

Comprehensive

Table of Contents

Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)
for the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP)
for the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (HCNRA).

This is a collection of all the tables of contents for all of the separate documents that make up the FEIS. Please use the “Bookmarks” at left to navigate between the various sections.

Record of Decision

Table of Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction.....	1
Background and History.....	1
Area Location and Description.....	2
Vicinity Map.....	3
Purpose and Need.....	4
Summary of Existing Management Direction for the HCNRA.....	5
Decision.....	10
Scope of the Decision.....	10
Amended Management Direction.....	10
Recreation Settings, Experiences, and Opportunities.....	11
Access and Facilities.....	13
Forested Vegetation, Grasslands, and Forest Understory.....	18
Vacant Allotments Disposition and Satisfactory Range Conditions.....	18
Heritage Resources.....	20
Federal Trust Responsibilities.....	20
Soils.....	21
Wild and Scenic Rivers.....	21
Biologically Unique Species, Habitats, and Ecosystems.....	22
Fire and Air Quality.....	22
Riparian/Aquatic Habitat and Water Quality.....	23
Wildlife Habitat.....	23
Scientific Research.....	24
Geologic Resources.....	24
Minerals.....	24
Land Management and Special Uses.....	24
Monitoring and Evaluation.....	24
Public Involvement.....	25
Summary.....	25
Issues.....	27
Alternatives.....	29
Considered in Detail.....	29
Environmentally Preferable Alternative.....	32
Rationale for the Decision.....	32
Compatibility with Section 7 of the HCNRA Act.....	33
Recreation Settings, Experiences, and Opportunities.....	34
Access and Facilities.....	39
Forested Vegetation, Grasslands, and Forest Understory.....	45
Vacant Allotments Disposition and Satisfactory Range Conditions.....	48
Heritage Resources.....	52
Federal Trust Responsibilities.....	54
Soils.....	55
Wild and Scenic Rivers.....	56
Biologically Unique Species, Habitats, and Ecosystems.....	58

Fire and Air Quality.....	61
Riparian/Aquatic Habitat and Water Quality.....	63
Wildlife Habitat.....	64
Scientific Research.....	66
Geologic Resources.....	67
Minerals.....	67
Land Management and Special Uses.....	68
Monitoring and Evaluation.....	69
Socioeconomic Conditions.....	70
Other Considerations.....	72

Forest Plan Consistency..... 73

Determination of Nonsignificant Amendment under NFMA.....	73
Consistency with NFMA Requirements.....	76

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations..... 76

Clean Air Act.....	76
Clean Water Act.....	76
Endangered Species Act.....	77
Environmental Justice.....	77
Federal Trust Responsibilities.....	77
National Historic Preservation Act.....	78

Implementation of the Decision..... 79

Permits, Contracts, and Special Use Authorizations.....	79
Access and Travel Management.....	79
Mitigation.....	80
Procedures for Change During Implementation.....	81
Site-specific Analysis and Proposed Projects.....	81

Appeal Rights..... 81

Contact Person..... 82

Signature and Date..... 82

CD Rom of FEIS and Appendices..... 83

List of Tables

Table 1: Summary of Legal Notices for Public Scoping and Comment Periods.....	25
Table 2: Timeline and Priorities for Implementation of the Access and Travel Management Decisions.....	80

List of Figures

Figure 1: Vicinity Map.....	3
Figure 2: Management Areas.....	8
Figure 3: Inventoried Roadless Areas.....	9
Figure 4: Recreation Analysis Areas.....	12
Figure 5: Seasonal Road Closures – Alternative E-modified.....	15
Figure 6: Backcountry Airstrips.....	16
Figure 7: Over-snow Vehicle Travel Routes and Play Areas.....	17
Figure 8: Vacant Allotments – Alternative E-modified.....	19

Summary

Table of Contents

	Page
Summary of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.....	1
Introduction.....	1
Background and History.....	1
Area Location and Description.....	2
Purpose and Need.....	2
Summary of Existing Management Direction.....	5
Decision Framework.....	9
Public Involvement.....	9
Significant Issues.....	9
Compatibility with Section 7 of the HCNRA Act.....	9
Recreation Settings, Experiences, and Opportunities.....	9
Access and Facilities.....	10
Forested Vegetation, Grasslands, and Forest Understory.....	10
Vacant Allotments Disposition and Satisfactory Range Conditions.....	10
Heritage Resources.....	10
Alternative Development Process.....	11
Detailed Descriptions of the Alternatives.....	11
Comparison of Alternatives - Significant Issues.....	12
Compatibility with Section 7 of the HCNRA Act.....	12
Recreation Settings, Experiences, and Opportunities.....	17
Access and Facilities.....	27
Forested Vegetation, Grasslands, and Forest Understory.....	40
Vacant Allotments Disposition and Satisfactory Range Conditions.....	43
Heritage Resources.....	50
Comparison of Alternatives - Other Issues.....	50
Federal Trust Responsibilities.....	51
Socioeconomic Conditions.....	51
Further Information.....	55
Glossary.....	57
Literature Cited.....	63
List of Tables	
Table 1: ROS Settings, Percentage of Each Setting in Wilderness and Nonwilderness and the HCNRA.....	17
Table 2: Description of Indicators for Wilderness and Nonwilderness Settings for the HCNRA.....	18
Table 3: Percentage of Acres in Wilderness, Nonwilderness, Nonmotorized, and Motorized Settings; and Nonmotorized and Motorized Experiences.....	21
Table 4: Maximum Site Disturbance Allowed.....	25
Table 5: Number of RAAs in Each Scenic Integrity Level by Alternative.....	26
Table 6: Cumulative Effects of Vegetation and Fire Management on Ecological Landscape Integrity.....	26
Table 7: Miles of NFS Roads by Maintenance Level.....	27
Table 8: Miles of NFS Roads by Maintenance Level by Alternative.....	27
Table 9: Road-specific Closures by Alternative by RAA.....	28
Table 10: Number of Total and Seasonally-open Dispersed Campsites Available by Alternative....	31
Table 11: Number of Subwatersheds by Open-road Density (NFS and other roads) by Alternative	31
Table 12: Trail Construction or Reconstruction Opportunities by Alternative.....	35

Table 13: Backcountry Airstrips by Alternative.....	36
Table 14: Over-snow Vehicle Travel and Play Areas by Alternative.....	36
Table 15: Potential Acres of Forested Vegetation Treatments by Alternative Over the Next Decade	40
Table 16: Proposed Total Treatment Acres on Forested Area by Alternative Over the Next Decade	40
Table 17: Potential Acres of Fire for All Fuel Models (FM 2, 8 and 10) by Alternative Over the Next Decade	41
Table 18: Acres of Active, Incorporated into Active, Retain as Vacant, Closed, Capable and Suitable for Livestock Grazing by Alternative.....	44
Table 19: Disposition of Individual Vacant Allotment Acres by Alternative	45
Table 20: Trends of Moving Toward or Achieving Satisfactory Condition by Alternative	49
Table 21: Annual Permitted Grazing Use (thousand AUMs) by Alternative over the Next Decade..	49
Table 22: Outfitter and Guide Permits, Service Days, and Gross Revenues by Alternative	52
Table 23: Annual Livestock Grazing-related Employment and Income by Alternative	53
Table 24: Annual Timber Harvest-related Employment and Income by Alternative	54

List of Figures

Figure 1: Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Vicinity Map.....	4
Figure 2: Management Area Map.....	6
Figure 3: Inventoried Roadless Area Map.....	8
Figure 4: Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (WROS and ROS)	19
Figure 5: Recreation Analysis Areas	20
Figure 6: Recreation Opportunity Spectrum by Alternative.....	22
Figure 7: Supplied Visits Based on Practical Maximum Capacity and Displaced Visits by Alternative Over the Next Decade (2013)	23
Figure 8: Site-Specific Seasonal Road Closures – Alternative E-modified.....	30
Figure 9: Current Open Roads – Alternative A	32
Figure 10: Open-road Miles by Alternatives B and E-modified	33
Figure 11: Open-road Miles by Alternatives W and N.....	34
Figure 12: Backcountry Airstrips	37
Figure 13: Over-snow Vehicle Travel and Play Areas	38
Figure 14: Facilities Development Levels by Alternative.....	39
Figure 15: Potential Acres of Fire by All Fuel Models (FM 2, 8, and 10) by Alternative Over the Next Decade.....	42
Figure 16: Current Range Allotments - Alternative A	46
Figure 17: Vacant Allotments for Alternatives B and E-modified	47
Figure 18: Vacant Allotments for Alternatives W and N	48

Final Environmental Impact Statement

Table of Contents Volume 1

	Page
Abstract.....	i
Acronyms.....	iii
Table of Contents	vii
Summary of Changes between Revised Draft and Final EIS.....	xix
Chapter 1 – Purpose and Need for Action.....	1-1
Introduction.....	1-1
Organization of the Document.....	1-2
Area Location and Description	1-2
Description of the Proposed Action.....	1-4
Purpose and Need.....	1-5
Decision Framework.....	1-14
Summary of Existing Management Direction	1-18
Other Related Planning Efforts and New Information	1-26
Summary of Scoping, Public Involvement, and Consultations.....	1-30
Significant Issues.....	1-36
Compatibility with Section 7 of the HCNRA Act.....	1-36
Recreation Settings, Experiences, and Opportunities	1-37
Access and Facilities.....	1-37
Forested Vegetation, Grasslands, and Forest Understory.....	1-38
Vacant Allotments Disposition and Satisfactory Range Conditions	1-38
Heritage Resources.....	1-38
Other Issues	1-39
Analysis File	1-43
Chapter 2 – Alternatives, Including the Proposed Action.....	2-1
Introduction.....	2-1
Alternative Development Process	2-1
Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study.....	2-2
Detailed Description of Alternatives	2-5
Summary of Management Direction by Alternative.....	2-9
Mitigation	2-25
Comparison of Alternatives	2-26
Significant Issues.....	2-26
Compatibility with Section 7 of the HCNRA Act.....	2-26
Recreation Settings, Experiences, and Opportunities.....	2-31
Access and Facilities.....	2-47
Forested Vegetation, Grasslands, and Forest Understory.....	2-64
Vacant Allotments Disposition and Satisfactory Range Conditions	2-68
Heritage Resources.....	2-75
Other Issues	2-76
Federal Trust Responsibilities	2-76
Noxious Weeds, Invasive Plants, and Nonnative Plants.....	2-77
Wild and Scenic Rivers.....	2-78
Biologically Unique Species, Habitats, and Ecosystems	2-82

Research Natural Areas	2-83
Air Quality	2-85
Riparian/Aquatic Habitat and Water Quality	2-86
Wildlife Habitat	2-86
Socioeconomic Conditions	2-90
Monitoring and Evaluation	2-95
Management Areas and Direction	2-96

Chapter 3 – Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences 3-1

Introduction	3-1
Compatibility	3-5
Section 7(1) Maintenance and Protection of the Free-flowing Nature of the Rivers	3-7
Section 7(2) Conservation of Scenic, Wilderness, Cultural, Scientific and Other Values Contributing to the Public Benefit	3-8
Section 7(3) Preservation, especially in the Area Generally Known as Hells Canyon of all Features and Peculiarities Believed to be Biologically Unique, including, but not not Limited to, Rare and Endemic Plant Species, Rare Combinations of Aquatic, Terrestrial and Atmospheric Habitats, and the Rare Combinations of Outstanding and Diverse Ecosystems	3-14
Section 7(4) Protection and Maintenance of Fish and Wildlife Habitat	3-15
Section 7(5) Protection of Archaeological and Paleontological Sites and Interpretation of these Sites for Public Benefit and Knowledge, insofar as it is Compatible with Protection	3-18
Section 7(6) Preservation and Restoration of Historic Sites Associated with and Typifying the Economic and Social History of the Region and the American West	3-20
Recreation Settings, Experiences, and Opportunities (Significant Issue)	3-25
Remoteness	3-40
Social Encounters	3-49
Visitor Management	3-54
Visitor Impacts	3-58
Scenery	3-63
Scenic Integrity	3-63
Ecological Landscape Integrity	3-68
Fire Management and Scenery	3-79
Access and Facilities (Significant Issue)	3-83
Roads	3-83
Trails	3-98
Backcountry Airstrips	3-100
Over-snow Vehicle Travel and Play Areas	3-103
Facilities	3-112
Forested Vegetation (Significant Issue)	3-123
Disturbance Processes	3-123
Historic Influences	3-124
Forested Vegetation Structural Stages and Historic Range of Variability	3-127
Current Conditions	3-131
Precommercial Thinning	3-137
Mechanical Treatment and Underburn	3-139
Single-tree Selection	3-140
Commercial Thinning	3-141
Prescribed Fire	3-142
Grasslands and Forest Understory (Significant Issue)	3-143
Disturbance Processes	3-145
Historic Influences	3-147
Grassland Vegetation and Historic Range of Variability	3-148
Current Conditions	3-150
Grasslands in the Landscape Context	3-153
Ecological Status	3-155
Forest Understory	3-159

Vacant Allotments Disposition and Satisfactory Range Conditions (Significant Issue).....	3-163
Vacant Allotments Disposition.....	3-163
Satisfactory Range Conditions.....	3-178
Water Use Management and Cultivated Areas.....	3-185
Recreation Use and Livestock Grazing Interactions.....	3-191
Biological Soil Crusts	3-193
Noxious Weeds, Invasive Plants, and Nonnative Plants.....	3-205
Heritage Resources (Significant Issue).....	3-213
Program Management.....	3-214
Fire	3-217
Livestock Grazing.....	3-218
Recreation Use and Development	3-219
Forested Vegetation Management.....	3-221
Federal Trust Responsibilities.....	3-223
Soils.....	3-229
Wild and Scenic Rivers.....	3-251
Biologically Unique Species, Habitats, and Ecosystems	3-259
Threatened and Endangered Species	3-260
Rare and Endemic Plants.....	3-274
Rare Combinations of Outstanding and Diverse Ecosystems	3-287
Rare Combinations of Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Atmospheric Habitats.....	3-303
Research Natural Areas	3-309
Fire.....	3-313
Air Quality	3-335
Riparian/Aquatic Habitat and Water Quality.....	3-343
Watershed Boundaries and Watershed Conditions	3-344
Water Quality.....	3-346
Riparian Vegetation.....	3-350
Fish Habitat	3-351
Fish Populations.....	3-353
Wildlife Habitat.....	3-373
Forest-associated Species	3-373
Grassland-associated Species.....	3-374
Late/old Structure-associated Species.....	3-374
Riparian Species	3-378
Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species.....	3-378
Special Species Groups.....	3-382
Terrestrial Invertebrates	3-387
Scientific Research.....	3-425
Geologic Resources	3-427
Minerals	3-429
Land Management and Special Uses	3-433
Socioeconomic Conditions	3-435
Recreation Employment.....	3-445
Outfitter and Guide Use and Gross Revenues.....	3-448
Livestock Grazing Employment and Income	3-453
Timber Harvesting Employment and Income.....	3-457
Attitudes, Beliefs, and Values.....	3-458
Environmental Justice	3-460
Economic Efficiency	3-462
Monitoring and Evaluation.....	3-467
Management Areas and Direction.....	3-469
Other Management Implications	3-475
Potential Conflicts.....	3-477
Plans and Polices of Other Jurisdictions.....	3-477
Unavoidable Adverse Effects	3-478
Short-term Uses and Long-term Productivity.....	3-479

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources	3-480
Environmental Effects Unchanged by Alternative	3-481
Specifically Required Disclosures	3-481

List of Preparers 1

Agencies, Organizations, Groups, and Individuals Contacted..... 1

Glossary 1

Literature Cited 1

Index 1

Appendices (Volume 2)

Appendix A – Principal Legislation	A-1
Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Act	
Land Use Regulations (Public and Private)	
Wilderness Act	
Treaty with the Nez Perce, 1855	
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act	
Appendix B – Issues Raised but not Included in the Detailed Analysis	B-1
Appendix C – Detailed Management Direction	C-1
Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines	
Recreation Management Direction	
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum	
Recreation Management Direction by Alternative	
Criteria for Human-caused Impacts to Landscape Character	
Visitor Management Strategies	
Facilities Management Direction	
Facilities with Water Rights or Water Developments	
Forested Vegetation Management Direction	
Determination of Historic Range of Variability for Forest Structures	
Late/old Structure versus Old Growth	
Potential Forested Vegetation Treatment Opportunities	
Potential Acres of Treatment by Watersheds and Biophysical Environments	
Wildland Fire Management Policy	
Wildland Fire	
Prescribed Fire, Mechanical, and Silvicultural Treatments	
Appendix D – Detailed Analysis Information for Recreation Resources	D-1
Current Setting Indicators – Hells Canyon Wilderness	
Current Setting Indicators – Nonwilderness	
Effects to Setting Indicators – Hells Canyon Wilderness	
Effects to Setting Indicators - Nonwilderness	
Appendix E – Heritage Resources Risk Factor Analysis	E-1
Appendix F – Monitoring and Evaluation	F-1
Appendix G – Detailed Vegetative Data	G-1
Biologically Unique	
Rare and Endemic Plant Species	
Rare Combinations of Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Atmospheric Habitats	
Rare Combinations of Outstanding and Diverse Ecosystems	
Features and Peculiarities Considered, but not included as Biologically Unique	
Consideration of New Features and Peculiarities	
Appendix H – Outfitter and Guide Operating Guidelines	H-1
Upland Outfitter and Guide Operating Guidelines	
Managing New Requests and Expansion of Existing Permits	

Appendix I – Alternative W by Wallowa CountyAttachment.....	I-1
Appendix J – Alternative N by CMP Tracking Group	J-1
Appendix K – Wild Rapid River Resource Assessment	K-1

Response to Public Comments (Volume 3)

Introduction.....	1
Content Analysis.....	1
Comment Incorporation and Response.....	1
Categories	2
100 – Planning	5
110 – NFMA, NEPA, and Other Laws	5
120 – Public Participation	6
130 – Issues	7
140 – Range of Alternatives	7
150 – Analysis and Evaluation	8
160 – Relationship to Other Planning Processes and Decisions	10
162 – Snake River Recreation Use	10
165 – Status Change to National Park System	16
166 – Compliance with HCNRA Act	16
170 – Monitoring and Evaluation	24
180 – Implementation and Administration	27
181 – Nez Perce Tribe	28
190 – Management Areas	31
191 – Roadless Areas	31
192 – Wilderness	32
193 – Wild and Scenic Rivers.....	32
200 – Recreation Settings, Experiences, and Opportunities	35
202 – Commercial Use	36
203 – Recreation Opportunity Spectrum	38
204 – Interpretation and Education	42
300 – Access and Facilities	43
310 – Development	43
312 – Development and Maintenance Standards	44
320 – Trails	45
330 – Aviation, Including Backcountry Airstrips	48
340 and 350 – Motorized and Nonmotorized Access	54
341 and 351 – Recreation Interaction	64
342 and 352 – Resource Interaction	65
360 – Wild and Scenic Rivers.....	77
370 – Scenery.....	78
390 – Heritage Resources.....	79
400 – Scientific Research.....	85
500 – Vegetation	87
510 – Ecosystem	87
511 – Ecosystem Function	87
512 – Ecosystem Restoration.....	92
513 – Population viability	94
514 – Historic Range of Variability	95
520 – Grasslands and Forest Understory	99
521 – Domestic Grazing.....	103
522 – Wild Ungulate Browsing and Feeding	117
523 – Noxious Weeds, Invasive Plants, and Nonnative Plants.....	119
530 – Forested Vegetation	129
531 – Silvicultural Practices and Timber Harvest.....	131
533 – Forest Structure Mix	137
534 – Late and Old Structure.....	137
600 – Biologically Unique Species, Habitats, and Ecosystems	139
610 – Biologically Unique Species and Habitats.....	140

620 – Threatened and Endangered Species	141
630 – Sensitive, Rare, and Endemic Species	143
700 – Soils, Air Quality, and Fire	147
710 – Soils	147
720 – Air Quality	147
730 – Fire	149
731 – Role of Natural Fire	157
732 – Role of Prescribed Fire	158
800 – Fish and Wildlife	161
810 – Riparian/Aquatic Habitat and Water Quality	162
811 – Water Quality	165
812 – Fish Habitat	169
820 and 830 – Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	170
900 – Socioeconomic Conditions	179
910 – Social Conditions	181
920 – Economic Conditions	183
1000 – Geologic Resources and Minerals	189
1010 – Geologic Resources	189
1020 – Minerals	189
1100 – Land Management and Special Uses	191
1200 – Miscellaneous	193
1210 – Alternative Preferences	193
Comment Letters from Tribal, Federal, State, and Local Entities and Hells Canyon Tracking Group	

List of Commentors..... 1

List of Tables

Table 1-1: Forest Plan Amendments and Other Direction	1-18
Table 1-2: Summary of Meetings, Briefings and Consultations	1-33
Table 2-1: Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Classes for Wilderness and Nonwilderness...	2-31
Table 2-2: Wilderness and Nonwilderness Setting Indicators	2-35
Table 2-3: Percentage of Acres in Wilderness, Nonwilderness, Nonmotorized, and Motorized Settings; and Nonmotorized and Motorized Experiences	2-36
Table 2-4: Practical Maximum Capacity, Projected Visits, Supplied Visits Based on Practical Maximum Capacity, and Displaced Visits by Alternative (2003)	2-40
Table 2-5: Projected Years that Facilities and ROS Settings would Reach Practical Maximum Capacity	2-42
Table 2-6: Maximum Site Disturbance Allowed	2-43
Table 2-7: Number of RAAs in Each Scenic Integrity Level by Alternative	2-44
Table 2-8: Cumulative Effects on Ecological Landscape Integrity for the entire HCNRA	2-45
Table 2-9: Combined Scenic Integrity (SI) and Ecological Landscape Integrity (ELI) Levels	2-46
Table 2-10: Cumulative Effects of Recreation-Facility Development and Fire Management On Scenic Integrity	2-46
Table 2-11: Cumulative Effects on Vegetation and Fire Management on Ecological Landscape Integrity	2-46
Table 2-12: Miles of NFS Roads by Maintenance Level	2-47
Table 2-13: Miles of NFS Roads by Maintenance Level by Alternative	2-47
Table 2-14: Road-specific Closures by Alternative by RAA	2-48
Table 2-15: Number of Total and Seasonally-open Dispersed Campsites Available by Alternative	2-52
Table 2-16: Miles of NFS Roads by Surface Types by Alternative	2-53
Table 2-17: Number of Subwatersheds by Open-road Density (NFS and other roads) by Alternative	2-53
Table 2-18: Trail Construction or Reconstruction Opportunities by Alternative	2-58
Table 2-19: Backcountry Airstrips by Alternative	2-59
Table 2-20: Over-snow Vehicle Travel and Play Areas by Alternative	2-59
Table 2-21: Potential Acres of Forested Vegetation Treatments by Alternative Over the Next Decade	2-64

Table 2-22: Proposed Total Treatment Acres on Forested Area by Alternative Over the Next Decade	2-65
Table 2-23: Potential Acres of Fire of All Fuel Models (FM 2, 8, 10) by Alternative Over the Next Decade	2-65
Table 2-24: Acres of Active, Incorporated into Active, Retain as Vacant, Closed, Capable and Suitable for Livestock Grazing by Alternative	2-68
Table 2-25: Disposition of Individual Vacant Allotment Acres by Alternative.....	2-70
Table 2-26: Trends of Moving Toward or Achieving Satisfactory Condition by Alternative	2-74
Table 2-27: Annual Permitted Grazing Use (thousand AUMs) by Alternative Over the Next Decade	2-74
Table 2-28: Summary of Activities that Disturb Soil and Increase Noxious Weeds Risk by Alternative	2-77
Table 2-29: Comparison of Integrated Weed Management Program by Alternative	2-78
Table 2-30: Summary of Activities that Potentially Impact MacFarlane’s four-o’clock by Alternative	2-82
Table 2-31: Summary of Effects to Rare and Endemic Plants.....	2-83
Table 2-32: Relative Risk of Livestock Grazing within Research Natural Areas by Alternative.....	2-84
Table 2-33: Air Quality Effects from Emissions by Type of Fire by Alternative Over the Next Decade	2-85
Table 2-34: Number of Subwatersheds by Open-road Density (NFS and other roads) by Alternative	2-87
Table 2-35: Open-road Density by Plateau Complex (mi./sq. mi.) by Alternative.....	2-88
Table 2-36: Annual Direct-effect Recreation Employment from Visits to the Oregon and Idaho Portions.....	2-91
Table 2-37: Annual Livestock Grazing-related Employment and Income by Alternative	2-93
Table 2-38: Annual timber Harvest-related Employment and Income by Alternative	2-94
Table 2-39: New Goals, Objectives, Standards and Guidelines by Alternative	2-97
Table 3-1: Percentage of Activities by Visits and Recreation Visitor Days	3-26
Table 3-2: ROS Settings, Percentage of Each Setting in Wilderness and Nonwilderness, and the HCNRA	3-30
Table 3-3: Description of Indicators for Wilderness and Nonwilderness Settings in the HCNRA.....	3-33
Table 3-4: Subbasins, Watersheds, and Recreation Analysis Areas.....	3-36
Table 3-5: Percentage of Acres in Wilderness, Nonwilderness, Motorized, Nonmotorized Settings; and Nonmotorized and Motorized Experiences.....	3-41
Table 3-6: Practical Maximum Capacity, Projected Visits, Supplied Visits Based on Practical Maximum Capacity, and Displaced Visits by Alternative (2013).....	3-50
Table 3-7: Projected Years that Facilities and ROS Settings Would Reach Practical Maximum Capacity.....	3-55
Table 3-8: Maximum Site Disturbance Allowed	3-59
Table 3-9: Scenic Integrity Resulting from Facilities Management by RAA.....	3-68
Table 3-10: Number of RAAs in Each Scenic Integrity Level by Alternative.....	3-68
Table 3-11: Ecological Landscape Integrity Level by Forested Area Outside HRV or High Risk from Insect and Disease Infestations	3-69
Table 3-12: Ecological Landscape Integrity Resulting from Potential Forested Vegetation Treatments.....	3-78
Table 3-13: Cumulative Effects on Ecological Landscape Integrity for the entire HCNRA.....	3-78
Table 3-14: Combined Scenic Integrity (SI) and Ecological Landscape Integrity (ELI) Levels.....	3-78
Table 3-15: Cumulative Effects of Recreation-Facility Development and Fire Management on Scenic Integrity.....	3-81
Table 3-16: Cumulative Effects on Vegetation and Fire Management on Ecological Landscape Integrity.....	3-81
Table 3-17: Hells Canyon Scenic Byway	3-84
Table 3-18: Road Management Objectives, Maintenance Levels, and Traffic Service Levels.....	3-84
Table 3-19: Miles of NFS Roads by Maintenance Levels	3-87
Table 3-20: Miles of NFS Roads by Maintenance Levels by Alternative	3-90
Table 3-21: Road-specific Closures by Alternative by RAA	3-91
Table 3-22: Number of Total and Seasonally-open Dispersed Campsites Available by Alternative	3-94
Table 3-23: Miles of NFS Roads by Surface Types by Alternative	3-94
Table 3-24: Number of Subwatersheds by Open-road Density (NFS and other roads) by Alternative	3-95
Table 3-25: Summary of Trail miles by Wilderness and Nonwilderness.....	3-98
Table 3-26: Facilities Development Levels.....	3-114

Table 3-27: Facilities Maintenance Levels	3-115
Table 3-28: Timber Harvest Objectives and Percent of Harvest Program	3-125
Table 3-29: Biophysical Environment Groups	3-127
Table 3-30: Description of Forested Vegetation Structural Stages	3-128
Table 3-31: Historic Range of Variability for Forested Structural Stages by Biophysical Environment	3-131
Table 3-32: ICBEMP Conditions and Trends of Forestland Vegetation and How they Relate to HCNRA	3-134
Table 3-33: Alternative N Management Direction and Relationship to Forested Vegetation Treatment	3-136
Table 3-34: Effects of Precommercial Thinning by Alternative Over the Next Decade	3-138
Table 3-35: Effects of Single-tree Selection by Alternative Over the Next Decade	3-140
Table 3-36: Effects of Commercial Thinning by Alternative Over the Next Decade	3-142
Table 3-37: Effects of Prescribed Fire by Alternative Over the Next Decade	3-143
Table 3-38: Ecological Benefits and Drawbacks of Prescribed Fire on Tree Components	3-143
Table 3-39: Cumulative Acres of Forested Area Affected by Density Reduction Activities by Alternative	3-144
Table 3-40: Comparison of Ecological Status and Range Forage Conditions	3-149
Table 3-41: Grassland Groups of Topography, Characteristics, Trends, Seral Stage and Percent of HRV	3-149
Table 3-42: Ecological Status by Seral Stage, Range Forage Condition Ratings, and Percent of Capable and Suitable Acres	3-152
Table 3-43: Acres of Active Allotments, Vacant Allotments Incorporated into Active Allotments Potential Active, Capable and Suitable for Livestock Grazing by Alternative	3-156
Table 3-44: Vacant Allotments by Type, Number and Acres	3-163
Table 3-45: Vacant Allotment History and Description	3-164
Table 3-46: Acres of Active, Incorporated into Active, Retain as Vacant, Closed, Capable and Suitable for Livestock Grazing by Alternative	3-169
Table 3-47: Disposition of Individual Vacant Allotment Acres by Alternative	3-170
Table 3-48: Ecological Status by Seral Stage, Range Forage Condition Ratings and Percent of Capable and Suitable Acres	3-179
Table 3-49: Trends of Moving Toward or Achieving Satisfactory Condition by Alternative	3-182
Table 3-50: Annual Permitted Grazing Use (thousand AUMs) by Alternative Over the next Decade	3-183
Table 3-51: Water Rights by Certificate Number, Site Name, Source of Water, Irrigation Acreage and Cancellation Dates	3-186
Table 3-52: Irrigation Sites by Management Area, Allotment and Allotment Status at the Site	3-186
Table 3-53: Management Objectives by Resolving Recreation Use and Livestock Grazing Incompatibilities for Alternative A and W	3-191
Table 3-54: Management Objectives by Resolving Recreation Use and Livestock Grazing Incompatibilities for Alternative B and E-modified	3-192
Table 3-55: Summary of Activities that Potentially Impact Biological Soils Crusts by Alternative	3-204
Table 3-56: Summary of Activities that Disturb Soil and Increase Noxious Weeds Risk by Alternative	3-207
Table 3-57: Comparison of Integrated Weed Management Program by Alternative	3-211
Table 3-58: Factors of Potential Impacts to Soils by Type of Fire and Fire Model	3-232
Table 3-59: Potential Impacts to Soils by Logging System and Treatment	3-233
Table 3-60: Burned Area for Grasslands (FM 2) by Alternative and Type of Fire Over the Next Decade	3-236
Table 3-61: Burned Area for Open Mixed-conifer Forested Stands (FM 8) by Alternative and Type of Fire Over the Next Decade	3-238
Table 3-62: Burned Area for Complex Structure Mixed-conifer Forested Stands (FM 10) by Alternative and Type of Fire Over the Next Decade	3-240
Table 3-63: Cumulative Effects of Fire on Soil by Fuel Model and Alternative Over the Next Decade	3-242
Table 3-64: Forest Vegetation Treatment Effects on Soils by Alternative Over the Next Decade	3-242
Table 3-65: Grazing Effects on Soils by Alternative Over the Next Decade	3-244
Table 3-66: Dispersed Recreation Effects on Soils by Alternative Over the Next Decade	3-245
Table 3-67: Roads and Trails Effects on Soils by Alternative Over the Next Decade	3-246
Table 3-68: Relative Rankings of All Effects to Soils by Alternative Over the Next Decade	3-249

Table 3-69: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Species	3-260
Table 3-70: Site Locations of Documented MacFarlane’s four-o’clock.....	3-261
Table 3-71: Summary of Activities that Potentially Impact MacFarlane’s four-o’clock by Alternative	3-269
Table 3-72: Rare and Endemic Species Documented or Suspected to Inhabit in Alpine Habitat	3-275
Table 3-73: Species Documented or Suspected to Inhabit Grassland and Shrub-steppe Habitat...	3-276
Table 3-74: Species Documented or Suspected to Inhabit Moist and Wet Meadow Habitat	3-277
Table 3-75: Species Documented or Suspected to Inhabit Riparian Habitat.....	3-278
Table 3-76: Species Documented or Suspected to Inhabit Rock, Cliff and Bluff Habitat	3-279
Table 3-77: Species Documented or Suspected to Inhabit Conifer Forest Habitat	3-279
Table 3-78: Species Documented or Suspected to Inhabit Lithosol Habitat.....	3-280
Table 3-79: Summary of Activities that Potentially Impact Rare and Endemic Plants by Alternative	3-286
Table 3-80: Summary of Effects to Rare and Endemic Plants.....	3-286
Table 3-81: WFU and Unwanted Wildland Fires in Grand Fir and Subalpine Fire (FM 10) by Alternative	3-295
Table 3-82: Cumulative Risk of Forested Vegetation Treatment and Fire Management Activities ..	3-295
Table 3-83: Potential Effects to Research Natural Areas from Resource Activities	3-311
Table 3-84: Relative Risk of Livestock Grazing with Research Natural Areas by Alternative	3-312
Table 3-85: Fire Regimes by Biophysical Environment	3-317
Table 3-86: Fire Occurrence by Fuel Model Acreage from 1970-1994.....	3-319
Table 3-87: Potential Acres of Fire for Grasslands (FM 2) by Alternative Over the Next Decade....	3-323
Table 3-88: Potential Acres of Fire for Open Mixed-conifer Forested Stands (FM 8)323 by Alternative Over the Next Decade.....	3-325
Table 3-89: Potential Acres of Fire for Complex Structure Mixed-conifer Forested Stands (FM 10) by Alternative Over the Next Decade.....	3-328
Table 3-90: Potential Acres of Fire for All Fuel Models (FM 2, 8, 10) by Alternative Over the Next Decade	3-333
Table 3-91: Air Quality Effects from Emissions by Type of Fire by Alternative Over the Next Decade	3-341
Table 3-92: 4 th and 5 th -code Hydrologic Unit Information within HCNRA.....	3-344
Table 3-93: Acres Burned within HCNRA Watersheds (1986-2001).....	3-344
Table 3-94: Watershed Condition Class and Six Criteria Used to Characterize Condition	3-346
Table 3-95: Number of Subwatersheds by Open-road Density (NFS and other roads) by Alternative	3-392
Table 3-96: Open-road Density by Plateau Complex (mi./sq. mi.) by Alternative.....	3-393
Table 3-97: State and County Populations 1980, 1990 and 2000	3-437
Table 3-98: Total Employment (Farm and Nonfarm) by Industry and County	3-437
Table 3-99: Total Earnings (farm and Nonfarm) by Industry and County (2003\$).....	3-438
Table 3-100: Timber Harvest Objectives and Percent of Harvest Program.....	3-444
Table 3-101: Annual Direct-effect Recreation Employment From Visits to the Oregon and Idaho Portions.....	3-448
Table 3-102: Outfitter and Guide Permits, Service Days, and Gross Revenue by Alternative	3-453
Table 3-103: Annual Livestock Grazing (AUMs) by Alternative	3-454
Table 3-104: Annual Livestock Grazing-related Employment and Income by Alternative	3-456
Table 3-105: Annual Timber Harvest Opportunities by Alternative.....	3-457
Table 3-106: Annual Timber Harvest-related Employment and Income by Alternative	3-458
Table 3-107: Discounted Benefits, Costs, and Present Net Value (PNV) by Alternative (millions of dollars)	3-464
Table 3-108: Examples of Ambient, Operational, and Procedural Standards and Guidelines	3-469
Table 3-109: New Goals, Objectives, Standards and Guidelines by Alternative	3-471
Table 3-110: Funding Emphasis by Program Area by Alternative	3-474

List of Figures

Figure 1-1: Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Vicinity Map.....	1-3
Figure 1-2: Management Area Map	1-23
Figure 1-3: Inventoried Roadless Area Map.....	1-24

Figure 2-1: Existing Recreation Opportunity Spectrum	2-32
Figure 2-2: Recreation Analysis Areas	2-34
Figure 2-3: Wilderness ROS Settings by Alternative	2-37
Figure 2-4: Nonwilderness ROS Settings by Alternative	2-37
Figure 2-5: Recreation Opportunity Spectrum by Alternative	2-39
Figure 2-6: Supplied Visits Based on Practical Maximum Capacity and Displaced Visits by Alternative Over the Next Decade (2013)	2-41
Figure 2-7: Relationship of Seasonally-closed Roads to Total Open Roads by Alternative	2-50
Figure 2-8: Site-Specific Seasonal Road Closures	2-51
Figure 2-9: Total Open-road Density (NFS and other roads) by Alternative	2-54
Figure 2-10: Current Open Roads Map	2-55
Figure 2-11: Open-road Miles by Alternatives B and E-modified	2-56
Figure 2-12: Open-road Miles by Alternatives W and N	2-57
Figure 2-13: Backcountry Airstrips Map	2-60
Figure 2-14: Over-snow Vehicle Travel and Play Areas	2-61
Figure 2-15: Facilities Development Levels by Alternative	2-63
Figure 2-16: Facilities Maintenance Levels by Alternative	2-63
Figure 2-17: Potential Acres of Fire by All Fuel Models (FM 2, 8, 10) by Alternative Over the Next Decade	2-66
Figure 2-18: Acres of Active, Incorporated in Active, Retained as Vacant and Closed Allotments ..	2-69
Figure 2-19: Current Range Allotments	2-71
Figure 2-20: Vacant Allotments by Alternatives B and E-modified	2-72
Figure 2-21: Vacant Allotments by Alternatives W and N	2-73
Figure 2-22: Open Road Density by Plateau Complex	2-88
Figure 2-23: Estimated Annual Outfitter and Guide Capacity	2-92
Figure 3-1: Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (WROS and ROS) Map	3-35
Figure 3-2: Recreation Analysis Areas Map	3-38
Figure 3-3: Subbasins and Watersheds Map	3-39
Figure 3-4: Wilderness ROS Setting by Alternative	3-41
Figure 3-5: Nonwilderness ROS Setting by Alternative	3-42
Figure 3-6: Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) by Alternative Map	3-46
Figure 3-7: Supplied Visits Based on Practical Maximum Capacity and Displaced Visits by Alternative Over the Next Decade (2013)	3-50
Figure 3-8: Current Open Roads—Alternative A Map	3-88
Figure 3-9: Relationship of Seasonally-closed Roads to Total Open Roads by Alternative	3-93
Figure 3-10: Total Open-road Density (NFS and other roads) by Alternative	3-95
Figure 3-11: Open Road Miles by Alternatives B and E-modified Map	3-96
Figure 3-12: Open Road Miles by Alternatives W and N Map	3-97
Figure 3-13: Backcountry Airstrip Map	3-102
Figure 3-14: Over-snow Vehicle Travel and Play Areas Map	3-105
Figure 3-15: Facilities Development Levels by Alternative	3-116
Figure 3-16: Facilities Maintenance Levels by Alternative	3-117
Figure 3-17: Facilities Likely Future Proposals by Alternative	3-117
Figure 3-18: Harvest Activities Map	3-126
Figure 3-19: Forested Structural Stage Map	3-129
Figure 3-20: Forested Seral Stage Map	3-130
Figure 3-21: Ecological Corridor Map	3-133
Figure 3-22: Grassland Topographical Settings	3-150
Figure 3-23: Current Range Allotment (Alternative A) Map	3-165
Figure 3-24: Acres of Active, Incorporated into Active, Retain as Vacant and Closed Allotments ...	3-169
Figure 3-25: Vacant Allotments by Alternatives B and E-modified	3-172
Figure 3-26: Vacant Allotments by Alternatives W and N	3-173
Figure 3-27: Fire Points of Origin Map	3-314
Figure 3-28: Fire Perimeter Map	3-315
Figure 3-29: Potential Acres of Fire by Alternative Fuel Model 2	3-323
Figure 3-30: Potential Acres of Fire by Alternative Fuel Model 8	3-326
Figure 3-31: Potential Acres of Fire by Alternative Fuel Model 10	3-328
Figure 3-32: Potential Acres of Fire by All Fuel Models (FM 2, 8, 10) by Alternative	

Over the Next Decade	3-333
Figure 3-33: Subwatersheds Map	3-348
Figure 3-34: Late/old Structure Map.....	3-376
Figure 3-35: Snake River Unit Elk Population Trends.....	3-384
Figure 3-36: Plateaus Map	3-386
Figure 3-37: Open Road Density by Plateau Complex	3-393
Figure 3-38: Map of BEAs and counties.....	3-435
Figure 3-39: Personal Income by Source within Counties	3-439
Figure 3-40: Per Capita Income	3-440
Figure 3-41: Estimated Annual Outfitter and Guide Capacity	3-453
Figure 3-42: Management Direction by Alternative	3-471
Figure 3-43: Ambient, Operational, and Procedural Standards and Guidelines by Alternative	3-472
Figure 3-44: Alternative N Management Direction Map	3-474
Figure 3-45: Funding Emphasis by Program Area by Alternative	3-476

Biological Assessment

Table of Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Chapter 1 – Area Location and Description	1
Chapter 2 – Description of Federal Action	19
Chapter 3 – Description of the Action Area	21
Chapter 4 – Description of Species and Effects	22
Terrestrial	24
Aquatic	44
Plants	74
Literature Cited	
Appendix A – Fish Distribution Maps	
Appendix B – Plant Potential Habitat Maps	
Appendix C – Plant Species Summaries	
Appendix D – Matrices of Diagnostic Pathways and Habitat Indicators	

Biological Evaluation

Table of Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	1
Terrestrial	7
Aquatic	44
Plants	56