	57,000	Whitewater boating, fishing, hunting, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, primitive camping	0-6 encounters per day Noise or litter nonexistent to infrequent Vegetation intact or with slight trampling
Jarbidge Forks	4,320	Rafting, fishing, camping, picnicking, viewing wildlife and natural scenery	3-14 encounters per day Noise or litter infrequent to occasional Vegetation with slight trampling or becoming worn
Oregon National Historic Trail	16,384	Hiking, viewing wildlife and natural scenery, educational activities	2-6 encounters per day Noise or litter infrequent Slight vegetation trampling
Hagerman-Owsley Bridge	2,680	OHV riding	15-29 encounters per day Noise or litter apparent Vegetation worn at staging areas and along routes
Salmon Falls Creek	5,600	Fishing, camping, water sports, hunting, boating, equestrian, hiking, OHV riding	2-6 encounters per day Noise or litter infrequent Slight vegetation trampling

Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)

Five types of uses requiring SRPs are authorized by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (FLREA): commercial (e.g., whitewater outfitters), competitive (e.g., OHV races), vending (e.g., food service), individual or group use in special areas (e.g., weddings), and organized group activity and event

[15] One visitor day is equivalent to 12 hours spent in the planning area.

use (e.g., club trail ride). SRPs are issued to manage visitor use, protect natural and cultural resources, and accommodate commercial recreational uses and may be issued for ten years or less with annual renewal. Commercial SRPs are issued to outfitters, guides, vendors, recreation clubs, and commercial competitive event organizers providing recreational opportunities or service without employing permanent facilities. SRPs for competitive and organized group events are also included in this category. The maximum number of commercial SRPs in place at one time during the last 20 years was six. In 2009, four commercial SRPs for commercial river use were in place for the planning area.

BLM issues SRPs for noncommercial use in certain special areas, including wilderness, rivers, and backcountry hiking or camping areas.

Developed Recreation

Developed recreation sites incorporate visitor use infrastructure such as roads, parking areas, and facilities to protect the resource and support recreational users in their pursuit of activities, experiences, and benefits. Visitor use infrastructure is a management tool that can minimize resource impacts, concentrate use, and reduce visitor conflicts.

There are six developed recreation sites within the planning area. Currently, these six sites do not meet the FLREA criteria for charging fees. None of the sites have potable water or trash service in the form of trashcans or dumpsters. The following list outlines these sites and their amenities:

- **Bruneau Canyon Overlook** – Parking area, interpretive kiosks, and protective fence structures
- **Bruneau River Launch Site, East** – Parking and information kiosk
- **Bruneau River Take-out** – Information kiosk
- **Cedar Creek Reservoir (Roseworth Reservoir)** – Parking area, vault restrooms, and docks
- **East Fork Jarbidge River Recreation Sites (4 sites)** – Vault restrooms, picnic tables, and fire rings with grills
- **Jarbidge River Recreation Site** – Parking area, launch facilities for whitewater boating, vault restrooms, and information kiosk

Dispersed Recreation

Hunting is the major dispersed recreation use across the entire planning area. The average number of visitor days in pursuit of mule deer and pronghorn in the planning area was 5,554 between 2002 and 2006 (IDFG, 2008a). In 2006, hunters spent more than 6,728 visitor days in pursuit of mule deer and pronghorn in the planning area (IDFG, 2008a).

Sport fishing in the Snake River along the northern boundary of the planning area and on the Salmon Falls Creek and Cedar Creek Reservoirs are also popular dispersed recreation activities. Salmon Falls Reservoir is one of the most heavily used fisheries in the Magic Valley region. The average of annual angler effort between 1995 and 2006 was more than 72,000 hours. Peak months of fishing activity typically are April through October.

Only two recognized trails exist within the planning area. The Idaho Centennial Trail is used for both hiking and motorized vehicles; use of the segment within the planning area is generally low because much of the trail is in remote terrain with difficult access. The Roberson Trail is located in the Bruneau Canyon, and the general landscape dictates a non-motorized use. This trail is used in the spring and early summer by whitewater boaters accessing the Five Mile Rapids, a series of Class IV rapids on the Bruneau River.

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Use

For many years, the term “off-highway vehicle” (OHV) has been used by the public, industry, and the BLM interchangeably with the term “off-road vehicle.” The term “off-road vehicle” has a legally established definition in the Presidential Executive Order 11644 (1972) and BLM regulations. BLM has chosen to use the term OHV, partly because it is a more popular term, but also because the regulations address vehicles that use roads and trails on BLM-managed land, and are, therefore, not just “off- road.”

The national BLM objectives for OHV management are to protect the resources of public lands, promote the safety of all users of those lands, and minimize conflicts among the various uses of those lands (BLM, 2001). OHVs are defined as "any motorized vehicle capable of or designated for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding (1) any nonamphibious registered motorboat; (2) any military, fire, emergency or law enforcement vehicle when being used for emergency purposes; (3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer, or otherwise officially approved; (4) vehicle in official use; and (5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies" (43 CFR 8340.0-5). OHVs are used within the planning area for recreational and nonrecreational purposes. Much of the nonrecreational OHV use involves BLM administrative activities and grazing administration by ranchers.

OHV use has become a popular method of recreation as well as a means of transportation while pursuing other forms of recreation such as hunting, fishing, or camping. Antler gathering is an example of an increasing OHV use. Antlers shed by big game in their winter and spring ranges across most of the southern portion of the planning area are sought by collectors, as a recreational hobby and for art. Many people participating in this activity use OHVs to cover more ground than can be done on foot or horseback. The Jarbidge FO has received reports of people who "grid" areas to increase their success in finding antlers.

In 2003, IDFG implemented restrictions for motorized vehicles used while hunting big game and upland game in the Jarbidge Foothills area (Unit 47). This rule applies to designated areas within Idaho and states, "hunters may only use motorized vehicles on established roadways which are open to motorized traffic and capable of being traveled by full-sized automobiles. Any other use by hunters is prohibited. All off-road use by hunters is prohibited" (IDFG, 2007). This rule does not apply to valid Handicapped Persons Motor Vehicle Hunting Permits, game retrieval, packing camping equipment, or use on private property.

All-terrain vehicle (ATV), utility vehicle (UTV), and off-highway motorbike use, types of OHV use, are some of the fastest growing recreation opportunities in the planning area. Table 3- 44 displays the increase in ATV, UTV, and off-highway motorbike registrations since 2004 in the counties with people most likely to participate in motorized recreation in the planning area.

Table 3- 44. ATV, UTV, and Off-Highway Motorbike Registrations by County

Year	Elmore	Owyhee	Twin Falls
2004	1,552	677	4,118
2005	1,689	735	4,746
2006	1,880	853	5,289
2007	2,128	988	5,971
2008	2,354	1,072	9,799

Note: These registration numbers reflect registrations processed for the sticker year. This table includes registered off-highway motorbikes, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), & utility terrain vehicles (UTVs). UTVs were not identified as a separate registration until 2007.
Source: (IDPR, 2008)

Between 2005 and 2007, 7,411 visitor days were spent participating in OHV activities in the planning area. Because of its relationship to transportation and access issues, further discussion of this use can be found in the *Transportation and Travel* section.

Whitewater Boating

Whitewater recreation activities on the Jarbidge and Bruneau River systems continue to be popular locally, regionally, and nationally. These rivers have a growing national reputation for those attracted to remote, wild, and spectacular canyons and a challenging whitewater boating experience. The float season lasts approximately one month, with the peak use occurring during the latter part of May. Water runoff from snowpack in the Jarbidge Mountains usually dictates the optimum flows for this activity. In 1983, the Jarbidge FO implemented a mandatory registration system for private boaters on the Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers, which provides some use data. While the Jarbidge FO administers outfitting on the

Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers, maintenance of facilities and accountability for visitor use are currently shared with the Bruneau FO of the Boise District.

Between 2005 and 2008, 1,750 visitor days were spent participating in whitewater recreation activities in the planning area. The recorded use number for 2005 was 170 individuals, with kayaks as the primary mode of transportation. In 2006, the recorded use number was 320 individuals; the increase in boater registrations was due to an above-average water year.

3.3.3. Transportation and Travel

Transportation involves access to public lands and infrastructure management. Within the planning area, local dependence on public land to meet transportation needs occurs mostly in terms of access to public and private lands, in contrast to town-to-town or city-to-city destination-type travel. Development of the existing transportation system in the planning area has been associated with providing access for resource uses such as livestock grazing and recreation. Increased demand for access to public lands, combined with research on impacts of roads and trails to resources and resource uses, requires a well-designed and managed transportation system.

There are approximately 4,300 miles of mapped transportation routes (i.e., roads, primitive roads, and trails) in the planning area. Based on field observations and recent aerial photography, the actual amount of transportation routes could be twice as high as the amount mapped. The transportation system includes BLM and county system roads and primitive roads. Some BLM and county system roads receive regular maintenance. County roads are usually constructed and maintained to higher standards than BLM roads and provide the local road systems for access to and through BLM lands, supporting a higher volume of traffic than other roads in the planning area. These roads are maintained by the six local highway districts and, in some areas, by the USAF if higher standards are required for operations connected with training ranges.

Various government entities and individuals acquire ROWs from BLM for portions of the transportation system roads that cross BLM-managed land. Issuance of ROWs is based on access needs and resource considerations.

In addition to main and local routes, numerous primitive roads are laced throughout the planning area connecting more remote locations to main roads. These primitive roads are used for administrative access (i.e. range monitoring), recreational purposes, access to private land inholdings, and access to livestock management infrastructure. Some of these routes are maintained as needed and are of native surface: dirt, gravel, or sand.

One backcountry airstrip in the planning area, near Murphy Hot Springs, was leased to the Idaho Transportation Department's (ITD's) Division of Aeronautics in 1993 and is managed by that agency.

Growth of OHV use has become an issue because of the number of users who participate in this recreation opportunity, as well as concerns related to the potential resource degradation resulting from high levels of unmanaged use in and near sensitive areas. During public scoping, more than 31% of comments received on resource uses related to transportation and access or OHV use.

Areas are designated during the planning process in accordance with BLM regulations and include the following three management categories:

- **Open to Cross-Country Motorized Vehicle Use** – An area where all types of vehicle use are permitted at all times, anywhere within the designated "open" area. This refers to cross-country travel both on and off roads.
- **Limited to Designated Routes or Ways** – Areas where vehicle use is restricted at certain times, in certain areas, and/or to certain vehicular use in order to meet specific resource management objectives. These limitations may include: limiting the number or types of vehicles; limiting the time or season of use; permitted, administrative, or licensed use only; use on existing roads and trails; and limiting use to designated roads and trails.

- **Closed to Motorized Vehicle Use** – Motorized vehicles are permanently or temporarily prohibited. The use of motorized vehicles in closed areas may be allowed for certain reasons such as search and rescue; such use shall be made only with the approval of the BLM authorized officer (43 CFR 8340.0-5).

Back Country Byways

The Thousand Springs Scenic Byway begins at Interstate 84 near Bliss, Idaho, and follows US 30 southeast through Twin Falls, Idaho. Contact with small parcels of land managed by the Jarbidge FO occurs near the Thousand Springs area. ITD administers this highway. This byway is a State byway and not a component of the BLM Back Country Byway program.

3.3.4. Land Use Authorizations

The Jarbidge FO administers approximately 400 right of ways (ROWs), land use permits, and leases, collectively referred to as land use authorizations. These existing authorizations are for a variety of different uses and are held by private individuals and groups, as well as by various business and government entities.

Section 501 of FLPMA authorizes BLM to grant, issue, or renew ROWs on public lands; within the planning area, roads, power transmission lines, and telephone lines are the most common uses for ROWs and account for well over half of the total number of grants. Examples of additional types of ROW facilities authorized within the planning area include natural gas pipelines, communication sites, ditches, water facilities, and fiber optic lines. The Jarbidge FO processes approximately 20 to 30 ROW actions annually, including new authorizations, amendments, assignments, renewals, and relinquishments. Since the 1987 Jarbidge RMP was completed, there has been an increase in the number of utility services, powerline upgrades, roads to private residences, communication sites, and upgrades to existing land use authorizations. Unauthorized uses such as farming, road grading, and road building on BLM-managed lands have increased as well.

Twelve communication site ROWs, occupying seven different communication site locations, are authorized within the planning area. Potential users are encouraged to locate within existing communication facilities, but the existing facilities can only accommodate a certain number of users. The two largest communication sites within the planning area are the Yahoo Creek Communication Site and the Lower Salmon Communication Site, both of which have completed communication site plans. There are no site plans for any of the other communication site facilities because of their single-occupant status.

The 1987 Jarbidge RMP did not formally designate ROW corridors within the planning area. In general, attempts are made to group compatible facilities where possible. Special designation areas, such as ACECs and WSAs, may restrict such development. If approved, portions of an interstate transmission line project, the proposed Gateway West Transmission Line, may cross the planning area and would entail the construction, operation, and maintenance of 1,150 miles of 230-kilovolt (kV) and 500-kV transmission lines across southern Wyoming and Idaho. In addition, the BLM Twin Falls District is analyzing several energy transmission line proposals, including Mountain Sates Intertie Project and Southwest Intertie Project.

Renewable energy includes geothermal,[16] wind, hydroelectric, and solar power. There are no renewable energy developments on public lands within the planning area; however, the Jarbidge FO has had several inquiries for wind energy-related interests on public land within the past several years. The only authorized use granted to date is the 2007 Renewable Energy Systems (RES) ROW for wind velocity test towers on China Mountain. The authorization allowed RES to construct four anemometer sites within the 13,000-acre ROW area. In May 2007, RES submitted an application to construct a wind farm in portions of the Jarbidge and Wells FOs. The proposed wind development is being analyzed in a separate EIS and would produce 425 megawatts on approximately 30,000 acres; the proposed development would occur

[16] Geothermal resources are considered leasable minerals and are addressed in the *Minerals* section.

on approximately 30,000 acres; the proposed development would occur on approximately 13,000 acres managed by the Jarbidge FO.

Additional ROW applications are being submitted for ancillary uses to energy-related facilities on private and public land. The Jarbidge FO received an application for an upgrade on a road that will support another wind farm on private land in the Bell Rapids area. Additional ROW applications are being submitted for ancillary uses to energy-related facilities on private and public land. Under current conditions and technology, Idaho is not understood to have potential for commercial solar energy development. Solar resources in the planning area do not exceed 6 kWh/m^2/day (NREL, 2009b); therefore, the planning area is not currently identified as a high-priority state for solar energy development (NREL, 2009c).[17]

Section 302 of FLPMA authorizes the use, occupancy, and development of public lands through leases, permits, and easements for uses not authorized through other authorities. Applicants can be State or local governments or private individuals or entities. Permits are usually short-term authorizations not to exceed three years; there are ten Section 302 FLPMA temporary land use permits within the planning area. Leases are usually longer-term authorizations. One backcountry airstrip in the planning area, the Murphy Hot Springs airstrip, was leased to ITD's Division of Aeronautics in 1993 and is managed by that agency. There are also several access easements within the planning area.

There are two Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) withdrawals on portions of the Snake River within the planning area. Six emitter sites are included as part of the Juniper Butte Range withdrawal by the USAF in addition to uses ancillary to these withdrawals, such as power lines, telephone lines, and roads. Other withdrawals in the planning area include public water reserves, water power reserves, power site reserves and classifications, and stock driveways.

3.3.5. Land Tenure

Land tenure, or land ownership, adjustment refers to actions that result in the disposal of BLM lands or the acquisition of nonfederal lands or interests by BLM. Land tenure transactions, such as sales, exchanges, Desert Land Entry Act of 1877 (DLE) and Carey Act of 1894 (CA) transactions, Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1954 (R&PP) leases, and acquisitions through fee or easements, are used to conduct land tenure adjustments. The 1987 Jarbidge RMP identified the number of acres available for land tenure transactions (Table 3- 45). FLPMA directs BLM to retain public lands in Federal ownership unless it is determined that disposal of a particular parcel will serve the national interest.

Table 3- 45. Acres Available for Land Tenure Transactions

Type of Land Tenure Transaction	Number of Acres Available
Sale	10,000
Exchange	15,000
DLE/CA	67,000
R&PP Lease	1,368,000

Land tenure transactions in the planning area are analyzed in project-specific reviews. Since the 1987 Jarbidge RMP, the Jarbidge FO disposed of 61.59 acres through exchange and 62.5 acres through sale; the Jarbidge FO also acquired 40 acres through exchange and 376 acres through the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). These acquisitions allowed BLM to acquire important cultural and paleontological sites, including a large natural spring at the Dean Site, the Morgan Property (adjacent to the Sand Point ACEC), and Three Island Crossing.

DLE was passed to encourage and promote the economic development of the arid and semi-arid public lands of the western United States. Through the Act, individuals may apply for a DLE to reclaim, irrigate, and cultivate arid and semi-arid lands. Just over 4,000 acres have left BLM-management in the planning area through DLE since 1987. Over 200 DLEs have been relinquished or rejected in the planning area since 1987, either by default or inability to support a profitable plan of development due to water rights

[17] See also BLM IM 2007-097.

reviews by the State of Idaho's Snake River Basin Adjudication. The resolution of those entries placed the land back into retention status. There are currently four active DLE applications for 960 acres in the planning area.

One lease under R&PP within the planning area was transferred by patent to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) in 1993 for the Three Island State Park southwest of Glenns Ferry. Three Island State Park contains the Oregon Trail crossing of the Snake River by settlers in the early 1840s through the late 1860s. The park is visited by travelers and tourists from all over the world.

3.3.6. Minerals

The BLM manages the Federal mineral estate for the United States. The land surface overlying this estate can be owned by a non-Federal entity such as the State of Idaho or private interests; these lands are referred to as "split-estate" lands. The Jarbidge FO manages the surface of 1,373,502 acres of public lands within the planning area boundary and 1,612,570 acres of mineral estate. Of these, 124,160 acres are split-estate lands; over 99% of these split-estate lands are under private surface ownership. In these situations, mineral rights are considered the dominant estate, meaning they take precedence over other rights associated with the property, including those associated with owning the surface. However, the mineral owner must show due regard for the interests of the surface estate owner and occupy only those portions of the surface that are reasonably necessary to develop the mineral estate.

Minerals managed by BLM are categorized as leasable, salable, or locatable depending on the laws under which they are managed. Although similar in many ways, each classification is administered differently and has different requirements for acquisition, exploration, and development.

3.3.6.1. Leasable Minerals

Leasable minerals can be explored for and developed under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended; other leasing acts; and regulations 43 CFR 3100, 3200, 3400, and 3500. Leasable minerals include energy minerals such as oil, gas, coal, geothermal steam, and associated geothermal resources. Leasable minerals also include some non-energy minerals such as phosphate, sodium, potassium, and sulfur. All minerals on acquired lands are leasable. BLM has discretionary authority to lease mineral resources for exploration and development. Where the Federal government owns the mineral estate and an agency other than BLM manages the surface, BLM will consult with that agency prior to leasing or approving an operations plan. In some situations, BLM must obtain concurrence as required by law.

BLM-managed mineral estate underlying the Saylor Creek Range, Juniper Butte Range, and Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument (118,000 acres total) is closed to mineral leasing by statute or PLO (PLO 1027, PLO 4902, Public Law [PL] 105-261, and PL 100-696, respectively).

There is currently no leasable mineral activity within the planning area. As described in the Oil and Gas Potential Report (BLM, 2009b), three wells were drilled in 1950 for the purpose of exploring for oil and gas in the planning area, all in the extreme northwest corner; no showings of gas or oil were encountered at any interval in any of the three wells, the deepest of which was drilled to 3,808 feet. Another well approximately 8 miles north of the planning area was drilled to a depth of 9,678 feet, but did not encounter oil or gas. Based on the geology of the planning area and where interest in leasing has recently been expressed, the areas with potential for oil and gas leasing in the planning area include the Cedar Creek/China Mountain areas and the northwest corner of the planning area (Map 90); these areas are referred to as the potential oil and gas areas. However, even though the potential for leasing in these areas is slightly higher than the potential in the rest of the planning area, the potential is still considered to be low. Appendix U contains the Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario (RFDS) for oil and gas resources in the planning area.

There are no wells in the planning area for geothermal power, only wells on private land for direct use for aquaculture, recreation, and heating. Other wells within the planning area that encountered geothermal water were drilled for other purposes, such as irrigation. As described in the Geothermal Potential Report (BLM, 2009a), the area near Bruneau Hot Springs, determined to have high potential for geothermal

resources, has high potential for leasing. There is also potential for leasing in the northern third of the planning area, determined to have medium potential for geothermal resources (Map 91); these areas with high and medium potential are referred to as potential geothermal areas. The probability of full geothermal resource development and production occurring in the planning area during the next 20 years is higher than for oil and gas development but still considered low. Appendix V contains the RFDS for geothermal resources in the planning area.

No deposits of coal or oil shale are known to exist in the planning area, and no commercially valuable deposits of other leasable minerals such as sodium and phosphate have been identified.

3.3.6.2. Salable Minerals

BLM manages salable minerals under the Materials Act of July 31, 1947 as amended (30 USC 601 *et seq.*), and as amended by the Acts of July 23, 1955 (69 Stat. 367), and September 28, 1962 (PL 87-713) and under regulations 43 CFR 3600. Salable minerals, or mineral materials, are common varieties of minerals and building materials such as sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, cinders, and clay. Generally, salable minerals are widespread, of low unit value, and often used for construction or landscaping materials. Their value depends largely on market factors, quality of the material, availability of transportation, and transportation costs. BLM has the discretionary authority to dispose of salable mineral materials either through a contract of sale or a free use permit.

BLM-managed mineral estate underlying the Saylor Creek Range, Juniper Butte Range, and Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument (118,000 acres total) is closed to salable mineral development by statute or PLO (PLO 1027, PLO 4902, PL 105-261, and PL 100-696, respectively).

There is ongoing use of salable minerals at several locations in the planning area. Two community pits for rhyolite are located in the Browns Bench and China Creek areas. Community gravel pits include the Balanced Rock North, Big Flat Creek, Magic Waters, and Pasadena Valley #1 Pits. Highway districts use gravel from the Big Flat Creek, Magic Waters, Devil Creek, and Three Island Pits. BLM and highway districts continue to develop sources of sand and gravel for road maintenance projects.

The 1987 RMP identified 700 acres for salable mineral development, with a provision that allowed additional new sites to be developed as well. There are currently 1,300 acres within the planning area being used for salable mineral operations of all types. It is expected that demand for salable minerals will continue through the life of the plan and that once salable minerals in the existing pits are exhausted, additional pits would be developed. However, based on the anticipated demand in the No Action Alternative and Alternatives I, IV, and V, new pits are not expected to exceed a total of 1,000 acres; even with the higher anticipated demand in Alternatives II and III, new pits are not expected to exceed a total of 2,000 acres under those scenarios.

3.3.6.3. Locatable Minerals

Locatable minerals, those not classified as leasable or salable, are managed under the General Mining Law of 1872 (17 Stat. 91, as amended) and regulations at 43 CFR 3700 and 3800. They include gold, silver, copper, gem stones, lead, zinc, barite, gypsum, certain varieties of high-calcium limestone, and other uncommon variety minerals. The General Mining Law of 1872 provides United States citizens the right to prospect, explore, and develop these minerals on public domain lands not withdrawn from mineral entry by Congress or the Secretary of the Interior.

BLM-managed mineral estate underlying the Saylor Creek Range, Juniper Butte Range, and Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument (118,000 acres total) is withdrawn from mineral entry by statute or PLO (PLO 1027, PLO 4902, PL 105-261, and PL 100-696, respectively).

Exploration for and development of locatable mineral resources under the General Mining Law of 1872 are nondiscretionary activities, meaning the BLM cannot prohibit reasonably necessary activities required for the prospecting, exploration, and development of valuable locatable mineral deposits. Since the January 1, 1981, issuance of 43 CFR 3809 regulations, the BLM has had the authority to regulate these

activities and require mitigation or changes in operational practices to ensure activities do not result in "unnecessary or undue" degradation of the environment (43 CFR 3809.4). The 43 CFR 3809 regulations ensure a proposed mineral exploration or development activity conforms to reasonable industry standards for that type of activity, based on the appropriate stage of operation development. If the BLM concludes the proposed activity is not reasonable, it would not be approved under 43 CFR 3809.

A variety of locatable minerals are found within the planning area due to its geologic diversity; however, the area generally lacks any known large, economically viable metallic deposits. There 19 active mining claims in and adjacent to the planning area; fewer than 100 acres are affected by these claims. Seven of

these active mining claims are for lode claims for Bruneau jasper, a semi-precious decorative stone; all seven are in the Bruneau Canyon at Indian Hot Springs.

Precious metal deposits, which consist of gold and silver, are rare in the planning area; there are no active precious metal mines in the planning area and no known commercially viable deposits. The Snake River contains placer deposits from American Falls Reservoir downstream to the Idaho/Oregon border. There are 12 active claims (four lode claims and eight placer claims) for gold in or adjacent to the planning area, along the lower Bruneau River, the Snake River, and Salmon Falls Creek. Recreational panning and placer mining for gold also occur in the planning area; the State of Idaho administers permits for mechanized gold collection, or dredging, in rivers. There are numerous historic, non-active, mining claims, the majority of which are placer claims concentrated in the river drainages throughout the planning area.

Base metal deposits, which consist of copper, lead, zinc, manganese, and minor molybdenite, are rare in the planning area. There are no active base metal mines in operation and no known commercially viable deposits located within the planning area.

Industrial minerals are those utilized in industrial processes, such as limestone, zeolites, silica, sulfur, perlite, and peat. There is no current activity related to industrial minerals in the planning area.

3.4. SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

3.4.1. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

An ACEC is defined as an area "within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards" (FLPMA). The ACEC designation indicates that an area has values that meet criteria for relevance and importance and that special management has been established to protect those values.

An area meets relevance criteria if it contains one or more of the following:

- A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value, including, but not limited to, rare or sensitive archaeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native American tribes;
- A fish or wildlife resource, including, but not limited to, habitat for Endangered, Threatened, or BLM Sensitive species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity,
- A natural system or process, including, but not limited to, Endangered, Threatened, or BLM Sensitive plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian plant communities; or rare geologic features, or
- Natural hazards,[18] including, but not limited to, areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, or seismic activity.

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial importance and value in order to satisfy the importance criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following factors:

- More than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource;
- Qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change;
- Recognition as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA;
- Qualities that warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety or public welfare; or
- A significant threat to human life and safety or to property exists.

The ACEC designation does not automatically or necessarily result in exclusion of uses. Special management within an ACEC is specific to the relevant and important values of that ACEC and the threats to the quality and integrity of those values. In other words, the level of special management required varies by ACEC depending on its relevant and important values and the need for management to maintain or enhance those values. As a result, a specific use may need to be excluded in one ACEC if it presents a threat to its relevant and important values, while that same use may be allowed in another ACEC if it does not present a threat.

Full descriptions of each existing and proposed ACEC, including maps, the relevant and important values that may be affected by management proposed in Chapter 2, and existing and potential threats to those values, can be found in Appendix W. A summary of the relevant and important values for existing and proposed ACECs are described below.

Existing ACECs

Three ACECs were designated in the planning area under the 1987 Jarbidge RMP.

[18] No existing or proposed ACECs contain natural hazards that meet criteria for relevance and importance; therefore, this value is not discussed further.

Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC

The Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC contains 85,000 acres of BLM-managed land in the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons and the surrounding uplands. The ACEC is located along the Bruneau River from near Crowbar Gulch upstream to the Jarbidge FO boundary, along the Jarbidge River from the Bruneau River confluence to the Buck Creek confluence, and along the East Fork of the Jarbidge River from the Jarbidge River confluence to the FO boundary. Portions of Clover, Deep, Cougar, Dorsey, Columbet, and Dave Creeks are within the ACEC.

Values meeting relevance and importance criteria include cultural values, scenic values, fish and wildlife resources (bighorn sheep, bull trout, and redband trout), and natural systems or processes (Bruneau River phlox and the riparian system).

Regionally significant cultural resources are present within the ACEC. Native American use of the area extends back thousands of years. While the canyonlands provided food, shelter, and water, the adjacent uplands also served as travel corridors between winter villages along the Snake and lower Bruneau Rivers and summer camps in the Jarbidge and Owyhee Uplands. The area retains traditional cultural importance for the tribes. Many sites are also important for their archaeological value.

Scenic values in the Jarbidge and Bruneau Canyons are outstanding and have been recommended suitable for WSR designation. The canyon complex has exceptional rugged-desert scenery and natural qualities, including both basalt and rhyolite forms of volcanic material. The canyons plunge from 300 to over 900 feet from the adjacent upland plateaus to the rivers below. Arch Canyon contains a unique, large, natural arch composed of rhyolite spanning Cougar Creek.

The ACEC contains over 100 miles of canyonland habitat for bighorn sheep, a Type 3 BLM Sensitive species. This is nearly all the bighorn sheep habitat within the planning area. The bighorn sheep population within the ACEC is estimated to be approximately 200 sheep. The canyonlands provide secure lambing habitat. The rivers in the canyon bottoms, as well as occasional seeps from canyon walls, provide water. Bighorn sheep forage is available in both the canyons and adjacent uplands.

The 1987 Jarbidge RMP did not address bull trout; likely, the species was not known to be present within the ACEC boundary. However, the ACEC contains about 2 miles of spawning and rearing habitat and over 9 miles of migratory habitat for resident and migratory (fluvial) bull trout, which are listed as Threatened under ESA and are a Type 1 BLM Sensitive species. The Jarbidge River Distinct Population Segment is the southern-most surviving population of bull trout in North America (FWS, 2004), occurring in a portion of southern Idaho and northern Nevada, and is isolated from other bull trout populations by numerous dams. Bull trout in this area are unique in their arid environmental setting.

The ACEC contains habitat for redband trout, a Type 2 BLM Sensitive species, in four stream reaches, the Bruneau River, the Jarbidge River and its East Fork, and Dave Creek. These redband trout are adapted to both the colder streams that are critical for bull trout and the warmer, low elevation streams such as the lower Jarbidge River and Bruneau River. These populations of redband trout are also unique in that the occupied streams within the ACEC lack migration barriers that prevent redband from moving between streams, unlike most of the other redband trout streams within the planning area.

Five of the six Idaho populations of Bruneau River phlox, a Type 3 BLM Sensitive species, occur within the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons within the ACEC; two additional populations can be found in Nevada. Bruneau River phlox has a total estimated population of 500 plants.

The Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers are two of the longest free-flowing streams in southern Idaho; over 90 miles of these rivers occur within the ACEC. The majority of other desert rivers in southern Idaho, including the Snake and Owyhee Rivers and Salmon Falls Creek, contain dams. The riparian systems in the ACEC are also unique in that they are typically dominated by Rocky Mountain juniper with interspersed quaking aspen and a few pockets of cottonwood. In addition, riparian zones on BLM portions of lower Dave Creek, as well as the Jarbidge River and its East Fork, and portions of the Bruneau River

(from about 0.5 miles downstream of Indian Hot Springs almost to the Bruneau Valley) are ungrazed, as the topography limits access.

Salmon Falls Creek ACEC

The Salmon Falls Creek ACEC encompasses 2,700 acres of BLM-managed land. The ACEC is located along Salmon Falls Creek from the Jarbidge FO boundary to the west canyon rim, extending from Balanced Rock Crossing Park south to the private land near Salmon Falls Creek Dam.

Values meeting relevance and importance criteria include scenic values, fish resources (redband trout), and natural systems or processes (upland vegetation).

The scenic values of Salmon Falls Creek ACEC are strongly influenced by the geology of the area and the high quality of the native vegetation communities. The ACEC contains the easternmost deep canyon in Idaho. In some areas, basalt lava flows are separated by layers of sediment. Other areas of the canyon are dominated by rhyolite columns and spires. A few springs on the lower portion of canyon walls provide a contrast with the dominant upland vegetation.

Salmon Falls Creek supports a population of redband trout. The redband trout population within the ACEC is especially fragile, given that it is an isolated population in poor habitat. The flow alteration within the canyon has generally eliminated flushing flows, enhancing the collection of sediment in portions of the canyon. The lack of flushing flows has reduced the quality of the aquatic habitat for redband trout.

The upland vegetation communities within the ACEC are unique because they are relatively undisturbed and have been relatively unaffected by humans. The canyon has upland plant communities at or near the PNC, including Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass sites and some late seral riparian areas. There are few areas within southern Idaho, especially that are close to human population centers, where human uses are not the primary forces influencing the vegetation community. The lands have not been grazed by livestock, and over 95% of the ACEC has not burned in the last 20 years. There are no travel routes within the canyon, and recreational use of the area is low.

Sand Point ACEC

The Sand Point ACEC encompasses 810 acres of BLM-managed lands. The ACEC is located south of the Snake River near Hammett, Idaho. The ACEC extends from the high water mark along the Snake River about 0.5 to 0.75 miles south into the upland plateau.

Values meeting relevance and importance criteria include historic and cultural values and natural systems or processes (paleontological and geological resources).

The Sand Point area, within the Glenns Ferry Formation region, lies between the Hagerman locality to the east and the Chalk Flat and Grandview localities to the west in elevation and time. This geologic formation is important for understanding the paleogeography of this part of western North America during the late Cenozoic Era.

The ACEC contains 1.3 miles of Oregon Trail ruts and the south bank landing for the Medbury Ferry. This site represents a unique opportunity to protect a type of culturally and historically significant site that has been damaged or destroyed in other areas through development and agricultural use.

Several large prehistoric archaeological sites are located within the ACEC. The ACEC contains archaeological sites in a riverside setting that meet National Register eligibility criteria. Their importance is enhanced because most similar sites in the region are in private ownership and have been altered by agricultural development.

The Sand Point area contains one of the largest concentrations of Blancan Age (3 million years old) freshwater snail and clam fossils in the United States. Fish and mammal fossils are also present. The scientific importance of the Sand Point fossils and their geologic context has been recognized since their original discovery in 1902.

Proposed ACECs

Several ACECs were nominated for the revised Jarbidge RMP and were found to meet criteria for relevance and importance; these proposed ACECs are described below.

Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC – Expanded Boundary

In additional to the existing boundary, two new boundary configurations of the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACECs were nominated, an ACEC with an expanded boundary and an ACEC with a reduced boundary.

The proposed extensions to the existing Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC would encompass about 38,000 acres of BLM-managed land; if added to the existing ACEC, the new ACEC would total 123,000 acres of BLM-managed land. The proposed extensions include the remainder of the Jarbidge River and Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSAs not already within the existing ACEC, as well as bull trout habitat along the Jarbidge River south of the Jarbidge Forks, Dave Creek, Jack Creek, and Buck Creek. The eastern boundary of the existing ACEC south of Three Creek Highway would be modified to follow a road.

The same values meet relevance and importance criteria in the proposed extensions as in the existing ACEC, with the addition of Davis peppergrass as a component of natural systems or processes. The differences between the relevant and important values in the proposed extensions and those present in the existing Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC are discussed below.

Numerous regionally significant archaeological sites are located within the proposed extensions to the existing ACEC. Many sites associated with playas suggest a unique adaptation to the arid uplands, which involved transplanting stream-adapted shellfish to seasonal lakes to augment food supplies.

In addition to the scenic values for the existing Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC, the Jarbidge River south of the Jarbidge Forks contains numerous rhyolite columns, spires, and a few window rocks that are visible from the Jarbidge Road. Aspen are present on some of the hillsides and draws. The majority of the Jarbidge River riparian zone contains a mix of juniper, willows, dogwood, with some cottonwood and limber pine.

The proposed extensions to the existing ACEC would add the remaining bighorn sheep habitat in the planning area, about 7 additional miles of canyons, to the ACEC.

The proposed extensions would cover the remaining BLM-managed portion of Dave Creek, which is crucial spawning, rearing, foraging, migratory, and overwintering habitat for bull trout within the Jarbidge River system (FWS, 2004). The proposed extensions to the existing ACEC would also include migratory bull trout habitat on the Jarbidge River south of the Jarbidge Forks and all of the BLM-managed portions of Jack Creek, one of the spawning streams in the Jarbidge River watershed. These areas total approximately 8 miles of streams with bull trout habitat.

The proposed extensions to the existing ACEC would add occupied redband trout habitat to the existing ACEC, including habitat in the Jarbidge River above the confluence with the East Fork, Dave Creek, and Deer Creek (NV).

Davis peppergrass, a Type 3 and NV BLM Sensitive species, is present in playas within the proposed extensions. Although the population of Davis peppergrass is declining range wide, the Bruneau-Jarbidge populations are a population stronghold. Davis peppergrass is limited in its distribution to portions of southeastern Oregon, south-central Idaho, and north-central Nevada, with the majority of known populations occurring in Idaho. The species is restricted to a narrow suite of environmental conditions, occurring in playas on volcanic plains where the regional vegetation is dominated by big sagebrush and, to a lesser extent, shadscale.

The proposed extensions to the existing ACEC do not contain any additional populations of Bruneau River phlox; thus, the expanded boundary of the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC would still contain five of six Idaho populations of this species.

The Jarbidge River above the confluence with its East Fork, as well as Dave, Jack, and Deer Creeks, which are unrestricted and free-flowing on BLM-managed lands, would be included in the proposed extensions. Approximately 10 additional miles of riparian zone are included in the proposed extensions.

Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC – Reduced Boundary

The proposed reduced boundary of the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC would encompass 57,000 acres of BLM-managed land. The majority of the proposed ACEC lies within the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons; some of the adjacent uplands are included within the boundary as well. Portions of the existing ACEC that would not be included within this boundary include areas south of the Jarbidge River WSA on the Bruneau River, Jarbidge River and its East Fork, as well as areas north of Sheepshead Draw.

The same values meet relevance and importance criteria in the reduced boundary as in the existing ACEC, except bull trout habitat would no longer occur within the ACEC boundary. The differences between the relevant and important values in the reduced and the existing ACEC are discussed below.

The cultural and scenic values within the proposed reduced boundary of the ACEC are the same as those documented for the existing boundary of the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC.

The proposed ACEC contains approximately 45 miles of canyonland habitat for a population of bighorn sheep. The bighorn sheep values within the proposed reduced boundary of the ACEC are the same as those documented for the existing boundary of the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC; however, the proposed ACEC would contain roughly two-thirds of the occupied bighorn sheep habitat, the majority of the area where bighorn sheep are commonly observed. Roughly 16 miles of canyons and adjacent plateaus with occupied bighorn sheep habitat from Blackrock Pocket in the Bruneau Canyon northward would no longer be within the ACEC.

The known occupied bull trout habitat would no longer be within the boundary of the ACEC. The ACEC would contain occupied redband trout habitat in the Bruneau River and the Jarbidge River below the confluence with the East Fork; however, occupied redband trout habitat within the East Fork of the Jarbidge River and Dave Creek would no longer be within the ACEC.

The Bruneau River phlox values within the proposed reduced boundary of the ACEC are the same as those documented for the existing boundary of the Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC; however, one population would no longer be in the ACEC if the boundary were reduced.

The proposed ACEC would contain fewer than 45 miles of free-flowing reaches of the Bruneau and Jarbidge Rivers and would no longer contain riparian systems dominated by Rocky Mountain juniper.

Inside Desert ACEC – Large Boundary

Two boundary configurations of the Inside Desert ACECs were nominated, an ACEC with a large boundary and an ACEC with a small boundary.

The proposed large boundary of the Inside Desert ACEC would encompass 73,000 acres of BLM-managed land. The proposed ACEC would be located between Clover Creek and the Jarbidge River and from Clover Butte south to approximately Poison Butte and would be adjacent to the Juniper Butte Range. The proposed large ACEC boundary was drawn along existing pasture fences to make the proposed ACEC manageable.

Values meeting relevance and importance criteria include natural systems or processes (slickspot peppergrass).

Slickspot peppergrass is a rare, annual or biennial forb endemic to sagebrush steppe in southwestern Idaho (Moseley, 1994). Slickspot peppergrass is a Type 1 BLM Sensitive species that is Proposed for listing as Endangered under ESA. The proposed large boundary of the Inside Desert ACEC contains high quality habitat for slickspot peppergrass, which is characterized by intact sagebrush steppe, low abundance of non-native species, and low levels of human-caused disturbances (Colket, 2006; FWS,

2003; Moseley, 1994). The population of slickspot peppergrass in the proposed ACEC is the most genetically diverse of the known slickspot peppergrass populations. The proposed ACEC contains over 90% of the occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat in the planning area and the largest contiguous habitat within the range of the species.

Inside Desert ACEC – Small Boundary

The proposed small boundary of the Inside Desert ACEC would encompass 41,000 acres of BLM-managed land. The proposed ACEC would be located from Clover Butte south to approximately Middle Butte in several pastures near the Juniper Butte Range.

The slickspot peppergrass values within the small boundary of the proposed ACEC are the same as those documented for the large boundary of the proposed Inside Desert ACEC; however, the small boundary would encompass only 50% of occupied slickspots in the planning area.

Jarbidge Foothills ACEC – Large Boundary

Two boundary configurations of the Jarbidge Foothills ACECs were nominated, an ACEC with a large boundary and an ACEC with a small boundary.

The proposed large boundary of the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC would encompass 136,000 acres of BLM-managed land in the southern third of the planning area. The boundary would run from the canyon of the East Fork of the Jarbidge River to Salmon Falls Creek and from Three Creek Highway to the southern boundary of the Jarbidge FO.

Values meeting relevance and importance criteria include cultural values, fish or wildlife resources (redband trout, spotted frog, sage-grouse), and natural systems or processes (upland vegetation).

Regionally significant cultural resources are located throughout the proposed ACEC area. The Jarbidge Foothills area was used extensively by Native Americans for thousands of years. For the tribes, many of the sites created by this use serve as important links to ancestral lifeways and play a critical role in maintaining traditional tribal culture. In addition, many of the sites contain important archaeological information concerning human adaptation to the semi-arid environment of southern Idaho over time.

The area contains 13 of the 24 streams occupied by redband trout within the planning area. Redband trout in the Jarbidge Foothills exist in isolated populations, or strongholds, that are unable to migrate to adjacent suitable habitats when threatened by low streamflow conditions or other environmental disturbance such as wildland fire. Several of the streams within the proposed ACEC (Deadwood, Deer [ID], Cedar, Flat, Deadman) lack or have limited connectivity with other streams. Due to the lack of connectivity between the redband trout occupied streams, these fish are vulnerable to population declines.

The proposed large boundary of the ACEC would contain all known occupied habitat for spotted frog (a Candidate and Type 1 and NV BLM Sensitive species) within the planning area. The species was originally categorized as a Candidate-9 but has been elevated to Candidate-3 by FWS. Spotted frog populations are part of a larger, but fragmented, population of spotted frogs in northern Nevada. Spotted frogs are presently found only on less than 1,000 acres of the planning area in two areas of Shack and Rocky Canyon Creeks. Potentially suitable habitat occurs in several other drainages (House, China, Cedar, and Flat Creeks) within the proposed ACEC.

The Browns Bench/Monument Springs area within the proposed ACEC is a regionally important stronghold area for sage-grouse, a Type 2 BLM Sensitive species. The proposed ACEC maintains the connectivity between sage-grouse populations in Nevada and the Shoshone Basin. Sage-grouse habitat in this area has remained relatively intact and has generally not been fragmented by wildland fire. The changes in elevation and plant communities provide quality late-brood habitat for sage-grouse. Both resident and migratory sage-grouse are present in the area. The large boundary of the proposed ACEC would contain 90,000 acres of key sage-grouse habitat, including important wintering and breeding

habitat. At least 14 active sage-grouse leks, associated satellite leks, and sage-grouse nesting habitat are present within the large boundary of the proposed ACEC.

The proposed ACEC contains one of the last large, contiguous blocks of high-quality sagebrush steppe habitat in the planning area. Although there are other blocks of similar size and quality within the region, the habitat within the proposed ACEC is important for maintaining connectivity between other regional blocks of habitat. Some of the late-seral range sites in the planning area occur within the proposed ACEC. Plant communities in the proposed ACEC include aspen woodlands, mountain mahogany woodlands, high elevation low sagebrush, black sagebrush, mountain shrub, mountain big sagebrush, riparian zones, and salt desert shrub.

Jarbidge Foothills ACEC – Small Boundary

The proposed small boundary of the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC would encompass 66,000 acres of BLM-managed land and would be located in the southeast corner of the planning area. The boundary would run from Salmon Falls Creek west to the House Creek Allotment, and from Three Creek Highway south to the southern boundary of Jarbidge FO. This boundary for the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC would focus management on a block of primarily BLM-managed lands and would reduce the amount of private land that would be in the ACEC boundary.

The same values meet relevance and importance criteria in the small boundary of the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC as in the large boundary, except spotted frog would no longer occur within the ACEC boundary. The differences between the relevant and important values in the small and large boundary of the Jarbidge Foothills ACEC are discussed below.

The cultural values within the small boundary of the proposed ACEC are the same as those documented for the large boundary of the proposed Jarbidge Foothills ACEC.

Redband trout only occur in three creeks within the small boundary of the proposed ACEC: Cedar Creek, Salmon Falls Creek, and portions of China Creek; 10 additional streams with redband trout that occur in the large boundary would not be included in the small boundary of the ACEC.

The sage-grouse values within the small boundary of the proposed ACEC are the same as those documented for the large boundary of the proposed Jarbidge Foothills ACEC. However, the small boundary of the proposed ACEC would only contain 47,000 acres of key sage-grouse habitat. At least 10 active sage-grouse leks, associated satellite leks, and sage-grouse nesting habitat are present within the small boundary of the proposed ACEC.

The upland vegetation values within the small boundary of the proposed ACEC are the same as those documented for the large boundary of the proposed Jarbidge Foothills ACEC. However, some of the other large blocks of high-quality sagebrush steppe habitat outside small boundary of the proposed ACEC contain substantially greater amounts of private land.

Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC

The proposed Lower Bruneau Canyon ACEC would encompass 1,100 acres of BLM-managed land. The proposed ACEC would be located along the lower Bruneau River within the northernmost portion of the Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA.

Values meeting relevance and importance criteria include fish or wildlife resources (Bruneau Hot springsnail) and natural systems or processes (special status plants and thermal seeps and springs).

The Bruneau Hot springsnail was listed as an Endangered species in 1998 (FWS, 1998) and is a Type 1 BLM Sensitive species. Geothermally influenced seeps and springs in the Bruneau River and one of its tributaries (Hot Creek, outside of the planning area) are the only locations where this species occurs in the world. The proposed ACEC would protect the geothermal springs on the east side of the Bruneau River, which is the entire suitable hot springsnail habitat in the Jarbidge FO. Approximately one-third of the global population of these snails exists within the proposed ACEC.

Numerous BLM Sensitive plant species occur in the area including Packard's cowpie buckwheat (Type 3) and spine-node milkvetch (Type 4) – both perennials, and rigid threadbush (Type 4), spreading gilia (Type 3), and white-margin waxplant (Type 4) – all annuals. One of six Idaho populations of Bruneau River phlox (Type 3 and NV) occurs in the canyon itself. This high concentration of special status plants is unique; this assemblage of species does not occur elsewhere in Idaho.

Thermal springs and seeps are present within the proposed ACEC, supporting the Bruneau Hot springsnail. Since the early 1990s, the water flows at the thermal springs and seeps have declined, reducing habitat for this Endangered species. The Bruneau Hot springsnail has evolved to occupy these unique spring habitats and is sensitive to actions that affect the surface flows from the springs, the temperature of the spring, or the substrates within the springs.

Middle Snake ACEC

The proposed Middle Snake ACEC would encompass 7,500 acres of BLM-managed lands; these lands are separated in several areas by blocks of private land. The proposed ACEC would be located from an area southeast of King Hill to the Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument. The proposed ACEC would extend from the Jarbidge FO boundary in the Snake River to the canyon rim or to existing fences on the adjacent uplands.

Values meeting relevance and importance criteria include fish or wildlife resources (Snake River snails, Shoshone sculpin, and white sturgeon) and natural systems or processes (special status plants).

A portion of the global population of the Snake River physa (Endangered, Type 1 BLM Sensitive) and the majority of the global population of the Bliss Rapids snail (Threatened, Type 1) reside in the Snake River within the proposed ACEC. Both snails are primarily in the eastern portion of the proposed ACEC. Other special status mollusks found in the Snake River within the proposed ACEC include the California floater (Type 3), Columbia pebblesnail (Type 3), and short-face lanx (Type 2). This reach of the Snake River also contains a portion of the occupied habitat of the Utah valvata snail (Type 1), which is currently listed as Endangered but is being reviewed by FWS for possible delisting. This reach of the Snake River was identified in the *Snake River Aquatic Species Recovery Plan* as the recovery area for these species (FWS, 1995).

Shoshone sculpin are a Type 2 BLM Sensitive species found in approximately two dozen springs or streams in the Hagerman Valley area of southern Idaho and are found nowhere else in the world (Griffith & Daley, 1984). Most of the known locations of Shoshone sculpin are outside of the proposed ACEC and the planning area, but there is one spring on the south side of the Snake River within the proposed ACEC, just upstream of Bliss Bridge, where a moderate-sized population was discovered (Griffith & Daley, 1984). The spring source where Shoshone sculpin have been found is the only habitat that is suitable to support this native fish in the planning area.

White sturgeon, a Type 2 BLM Sensitive species, are present in the free-flowing reach of the Snake River downstream from the Bliss Dam. The proposed ACEC covers the majority of spawning habitat for white sturgeon in the planning area including the upper-most reach of the Snake River with a self-sustaining population of sturgeon. Because of the free-flowing nature of this reach, sturgeon are able to reproduce naturally and do not require hatchery supplementation to sustain the population. While the habitat is not the best within range for white sturgeon, this segment contains the best habitat in the upper Snake River.

The Snake River breaks in this area contain a mixture of soils. The mix of old lake bed sediments and volcanic soils provides habitat to a number of uncommon plants including the following presently categorized as special status species: calcareous buckwheat (Type 3), Greeley's wave-wing (Type 3), Janish penstemon (Type 3), matted cowpie buckwheat (Type 3), and Snake River milkvetch (Type 4). A few other plant species (e.g., desert dandelion and Torrey's blazingstar) formerly on the Idaho BLM Sensitive List are also present in the proposed ACEC.

Sagebrush Sea ACEC

The Sagebrush Sea ACEC would encompass 958,000 acres of BLM-managed land, roughly the southern two-thirds of the planning area. It would extend from the Bruneau River on the west to Salmon Falls Creek on the east. Its southern boundary would follow the southern boundary of the Jarbidge FO. The northern boundary would follow the road that runs from Balanced Rock to Crows Nest to Clover Crossing, then follow Clover Creek along its east and north canyon rims to Clover Creek's confluence with the Bruneau River.

Values meeting relevance and importance criteria include cultural values, fish or wildlife resources (bull trout, redband trout, spotted frog, sage-grouse, and bighorn sheep), and natural systems or processes (slickspot peppergrass, Davis peppergrass, and Bruneau River phlox).

Due to its size, the proposed ACEC contains numerous archaeological sites. The distribution of the numerous regionally significant archaeological sites present is not uniform; site density varies by terrain and proximity to critical resources. In general, the canyonland and foothill areas of the Sagebrush Sea are most sensitive. Many sites have traditional cultural relevance to the tribes and are also important for their scientific value.

The proposed ACEC contains all known occupied habitat for Jarbidge River bull trout within the planning area for both resident and migratory (fluvial) bull trout. In addition, the area contains all 24 streams occupied by redband trout within the planning area, including the perennial streams in the Jarbidge Foothills and most of the perennial streams in the Jarbidge River and Salmon Falls Creek watersheds. The area contains all known occupied habitat for spotted frog within the planning area. However, habitat for all three of these species occurs in only a portion of the proposed ACEC.

The proposed ACEC would contain the vast majority of the active sage-grouse leks and their winter and nesting habitat. The proposed ACEC would contain 252,000 acres of key sage-grouse habitat, nearly 90% of the key sage-grouse habitat within the planning area. There are currently 39 active sage-grouse leks, associated satellite leks, and sage-grouse nesting habitat present within the proposed ACEC.

The proposed ACEC would encompass all habitat used by bighorn sheep. Bighorn sheep habitat in the Bruneau and Jarbidge Canyons accounts for less than 10% of the proposed ACEC, as the majority of the proposed ACEC is not generally suitable for bighorn sheep.

The proposed ACEC would cover all known occupied habitat for slickspot peppergrass and Davis peppergrass in the planning area and five of the six Idaho populations of Bruneau River phlox. However, these species are each found in only a small portion (less than 10%) of the proposed ACEC.

Sand Point ACEC – Expanded Boundary

One additional boundary configuration of the Sand Point ACEC was nominated. The proposed expanded boundary of the Sand Point ACEC would include the 810 acres of the existing Sand Point ACEC as well as the Morgan property, an additional 140 acres between the existing ACEC and the Snake River. The Morgan property was acquired by BLM in 2002 because the relevant and important values in the existing ACEC extended onto this property and the previous landowner wanted these values preserved.

The same values meet relevance and importance criteria in the proposed expanded boundary of the Sand Point ACEC as in the existing ACEC. The differences between the relevant and important values in the expanded boundary and the existing Sand Point ACEC are discussed below.

The Morgan property extension would add 1 mile of Oregon Trail and the historic Morgan cabin to the ACEC. Several large prehistoric archaeological sites are also located within the Morgan property extension. The Morgan property extension contains archaeological sites in a riverside setting that meet National Register eligibility criteria.

The Morgan property extension also contains paleontological resources for which the Sand Point area is known. The extension would add two known paleontological sites to the existing ACEC as well as additional acreage of the Glenns Ferry Formation.

Summary of Relevant and Important Values

ACEC designation is a management decision that impacts relevant and important values in areas nominated for ACEC designation. Thus, the affected components of ACECs are the values that meet criteria for relevance and importance under any existing or proposed ACEC, rather than the ACEC designation itself.

Table 3- 46 displays the total acreage of each relevant and important value that occurs within an existing or proposed ACEC. These acreages represent the maximum area in which each value could be managed for through designation of an existing or proposed ACEC.

Unless otherwise noted, the acres of each value consist of the footprint acres of the existing and proposed ACECs in which that value meets relevance and importance criteria. However, the Sagebrush Sea ACEC does not contain any additional habitat for bull trout, redband trout, spotted frog, bighorn sheep, slickspot peppergrass, Davis peppergrass, or Bruneau River phlox beyond what is contained in the other ACECs with these relevant and important values; therefore, the Sagebrush Sea ACEC acres were not used to calculate acres for those values. Other adjustments to the footprint acres of each relevant and important value were made as follows:

- Because the entire acreage of the Sagebrush Sea ACEC is not likely to contain cultural values, acres of the ACEC within the high density zone for cultural resources were used rather than the total acreage of the ACEC.
- Because the reduced Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC does not contain bull trout habitat, acres of the reduced Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC were subtracted from the acreage of the expanded ACEC.
- Because the small Jarbidge Foothills ACEC does not contain spotted frog habitat, acres of the small Jarbidge Foothills ACEC were subtracted from the acreage of the large ACEC.
- Because only a portion of the Sagebrush Sea ACEC and the large and small Jarbidge Foothills ACECs contains key sage-grouse habitat, acres of key sage-grouse habitat within those ACECs were used rather than the total footprint acres of those ACECs.
- Because the existing and reduced Bruneau-Jarbidge ACECs do not contain Davis peppergrass, only the acres of the expanded ACEC outside the other Bruneau-Jarbidge boundaries were used.
- Because the expanded Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC does not contain any additional Bruneau River phlox habitat beyond what is contained in the existing Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC, the expanded Bruneau-Jarbidge ACEC acres were not used to calculate acres for this value.

Table 3- 46. Acres with Values Meeting Relevance and Importance Criteria in Existing or Proposed ACECs

Value		Existing and proposed ACEC(s) in which Value Meets Relevance and Importance Criteria	Acres in Existing or Proposed ACECs
Historic Values		Sand Point (existing, expanded)	950
Cultural Values		Bruneau-Jarbidge (existing, expanded, reduced) Sand Point (existing, expanded) Jarbidge Foothills (large, small) Sagebrush Sea	635,000
Scenic Values		Bruneau-Jarbidge (existing, expanded, reduced) Salmon Falls Creek	135,000
Fish or Wildlife Resources	Bruneau hot springsnail	Lower Bruneau Canyon	1,100
	Snake River snails	Middle Snake	7,500
	Shoshone sculpin	Middle Snake	7,500
	White sturgeon	Middle Snake	7,500
	Bull trout	Bruneau-Jarbidge (existing, expanded) Sagebrush Sea	71,000
	Redband trout	Bruneau-Jarbidge (existing, expanded, reduced) Salmon Falls Creek Jarbidge Foothills (large, small) Sagebrush Sea	271,000
	Columbia spotted frog	Jarbidge Foothills (large) Sagebrush Sea	70,000
	Sage-grouse	Jarbidge Foothills (large, small) Sagebrush Sea	252,000
	California bighorn sheep	Bruneau-Jarbidge (existing, expanded, reduced) Sagebrush Sea	123,000
Natural Systems or Processes	Slickspot peppergrass	Inside Desert (large, small) Sagebrush Sea	73,000
	Davis peppergrass	Bruneau-Jarbidge (expanded) Sagebrush Sea	38,000
	Bruneau River phlox	Bruneau-Jarbidge (existing, expanded, reduced) Lower Bruneau Canyon Sagebrush Sea	86,000
	Special status plant assemblages	Lower Bruneau Canyon Middle Snake	8,500
	Upland vegetation	Salmon Falls Creek Jarbidge Foothills (large, small)	139,000
	Riparian systems	Bruneau-Jarbidge (existing, expanded, reduced)	132,000
	Paleontologic and geologic resources	Sand Point (existing, expanded)	950
	Thermal springs and seeps	Lower Bruneau Canyon	1,100

3.4.2. National Historic Trails (NHTs)

The Oregon Trail was designated an NHT under the National Trails System Act (NTSA) on November 10, 1978 (PL 95-625). The purpose of the NTSA is to promote preservation, public access, travel, enjoyment, and appreciation of designated trails. The Oregon NHT follows the primary route of the Oregon Trail based upon emigrant travel that occurred between 1841 and 1848. Those portions of the Oregon NHT on public land meeting the NTSA criteria for historical importance, national significance, and high potential for recreation or historic interpretation are called Federal protection components.

In the planning area, the trail closely follows the Snake River. The trail split at Three Island Crossing near Glenns Ferry; the main trail crossed over to the north side of the Snake River, while the South Alternate continued along the south bank of the Snake. In all, there are approximately 47 miles of the Oregon NHT managed by the Jarbidge FO. The Comprehensive Management and Use Plan for the Oregon NHT developed by the National Park Service identifies one high potential route segment and two high potential historic sites on BLM-managed land in the planning area. These include approximately 29 miles of the North Trail high potential segment, from the Elmore County line to Glenns Ferry, and the Thousand Springs Complex and Three Island Crossing high potential sites.

During the 20th century, portions of the Oregon Trail in the planning area were destroyed by agricultural development and highway construction projects. Prior to the passage of the NTSA, FLPMA, and NEPA, portions of the remaining trail's visual corridor were altered by the construction of major overhead transmission lines between Hagerman and Glenns Ferry. Since the mid-1980s, dedicated management and extensive trail marking have stemmed the loss and greatly reduced damage to trail resources. Trail conditions are generally good in remote, undeveloped settings. However, trail and visual corridor conditions have deteriorated in areas where cross-country motorized vehicle use overlaps with the historic route. The presence of livestock fences and water troughs and the alteration of native vegetation communities after wildland fires, especially conversion from native to annual communities, adjacent to the trail have affected the physical and visual setting of the Oregon NHT in isolated areas.

3.4.3. Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs)

Congress enacted the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA; 16 USC 1271-1287) on October 2, 1968, to address the need for a national system of river protection. As an outgrowth of a national conservation agenda in the 1950s and 1960s, the WSRA was a response to the dams, diversions, and water resource development projects that occurred on America's rivers between the 1930s and 1960s. The WSRA stipulates selected rivers should be preserved in a free-flowing condition and be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Since 1968, the WSRA has been amended many times, primarily to designate additional rivers and to authorize the study of other rivers for possible inclusion.

Section 5 (d) (1) of the WSRA directs Federal land management agencies to consider potential WSRs in their land and water planning processes, stating, "In all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all Federal agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic and recreational river areas." To fulfill this requirement, the BLM evaluates river and stream segments to determine whether might be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) whenever it undertakes a land use planning effort such as an RMP.

The WSRA seeks to protect and enhance a river's natural and cultural values and to provide for public use consistent with its free-flowing character, water quality, and Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs). Designation affords certain legal protection from development. For instance, new dams cannot be constructed, and Federally assisted water resource development projects that might negatively affect the designated river values are not permitted. Where non-Federal lands are involved, the managing Federal agency works with local governments and private landowners to develop protective measures.

Consideration of whether a river should be designated as a wild, scenic, or recreational river can be broken into two phases:

- **Determination of Eligibility** – Federal agencies conduct an evaluation of river features to determine which rivers qualify to be added to the NWSRS, and
- **Determination of Suitability** – Most commonly, Federal agencies conduct a review and then recommend to Congress which rivers should be protected. Only Congress can designate a river as wild, scenic, or recreational.

River segments determined to be eligible are assigned a tentative classification as wild, scenic, or recreational. These classifications are defined as follows:

- **Wild** – Wild river areas are those rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted.
- **Scenic** – Scenic river areas are those rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive or shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads. "Scenic" does not necessarily mean the river corridor has to have scenery as an ORV.
- **Recreational** – Recreational river areas are those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past. "Recreational" does not imply that the river will be managed or prioritized for recreational use or development or that the river corridor has to have recreation as an ORV.

There are no designated WSRs in the planning area. Several studies evaluated rivers within and forming the boundary of the planning area at varying levels of eligibility, classification, and suitability according to the requirements of the WSRA.

Section 5(a) of the WSRA listed the Bruneau River as one of 27 rivers to be considered for addition to the NWSRS. In 1973, 100 miles of the Bruneau River and tributaries in the planning area were found to be suitable for inclusion: 71 miles of the Bruneau River from Blackrock Crossing downstream to Hot Creek, and 29 miles of the Jarbidge River from the East Fork confluence downstream to the Bruneau River confluence. These segments were tentatively classified as wild, except for the upper 11 miles of the Bruneau River, which was tentatively classified as scenic.

WSR eligibility determinations and tentative classifications for Snake River segments were made in 1991 by the Shoshone District Office[19] for consideration within the Draft Bennett Hills RMP. Two of eligible segments of the Snake River are shared with the Jarbidge FO. Eight miles of the Snake River from Lower Salmon Falls Dam downstream to Bliss Dam Reservoir (the Hagerman Reach) and 13 miles of the river from Bliss Dam downstream to the King Hill Bridge (the King Hill Reach) were both found to be eligible and were tentatively classified as Recreational (Table 3- 47).

WSR eligibility and tentative classifications for Idaho segments of Salmon Falls Creek were initiated in 1992 by the Burley District Office[20]; eligibility determinations were finalized in 2009. These segments form the majority of the eastern boundary of the Jarbidge FO. Nine miles of Salmon Falls Creek from the Nevada border downstream to Salmon Falls Reservoir and 44 miles of Salmon Falls Creek from Salmon Falls Dam downstream to Balanced Rock Park were identified as eligible (Table 3- 47). The upper segment was tentatively classified as recreational and the lower segment as scenic.

An eligibility evaluation was conducted in 2007 on all river segments within and bordering the planning area not already determined eligible or suitable as part of the planning process for the Jarbidge RMP (Appendix X). River segments determined to be eligible as part of that evaluation, as well as their tentative classification, are contained in Table 3- 47. Eligible rivers and their corridors on Federal lands are provided interim protection until the suitability phase is complete. Rivers recommended as suitable are protected as potential additions to the NWSRS until Congress or the Secretary of the Interior determines whether the suitable river will be included. Rivers deemed nonsuitable by Congress revert to land management as described in the most recent RMP.

[19] The Shoshone District Office is now known as the Shoshone Field Office within the Twin Falls District.
[20] The Burley District Office is now known as the Burley Field Office within the Twin Falls District.

Table 3- 47. River Segments Eligible and Suitable for Inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System

River	Segment Description	Length (miles)	Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Tentative Classification	Current Status
Bruneau River, Upper [A]	Blackrock Crossing to 11 miles downstream	11	Cultural, Fish, Geological, Recreational, Scenic, Vegetation, Wildlife	Scenic	Suitable
Bruneau River [A]	11 miles downstream from Blackrock Crossing to Hot Creek	60	Cultural, Fish, Geological, Recreational, Scenic, Vegetation, Wildlife	Wild	Suitable
Cougar Point Creek [B]	Jarbidge FO boundary to East Fork, Jarbidge River confluence	1	Scenic	Wild	Eligible
Dave Creek [B]	Private boundary to East Fork, Jarbidge River confluence	3	Fish	Wild	Eligible
Jarbidge River [A]	East Fork, Jarbidge River confluence to Bruneau River confluence	29	Cultural, Fish, Geological, Recreational, Scenic, Vegetation, Wildlife	Wild	Suitable
Jarbidge River [B]	Jarbidge FO boundary to East Fork, Jarbidge River confluence	10	Fish, Scenic	Recreational	Eligible
East Fork Jarbidge River, South [B]	Jarbidge FO boundary to Murphy Hot Springs	7	Fish	Wild	Eligible
East Fork Jarbidge River, North [B]	Murphy Hot Springs to Jarbidge River confluence	2	Fish	Recreational	Eligible
Rocky Canyon Creek [B]	Headwaters to North Fork, Salmon Falls Creek confluence	2	Wildlife	Wild	Eligible
Salmon Falls Creek, Upper [C]	Nevada border to Salmon Falls Reservoir	9	Recreational	Recreational	Eligible
Salmon Falls Creek, Lower [C]	Salmon Falls Dam to Balanced Rock	30	Geological, Recreational, Scenic	Scenic	Eligible
Snake River, Hagerman Reach [D]	Lower Salmon Falls Dam to Bliss Dam Reservoir	8	Fish, Geological, Historical, Recreational, Wildlife	Recreational	Eligible
Snake River, King Hill Reach [D]	Bliss Dam to King Hill Bridge	13	Fish, Geological, Recreational, Wildlife	Recreational	Eligible
Snake River, Three Island Reach [B]	King Hill Bridge to Highway 51 Bridge	25	Cultural, Fish, Historical, Recreational	Recreational	Eligible

[A] Evaluation and study conducted in the Bruneau WSR Study (1976); outstandingly remarkable values for Bruneau and Jarbidge River segments were inferred from the narrative in the Bruneau WSR Study Report.
[B] Evaluation conducted as part of the current planning process (BLM, 2009d).
[C] Evaluation conducted by the Burley District Office in 1992 and finalized in 2009.
[D] Evaluation conducted by the Shoshone District Office as part of the Draft Bennett Hills RMP in 1991.

3.4.4. Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)

WSAs are lands with wilderness characteristics identified through the wilderness review required by Section 603 of FLPMA, Congressional legislation, or the land use planning process in Section 202 of FLPMA. WSAs are managed under the *Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review* (IMP; BLM Handbook H-8550-1) pending Congressional action. Wilderness characteristics are features of the land associated with the concept of wilderness, including naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation, that are reasonably present, of sufficient value, and practical to manage. An area with naturalness generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of human activity substantially unnoticeable. Solitude is the state of being alone, remote from habitation, or in a secluded place. A primitive and unconfined recreation experience is an activity that provides dispersed, undeveloped recreation that does not require facilities or motorized equipment.

Only Congress can designate WSAs as Wilderness or release them from interim management. Until such time as Congress acts, BLM must manage these lands in a manner so as not to impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness. Any WSA lands released from interim management are subject to specific release direction as stated in the release legislation. If the release legislation does not contain specific direction, released lands would be managed according to direction in the current RMP.

There are currently three WSAs in the planning area (Table 3- 48). The Jarbidge River WSA is located in Owyhee County, Idaho, and includes the Jarbidge River and lower West Fork of the Bruneau River. The Jarbidge River WSA contains lands managed by the Jarbidge and Bruneau FOs, including 64,000 acres of BLM-managed land in the planning area.

The Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA is located in Owyhee County, Idaho. The main stem of the Bruneau River and Sheep Creek are contained within this WSA. The Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA contains lands managed by the Jarbidge and Bruneau FOs, including 28,000 acres of BLM-managed land in the planning area.

The Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA is located in Twin Falls County, Idaho. This WSA includes Salmon Falls Creek from Salmon Dam downstream to the Lily Grade crossing. Lands of the Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA are located in the Jarbidge and Burley FOs, including 2,000 acres of BLM-managed land in the planning area.

Table 3- 48. Wilderness Study Areas in the Planning Area

Wilderness Study Area	BLM-Managed Acres	Acres in the Planning Area
Jarbidge River WSA	71,000	64,000
Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA	101,000	28,000
Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA	3,000	2,000

3.5. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FEATURES

The Jarbidge FO is a difficult area to describe with demographic data due to its sparse population. Few people live within the boundaries of the planning area. Census block groups, the statistically relevant unit of demographic analysis, cover large rural areas that extend well beyond the boundaries of the planning area. A number of small cities are just outside the planning area. Social and economic conditions are described using several levels of analysis and baseline comparisons. Where possible, characteristics are compared across the following areas:

- **Jarbidge Planning Area** – This area is the subject of the RMP. It encompasses parts of four counties and covers 3,784 square miles and 2,172 census blocks.
- **Jarbidge Impact Area** – This is an aggregation that attempts to include those people most directly connected to the planning area, including those within the planning area. It includes four very rural census block groups[21] in four counties and five incorporated cities. It covers 10,746 square miles, 4,452 census blocks, and includes these sub-areas:
- **Rural Component** – This area consists of the aggregate of four rural census block groups within four counties.
  - Twin Falls County Rural Area – This census block group covers the western portion of this county and includes the unincorporated communities of Cedar, Peavey, Clover, Hollister, Amsterdam, Rogerson, and Meteor.
  - Elmore County Rural Area – This census block group covers the southeast corner of Elmore County. It includes the communities of Hammett and King Hill, but does not include Glenns Ferry, which it surrounds.
  - Owyhee County Rural Area – This very large census block group covers the eastern side of Owyhee County and includes the unincorporated communities of Bruneau, Grasmere, Three Creek, Indian Cove, Hot Springs, and Murphy Hot Springs.
  - Elko County Rural Area – This very large census block group includes a large portion of Elko County that lies west of Highway 93 and north of Interstate 80. It includes a portion of Jackpot and the unincorporated communities of Contact, Henry, Jarbidge, Rowland, Point of Rocks, Pattsville, and Mountain City. It does not include the Duck Valley Indian Reservation.
- **City Component** – This component includes the five cities of Glenns Ferry, Bliss, Hagerman, Buhl, and Castleford, Idaho. These cities surround the planning area. Separate demographic data are available for each of these incorporated places.
- **Four-County Region** – This is the aggregation of Twin Falls, Elmore, and Owyhee Counties, Idaho, and Elko County, Nevada. This larger region is especially relevant for data that are only available at the county level. Separate demographic and economic data are available for each county.
- **State of Idaho** and **State of Nevada** – The two state averages offer another comparison.
- **United States** – This level lends understanding of how this region differs from national averages.

Map 115 displays the Jarbidge Planning Area, Jarbidge Impact Area, Rural Component, City Component, and Four-County Region.

3.5.1. Social Conditions

Stakeholder Groups

Several stakeholder groups with varying levels of interest in the planning area can be identified. Each of these groups can be described as "connected" or "disconnected." Connected stakeholders are either physically engaged with the planning area or socially engaged with those people and see themselves as acting on behalf of themselves, their families, their future descendents, their neighbors, and the public good. Connected stakeholders include ranchers, local residents, recreators, and hunters and fishermen. While tribal members of the Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes could be classified as connected stakeholders, their relationship to the planning area is discussed in the *Tribal Rights and*

[21] A census block group is a geographical unit used by the United States Census Bureau which is larger than a census block, but smaller than a census tract.

Interests section. Disconnected stakeholders have a cultural or emotional investment in the planning area and tend to see themselves as acting on behalf of the public good.

Connected Stakeholders

Ranchers

Approximately 60 family ranches have permits to graze livestock in the planning area. Many ranchers love the way of life ranching provides. An estimate of three ranchers per family yields a population size of 180 ranchers working in the planning area. This is a conservative estimate as local observers generally used higher estimates for the number of ranchers per ranch, but they agreed it could possibly be this low.

Families with grazing permits in the planning area also use public land for purposes other than grazing, including scientific, educational, spiritual, aesthetic, and recreational purposes (Black & Black, 2006; Brackett, et al., 2006; Lehmann, et al., 2006).

Livestock grazing has been an important social and economic activity in the planning area since the 1870s (see the *Livestock Grazing* section). Some families have been raising cattle in the planning area for six generations. Scoping comments expressed the opinion that the practice of ranching in the planning area will preserve open space from development, an important social value in the area.

Local Residents (Non-Ranchers)

The local non-ranching residents, year-round and part-year, and businesses have a strongly rural character and are closely integrated with their ranching neighbors (Wulfhorst, et al., 2003). Survey data from Owyhee County suggests that non-ranchers view their ranching neighbors in a positive light (Harp, et al., 2001), and in many instances, their lives are intertwined as they take part in round ups, branding, and many of the same recreation activities.

Public land issues are very important to these stakeholders. Over 70% of Jarbidge, NV, homeowners have attended two or more community meetings or hearings or have worked with other community members to bring public action on public land issues. More than half of Jarbidge, NV, homeowners have written a letter or editorial or provided testimony on public land issues at least twice (Rollins, Castledine, et al., 2007). Jarbidge, NV, residents are concerned with the threat of fire to their community. Most feel that livestock grazing has a valuable role to play in reducing fire risk; only 12% say they do not approve of using grazing to reduce wildland fire threats (Rollins, Evans, et al., 2007).

Participants in the Jarbidge Community Economic Workshop identified the Malad Gorge, Billingsley Creek State Park, Miracle and Sligar's Hot Springs, and the Thousand Springs Scenic Byway as culturally and socially significant places and areas (Gardner, 2006). Participants also identified what they appreciated about the planning area. Responses included solitude, livestock, wildlife, scenery, recreation opportunities, hunting, and cultural aspects. Areas important to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes exist within the planning area boundaries; these are addressed in the *Tribal Rights and Interests* section.

Dispersed Recreators

The dispersed recreator stakeholder group represents people who view wildlife, camp, and hike in the planning area. Dispersed recreators may also engage with the planning area contemplatively when they are not there (e.g., thinking about the area, telling stories, and sharing photos).

River Recreators

Based on user data, the river recreator stakeholder group is estimated to be comprised of approximately 3,000 people. River recreators participate in whitewater and flatwater kayaking, rafting, and canoeing primarily on the Bruneau, Jarbidge, and Snake Rivers and Salmon Falls Creek.

Motorized Recreators

Motorized recreators comprise a large portion of recreators in the planning area. There were 8,087 ATVs, UTVs, and off-highway motorcycles registered to residents of Elmore, Owyhee, and Twin Falls Counties

in 2007 (IDPR, 2008). ATV and motorcycle use is likely high in Elko County as well, as 74% of Jarbidge, NV, residents reported ATV and motorcycle use in a recent survey (Rollins, Castledine, et al., 2007). It can be assumed that two-thirds of the 8,087 ATV, UTV, and off-highway motorcycle owners residing in adjacent counties recreate in the planning area, that many of these vehicles are used by more than one person, and that some individuals own more than one of these vehicles.

Hunters and Fishermen

The hunters and fishermen stakeholder group is assumed to have a population of 34,042 people based on research by Wulfhorst et al. that found 43% of Owyhee County residents participated in hunting or fishing (Wulfhorst, et al., 2003). The rate in Elmore County is likely to be similar. Twin Falls County is more urban and more likely to have a participation rate similar to the statewide rate for Idaho of 24% (FWS, 2006). Among Jarbidge, NV, residents, 52% have fished, 43% have bird hunted, 35% have hunted other small game, and 30% have hunted big game (calculations from Rollins et al., 2007).

Disconnected Stakeholders

Disconnected stakeholder groups include individuals, interest groups, or advocacy groups that may express more passionate or adamant views concerning specific public land uses or BLM management practices. BLM does not track nor maintain specific data with regard to all of the various interests or advocacy groups that may have concerns regarding BLM management of the planning area. Chapter 5 contains a list of organizations who requested briefings or presentations on the Jarbidge RMP. It is assumed these groups hold a vested interest in the management of the planning area and, thus, are considered disconnected stakeholders. In addition, Appendix C contains a list of organizations on the Jarbidge RMP Mailing List. These organizations are considered disconnected stakeholders as well.

Demographics

The planning area had an estimated population of 1,342 in 2008 (Table 3- 49). This population has been stable for some time, and actually declined slightly in the current decade. The Jarbidge Impact Area had a 2008 population of 9,450, and again showed an annual decline (-0.4%) from 2000 through 2008. There is some variation in the population growth pattern within the Jarbidge Impact Area, with the City of Bliss at 1.9% annual growth from 2000 through 2008 and the Owyhee County rural portion growing 0.7% at one extreme, and the City of Glenns Ferry (-1.9%) and Elko County rural portion (-1.2%) at the other. Both the planning area and Jarbidge Impact Area have experienced stagnant populations and contrast sharply with the growth in population of Idaho (2.1%) and Nevada (3.9%). The Four-County Region has modest positive growth because the central cities of Twin Falls, Elko, and Mountain Home have more vibrant economies than the more rural Jarbidge Impact Area. This pattern of strong growth in state populations and decline in Jarbidge populations is predicted to continue to 2013. The severity of the recent recession and the sharp reduction in migration patterns nationwide may mean growth will slow even more than these projections.

Median age is a good proxy for age structure. In general, the higher the median age, the larger the proportion of the population age 65 or older and the fewer children under age 18. The planning area has a median age of 38.9 (Table 3- 50), which is older than Idaho's median age of 34.4 and Nevada's 35.9. The impact area is more than two years younger than the planning area at 36.8 years. The oldest areas are rural Elko County at 45.9 and the City of Hagerman at 45.6.

Table 3- 49. Population for Jarbidge Analysis Areas, 1990, 2000, 2008, and 2013

Analysis Areas	Resident Population				Annualized Population Change		
	1990 Census	2000 Census	2008 Estimate	2013 Projection	1990-2000 (Actual)	2000-2008 (Actual)	2008-2013 (Estimate)
Planning Area	1,238	1,369	1,342	1,306	1.1%	-0.2%	-0.5%
Impact Area							
Rural Component							
Elmore County Portion	1,058	1,194	1,115	1,008	1.3%	-0.8%	-1.9%
Owyhee County Portion	609	728	770	772	2.0%	0.7%	0.1%
Twin Falls County Portion	411	413	424	439	0.0%	0.3%	0.7%
Elko County Portion	613	617	559	530	0.1%	-1.2%	-1.0%
Total	**2,691**	**2,952**	**2,868**	**2,749**	**1.0%**	**-0.4%**	**-0.8%**
City Component							
Bliss	228	274	316	331	2.0%	1.9%	0.9%
Buhl	3,574	3,982	4,039	4,154	1.1%	0.2%	0.6%
Castleford	239	278	282	289	1.6%	0.2%	0.5%
Glenns Ferry	1,339	1,638	1,383	1,295	2.2%	-1.9%	-1.3%
Hagerman	570	662	562	574	1.6%	-1.9%	0.4%
Total	**5,951**	**6,834**	**6,582**	**6,643**	**1.5%**	**-0.5%**	**0.2%**
Grand Total	**8,642**	**9,786**	**9,450**	**9,392**	**1.3%**	**-0.4%**	**-0.1%**
States							
Idaho	1,006,749	1,293,953	1,513,754	1,657,732	2.9%	2.1%	1.9%
Nevada	1,201,833	1,998,257	2,616,430	3,010,973	6.6%	3.9%	3.0%

Table 3- 50. Median Age for the Jarbidge Planning Area and Jarbidge Impact Area, 2008

Age	Planning Area	Impact Area		
		Rural Component	City Component	Total
Estimated Median Age	38.9	40.4	35.1	36.8
Percent Under Age 18	19.7%	18.2%	25.6%	25.6%
Percent Age 65 and Over	13.2%	14.2%	16.8%	16.0%

3.5.2. Economic Conditions

Income Levels

Two measures are most commonly used to measure the relative prosperity of a population. The first, per capita income, is calculated by taking total personal income for the region and dividing it by the total number of people living there. It is best used in comparing a large number of diverse areas. The per capita income of the United States in 2008 is estimated at $25,933 while the State of Idaho is below that level at $21,598. The per capita income of the planning area at $25,089 (Table 3- 51) is above the Idaho average and approaching the United States average. Per capita incomes for rural Idaho typically run well below the Idaho average, such as 89% of the Idaho average in 2002 (*Profile of Rural Idaho*, 2005). The Jarbidge Impact Area fits this rural pattern and is below the Idaho average at $19,005.

The second measure of income is median household income. This is the income level that half of the households in a community make more than and half make less than. It tends to be a more accurate reflection of the community than average household income, which can be skewed by a few very rich or poor individuals. The difference between average and median income levels is an indicator of the disparity between the low and high income households in the area. The median household income in the planning area of $45,186 (Table 3- 51) nearly matches that of the State of Idaho, yet the higher spread

between average and median incomes means there is a larger difference between the high and low income households in the planning area than for the State of Idaho. Lower average and median household income levels for the impact area are consistent with the findings for per capita income. There are more households with median incomes under $35,000 and fewer households making over $100,000 in the impact area than the planning area.

Table 3- 51. Estimated Household Income for the Jarbidge Planning Area and Jarbidge Impact Area, 2008

Income	Planning Area	Impact Area		
		Rural Component	City Component	Total
Per Capita Income	$25,089	$23,287	$18,421	$19,898
Average Household Income	$65,649	$61,608	$47,397	$51,563
Median Household Income	$45,186	$43,574	$39,312	$40,644

Personal Income by Sector

The region's economy can be examined by levels of personal income, as in Table 3- 52, or by employment. The services sector of the economy grew faster than agriculture, mining, construction, or manufacturing between 1970 and 2000 to account for 32.2% of the four-county economy in 2000. However, this is a decline from the 36.8% services share of income in 1970, which runs against the national trend of increasing the proportion of income derived from services. One reason for the declining share of services is the continued growth in the government sector, which is unusually high due to the presence of the Mountain Home Air Force Base. The other sector that has grown rapidly in the region is non-labor income, which grew from 26% of the regional economy in 1970 to 29.9% in 2000. This income type is composed of payments from owned assets that come as dividends, interest, and rent, and transfer payments. The majority of transfer payments go to senior citizens and veterans as Social Security, Medicare, and pensions. In 2006, the non-labor share of income was 29.6% of the Four-County Region's $4.5 billion economy. This is lower than the national rate (37.4%) due to the younger age structure of the region.

Table 3- 52. Personal Income History by Industry for the Four-county Region, 1970-2000

Year	Sector					
	Services & Professional	Government and Government Enterprises	Farm & Agricultural Services	Manufacturing	Construction	Mining
1970	$17,604	$9,867	NA	$2,647	$1,707	NA
1975	$21,489	$11,065	NA	$3,036	$2,462	NA
1980	$25,434	$12,232	$7,430	$4,114	$3,056	$709
1985	$28,079	$12,124	$6,587	$3,734	$2,555	$7,078
1990	$35,585	$13,026	$6,870	$4,729	$3,424	$1,577
1995	$42,758	$14,765	$7,286	$4,845	$4,297	$1,643
2000	$47,559	$16,581	$8,083	$4,846	$4,522	$1,820

Employment

Table 3- 53 shows 2008 data estimates for the prevalent occupations in the planning area and Jarbidge Impact Area. Twenty-three percent of employment in the planning area is in the natural resource industries of farming, fishing, and forestry (Table 3- 53). This is lower than in the city component of the Jarbidge Impact Area; however, all analysis areas are far higher than the natural resource industry employment in Idaho (2.5%). Both the planning area and the Jarbidge Impact Area lag Idaho markedly in professional occupations, yet both are higher in management and business occupations. The planning area is also notably lower in service jobs, which serves to demonstrate its reliance for services on the ring of communities surrounding it. Construction in the Jarbidge Impact Area has kept pace with the State of Idaho, though there are fewer construction jobs in the rural areas or in the planning area.

Table 3- 53. Estimated Employment by Occupation for the Jarbidge Planning Area and Jarbidge Impact Area, 2008

Occupation	Planning Area	Impact Area		
		Rural Component	City Component	Total
Employed Population Age 16 and Over	672	1,442	2,777	4,219
Management, Business, and Financial Operations	18.7%	24.0%	9.9%	14.7%
Professional and Related Occupations	11.1%	9.2%	13.9%	12.3%
Service	7.7%	8.0%	14.1%	12.0%
Sales and Office	13.8%	13.9%	17.4%	16.2%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	23.2%	23.1%	9.1%	13.9%
Construction, Extraction, and Maintenance	7.6%	8.1%	11.0%	10.0%
Production, Transportation, and Material Moving	17.9%	13.7%	24.6%	20.9%

Self-Employment

Self-employment is an important contributor to employment. It includes sole proprietorships, partnerships, and tax-exempt cooperatives, and many of the businesses provide only part-time employment. Proprietors comprise 20.8% of businesses in the Four-County Region, and the self-employed created 20.3% of the new jobs added between 1970 and 2006. For comparison, the Idaho self-employment rate was 23.3% in 2006, and the United States' average was 19.1%. The number of farm proprietors declined by 188, to 2,935 between 1970 and 2006, and farm proprietors now account for 3.2% of the employment in the Four-County Region (Headwaters Economics, 2010).

Unemployment

Unemployment rates for the Four-County Region have historically been below the averages for the United States, Idaho, and Nevada. Employment has remained more stable in the current recession within the Four-County Region than in either State or the nation. In September 2009, unemployment rates were 4.1% in Owyhee County, 6.8% in Elko County, 6.8% in Twin Falls County, and 7.8% in Elmore County (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2009), while unemployment was 13.3% in Nevada, 8.8% in Idaho, and 9.8% for the United States.

Poverty

The best measure of poverty at the household level is the Federal definition for poverty level. The Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the family's threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty. The official poverty levels do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using the Consumer Price Index. The official poverty level definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps).

Within the planning area, an estimated 10.8% of families were estimated to be in poverty in 2008 (Table 3- 54). For the Jarbidge Impact Area, poverty is higher at 11.4% of families. These rates were higher than the Idaho rate (8.3%) and the United States rate (9.2%). The cities of Glenns Ferry (18.9%) and Castleford (17.6%) and the rural Owyhee County area (16.4%) have poverty levels twice the Idaho average. Consistent with national patterns, the poverty rates of families with children was considerably higher than those without children (15.3% versus 5.5% for the planning area). Family poverty rates were highest among female householder families, where 30% of female householder families in the planning area were below the poverty line in 2008.

Table 3- 54. Families with Incomes Below the Poverty Level for the Jarbidge Planning Area and Jarbidge Impact Area, 2008

Family Unit	Planning Area	Impact Area		
		Rural Component	City Component	Total
Married- Couple Families	9.9%	9.6%	7.9%	8.4%
Male Householder Families	4.5%	4.3%	20.0%	15.8%
Female Householder Families	30.0%	23.1%	32.8%	31.4%
Families with own Children	15.3%	14.0%	17.8%	16.6%
Families without own Children	5.5%	5.3%	5.9%	5.7%
All Families	10.8%	10.0%	12.0%	11.4%

Economic Sectors Affected by the Jarbidge RMP

Agriculture and Ranching

Agriculture is big business in Elmore, Owyhee, and Twin Falls Counties, compared to most areas of Idaho. Net farm income was $108 million in 2006 on cash receipts of $965 million. Two-thirds of these receipts were from livestock. That share has grown dramatically over time, led by the growth in the number of dairies and dairy cows in the region surrounding the planning area. The crop share of receipts dropped from 41% in 1970 to 29% in 2006. Government payments have dropped over time both in amount and share of farm receipts (Gardner & Martin, 2006). The Cattle Ranching and Farming Sector in Elko County, NV, comprised 2.5% of Elko County employment in 2005. Net income was $8.6 million on average, and average annual cash receipts and other income for this sector was $58.5 million between 1994 and 2004 (Vusovic & Harris, 2006).

Government

The Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP) identified communities within the Interior Columbia Basin that may be economically and socially vulnerable to shifts in the management of Forest Service- and BLM-administered lands. Glenns Ferry, Mountain Home, Bliss, Gooding, Hagerman, and Wendell, Idaho, were chosen as communities of interest based on their geographical isolation, the industries in which the community specialized, and the relationship of the community to Forest Service- and BLM-administered lands (ICBEMP, 1998). These communities lie to the north and east of the planning area.

BLM disbursements coming out of the planning area in Fiscal Year 2006 include approximately $500 in SRPs, $223,500 in grazing receipts, $3,500 in mineral material sales, and $46,500 in land use authorizations and ROW collections. Total collections from grazing on BLM-managed land in Idaho were approximately $1.6 million in fiscal year 2006. The planning area represented nearly 15% of that total. Revenues from livestock grazing fees collected within the planning area are substantial in relation to other areas of the State.

BLM disburses Payments-In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) to counties for all Federal lands. Congress appropriates PILT payments each year for tax-exempt Federal lands administered by the BLM, National Park Service, FWS, Forest Service, Federal water projects, and some military installations. PILT payments are in addition to other Federal revenues transferred to the States such as oil and gas leasing, livestock grazing, and timber harvesting. These payments help local governments carry out vital services such as firefighting and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and search-and-rescue operations. The formula used to compute the payments is contained in the PILT Act and is based on population, receipts-sharing payments, and the amount of Federal land within an affected county. BLM PILT payments amounted to $1,373,305 for Elmore County, $729,305 for Owyhee County and $928,459 for Twin Falls County from all BLM FOs in those counties for 2006 (Gardner & Martin, 2006). Elko County

received $1,817,553 in PILT payments from all BLM FOs in that county for 2006 ("PILT Payments (in Dollars) for Counties in Nevada," 2007).

Recreation

The majority of recreation activity in planning area is classified as dispersed or motorized, with the majority of users traveling fewer than 100 miles to enjoy the activities available to them. Recreation use levels generally follow a pattern of growth commensurate to population growth. Population growth in south-central Idaho has contributed to greater recreation activity within the planning area.

Table 3- 55 displays the distribution by recreation activity within the planning area and the amount spent by recreators in 2008. Actual expenditure data is difficult to obtain for many of the recreation categories; therefore, these values are a proxy for estimating economic spending attributed to the planning area. Total spending is estimated at nearly $675,000 for 2008. Hunting and whitewater rafting (Boating – Non Motorized) attract the largest contingent of non-local users. Camping and hunting make up nearly two-thirds of the current spending and nearly 50% of the visitor days (see the *Recreation* section for more information on recreation in the planning area).

Table 3- 55. Recreation Activities and Dollar Values, 2008

Recreation Activity	Visitor Days (Annual Average from 2006 to 2008)[A]	Total Spending (2008 Dollars)[B]
Boating-Non Motorized	583	$19,904
Camping	4,928	$219,804
Picnicking	142	$2,720
Driving for Pleasure	1,404	$17,132
Fishing	1,935	$38,745
Hunting		
Big Game	3,172	$184,401
Small Game	229	$13,295
Upland Bird	903	$52,500
Waterfowl	23	$1,357
Trapping	20	$471
Interpretation		
Nature Study	283	$3,979
Wildlife Viewing	491	$6,899
Other Viewing	557	$7,837
Non Motorized Travel		
Backpacking	288	$13,572
Mountain Biking	214	$2,631
Hiking, Walking, Running	535	$5,535
Horseback Riding	221	$7,384
Pack Trips	110	$3,670
Off-Highway Travel		
OHV-ATV	419	$8,067
OHV-Cars/Trucks/Sport Utility Vehicles	872	$16,796
OHV-Dunebuggy	30	$584
OHV-Motorcycle	1,149	$22,116
Snowmobiling	93	$3,180
Specialized Non-Motor Sports		
Archery	10	$237
Climbing-Mountain/Rock	30	$711
Antler Gathering	17	$395
Photography	362	$8,568
Rockhounding	171	$4,059
Social Gatherings	155	$3,680

Target Practice	102	$2,424
Swimming/Water Play	17	$395
Winter/Non-Motorized		
Skiing-Cross Country	43	$849
Snowshoeing	30	$460
Total	**19,540**	**$674,355**

[A] Values from (BLM, 2009c)
[B] Values based on a study by (Stynes & White, 2005)

Wind Energy

Wind energy potential is estimated at 18,000 MW for Idaho. At the beginning of 2006, 75 MW of wind power capacity were operational in Idaho and nearly 1,900 MW of wind generation were in development. Of this, 190 MW were expected to be completed by the end of 2006 and an additional 200 to 300 MW by the end of 2007 (Idaho Legislative Council Interim Committee on Energy, 2007).

There has been considerable interest in developing the wind energy resources within the planning area. Several projects have been built or approved on private land in the northeast corner of the planning area, including nearly 30 turbines with a capacity of over 40 MW. These are small projects built under the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) that requires local utilities to purchase the electricity these projects generate at a rate calculated by the state public utilities commission. This gives these small projects the advantages of a guaranteed market for their electricity. Additionally, there is potential for another 700 MW of wind power generation through multiple projects in and around the Jarbidge Impact Area (Fleischman, 2010). One large commercial project, the China Mountain Wind Project, has been proposed in the southeast corner of the planning area.

Table 3- 56 describes the potential economic impacts of hypothetical 20-MW wind projects; these figures were generated by the Jobs and Economic Development Impact (JEDI) Model, developed and maintained by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL, 2009a). The JEDI model uses cost and local purchase relationships from existing wind projects across the nation and reviewed by wind developers. These project expenditures were then expanded into economic impacts using 2006 Impact Analysis for Planning (IMPLAN) multipliers for Idaho. A 20-MW project would be typical of the projects developed on private land in the northeast corner of the planning area.

Table 3- 56. Economic Impacts of a Typical 20-MW Wind Projects

	20 MW
Number of Turbines	14
Size of Turbine (MW)	1.5
Total Project Size (MW)	**20**
Installed Project Cost	$39,620,000
Direct Operating & Maintenance Costs	$478,000
Wind Energy Taxes [A]	$124,173
Present Value Wind Energy Taxes [B]	**$2,099,000**
Land Leases	$63,000
Present Value Land Leases [B]	**$1,065,000**
Construction	
Direct Project Output	$2,050,000
Total Output	**$12,940,000**
Direct Employment	40
Total Employment (Temporary)	**141**
Direct Labor Income	$1,910,000
Total Labor Income	**$4,860,000**
Annual Operations	
Direct Project Output	$60,000
Total Output	**$490,000**
Present Value Total Output [B]	**$8,283,926**
Direct Employment [C]	1
Total Employment [C] (Permanent)	**5**
Direct Labor Income	$60,000
Total Labor Income	**$160,000**
Present Value Total Labor Income [B]	**$2,704,955**

Source: (NREL, 2009a), except Idaho Wind Energy Tax calculated at 3% gross earning with 30% capacity factor and $75/megawatt hours (MWH) electricity price.
[A] Idaho taxes wind energy projects at 3% of gross earnings in lieu of property tax. This analysis assumes 30% capacity factor and $75/MWH electricity price including the sale of green tags.
[B] Operations impacts need to be converted to a present value to assess BLM management policies. A 25 year project life and 3% social discount rate are used for this analysis.

3.5.3. Environmental Justice

Communities where the percent of minorities or the percent of the population below the poverty level is greater than the state average are defined as minority and low-income communities, respectively, by EPA. As part of the NEPA process, Federal agencies are required to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income communities as specified by Executive Order 12898, dated February 11, 1994. Minority and low-income populations are to be identified in the NEPA process. The following indicators were used to identify minority and low-income populations in the planning area:

- **Percentage of non-white minorities and percentage of Hispanic ethnicity** – Individual(s) who are members of the following population groups: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black, not of Hispanic origin; or Hispanic.
- **Poverty rates** – Low-income populations in an affected area should be identified with the annual statistical poverty thresholds from the Census Bureau (CEQ, 1997)

Minority populations should be identified where either (a) the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50% or (b) the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis (CEQ, 1997). For this analysis, a difference of 10% from the State rates was determined to be meaningfully greater. The same criteria were applied when considering poverty rates.

Relevant Census data for the counties within the planning area were collected to determine whether these populations constitute an environmental justice population (Table 3- 57).

Table 3- 57. Minority Population, Hispanic Ethnicity, and Poverty Rate in Counties in the Planning Area, 2008

Location	Total Population	Non-White Minority	Hispanic Ethnicity	Individuals Below Poverty Level
Elmore County	28,997	10.4%	13.6%	12.0%
Owyhee County	10,887	6.1%	25.6%	17.5%
Twin Falls County	74,284	3.6%	12.3%	12.8%
State of Idaho	**1,523,816**	**5.4%**	**10.2%**	**12.1%**
Elko County	47,071	9.2%	22.4%	8.7%
State of Nevada	**2,600,167**	**19.1%**	**25.7%**	**10.6%**
Source: (US Census Bureau, 2009)				

The percentage of non-white minorities in the population identifies the vulnerable population based on race. The percentage of the population that is non-white minority for each of the counties in the planning area is not 10% larger than the State percentages (Table 3- 57). Hispanic ethnicity is another measure of vulnerable populations. The primary minority population in these counties is of Hispanic origin (Gardner & Martin, 2006). The percentage of the population with Hispanic ethnicity in Owyhee County is more than 10% larger than that of the State of Idaho (Table 3- 57).

The overall poverty rate and median household income indicate the portion of low-income population for the affected communities. Since the cost of living is generally lower in rural areas of Idaho as compared to urban areas, lower household income does not directly translate into higher poverty rates (Salant & Porter, 2005). The percentage of the population below the poverty level for each of the counties in the planning area is not 10% larger than the State percentages (Table 3- 57).

Executive Order 12898 also requires Federal agencies to consider relevant public health data and industry data on exposures to human health or environmental hazards. The 1987 Jarbidge RMP and the Jarbidge Draft RMP do not contain actions that would lead to exposures to human health or environmental hazards.

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