CHAPTER 2
ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

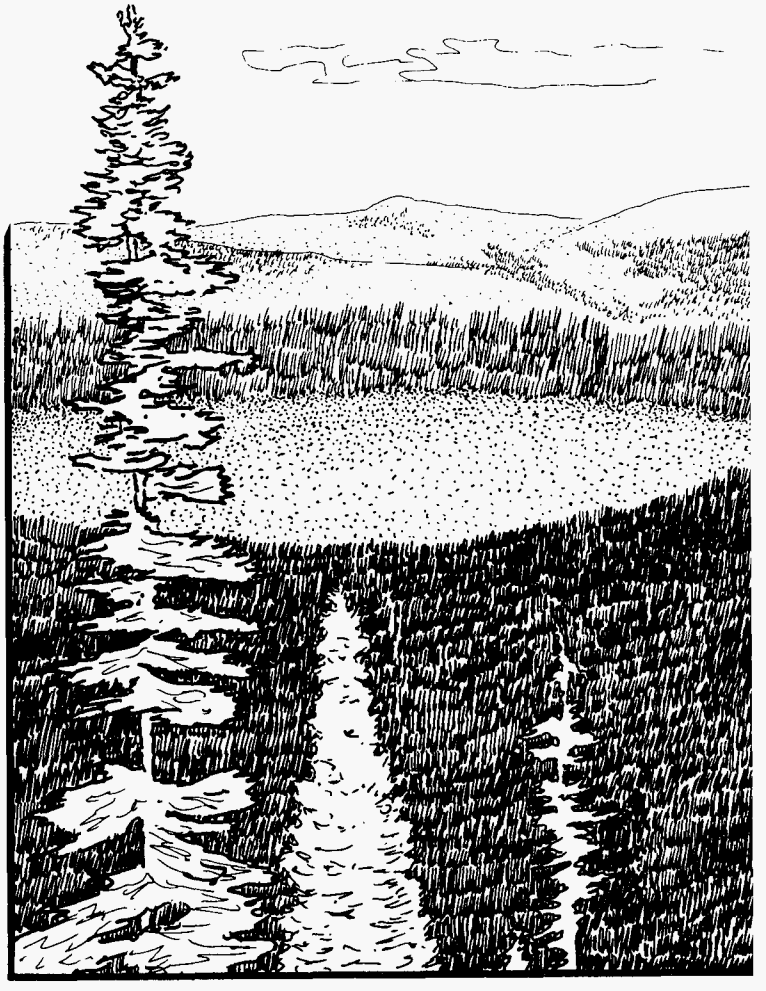
ALTERNATIVE FORMULATION OVERVIEW

Both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations and the BLM resource management planning regulations require the formulation of alternatives. Each alternative represents a complete and reasonable plan to guide future management of public land and resources. One alternative must represent no action. This means a continuation of present levels or systems of resource use. The other alternatives are to provide a range of choices from those favoring resource protection to those favoring resource production.

The basic goal in formulating RMP alternatives is to identify various combinations of public land uses and resource management practices that respond to the planning issues. All alternatives must prevent unnecessary and undue degradation, maintain resource productivity, and permit a sustained yield of resources.

Alternatives for the resolution of the land ownership adjustment issue were formulated by applying the interdisciplinary criteria for land retention and disposal as identified in the *Land Pattern Review and Land Adjustment Supplement to the State Director Guidance for Resource Management Planning* (USDI, BLM 1984). These criteria were derived from applicable laws, regulations, and BLM policy statements. In this case, two alternatives were formulated, no action (i.e., no criteria were applied) and the proposed action. Under the no action alternative it is assumed, for analysis purposes, that the existing public land ownership pattern would remain unchanged. However, in actual practice the Garnet Resource Area has had an active land adjustment program based on previous Management Framework Plan (MFP) recommendations. Two significant land exchanges with Plum Creek and Champion Timberlands have resulted in 7,300 acres of public land adjustment during the past decade.

The resolution of issues, identified in the scoping process, dictated which lands, resources, and programs would be addressed in the alternatives. Those lands, resources, and programs not affected by the resolution of any issue will be managed in the future essentially as they are at present. Future changes will be permitted based on case-by-case analyses and in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies.



DELINEATION OF MANAGEMENT AREAS

The approach used to define and display alternatives for the Garnet RMP includes the delineation of management areas (see maps in map packet). Each management area, or MA, consists of a mappable, relatively homogeneous area of public land which, based on resource potentials and limitations, is suitable for management under a specific set of compatible management goals and guidelines. Each management area may occur in several places within the resource area. Management area boundaries do not always follow easily located topographic features or legal subdivisions. The boundaries are flexible to assure proper management of resources identified through additional on-the-ground reconnaissance and project planning.

Management area descriptions, goals, and guidelines for the Garnet Resource Area are based on resource capabilities, public issues, legal requirements, and policy considerations. These descriptions, goals, and guidelines are summarized in Table 2-1, and are described in detail in Appendix A.

TABLE 2-1
MANAGEMENT AREA SUMMARY

MA No.	Description	Goals and Guidelines
1	Riparian Protection Zone (Includes lands adjacent to rivers, perennial and intermittent streams, lakes, ponds, bogs, marshes, seeps, and wet meadows with high values for wildlife and fish habitat, visual and recreational enjoyment, watershed and water quality protection, and livestock forage.)	Emphasis will be on maintaining or enhancing riparian values while providing elements of old-growth or mature forest for wildlife habitat and providing opportunities for other uses. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted where already established. Utility corridor development generally will not be permitted. Timber management activities will be prohibited. These lands generally will remain in public ownership.
2	Riparian Multiple Use Zone (Includes lands adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams, ponds, bogs, marshes, seeps, springs, and wet meadows with value for wildlife and fish habitat, visual and recreational enjoyment, watershed and water quality protection, and livestock forage.)	Emphasis will be on maintaining or enhancing riparian values while managing timber and providing for other uses. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted. Utility corridor development will be possible. Timber management activities will be permitted; however, harvest generally will occur only when timber sales are scheduled for adjoining lands. Timber management practices will include special measures to protect riparian values. These lands may be considered on a case-by-case basis for use in land tenure adjustment actions.
3	General Forest Management (Consists of commercial forest lands of varying physical environments classified as suitable for sustained yield timber management through TPCC.)	Emphasis will be on managing timber to maintain healthy stands, optimize timber growing potential, and regulate sustained timber production while maintaining site productivity, water quality, and stream stability and providing for other uses. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted. Utility corridor development will be possible. A broad range of timber production activities will be permitted. Timber management practices will include special measures to protect riparian values and specific big game features. These lands may be considered on a case-by-case basis for use in land tenure adjustment actions.
4	Elk Summer and Fall Habitat Components (Includes high density mappable portions of the RA's key elk summer and fall habitat. It includes commercial forest, noncommercial forest, and nonforest lands containing features such as wallows, mineral licks, travel corridors, and important forage and security areas in close proximity, which tend to concentrate big game animals in a relatively small area.)	Emphasis will be on maintaining or improving elk summer and fall habitat components and other wildlife habitat values while managing timber and providing for other uses. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted. Utility corridor development generally will not be permitted. A broad range of timber management activities will be permitted. Timber management practices will be designed to maintain or improve elk summer and fall habitat components and will include special measures to protect riparian values and specific big game features. These lands generally will remain in public ownership.

MA No.	Description	Goals and Guidelines
5	Big Game Summer and Fall Range (Consists of commercial forest, noncommercial forest, and nonforest lands which are important spring, fall, and summer ranges for elk. Lands managed by BLM constitute a substantial proportion of the lands within the big game habitat unit, permitting some degree of control over forage to cover ratios in the habitat unit. These lands will be managed to provide summer cover and forage for big game through regulated timber harvest.)	Emphasis will be on balancing forage and cover requirements for big game on summer and fall ranges while managing timber and providing for other uses. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted. Utility corridor development will be possible. A broad range of timber management activities will be permitted. Timber management practices will be designed to maintain or improve big game summer and fall habitat, particularly cover and forage relationships, and include special measures to protect riparian values and specific big game features. These lands generally will remain in public ownership.

MA No.	Description	Goals and Guidelines
6	Big Game Winter Range (Consists of commercial forest, noncommercial forest, and nonforest lands which are winter ranges for deer, elk, or bighorn sheep. These lands will be managed to attain a balance of winter cover and forage for big game through regulated timber harvest.)	Emphasis will be on enhancing forage production and cover for big game on winter ranges while managing timber and providing for other uses. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted. Utility corridor development will be possible. A broad range of timber management activities will be permitted. Timber management practices will be designed to maintain or improve big game winter range, particularly cover and forage relationships, and include special measures to protect riparian values and specific big game features. These lands generally will remain in public ownership.

MA No.	Description	Goals and Guidelines
7	Noncommercial Forest and TPCC Withdrawn Commercial Forest (Includes noncommercial forest land as well as commercial forest land withdrawn from timber management as a result of TPCC classification. These areas may include cliffs, caves, rock outcrops, talus, and old-growth timber.)	Emphasis will be on maintaining site productivity, water quality, and stream stability while providing wood products; maintaining elements of old-growth, mature forest, and unique features for wildlife habitat; and providing for other uses. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted. Utility corridor development will be possible. Timber management activities will be permitted; however, harvest generally will occur only when timber sales are scheduled for adjoining lands or when needed to meet other management goals for the area. Timber management practices will include special measures to protect riparian values. These lands may be considered on a case-by-case basis for use in land tenure adjustment actions.

TABLE 2-1

MANAGEMENT AREA SUMMARY

MA No.	Description	Goals and Guidelines
8	Areas Recommended for Wilderness Designation (Consists of portions of the resource area that are being recommended for wilderness designation. Each such area has been evaluated under either Section 202 or 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Wilderness recommendations are based upon review of the Wales Creek WSA, Hoodoo Mountain WSA, Gallagher Creek 202 Study Area, and Quigg West 202 Study Area.)	Emphasis will be on preserving wilderness character and providing opportunities for public use and enjoyment while allowing nonconforming but accepted uses and preventing unnecessary or undue degradation of wilderness character. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted where established. Utility corridor development and timber management activities will be prohibited. Mining and mineral leasing will be prohibited subject to valid existing rights. These lands will remain in public ownership.
9	Special Management Areas (Areas distinguished by special, unique, or natural characteristics which require some form of special management including, where appropriate, Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation.)	Emphasis will be on maintaining the special, unique, or natural characteristics of each area while providing opportunities for dispersed recreation, research, observation, study, environmental education, and interpretation. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted where already established. Utility corridor development generally will not be permitted. Timber management activities will be possible if consistent with site-specific management goals. These lands generally will remain in public ownership.
10	Developed and Undeveloped Recreation Sites (Consists of existing and potential recreation use areas with developed, minimal, or no facilities to support a wide range of recreation activities. Most recreation sites are located within riparian areas.)	Emphasis will be on maintaining and enhancing recreation sites while managing timber and maintaining site productivity, water quality, and stream stability. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted. Utility corridor development generally will not be permitted. Timber management activities will be permitted; however harvest generally will be limited to sanitation or salvage and will occur only when timber sales are scheduled for adjoining lands or when needed to meet other management goals for the area. Timber management practices will include special measures to protect riparian values. These lands generally will remain in public ownership.
11	Historical and Cultural Sites (Consists of scattered sites within or adjacent to BLM lands that are protected because of historical and cultural significance. These include Garnet, Coloma, Reynolds City, Copper Cliff, Blackfoot City, Beartown, Bearmouth, and other sites that qualify for the National Register of Historic Places.)	Emphasis will be on protecting historic and cultural sites that are eligible for inclusion on the National Register. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted. Utility corridor development generally will not be permitted. Timber management activities will be prohibited. Withdrawal from mineral entry will be sought. These lands generally will remain in public ownership.

MA No.	Description	Goals and Guidelines
12	Visual Corridor (Consists of lands with high visual sensitivity that are available for varying degrees of resource management. These lands are generally areas seen from major highway and recreation corridors.)	Emphasis will be on maintaining or improving visual quality within areas of high visual sensitivity and high scenic quality while managing timber and providing for other uses. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted. Utility corridor development will be possible. Timber management activities will be permitted. Timber management practices will be designed to maintain or improve visual quality, and include special measures to protect riparian values. These lands may be considered on a case-by-case basis for use in land tenure adjustment actions.

MA No.	Description	Goals and Guidelines
13	Nonforest Habitat (Consists primarily of grassland and shrubland with minor inclusions of forest. It includes wet meadows, dry parks, and open grassland and shrubland varying in size from a few to several hundred acres. These lands provide high wildlife and livestock forage values.)	Emphasis will be on maintaining or enhancing forage production for livestock and wildlife while maintaining site productivity, water quality, and stream stability and providing for other uses. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted. Utility corridor development will be possible. Timber management activities will be unlikely. These lands may be considered on a case-by-case basis for use in land tenure adjustment actions.

MA No.	Description	Goals and Guidelines
14	Mineral Production Area (Consists of active or recently active mineral extraction and processing operations and the immediate surrounding vicinity. Total acreages in this management area will fluctuate as other mining operations are identified or old operations are reclaimed.)	Emphasis will be on allowing for mineral production while restoring water quality and rehabilitating site productivity and stream stability through reclamation. Livestock grazing generally will be permitted. Utility corridor development will be possible. Timber management activities will be unlikely. These lands generally will remain in public ownership unless mineral values warrant patenting.

A total of 14 management areas have been identified for use in the Garnet RMP. Management area goals and guidelines, along with the resource areawide management guidance common to all alternatives and the responses to needed decisions, define what the total management direction is and how it will be implemented. This set of management areas, when applied in various combinations, allows for the formulation of alternatives portraying a broad range of management practices.

The management guidelines needed to accomplish the goals for each management area include appropriate mitigation and resource coordination measures, as required by NEPA and other applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The management area concept used in this RMP has been applied and tested on the Garnet Resource Area during the development of Compartment Management Plans (CMPs); it also is used in the development of national forest plans for lands adjoining the Garnet Resource Area.

INTERIM MANAGEMENT OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

In the case of Section 603 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) being recommended for nonwilderness management, the preferred management area goals and guidelines may be inconsistent with the Interim Management Policy for WSAs. Implementation of such goals and guidelines will be deferred until Congress takes action on the wilderness suitability recommendations.

MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES (STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES)

The following management guidance consists of Standard Operating Procedures applicable to the entire resource area. This guidance constitutes a part of the total management direction for all alternatives considered in detail. It is presented here to avoid repetition.

Soil, Water, and Air Program

Soil, water, and air resources will continue to be evaluated and monitored on a case-by-case basis as a part of project level planning. The level of such evaluation and monitoring will be based upon the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of soil, water, and air resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to ensure compatibility of projects with management area goals and guidelines for soil, water, and air resources. It is the policy of the Garnet Resource Area to maintain, enhance, or restore site productivity, water quality, and stream stability on all public lands.

Air Quality

The BLM is a party to the Montana Smoke Management Cooperative Agreement. Under this agreement, the BLM will continue to work with state and local airshed groups to minimize air quality impacts from prescribed burns and similar activities. This will be done primarily through coordination with other agencies and by burning only when there is adequate smoke ventilation within the affected airshed. The watering of roads may be required during periods of construction or heavy traffic to alleviate localized dust problems.

Watershed Management

Surface disturbing activities will continue to be designed so as to maintain soil productivity, minimize erosion, and maintain or improve water quality and stream channel stability. Typical watershed concerns in the resource area will continue to be addressed through application of the following guidelines.

The Timber Productivity Capability Classification (TPCC) system, which is based on soil survey data, habitat types, elevation, aspect, and topography, will be used to classify forest lands (see Appendix C). The TPCC system considers soil compaction and erosion potential, soil climate, and soil chemical and physical properties as related to silvicultural practices.

Stream channel protection will be effected through the use of such measures as the FS Region One *Vegetation Manipulation Guidelines,* (USDI, FS 1965b) which are designed to limit increases in stream runoff to levels compatible with the capability of the channel to handle potential changes in flow and/or increases in sediment.

Best Management Practices (BMP), as developed through the Montana Statewide 208 Study, will be used to control nonpoint sources of water pollution resulting from forest management practices and similar activities. General Best Management Practices applicable to the Garnet Resource Area are identified in Appendix B. In addition, more specific soil unit BMPs will be utilized on a case-by-case basis. These BMPs, which have not yet been formalized, reflect more localized soil physical, chemical, and climate conditions. Recommendations drawn from these BMPs may include silvicultural systems to be applied, treatment of slash residual, slash disposal methods, and skidding methods, all oriented toward maintaining soil productivity on specific soil units.

Projects covered by BMPs will be monitored to assess the degree to which BMPs are being applied and the effectiveness of their application. BMPs will be monitored through stream discharge and sediment measurements. An interdisciplinary, on-the-ground evaluation team (soils, hydrology, forestry, and wildlife) will be used to increase the effectiveness of BMP monitoring. In accordance with an existing Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM and the State of Montana, an annual report will be made to the Montana Water Quality Bureau concerning BMP application and effectiveness.

For timber sale planning, soils information, generally in the form of a soils map accompanied by a physical and chemical properties table, will be used to define soil capabilities and to recommend soil BMPs and mitigating measures. Hydrology information, where available, will be used to describe existing water quality and quantity; such information will also be used as a reference point for future monitoring of hydrologic conditions.

Corrective measures will be applied where unsatisfactory watershed conditions are identified. Such measures may be implemented through project-level plans (watershed, habitat, allotment, or compartment management plans); such measures may also be implemented through stipulations attached to permits, leases, and other authorizations.

Management activities in riparian zones generally will be designed to maintain or, where possible, improve riparian habitat condition. Roads and utility corridors will avoid riparian zones to the extent practicable. Prescribed fire will not be used within 75 feet of stream channels.

Energy and Minerals Program

Public lands generally will remain available for the exploration, development, and production of energy and mineral resources; such activities will be regulated to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of surface resource values to the extent practicable. Such activities will also be guided by management area goals and guidelines (see Appendix A).

Areas of federal subsurface ownership underlying private land also will generally remain available for energy and mineral exploration and development. Surface owners must be consulted by claimants/lessees. Proposed activities will be reviewed and authorized on a case-by-case basis.

Locatable Minerals

All public land is open to mineral entry and development except where withdrawn to protect other resource values and uses. Mining activities on public land will be regulated under 43 CFR 3809 to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of surface resources and to ensure reasonable reclamation of disturbed sites. Standard procedures used in processing notices and plans of operations under the 3809 Regulations are summarized in Appendix D.

Validity examinations may be requested under the following conditions:

- where a mineral patent application has been filed and a field examination is required to verify the validity of the claim(s);
- where there is a conflict with a disposal application, and it is deemed in the public interest to do so, or where the statute authorizing the disposal requires clearance of any encumbrance;
- where the land is needed for a federal program; or
- where a mining claim is located under the guise of the mining law and flagrant unauthorized use of the land or mineral resource is occurring.

Public land will be opened to mineral entry where mineral withdrawals are revoked.

Oil and Gas Leasing

All public land is available for oil and gas leasing, with the exception of land recommended for wilderness designation.

Site-specific decisions regarding lease issuance and the attachment of appropriate stipulations will continue to be based on application of the Butte District Oil and Gas Leasing checklist and the leasing guidelines contained in the Butte District Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment (issued September 1981). Standard and special stipulations and the Butte District Oil and Gas Leasing checklist are included in Appendix E.

All oil and gas leases will be issued with standard stipulations attached. Special stipulations will be attached where needed to protect seasonal wildlife habitat and/or other sensitive resource values. In highly sensitive areas, where special stipulations are not sufficient to protect important surface values, stipulations prohibiting surface occupancy will be attached.

Oil and gas leasing guidance identified in this plan will apply only to leases processed after RMP approval. Existing leases will run their full term with only those stipulations attached at the time of lease issuance. Leases included in an operating unit or any future unit where production is established will remain unaffected by new stipulations as long as production continues or until leases are terminated.

Phosphate, Geothermal, and Other Leasables

Lease applications will continue to be processed as received. Site-specific decisions regarding lease issuance and the attachment of appropriate stipulations will be based on interdisciplinary review of each proposal.

Common Variety Mineral Materials

Applications for the removal of common variety mineral materials, including sand and gravel, will continue to be processed on a case-by-case basis. Stipulations to protect important surface values will be attached based on interdisciplinary review of each proposal.

Lands Program

Land Ownership Adjustments

The supplement to the State Director Guidance on *Land Pattern Review and Land Adjustment* (USDI, BLM 1984) provides criteria for use in categorizing public land for retention or adjustment, and for identifying acquisition priorities. Site-specific decisions regarding land ownership adjustment in the resource area will be made based largely on the following criteria derived from the supplement to State Director Guidance. This list is not considered all-inclusive, but represents the major factors affecting land adjustment in the Garnet Resource Area.

Areas of National Significance. Areas that have national environmental significance include wilderness, wilderness study areas, former WSAs being studied for protective management, ACECs, and wetlands and riparian areas under Executive Order 11990. Areas that have national cultural and recreational significance include lands nominated or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or designated as National Scenic and Historic Trails.

Areas Containing Important Features. Areas that have important wildlife features include threatened and endangered species habitat, prime fisheries habitat, big game seasonal habitat, waterfowl and upland game bird habitat, and habitat for sensitive species including raptors and other nongame species.

Areas that have important recreational and cultural features include hunting and fishing sites, snowmobile trails, and areas that contribute significantly to the interpretive potential of cultural resources already in public ownership. Areas that have important watershed features include strategic tracts along rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and springs.

Areas Important to BLM Programs. These areas include tracts of public land that are consolidated enough to make management of their resources cost effective, and have physical and legal access. Access generally should allow for public use but, at the least, should allow administrative access to man-

age the resources. Areas usually contain a combination of multiple use values and have characteristics that facilitate BLM priorities on the national, state, and local level. Areas may have improvements that represent public investments; be encumbered by R&PP leases, withdrawals, mining claims, etc.; or be managed by cooperative agreements with other agencies.

Areas Important to the Economy. These areas include tracts having mineral potential and lands that contribute significantly to the stability of the local economy by virtue of federal ownership.

The land ownership adjustment criteria identified above will be considered in land reports and environmental analyses prepared for specific adjustment proposals.

Public land within retention areas (see the Land Pattern Adjustment map in the map packet) generally will remain in public ownership and be managed by the BLM. Transfers to other public agencies will be considered where improved management efficiency would result. Minor adjustments involving exchanges or sales may be permitted based on site-specific application of the land ownership adjustment criteria.

Public land outside of retention areas may have potential for removal from BLM administration through exchanges or sales. Some of these lands may be retained in public ownership based on site-specific application of the land ownership adjustment criteria. In addition, BLM will respond to land adjustment proposals from the public. Exchanges will generally be preferred to sale. Public land identified for exchange or sale must meet the disposal criteria in *Land Pattern Review and Land Adjustment Supplement to State Director Guidance* (USDI, BLM 1984) and in Sections 206 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. No tracts will be exchanged or sold without proper environmental documentation and the required notification in the Federal Register and local newspapers.

Land to be acquired by BLM through exchange ordinarily must be located in retention areas. In addition, acquisition of such land should facilitate access to public land and resources, maintain or enhance important public values and uses, maintain or enhance local social and economic values, or facilitate implementation of other aspects of the Garnet RMP.

Consolidation of surface and subsurface ownership should be accomplished whenever possible to improve resource management opportunities and development potential.

Unauthorized Use

Unauthorized uses of public land will be resolved either through termination, authorization by lease or permit, or sale. Decisions will be based on the type and significance of improvements involved; conflicts with other resource values and uses, including potential values and uses; and whether the unauthorized use is intentional or unintentional.

Withdrawals

Current BLM policy is to minimize the acreage of public land withdrawn from mining and mineral leasing and, where applicable, to replace existing withdrawals with rights-of-way, leases, permits, or cooperative agreements.

At the present time, 1,800 acres are effectively withdrawn from mining, mineral leasing, and/or sale, location, and entry under the public land laws (see Table 2-2).

TABLE 2-2

EXISTING WITHDRAWALS AND CLASSIFICATIONS[1]

Location		Acreage	Authority/ Purpose
T. 11 N., R. 8 W.,	Sec. 25	63	C&MU[2]
T. 14 N., R. 11 W.,	Sec. 18	159	C&MU
	Sec. 23	40	C&MU
	Sec. 26	120	C&MU
T. 11 N., R. 14 W.,	Sec. 14	58	C&MU
T. 13 N., R. 14 W.,	Sec. 33	5	C&MU
T. 12 N., R. 14 W.,	Sec. 3	14	R&PP[3]
T. 13 N., R. 14 W.,	Sec. 33	5	R&PP
		27	R&PP
T. 12 N., R. 13 W.,	Sec. 6	8	R&PP
T. 11 N., R. 16 W.,	Sec. 8	120	PSR[4]
T. 11 N., R. 17 W.,	Sec. 2	179	PSR
	Sec. 12	161	PSR
T. 12 N., R. 17 W.,	Sec. 18	49	PSR
T. 12 N., R. 18 W.,	Sec. 1	23	PSR
T. 10 N., R. 12 W.,	Sec. 10	40	PSR
T. 11 N., R. 13 W.,	Sec. 7	164	PSR
	Sec. 18	80	PSR
	Sec. 21	200	PSR
	Sec. 22	120	PSR
T. 11 N., R. 14 W.,	Sec. 14	131	PSR
T. 11 N., R. 15 W.,	Sec. 22	40	PSR

[1] Does not include an estimated 40 acres within linear withdrawals for roads and powerlines
[2] Classification and Multiple Use Act
[3] Recreation and Public Purposes Act
[4] Power Site Reservation

All existing powersite and power project withdrawals will remain in effect unless modified or revoked as a result of the withdrawal review process. All withdrawals under the Classification and Multiple Use Act and the Recreation and Public Purposes Act will be recommended for revocation. However, for important historic and cultural sites (MA 11), such recommendations will be contingent upon withdrawal under Section 204 of FLPMA.

As provided in Section 4(d)(3) of the Wilderness Act and subject to valid existing rights, the minerals in lands designated as wilderness would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws.

Utility and Transportation Corridors

Public land within identified exclusion areas will not be available for utility and transportation corridor development. Public land within avoidance areas ordinarily will not be available for utility and transportation corridor development. Exceptions may be permitted based on type of and need for facility proposed; conflicts with other resource values and uses, including potential values and uses; and availability of alternatives and/or mitigating measures.

All other public land usually is available for development of utility and transportation corridors. Exceptions will be based on consideration of the criteria identified above.

Recreation Program

A broad range of outdoor recreation opportunities will continue to be provided for all segments of the public, commensurate with demand. Trails and other means of public access will continue to be maintained and developed where necessary to enhance recreation opportunities and allow public use. Recreation areas receiving the heaviest use will receive first priority for operation and maintenance funds. Sites that cannot be maintained to acceptable health and safety standards will be closed until deficiencies are corrected.

Investment of public funds for new recreation developments will be permitted only on land identified for retention in public ownership. However, no such developments are envisioned during the life of this plan. Therefore management will be limited to protecting the recreation potential of undeveloped sites.

Recreation activity plans have been or will be prepared for the following Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs): Garnet National Winter Recreation Trail, Lewis and Clark Trail and Blackfoot River, Garnet Ghost Town, Blackfoot Special Management Area, Clark Fork River, and all wilderness study areas.

These plans will provide more specific management guidance for recreation and other resources in each SRMA, consistent with the RMP. SRMAs are identified on the basis of high recreation use, the significance of recreation resources regionally and nationally, and the need to resolve conflicts in resource management or use.

Recreation resources will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as a part of project and activity planning. Such evaluations will consider the significance of the proposed action and the sensitivity of recreation resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to assure compatibility of the developments with recreation management objectives.

Recreation special use permits will be evaluated and approved on a case-by-case basis. This includes permits for commercial use, competitive events and group activities such as trail rides, bicycle tours, and ORV events. No outfitter and guide permits will be issued for hunting except in conjunction with adjoining Forest Service permits.

Travel Planning and Motorized Vehicle Use

All public land will be designated as either open, limited, or closed to motorized vehicle use under authority of Executive Order 11644.

All existing road and area closures generally will remain in effect except for minor adjustments in the Chamberlain Creek drainage. New roads constructed in the future generally will be closed to motorized public use following completion of planned management activities. Cooperative closures involving adjoining landowners will be pursued in the Tenmile, Klondike, Warm Springs Creek, and Pearson Creek areas.

Public land within areas identified as limited to motorized vehicle use generally will receive priority attention during travel planning. Specific roads, trails, or portions of such areas may be restricted seasonally or yearlong to all or specified types of motorized vehicle use.

Public land within areas identified as closed to motorized vehicle use will be closed yearlong to all forms of motorized vehicle use. Exceptions may be allowed in wilderness study areas based on application of the Interim Management Policy.

Restrictions and closures will be established for specific roads, trails, or areas based on consideration of the following criteria:

- the need to promote user enjoyment and minimize use conflicts;
- the need to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, road beds, or other resource values;
- the need to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant degradation of wildlife habitat;
- the need to promote user safety; and
- the need to cooperate with adjoining landowners.

Visual Resources

Visual resources will continue to be evaluated as a part of activity and project plans using the VRM guidelines described in Appendix F. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the visual sensitivity of the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to mitigate impacts on visual resources.

Areas recommended for or designated as wilderness (MA 8) will be subject to Class I VRM guidelines. Certain lands generally within riparian zones, recreation or cultural sites, special management areas, and visual corridors (MA 1, 2, 9, 10, 11, and 12) will be subject to Class II or III VRM guidelines. All

other public land will be subject to Class III, IV, or V VRM guidelines, as previously mapped and referenced in the Garnet Management Situation Analysis. The precise location of VRM Classes II through V may be delineated in more detail during project or activity planning, based on the standard criteria for evaluating scenic quality, visual sensitivity, and distance zones.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resource management will continue to focus on Garnet Ghost Town. This will include conducting historical research, recording architectural features, and stabilizing deteriorating structures. Cooperative management with the Garnet Preservation Association will continue with the goal of fully implementing the Garnet Ghost Town Management Plan.

Emphasis will also be placed on the interpretation of key sites near Garnet, including Reynolds City, Beartown, Springtown, Summit Cabin, and Coloma; and at Blackfoot City.

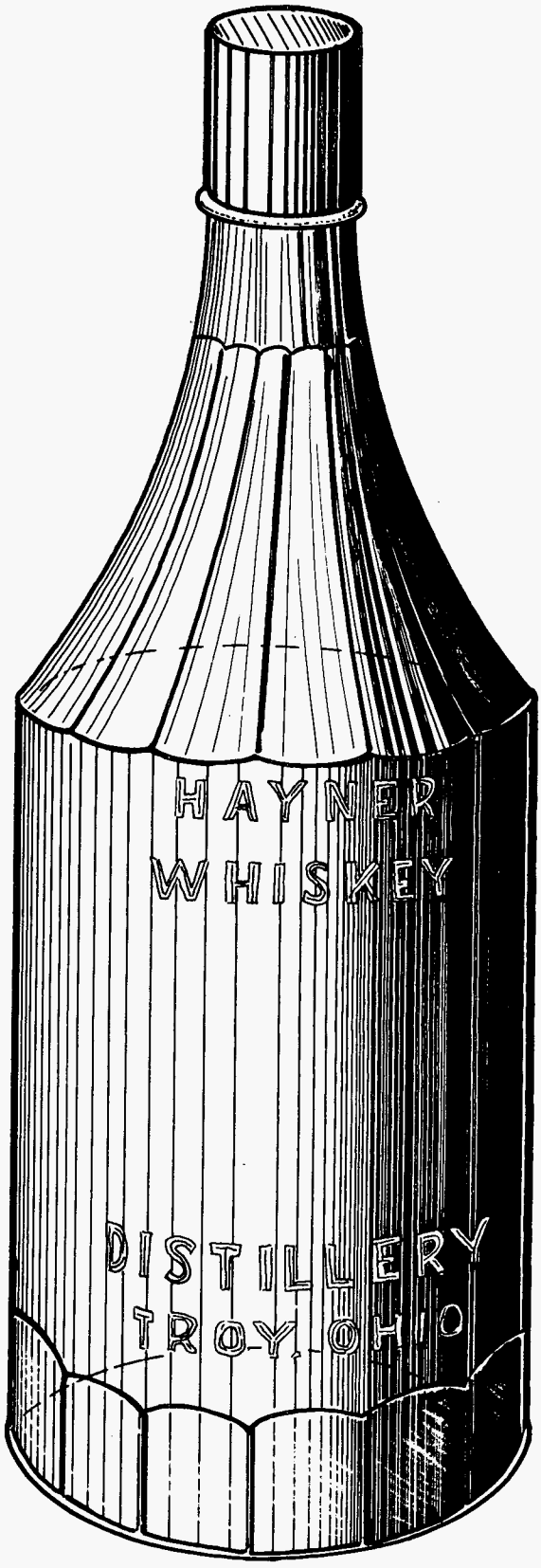
On the remainder of the resource area, cultural resources will continue to be inventoried and evaluated as part of project level planning in compliance with Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of cultural resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to mitigate impacts on cultural resources.

Standard Operating Procedures for cultural resource management are summarized below and are described in more detail in Appendix G:

Cultural resource inventories will be completed prior to any ground-disturbing activity. Cultural resources will not be disturbed until evaluated by the District Manager or an authorized representative in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer to determine eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and/or the National Register of Historic Landmarks.

Consultation will also include appropriate representative(s) of Native American groups or organizations for cultural resources valuable for ceremonial, religious, or other sociocultural purposes.

Cultural resource sites generally will be protected from disturbance through project design and location. If sites are found to be eligible for the National Register(s) and cannot be avoided, a determination of the effect of the project on the site(s), including appropriate mitigating measures, will be made in consultation with the Montana Historic Preservation Officer and the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. No action affecting such sites will be permitted until the Advisory Council has had an opportunity to comment.



Adverse effects generally will be mitigated either through redesign of the proposed project so as to avoid the site or through complete excavation or other information recovery techniques. A memorandum of understanding will be developed with the Advisory Council to establish an acceptable level of mitigation for impacts on cultural resources when such impacts can not be avoided.

To provide for consideration of cultural resources not evident during inventories, a stipulation will be attached to each surface-disturbing project requiring the operator to temporarily suspend work if buried cultural remains are encountered. The District Manager or an authorized representative will then determine the action necessary for protection or salvage of the discovery.

Wilderness Resources

The Interim Management Policy will continue to be applied to all wilderness study areas identified under Section 603 of FLPMA, and to any areas studied under Section 202 of FLPMA and recommended as suitable for wilderness designation, until such areas are reviewed and acted upon by Congress. Other 202 WSAs will be managed in accordance with applicable guidance provided by this RMP.

Public land within areas added by Congress to the National Wilderness Preservation System will be managed in compliance with the Wilderness Management Policy. Site-specific wilderness management plans will be developed for such areas.

Areas reviewed by Congress but not added to the National Wilderness Preservation System will be managed in accordance with other applicable guidance provided by this resource management plan.

Forestry Program

Although the annual harvest varies, each alternative will maintain a timber sale program. The development of the sale program will be the same for all alternatives. The CFL is divided into compartments which are geographic units of roughly 3,000 acres. The TPCC suitable CFL in each compartment is further divided into stands. Each stand is analyzed through the operations inventory for stocking, condition, age, and volume, and is given a priority for treatment. In addition to the stand analysis, a transportation system is developed for each compartment.

To develop a sale, a number of high priority stands are selected and a timber sale plan and environmental analysis is prepared and reviewed with an interdisciplinary team. These stands, after they are harvested or treated, are then monitored to determine how sucessful the treatment was in obtaining the silvicultural objectives of the prescription and meeting the goals and objectives of the specific MAs for these stands.

A typical monitoring sequence for a stand begins with a survival survey one year after planting, and stocking surveys at three and five years to determine if the new stand meets BLM stocking standards. Additional surveys occur at age 20 to establish need for precommercial thinning; at years 40, 60, and 80 to determine suitability for commercial thinning; and at age 100 to prepare a prescription for harvest.

Yearly extensive detection surveys are made over all the forest land to monitor insect and disease trends. Funds are available for insect and disease control projects where control can occur through some silvicultural action.

Timber sale contracts are prepared for each sale. These contracts contain a wide range of standard clauses outlining the purchasers obligations for fire protection, watershed, soil protection, and road construction and maintenance. In addition to the standard clauses each contract will contain specific instructions on the location and manner in which the timber is to be harvested, location of required roads and construction specification for each road, and requirements for slash disposal, site preparation, timber stand improvement, regeneration, and performance bonds.

The timber management program is monitored on a stand basis. As stands are inventoried through the operations inventory a management program is prepared for the stand through rotation. Each step or activity in the management progression for the stand is monitored and evaluated to determine the timing for the next treatment. The stand development and the management objective must be reached before the next treatment phase is initiated.

Range Program

Allotment Categorization

All grazing allotments have been assigned to one of three management categories based on present resource conditions and the potential for improvement (see Appendix H). The M allotments generally will be managed to maintain current resource conditions; I allotments generally will be managed to improve resource conditions; and C allotments generally will receive custodial management to prevent resource deterioration.

Implementing Changes in Allotment Management

Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) generally will describe in detail the types of changes needed in an allotment and establish a schedule for implementation. Such plans will be based upon approved management objectives and guidelines established through the RMP process. Proposed changes in allotment management will be subject to the environmental review process, and such proposals will be modified or rejected when needed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts. Existing AMPs will be reviewed to assure consistency with RMP objectives and guidelines; wildlife and riparian habitat management objectives and forest regeneration considerations will be incorporated into existing AMPs as needed. The following sections contain discussions of

changes likely to be recommended in an allotment management plan and the guidance that applies to these administrative actions.

Livestock Use Adjustments. Livestock use adjustments are most often made by changing one or more of the following: the kind or class of livestock grazing an allotment, the season of use, the stocking rate, or the pattern of grazing. For each of the five alternatives presented in this RMP, target stocking rates have been set for each allotment (refer to Appendix I). While most livestock use adjustments will occur in the I allotments, use adjustments are permitted for allotments in categories C and M.

In reviewing the target stocking rate figures and other recommended changes, it is emphasized that the target AUM figures are not final stocking rates. Rather, all livestock use adjustments will be implemented through documented mutual agreement or by decision. When adjustments are made through mutual agreement, they may be implemented once the Rangeland Program Summary has been through a public review period. When livestock use adjustments are implemented by decision, the decision will be based on operator consultation, range survey data, and monitoring of resource conditions.

Current BLM policy emphasizes the use of a systematic monitoring program to verify the need for livestock adjustments proposed on the basis of one-time inventory data. Monitoring will also measure the changes brought about by new livestock management practices and evaluate the effectiveness of these management practices in meeting stated objectives.

The federal regulations that govern changes in allocation of livestock forage provide specific direction for livestock use adjustments implemented by decision (43 CFR 4110.3). These regulations provide guidance for the allocation of additional forage on a temporary and a permanent basis, as well as guidance for reducing the livestock grazing capacity due to a decrease in available forage. Permanent increases in the allocation of livestock forage or suspension of preference will generally be implemented over a five-year period but can be implemented in less than five years when agreement between the BLM and affected interests is reached to shorten the time span, or when a shorter period is necessary to protect public lands due to conditions created by such factors as fire, drought, or insect infestations, and a final decision is issued and placed in full force and effect under 4160.3(C) of this title.

Range Improvements and Treatments. Range improvements and treatments will be implemented under all alternatives. Typical range improvements and treatments and the general procedures to be followed in implementing them are described in Appendix J. The extent, location, and timing of such actions will be based on the allotment specific management objectives adopted through the resource management planning process, and on interdisciplinary development and review of proposed actions and alternatives.

Weed control efforts on public lands will be designed to prevent the invasion of noxious weeds into areas presently free of weeds. Target weeds will include knapweed, leafy spurge, and musk thistle. Priority will be placed on control efforts along primary public access roads into public lands, control of spot infestations, and cooperation with adjoining landowners in the control of large weed infestations.

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 priority ranking of allotments for the commitment of range improvement funds that are needed to implement activity plans. The highest priority for implementation generally will go to those improvements for which the total anticipated benefits exceed costs. Other factors to be considered include resource needs, public participation, operator contributions, and BLM funding capability.

Grazing Systems. Grazing systems will be used in all alternatives. The type of system selected for each AMP will be based on consideration of the following factors: allotment specific management objectives; resource characteristics, including vegetation potential and water availability; operator needs; and implementation costs.

Typical grazing systems available for consideration are described in Appendix K.

Unleased Tracts. Unleased tracts will remain available for leasing, as provided for in the BLM grazing regulations (43 CFR 4110 and 4130), unless the RMP indicates no grazing will be allowed. Lands to be excluded from grazing may be made available for livestock use on a temporary, nonrenewable basis at the discretion of the Area Manager if such use would meet management goals and objectives for the area.

Wildlife and Fisheries Program

General

Wildlife and fish habitat will be evaluated on an individual basis as a part of project level planning. Each evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed action and the magnitude of impacts to wildlife habitat. Appropriate stipulations or restrictions will be used to mitigate these impacts.

Habitat improvement and maintenance projects will be implemented where needed to stabilize or improve habitat conditions. These projects will be identified through coordinated resource activity plans.

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species

No activities will be permitted in habitat for threatened and endangered species that would jeopardize continued species existence. Whenever possible, management activities in threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat will be designed to benefit those species through habitat improvement.

Fish and Wildlife Service and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks will be consulted prior to actions that may affect threatened and endangered habitat. Whenever the BLM biological assessment process determines such habitat may be affected, consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service will be initiated as per Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended.

Inventory and monitoring of occupied and potential threatened and endangered habitat will continue on the resource area.

Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat

Road and area closures will be pursued for wildlife security and other resource values. Wildlife habitat goals and objectives will be included in all resource activity plans and projects that could affect wildlife habitat.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MDFWP) will be consulted prior to vegetative manipulation projects in accordance with Supplement #1 of the Master Memorandum of Understanding, 1977. In addition, MDFWP will be consulted on timber harvest and timber stand improvement projects. All animal control programs will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MDFWP, and in the case of aerial gunning requests, with the Montana Department of Livestock.

Management actions within floodplains and wetlands will include measures to preserve, protect, and if necessary, restore their natural functions, as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990. Water crossings will be designed and installed to minimize sediment production and maintain adequate fish passage. Riparian habitat management needs will be considered when developing grazing systems, locating roads, and during layout of timber management activities.

Where applicable, the Montana Cooperative Elk Logging Study recommendations (USDA, FS 1982) including any future revisions will be followed (see Appendix S).

The resource area snag management policy will be followed.

Cadastral Survey Program

Cadastral surveys will continue to be conducted in support of resource management programs. Survey requirements and priorities will be determined on a yearly basis as a part of the annual work planning process.

Fire Program

The primary fire protection objectives will be to prevent, detect, suppress, and monitor all fires on BLM lands. These objectives may be accomplished through contract with the Montana Department of State Lands.

A fire management plan will be prepared to establish areas in which the appropriate suppression action of control or confinement will be implemented for all fire starts. The plan may also identify areas and conditions where the use of heavy equipment is restricted or prohibited. Approval of the fire management plan will be based on consideration of values at risk; fire behavior; fire occurrence; beneficial fire effects, including but not limited to a reduction in fuel loading; fire suppression costs; and consistency with other agency plans and policies.

Road and Trail Construction and Maintenance Program

Road and trail construction and maintenance will continue to be conducted in support of resource management objectives. Construction and maintenance requirements and priorities will be determined on a yearly basis as a part of the annual work planning process.

Investment of public funds for road and trail construction generally will be permitted only on land identified for retention in public ownership. Exceptions may be allowed where investment costs can be recovered as a part of land disposal actions. Acquiring access or building roads to tracts outside the retention zones may be required for resource management activities such as timber sales.

Specific road and trail construction standards will be determined based on consideration of resource management needs; user safety; impacts to environmental values, including but not limited to wildlife and fisheries habitat, soil stability, recreation, and scenery; and construction and maintenance costs.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED IN DETAIL

Five alternatives were considered in detail during the development of the proposed RMP. These alternatives explore a reasonable range of issue resolution scenarios as required by the National Environmental Policy Act regulations and the BLM planning regulations. The preferred alternative, or proposed RMP, incorporates portions of the other four alternatives and generally represents a middleground approach to issue resolution.

Alternative A (No Action)

Alternative A represents a continuation of present management direction. This alternative is derived from five approved management framework plans, programmatic environmental assessments, State Director Guidance, completed activity plans, and various statutes, policy directives, and regulations. The purpose of Alternative A is to provide a baseline for the comparison of other alternatives. Management area allocations are summarized in Table 2-3 and illustrated on the Alternative A Management Areas map in the map packet.

TABLE 2-3

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT AREA ALLOCATIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE A

Management Area	Acres	% of Resource Area[1]
1. Riparian Protection Zone	760	0.5
2. Riparian Multiple Use Zone	640	0.4
3. General Forest Management	63,460	43.6
4. Elk Summer and Fall Habitat Components	640	0.4
5. Big Game Summer and Fall Range	11,800	8.1
6. Big Game Winter Range	19,500	13.4
7. Noncommercial Forest & TPCC Withdrawn Commercial Forest	9,500	6.5
8. Areas Recommended For Wilderness Designation	0	0
9. Special Management Areas	28,457	19.5
10. Developed and Undeveloped Recreation Sites	40	0.1
11. Historical and Cultural Sites	160	0.1
12. Visual Corridor	6,500	4.5
13. Nonforest Habitat	3,200	2.2
14. Mineral Production Area	1,000	0.7

[1]Percentages do not total 100 due to rounding

The response to each issue and needed decision is determined largely by existing management guidance and direction. In addressing the decision on land ownership adjustments, the no action alternative is defined as maintaining the existing land ownership pattern. However, for most issues and decisions, the no action alternative is defined more dynamically, allowing for a continuation of management activities which normally would be expected to occur in the future, consistent with existing guidance.

Renewable Resources

Under current management direction, 87,920 acres of Commercial Forest Land (CFL) would remain available for harvest. This represents 78 percent of the total CFL in the resource area. Approximately 1,216 acres of CFL would be harvested annually, yielding 6,370 thousand board feet (mbf) of timber per year. There would be 9.6 miles of new road constructed each year.

Most of the CFL acreage that would be set aside from harvest is located within the Wales Creek, Yourname Creek, Gallagher Creek, and Hoodoo Mountain areas. These areas contain 24,000 acres of CFL and are currently being managed to protect their wilderness values pending completion of the wilderness review process. Approximately 500 acres of CFL would be set aside or allocated to restrictive timber management to protect or maintain riparian and watershed values elsewhere in the resource area. An additional 22,000 acres of CFL would be allocated to restrictive management primarily to protect or enhance important wildlife habitat values.

The level of intensive timber management within the resource area would remain low and would include 100 acres of tree planting and 40 acres of thinning annually. Prescribed fire would be prohibited on 5,000 acres of public land, primarily adjacent to stream channels and within developed and potential recreation sites. Pesticide use would be prohibited on 1,400 acres within riparian areas.

Areas currently not leased for livestock grazing, 27,200 acres, would remain unavailable. These include the Wales Creek, Yourname Creek, Gallagher Creek, Cottonwood and Chamberlain Meadows areas. About 118,460 acres would remain available for grazing use. The current level of authorized livestock use would remain unchanged at 5,930 AUMs (refer to Appendix I).

The ten existing AMP allotments, encompassing 35,663 acres, would remain under intensive grazing management (see Table 2-4). However, the overall intensity of grazing management in the resource area would remain low. Range improvements and treatments would be implemented only where needed to complete existing AMPs or; in the case of fences, cattleguards, and weed control; as a result of new road construction and forest management activities. Such improvements would include 22 miles of fence, 7 cattleguards, 25 spring developments, 2 miles of pipeline, and 200 acres of weed control.

Special Attention Resources

All WSAs or other areas deferred from multiple use management by previous planning recommendations would remain allocated to special management (MA 9) with primary emphasis on wildlife, watershed, and dispersed recreation. No timber harvest or road construction would be allowed in these areas. Mineral entry and mineral leasing generally would be permitted. Motorized vehicle use generally would be prohibited except on existing roads and trails where use has been established. None of these areas would be recommended for wilderness designation, nor would there be any ACEC designations. WSA boundaries and alternative wilderness recommendations are displayed on the Individual WSA Boundary maps.

Approximately 1,400 acres of public land would be managed primarily to maintain or enhance a variety of riparian habitat values. All other riparian habitat would be managed under Standard Operating Procedures designed to maintain site productivity, water quality, and streambank stability.

A total of 32,000 acres would continue to be managed primarily to emphasize big game habitat including elk summer and fall habitat components, big game summer and fall range, and big game winter range. These areas are in addition to the 28,500 acres allo-

TABLE 2-4
EXISTING AMP ALLOTMENTS

Allotment Number and Name	Grazing System	Acres BLM	Acres Private	Year Initiated	Category
7118 Five Mile	3 Pasture R.R.	480	—	1972	M
7119 McElwain Creek	4 Pasture R.R.	6,358	3,485	1970	M
7121 Wales	3 Pasture R.R.	856	640	1971	M
7201 Devil Mountain	3 Pasture R.R.	2,018	8,991	1969	C
7207 Braziel Creek	3 Pasture R.R.	8,105	2,080	1971	M
7213 Marcum Mountain	3 Pasture D.R.	3,443	2,319	1975	M
7224 Warm Springs Creek	4 Pasture R.R.	7,361	13,567	1968	M
7316 Ram Mountain	4 Pasture R.R.	4,151	2,825	1969	M
7319 West Fork Buttes	4 Pasture R.R.	640	1,280	1969	M
7320 Stewart Lake	4 Pasture R.R.	2,251	2,640	1971	M

R.R. — rest rotation
D.R. — deferred rotation

cated to special management, where management emphasis would include the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat values. An additional 12,700 acres of nonforest, noncommercial forest, and TPCC withdrawn commercial forest land would be managed with emphasis on maintaining old-growth and mature forest habitats and unique features for wildlife use.

Nonrenewable Resources

Under current management direction, 205,586 acres of federal minerals would be available for oil and gas leasing. Of this total, 36,874 acres would be leased with special stipulations, and 33,340 acres would not be available for surface occupancy.

Most of the acreage identified for no surface occupancy lies within areas allocated to special management (MA 9) including Wales Creek, Yourname Creek, Gallagher Creek, Hoodoo Mountain, and Quigg West. Other areas affected by oil and gas restrictions include the walk-in hunting areas; cultural and historic sites such as Garnet, Coloma, and Blackfoot City; and public lands along the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers.

All existing powersite and power project withdrawals, totalling 1,300 acres, will remain in effect under this alternative. Such withdrawals generally are located at existing and potential powersites and power projects along the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers. All other withdrawals under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP) and the Classification and Multiple Use Act (C&MU) will be recommended for revocation. Approximately 160 acres associated with important cultural and historic sites (MA 11) will be recommended for withdrawal under Section 204 of FLPMA.

Land Ownership and Administration

The existing public land ownership pattern would be maintained, even though current management guidance provides for an exchange program. For purposes of analysis, all 145,660 acres of public land would be retained in public ownership, and no additional lands would be acquired.

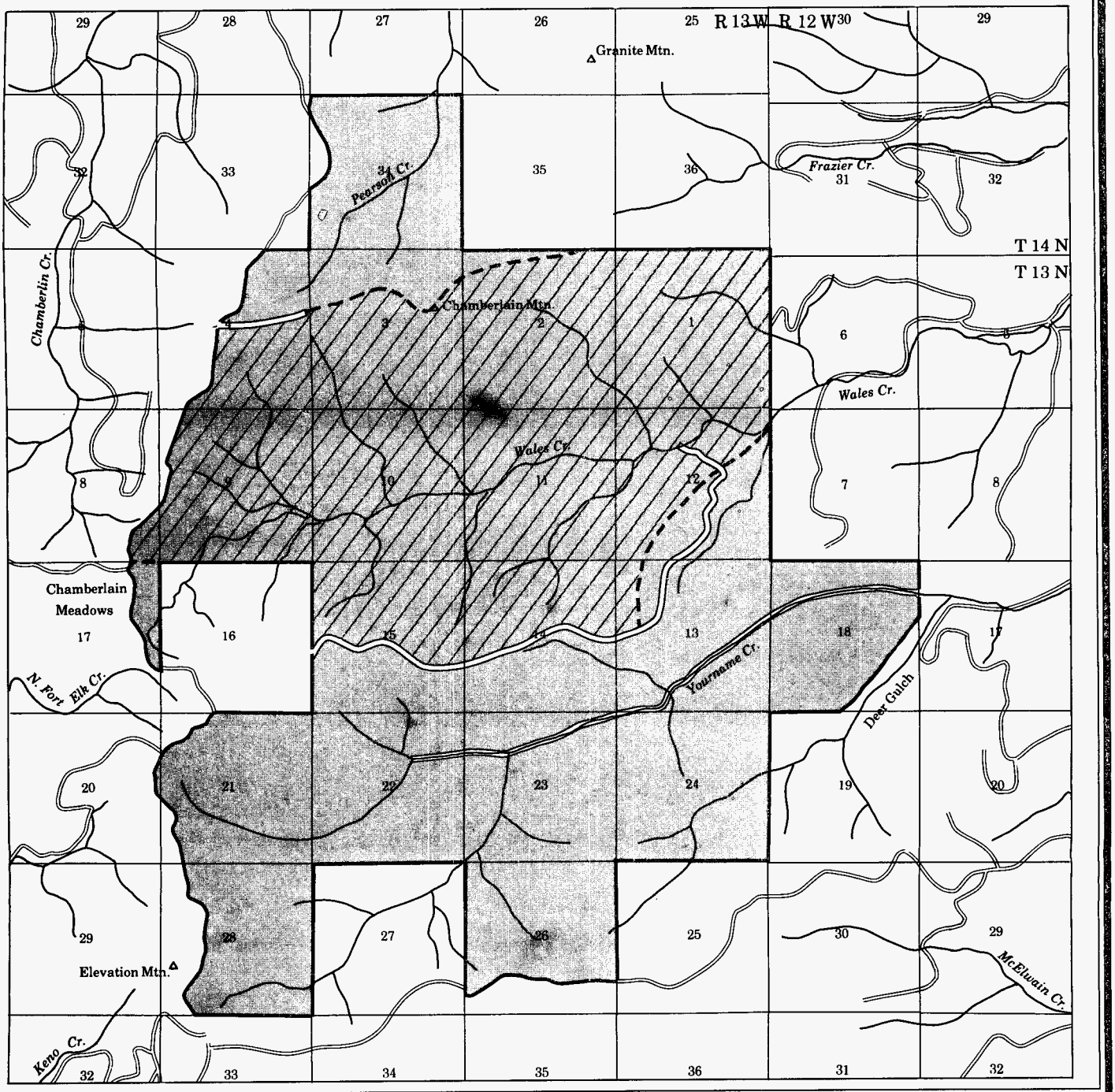
About 115,600 acres would remain available for further consideration for possible routing of major utility and transportation rights-of-way. About 30,060 acres would remain within avoidance areas where rights-of-way would be discouraged. These areas generally consist of major riparian areas, recreation and cultural sites, and special management areas such as Wales Creek, Yourname Creek, Gallagher Creek, Hoodoo Mountain, and Quigg West.

The existing level of public and administrative access to public lands would continue unchanged under this alternative. Public access currently is available to 95 tracts totalling 114,600 acres or 78 percent of the total acreage. Administrative access only is available to an additional 13 tracts comprising 5,320 acres. The remaining 25,740 acres (about 200 tracts) are not legally accessible for either public or administrative purposes.

All existing powersite and power project withdrawals, totalling 1,300 acres, will remain in effect. Such withdrawals generally are located at existing and potential powersites and power projects along the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers. All other withdrawals under the R&PP and the C&MU will be recommended for revocation. A total of 160 acres associated with important cultural and historic sites (MA 11) will be recommended for withdrawal under Section 204 of FLPMA.

Recreation, Cultural, and Aesthetic Resources

Under current management direction, 107,720 acres are available, on a restricted basis, for roaded and/or motorized recreation use. The restrictions generally take the form of seasonal closures and/or limiting use to specific roads and trails. About 9,440 ares in the Ram Mountain and Chamberlain Creek areas are roaded but not available for motorized recreation. The remaining 28,460 acres are available for roadless, nonmotorized recreation; most of this acreage is located within special management areas (MA 9) such as Wales Creek, Gallagher Creek, and Hoodoo Mountain.



WSA Boundary

Alternative WSA Boundary

Alternative A, B, and E — no portion recommended for wilderness designation

Alternative C — entire area recommended for wilderness designation

Alternative D — portion of area recommended for wilderness designation

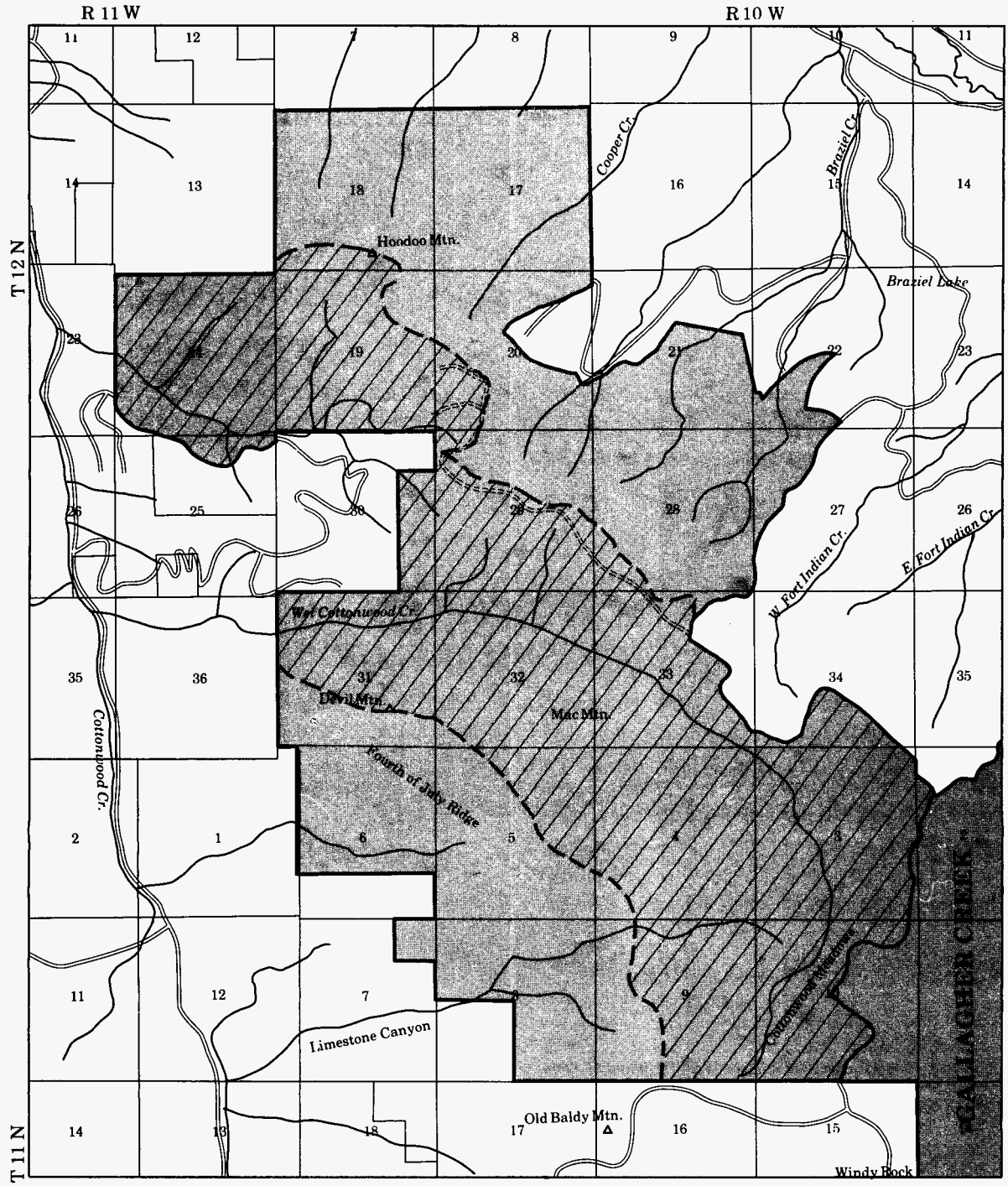
WALES CREEK ALTERNATIVES

NORTH

0 1 2 Miles

0 1 2 3 Kilometers

1:63,360



WSA Boundary

Alternative A, B, and E — no portion recommended for wilderness designation

Alternative C — entire area recommended for wilderness designation

Alternative WSA Boundary

Alternative D — portion of area recommended for wilderness designation

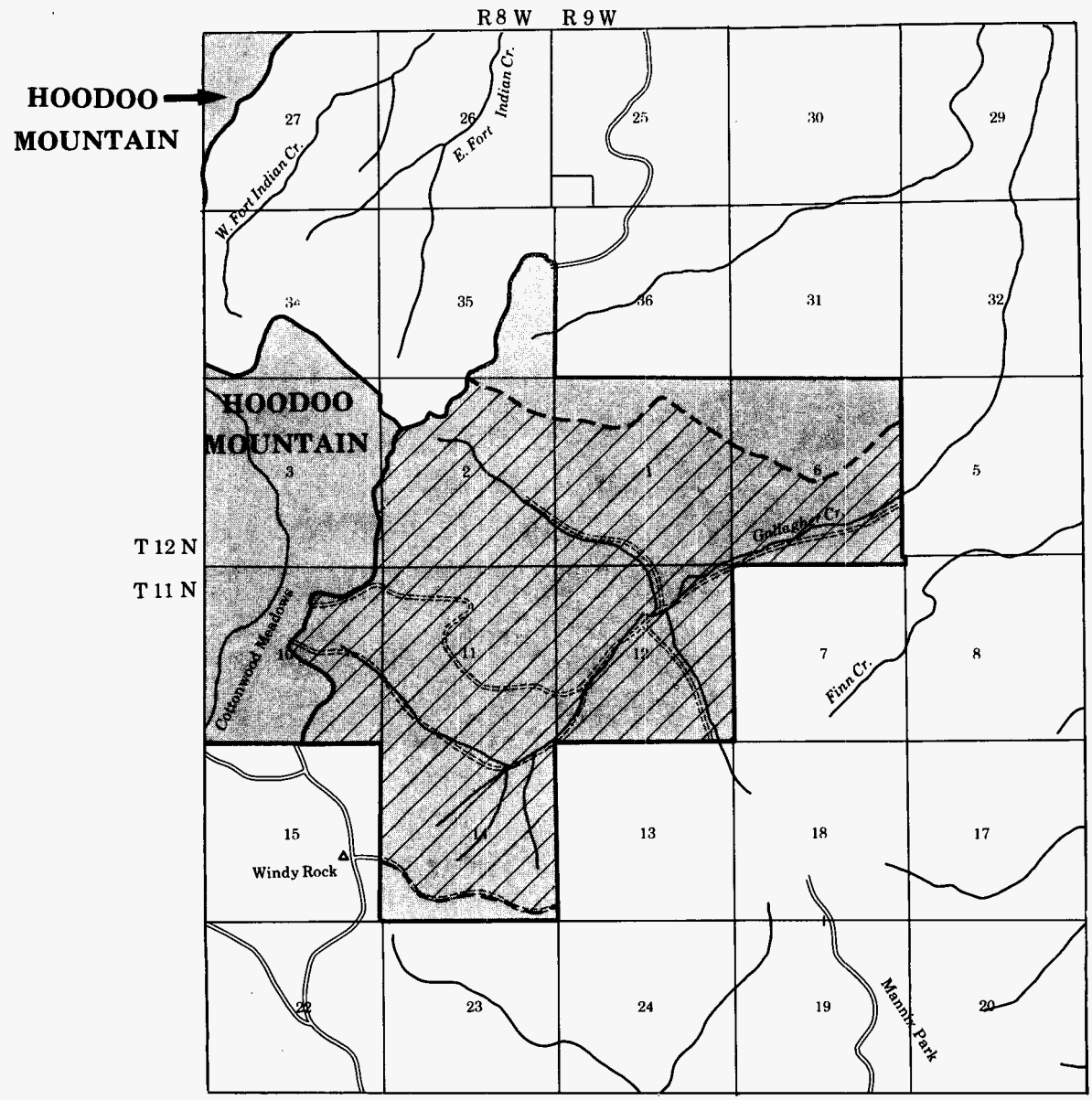
HOODOO MOUNTAIN ALTERNATIVES

1:63,360

NORTH

0 1 Miles 2

0 1 Kilometers 2 3



GALLAGHER CREEK ALTERNATIVES

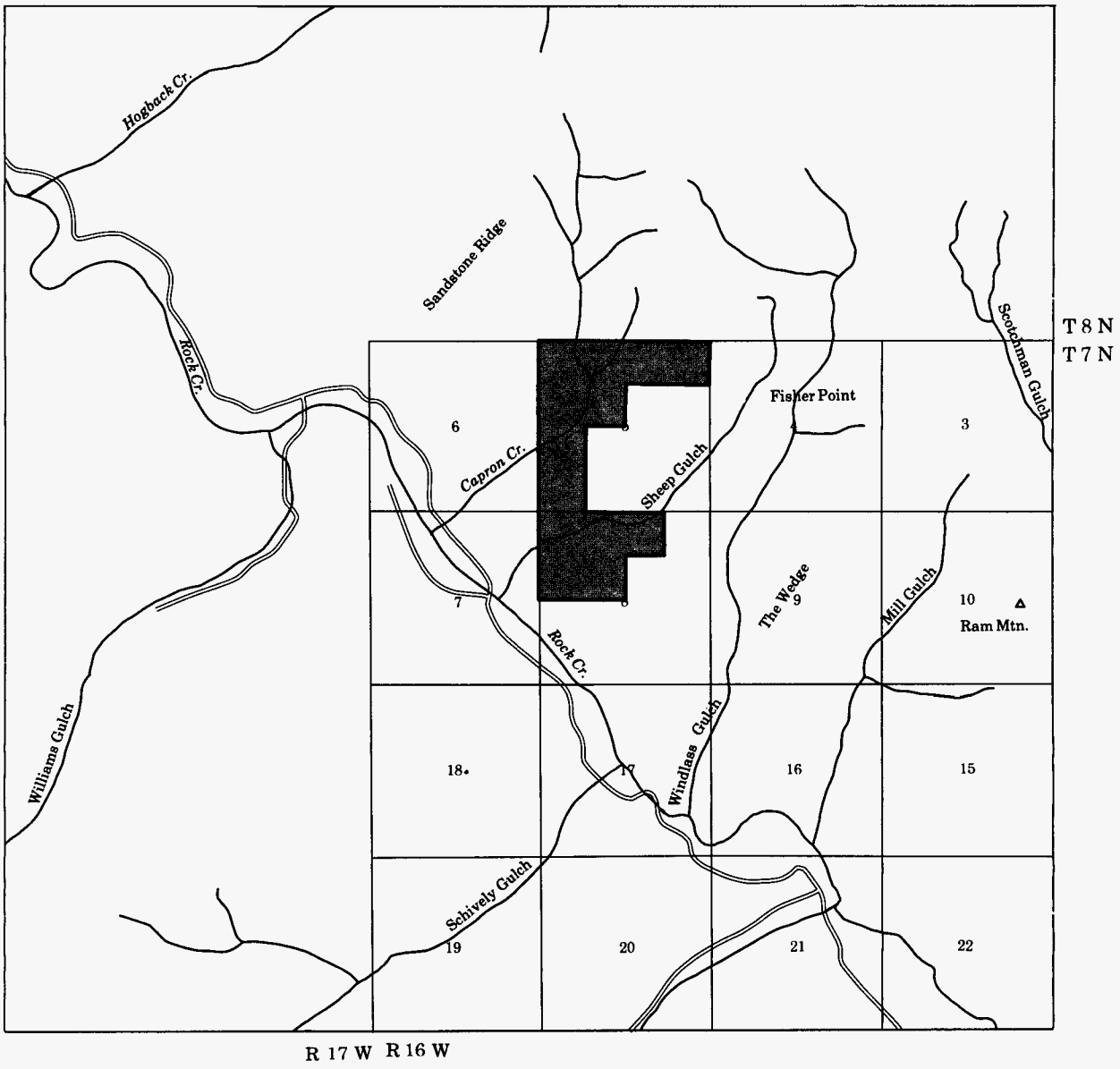
- WSA Boundary
- Alternative WSA Boundary
- Alternative A, B, and E — no portion recommended for wilderness designation
- Alternative C — entire area recommended for wilderness designation
- Alternative D — portion of area recommended for wilderness designation

NORTH

0 1 2 Miles

0 1 2 3 Kilometers

1:63,360



QUIGG WEST ALTERNATIVES

WSA Boundary

Alternatives C, D, and E — entire area recommended for wilderness designation

Alternatives A and B — no portion recommended for wilderness designation

NORTH

0 1 2 Miles

0 1 2 3 Kilometers

1:63,360

At present, a total of 40 developed and undeveloped recreation sites have been identified primarily for the protection of their recreation values. These are generally located near water and/or road closure gates. The 12 existing walk-in hunting areas would continue, and 4 additional areas would be pursued.

Garnet Ghost Town would continue to be managed cooperatively with the goal of fully implementing the Garnet Ghost Town Management Plan. The existing network of snowmobile trails would be maintained including the Garnet National Recreation Trail. Cross-country ski trails would be developed in the vicinity of Garnet.

Approximately 6,500 acres would continue to be managed with primary emphasis on maintaining scenic quality (MA 12) including lands along the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers, Flint Creek, Rock Creek, and Bear Gulch.

Alternative B

Alternative B emphasizes the availability of public land for the production of commodity resources such as timber, energy and minerals, and livestock forage. This alternative generally resolves each of the planning issues so as to provide the minimum level of protection required by law for soil, water, air, endangered species, and similar noncommodity resources. In so doing, this alternative generally indicates the highest sustainable levels of availability and production that could be permitted for commodity resources in the planning area. Management area allocations are summarized in Table 2-5 and illustrated on the Alternative B Management Areas map in the map packet.

The response to each issue and needed decision is determined largely by commodity resource potentials and legal requirements for the protection of noncommodity resources.

Renewable Resources

Under Alternative B, 112,000 acres of CFL would be available for harvest. This represents 99 percent of the total CFL in the resource area. About 1,660 acres of CFL would be harvested annually, yielding 8,560 mbf of timber per year. There would be 12.9 miles of road construction each year.

The only CFL that would be set aside from harvest is approximately 400 acres within active mineral production areas. Approximately 11,542 acres of CFL would be allocated to restrictive timber management, based on TPCC considerations intended to maintain soil productivity and watershed values.

The level of intensive timber management would remain low and would include 100 acres of tree planting and 40 acres of thinning annually. Prescribed fire would be prohibited on 4,800 acres adjacent to stream channels. The entire resource area would be open to the application of pesticides; Best Management Practices for chemicals handling (Appendix B) would govern such applications.

TABLE 2-5

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT AREA ALLOCATIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE B

Management Area	Acres	% of Resource Area
1. Riparian Protection Zone	0	0
2. Riparian Multiple Use Zone	0	0
3. General Forest Management	112,000	76.9
4. Elk Summer and Fall Habitat Components	0	0
5. Big Game Summer and Fall Range	0	0
6. Big Game Winter Range	0	0
7. Noncommercial Forest & TPCC Withdrawn Commercial Forest	22,000	15.1
8. Areas Recommended For Wilderness Designation	0	0
9. Special Management Areas	0	0
10. Developed and Undeveloped Recreation Sites	0	0
11. Historical and Cultural Sites	160	0.1
12. Visual Corridor	0	0
13. Nonforest Habitat	10,500	7.2
14. Mineral Production Area	1,000	0.7

All lands would be available for livestock grazing. Authorized livestock use would increase to 9,211 AUMs or 55 percent above current authorized use. Target stocking levels for individual allotments are indicated in Appendix I and generally reflect the current grazing capacity for all suitable rangeland, based on vegetative condition ratings and applicable SCS production estimates.

The ten existing AMP allotments would remain under intensive grazing management. In addition, fourteen other allotments would be placed under intensive management (see Table 2-6). Thus, a total of 95,532 acres would be affected by intensive grazing management. All new AMPs would emphasize the production and availability of forage for livestock use, particularly through the development of new water sources in areas currently lacking water, and through increased use of transitory forage resulting from timber harvest and thinning. New AMPs also would include provisions for the maintenance and improvement of resource conditions including riparian habitat, big game winter range, and forest regeneration. Range improvements and treatments that would be needed to fully implement existing and proposed AMPs include 104 miles of fence, 32 cattleguards, 69 spring developments, 4 miles of pipeline, and 500 acres of weed control.

TABLE 2-6

NEW AMP ALLOTMENTS PROPOSED UNDER ALTERNATIVE B

Allotment Number and Name	Acreage
7101 Bonita-Clinton-Potomac	12,143
7102 Weaver	4,410
7104 Lund #1	8,942
7105 McMahon	1,460
7106 Iverson	3,937
7108 Lund #2	3,518
7109 Semenza #1	5,908
7219 Mannix	2,000
7221 Murphy	1,103
7312 H. Luthje	2,866
7324 Collins	1,362
Cottonwood Meadows	3,040
Gallagher Creek	3,420
Chamberlain Creek	5,760
Total Acreage	59,869

Special Attention Resources

All WSAs would be allocated to a variety of nonwilderness uses consistent with their commodity resource potential. Timber harvest, road construction, mineral entry, and mineral leasing generally would be permitted. Motorized vehicle use would be allowed on designated roads and trails. No WSAs would be recommended for wilderness designation, nor would there be any ACEC designations. WSA boundaries and alternative wilderness recommendations are displayed on the individual WSA Boundary maps.

All riparian habitat would be managed under Standard Operating Procedures designed to maintain site productivity, water quality, and streambank stability while emphasizing timber management.

About 22,000 acres of noncommercial forest and TPCC withdrawn CFL would be managed with emphasis on maintaining old-growth and mature forest habitats and unique features for wildlife use. Essentially all other wildlife habitat would be managed with emphasis on mitigating the effects of timber harvest, road construction, and other resource uses.

Nonrenewable Resources

Under Alternative B, 205,586 acres of federal minerals would be available for oil and gas leasing. Of this total, 205,426 acres would be leased with standard stipulations, and 160 acres associated with historic and cultural sites would not be available for surface occupancy.

Withdrawals would be managed as discussed under Alternative A. All existing powersite and power project withdrawals would remain in effect while all other withdrawals (R&PP and C&MU) would be recommended for revocation. Important historic and cultural sites would be recommended for withdrawal under Section 204 of FLPMA.

Land Ownership and Administration

A number of retention zones would be identified where public lands generally will be retained in public ownership (see Proposed Retention Zones map in map packet). About 126,872 acres of public land would be located within retention zones. All other public lands would be considered for either retention or disposal through transfer, exchange, or sale. The preferred method for disposal would be to exchange for lands within a retention zone.

About 145,500 acres would be available for further consideration for possible routing of major utility and transportation rights-of-way. Important historic and cultural sites (160 acres) would be identified as avoidance areas where rights-of-way would be discouraged.

The level of public and administrative access to public lands would increase. New public access would be sought for an additional 9,500 acres, and administrative access would be sought for an additional 8,150 acres. About 8,090 acres would remain legally inaccessible for either public or administrative purposes.

Withdrawals would be managed as discussed under Alternative A.

Recreation, Cultural, and Aesthetic Resources

All public land would be available, on a restricted basis, for roaded and/or motorized recreation use. Restrictions generally would take the form of seasonal closures and/or limitations of use to specific roads and trails.

The Garnet Ghost Town would continue to be managed cooperatively with the goal of fully implementing the Garnet Ghost Town Management Plan. The existing network of snowmobile trails would be maintained including the Garnet National Winter Recreation Trail. Cross-country ski trails would be developed in the vicinity of Garnet.

Efforts would be made to acquire additional public access to key tracts along the Blackfoot and Clark Fork rivers.

Alternative C

Alternative C emphasizes the maintenance or improvement of resource conditions and environmental values such as wildlife habitat and wilderness. This alternative generally resolves each of the planning issues so as to provide a high level of protection for environmental and amenity values; resource use and development would be permitted to the extent compatible with the environmental protection emphasis. This alternative also emphasizes the availability of public land for a variety of nonmotorized recreation uses. Management area allocations are summarized in Table 2-7 and illustrated on the Alternative C Management Areas map in the map packet.

TABLE 2-7

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT AREA ALLOCATIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE C

Management Area	Acres	% of Resource Area[1]
1. Riparian Protection Zone	1,000	0.7
2. Riparian Multiple Use Zone	3,300	2.3
3. General Forest Management	32,000	22.0
4. Elk Summer and Fall Habitat Components	8,650	5.9
5. Big Game Summer and Fall Range	27,350	18.8
6. Big Game Winter Range	25,200	17.3
7. Noncommercial Forest & TPCC Withdrawn Commercial Forest	5,300	3.6
8. Areas Recommended For Wilderness Designation	27,737	19.0
9. Special Management Areas	2,400	1.6
10. Developed and Undeveloped Recreation Sites	61	0.1
11. Historical and Cultural Sites	160	0.1
12. Visual Corridor	10,200	7.0
13. Nonforest Habitat	1,300	0.9
14. Mineral Production Area	1,000	0.7

[1]Percentages do not total 100 due to rounding.

The response to each issue and needed decision is determined largely by the condition and potential of amenity resources and the ability to produce commodity resources while attaining environmental protection objectives.

Renewable Resources

Under Alternative C, 87,930 acres of CFL would be available for harvest. This represents 78 percent of the total CFL in the resource area. About 1,120 acres of CFL would be harvested annually, yielding 5,960 mbf of timber per year. There would be 9.0 miles of roads constructed each year.

Most of the CFL acreage that would be set aside from harvest is located within the Wales Creek, Yourname Creek, Gallagher Creek, and Hoodoo Mountain areas where 22,000 acres of CFL would be unavailable for harvest because of wilderness designations. About 2,780 acres of CFL would be set aside or allocated to restrictive timber management to protect or maintain riparian and watershed values elsewhere. An additional 2,000 acres of CFL would be set aside within areas identified for special management, and 400 acres would be set aside within mineral production areas. About 46,700 acres of CFL would be allocated to restrictive timber management primarily to protect or enhance important wildlife habitat values.

The level of intensive timber management would remain the same as Alternative A. Prescribed fire would be prohibited on 5,020 acres primarily within areas recommended for developed and potential recreation sites, and adjacent to stream channels. Pesticide application would be prohibited on 32,000 acres within recommended wilderness areas and riparian areas.

A total of 38,130 acres would not be leased for livestock grazing. These include 27,200 acres that are currently closed and additional acreages in the Elk Creek, Marcum, Mulkey, and Rattler areas. A total of 107,530 acres would remain available for livestock use. The total authorized livestock use would decrease to 3,595 AUMs or 39 percent below current licensed use.

Target stocking levels for individual allotments are indicated in Appendix I. For those allotments to be adjusted downward, target stocking levels generally are based on the current grazing capacity of all suitable rangeland in poor or fair condition. In some cases where it would be practical to exclude livestock use from poor and fair condition rangeland by fencing, the target stocking level is based on the current grazing capacity of all suitable rangeland in good or excellent condition.

The ten existing AMP allotments would remain under intensive grazing management. In addition, eighteen other allotments would be placed under intensive management (see Table 2-8). Thus, a total of 85,026 acres would be affected by intensive grazing management. All new AMPs would emphasize the maintenance and improvement of resource conditions including riparian habitat, watershed, big game winter range, and forest regeneration. Management changes would include the implementation of grazing systems and an increase in resource monitoring. Range improvements that would be needed to fully implement existing and proposed AMPs include 82 miles of fence and 22 cattleguards.

Special Attention Resources

All WSAs would be recommended for wilderness designation. Timber harvest, road construction, mineral entry, mineral leasing, and motorized vehicle use would be prohibited. A wilderness management plan would be prepared for each area in accordance with BLM wilderness management policy. WSA boundaries and alternative wilderness recommendations are displayed on individual WSA Boundary maps.

Twenty acres in Rattler Gulch would be designated as an ACEC for its educational value and withdrawn from mineral entry as a means of protecting a unique limestone feature from possible mineral development.

A total of 4,300 acres would be managed primarily to maintain or enhance a variety of riparian habitat values. All other riparian habitat would be managed

TABLE 2-8

NEW AMP ALLOTMENTS PROPOSED UNDER ALTERNATIVES C AND D

Allotment Number and Name	Acreage
7101 Bonita-Clinton-Potomac	12,143
7102 Weaver	4,410
7104 Lund #1	8,942
7105 McMahon	1,460
7106 Iverson	3,937
7108 Lund #2	3,518
7109 Semenza #1	5,908
7205 Benson Brothers	360
7219 Mannix	2,000
7221 Murphy	1,103
7222 Semenza #2	205
7301 Bauer	279
7302 Bissonette	175
7308 Jensen #1	160
7312 H. Luthje	2,866
7317 X Diamond Bar	255
7318 Radtke #2	280
7324 Collins	1,362
Total Acreage	49,363

under Standard Operating Procedures designed to maintain site productivity, water quality, and streambank stability.

A total of 61,200 acres would be managed primarily to maintain or improve specific types of big game habitat including elk summer and fall habitat components, big game summer and fall range, and big game winter range. These areas are in addition to the 30,137 acres allocated to wilderness and other special management where management emphasis would include the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat values. An additional 5,300 acres of noncommercial forest and TPCC withdrawn commercial forest land would be managed with emphasis on maintaining old-growth and mature forest habitats and unique features for wildlife use.

Nonrenewable Resources

Under Alternative C, 177,849 acres of federal minerals would be available for oil and gas leasing. Of this total, 66,050 acres would be leased with special stipulations, and 2,560 acres would not be available for surface occupancy. All areas recommended for wilderness designation would be closed to oil and gas leasing pending congressional action. Areas affected by seasonal restrictions and stipulations prohibiting surface occupancy consist largely of existing and potential road closure areas where wildlife habitat values are important.

All existing powersite and power project withdrawals, totalling 1,300 acres, would remain in effect under this alternative. All other withdrawals would be recommended for revocation. Important cultural and historic sites, 160 acres, and 20 acres to be designated as an ACEC would be recommended for withdrawal under Section 204 of FLPMA. All areas recommended for wilderness designation would be withdrawn under Section 4(c)(3) of the Wilderness Act.

Land Ownership and Administration

A number of retention zones would be identified where public lands generally will be retained in public ownership (see Proposed Retention Zones map in the map packet). About 126,872 acres would be located within retention zones. All other public lands would be considered for either retention or disposal through transfer, exchange, or sale. The preferred method for disposal would be to exchange for lands within a retention zone.

About 105,650 acres would be available for further consideration for possible routing of major utility and transportation rights-of-way. About 12,253 acres associated with riparian areas; important recreation, historic, and cultural sites; and other special management areas would be identified as avoidance areas where rights-of-way would be discouraged. All areas recommended for wilderness or ACEC designation would be excluded from corridor development.

The level of public and administrative access to public lands would increase. New public access would be sought for an additional 9,500 acres, and administrative access would be sought for an additional 8,150 acres. About 8,090 acres would remain legally inaccessible for either public or administrative purposes.

Withdrawals would be managed as discussed under Alternative A.

Recreation, Cultural, and Aesthetic Resources

Under Alternative C, 106,022 acres would be available, on a restricted basis, for roaded and/or motorized recreation use. The restrictions generally would take the form of seasonal closures and/or limiting use to specific roads and trails. About 9,440 acres in the Ram Mountain and Chamberlain Creek areas are roaded but would not be available for motorized recreation. The remaining 30,137 acres would be available for roadless, nonmotorized recreation; most of this acreage is located within areas recommended for wilderness designation and other areas requiring special management.

A total of 61 developed and undeveloped sites would be identified primarily for the protection of their recreational values. These are generally located near water and/or road closure gates. The 12 existing walk-in hunting areas would continue, and an effort would be made to establish four additional areas.

The Garnet Ghost Town would continue to be managed cooperatively with the goal of fully implementing the Garnet Ghost Town Management Plan. The existing network of snowmobile trails would be maintained including the Garnet National Winter Recreation Trail. Cross-country ski trails would be developed in the vicinity of Garnet.

Efforts would be made to acquire additional public access to key tracts of public land along the Blackfoot and Clark Fork rivers.

A total of 10,200 acres would be managed with primary emphasis on maintaining scenic quality (MA 12) including lands along the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers, Flint Creek, Rock Creek, and Bear Gulch.

Alternative D

Alternative D, like Alternative C, emphasizes the maintenance or improvement of resource conditions and environmental values. However, Alternative D differs from Alternative C in that only portions of three WSAs and all of the fourth WSA would be recommended for wilderness designation. Wilderness recommendations would be designed to protect the portion of each WSA with the highest wilderness values and to minimize conflicts with nonwilderness uses and opportunities. Wilderness boundaries also would be designed to enhance the manageability of designated areas and adjoining lands. Management area allocations are summarized in Table 2-9 and illustrated on the Alternative D WSA maps and the Alternative C Management Areas map in the map packet.

The response to each issue and needed decision is identical to those discussed for Alternative C except for those portions of three WSAs that are not being recommended for wilderness designation.

Renewable Resources

Under Alternative D, 101,130 acres of CFL would be available for harvest. This represents 90 percent of the total CFL. A total of 1,313 acres of CFL would be harvested annually, yielding 6,780 mbf of timber per year. There would be 10.2 miles of road construction annually.

Most of the CFL acreage that would be set aside from harvest is located within the Wales Creek, Gallagher Creek, and Cottonwood Meadows areas where 10,390 acres of CFL would be unavailable for harvest because of wilderness designations. A total of 3,580 acres of CFL would be set aside or allocated to restrictive timber management to protect or maintain riparian and watershed values elsewhere in the resource area. An additional 400 acres of CFL would be set aside within areas identified for special management, and 400 acres would be set aside within mineral production areas. A total of 58,350 acres of CFL would be allocated to restrictive timber management primarily to protect or enhance important wildlife habitat values.

The level of intensive timber management would remain low and would include 100 acres of tree planting and 40 acres of thinning annually. Prescribed fire would be prohibited on 5,020 acres of public land, primarily within areas recommended for developed and potential recreation sites, and adjacent to stream channels. Pesticide application would be prohibited on 19,450 acres within recommended wilderness areas and riparian areas.

TABLE 2-9

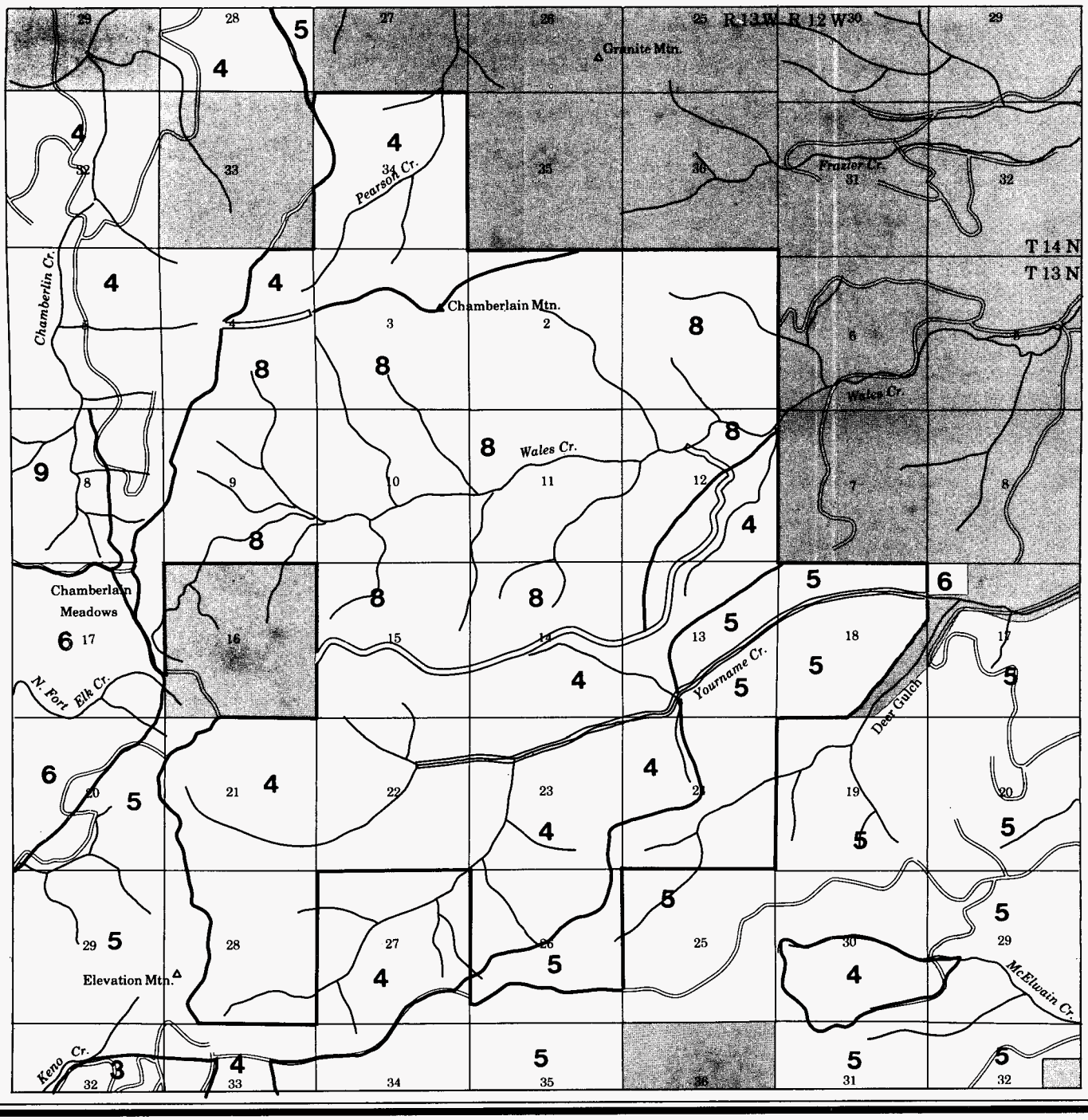
SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT AREA ALLOCATIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE D

Management Area	Acres	% of Resource Area
1. Riparian Protection Zone	1,000	0.7
2. Riparian Multiple Use Zone	4,100	2.8
3. General Forest Management	32,750	22.5
4. Elk Summer and Fall Habitat Components	10,000	6.9
5. Big Game Summer and Fall Range	39,500	27.1
6. Big Game Winter Range	25,500	17.5
7. Noncommercial Forest & TPCC Withdrawn Commercial Forest	5,300	3.6
8. Areas Recommended For Wilderness Designation	14,350	9.9
9. Special Management Areas	440	0.3
10. Developed and Undeveloped Recreation Sites	61	0.1
11. Historical and Cultural Sites	160	0.1
12. Visual Corridor	10,200	7.0
13. Nonforest Habitat	1,300	0.9
14. Mineral Production Area	1,000	0.7

A total of 38,130 acres would not be leased for livestock grazing. These include 27,200 acres currently closed and additional acreages in the Elk Creek, Marcum, Mulkey, and Rattler areas. A total of 107,530 acres would remain available for livestock use. The total authorized livestock use would decrease to 3,595 AUMs or 39 percent below current licensed use.

Target stocking levels for individual allotments are indicated in Appendix I. For those allotments to be adjusted downward, target stocking levels generally are based on the current grazing capacity of rangeland in poor or fair condition. In some cases where it would be practical to exclude livestock use by fencing rangeland in fair or poor vegetative condition, the target stocking level is based on the current grazing capacity of rangeland in good or excellent condition.

The ten existing AMP allotments would remain under intensive grazing management. In addition, eighteen other allotments would be placed under intensive management (see Table 2-8). Thus, a total of 85,026 acres would be affected by intensive grazing management. All new AMPs would emphasize the maintenance and improvement of resource conditions including riparian habitat, watershed, big game winter range, and forest regeneration. Management changes would include the implementation



1 Riparian Protection Zone

2 Riparian Multiple Use Zone

3 General Forest Management

4 Elk Summer/Fall Habitat Components

5 Big Game Summer/Fall Range

6 Big Game Winter Rang

7 Non-Commercial Forest and TPCC Withdrawn Commercial Forest

8 Areas Recommended for Wilderness Designation

9 Special Management Areas

10 Developed and Undeveloped Recreation Sites

11 Historic & Cultural Sites

12 Visual Corridor

13 Non-Forest Habitat

WALES CREEK MANAGEMENT AREAS ALTERNATIVE D

NORTH

0 1 2 Miles

0 1 2 3 Kilometers

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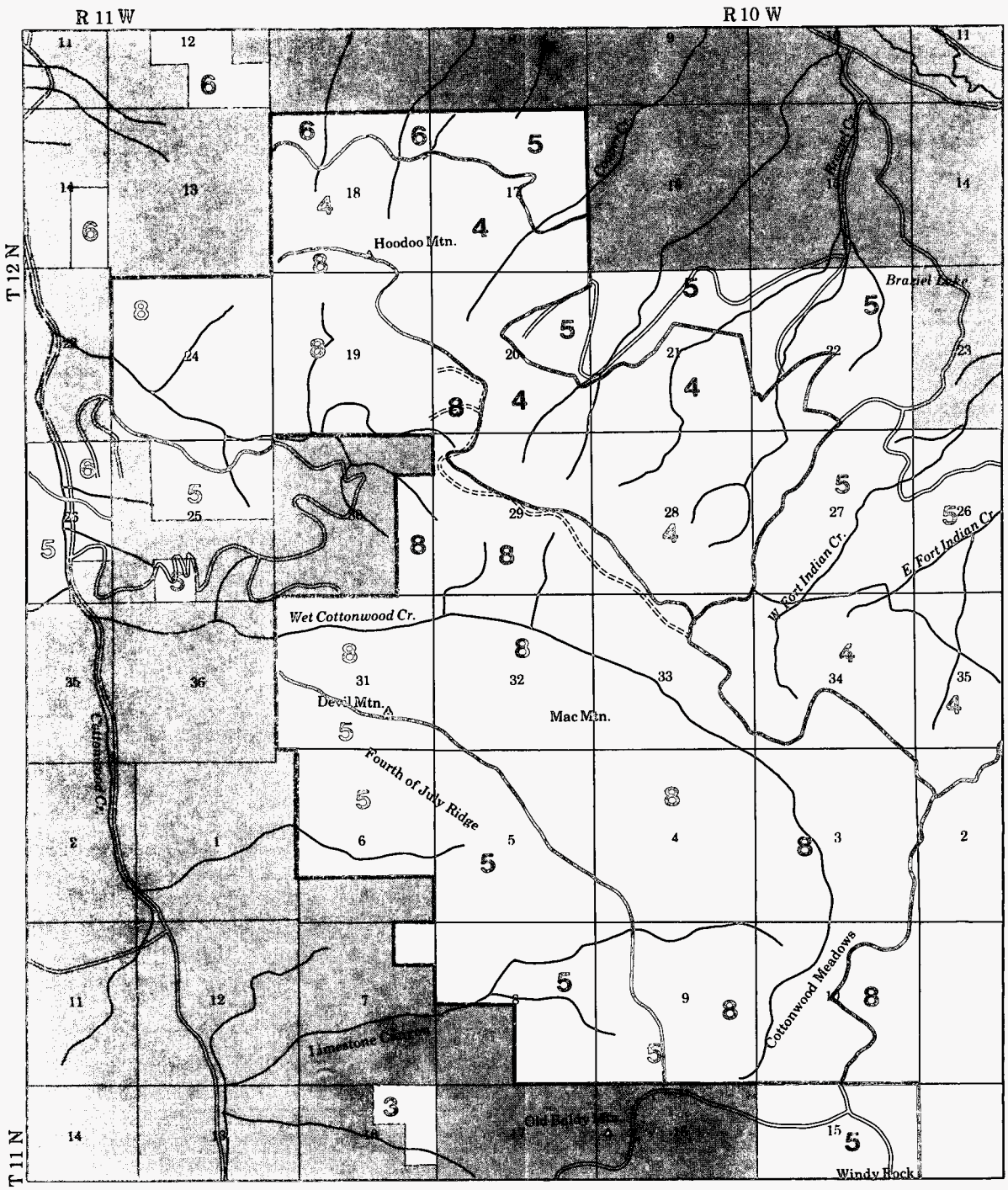


1	Riparian Protection Zone	7	Non-Commercial Forest and TPCC Withdrawn	12	Visual Corridor
2	Riparian Multiple Use Zone		Commercial Forest	13	Non-Forest Habitat
3	General Forest Management	8	Areas Recommended for Wilderness Designation	14	Mineral Production Area
4	Elk Summer/Fall Habitat Components	9	Special Management Areas		
5	Big Game Summer/Fall Range	10	Developed and Undeveloped Recreation Sites		
6	Big Game Winter Range	11	Historic & Cultural Sites		

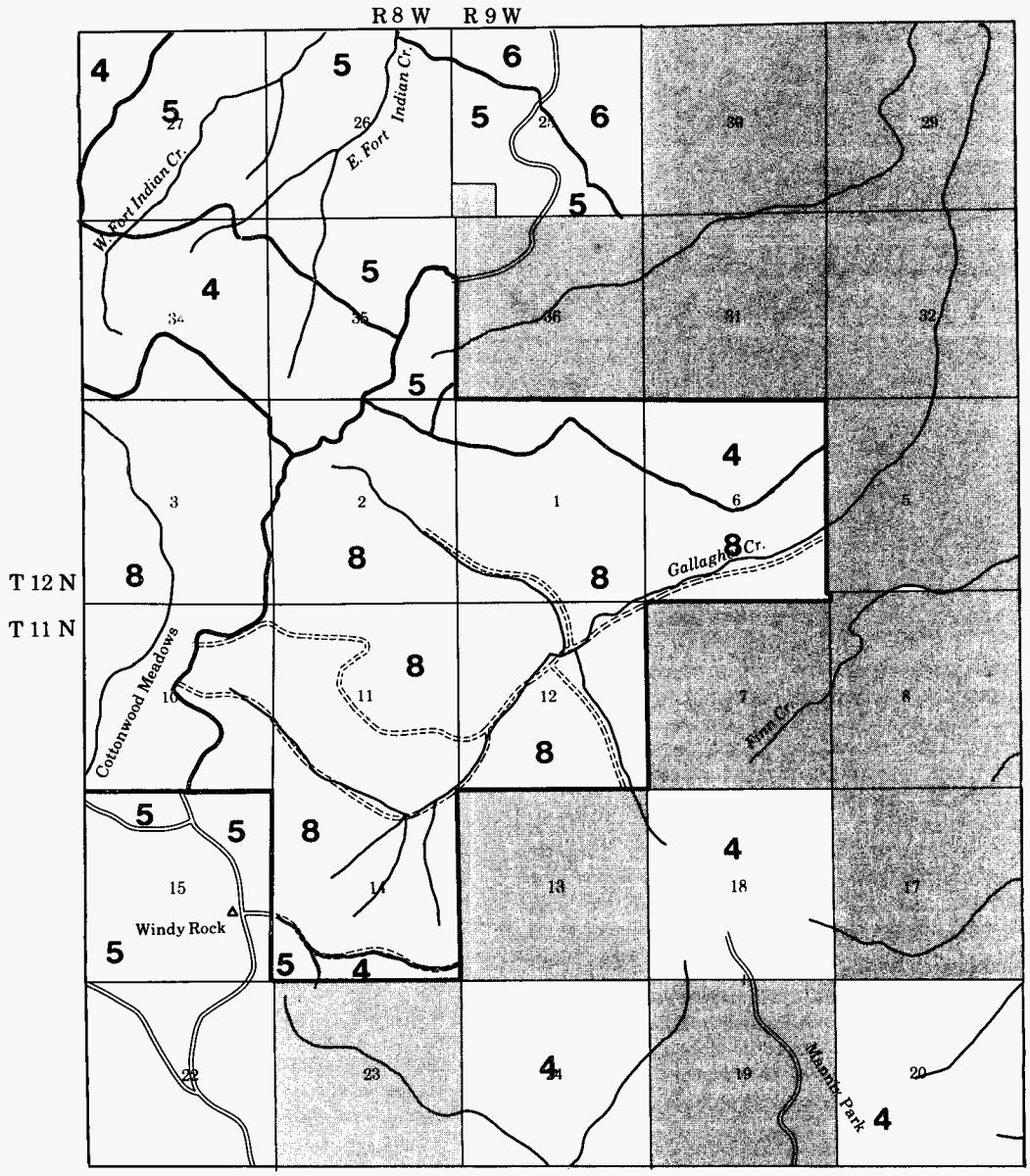
HOODOO MOUNTAIN MANAGEMENT AREAS ALTERNATIVE D

1:63,360

NORTH

0 1 Miles 2

0 1 Kilometers 2 3



1 Riparian Protection Zone

2 Riparian Multiple Use Zone

3 General Forest Management

4 Elk Summer/Fall Habitat Components

5 Big Game Summer/Fall Range

6 Big Game Winter Range

7 Non-Commercial Forest and TPCC Withdrawn Commercial Forest

8 Areas Recommended for Wilderness Designation

9 Special Management Areas

10 Developed and Undeveloped Recreation Sites

11 Historic & Cultural Sites

12 Visual Corridor

13 Non-Forest Habitat

GALLAGHER CREEK MANAGEMENT AREAS ALTERNATIVE D

NORTH

0 1 2 Miles

0 1 2 3 Kilometers

1:63,360

of grazing systems and an increase in resource monitoring. Range improvements that would be needed to fully implement existing and proposed AMPs include 82 miles of fence and 22 cattleguards.

Special Attention Resources

Under Alternative D, 14,350 acres in four WSAs would be recommended for wilderness designation. Timber harvest, road construction, mineral entry, mineral leasing, and motorized vehicle use would be prohibited. A wilderness management plan would be prepared for each area in accordance with BLM wilderness management policy. WSA boundaries and alternative wilderness recommendations are displayed on individual WSA Boundary maps.

Twenty acres in Rattler Gulch would be designated as an ACEC for its educational values and withdrawn from mineral entry as a means of protecting a unique limestone feature from possible mineral development.

A total of 5,100 acres would be managed primarily to maintain or enhance a variety of riparian habitat values. All other riparian habitat would be managed under Standard Operating Procedures designed to maintain site productivity, water quality, and streambank stability.

A total of 75,000 acres would be managed primarily to emphasize big game habitat including elk summer and fall habitat components, big game summer and fall range, and big game winter range. These areas are in addition to the 14,790 acres allocated to wilderness and other special management where management emphasis would include the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat values. An additional 5,300 acres of noncommercial forest and TPCC withdrawn commercial forest land would be managed with emphasis on maintaining old-growth and mature forest habitats and unique features for wildlife use.

Nonrenewable Resources

Under Alternative D, 191,236 acres of federal minerals would be available for oil and gas leasing. Of this total, 78,550 acres would be leased with special stipulations, and 600 acres would not be available for surface occupancy. All areas recommended for wilderness designation would be closed to oil and gas leasing pending Congressional action. Areas affected by seasonal restrictions and stipulations prohibiting surface occupancy consist largely of existing and potential road closure areas where wildlife habitat values are important.

All existing powersite and power project withdrawals, totalling 1,300 acres, would remain in effect under this alternative. All other withdrawals would be recommended for revocation. Important cultural and historic sites (160 acres) and 20 acres to be designated as an ACEC would be recommended for withdrawal under Section 204 of FLPMA. All areas recommended for wilderness designation would be withdrawn under Section 4(c)(3) of the Wilderness Act.

Land Ownership and Administration

A number of retention zones would be identified where public lands generally will be retained in public ownership (see Proposed Retention Zones map in map packet). About 126,872 acres would be located within retention zones. All other public lands would be considered for either retention or disposal through transfer, exchange, or sale. The preferred method for disposal would be to exchange for lands within a retention zone.

A total of 119,650 acres would be available for further consideration for possible routing of major utility and transportation rights-of-way. About 17,640 acres associated with riparian areas, important recreation, historic and cultural sites, and other special management areas would be identified as avoidance areas where rights-of-way would be discouraged. All areas recommended for wilderness or ACEC designation would be excluded from corridor development.

The level of public and administrative access to public lands would increase. New public access would be sought for an additional 9,500 acres, and administrative access would be sought for an additional 8,150 acres. A total of 8,090 acres would remain legally inaccessible for either public or administrative purposes.

Withdrawals would be managed as discussed under Alternative A.

Recreation, Cultural, and Aesthetic Resources

Under Alternative D, 121,369 acres of public land in the resource area would be available, on a restricted basis, for roaded and/or motorized recreation use. The restrictions generally would take the form of seasonal closures and/or limiting use to specific roads and trails. About 9,440 acres in the Ram Mountain and Chamberlain Creek areas are roaded but would not be available for motorized recreation. The remaining 14,790 acres would be available for roadless, nonmotorized recreation; most of this acreage is located within areas recommended for wilderness designation and other areas requiring special management.

A total of 61 developed and undeveloped recreation sites would be identified primarily for the protection of their recreational values. These are generally located near water and/or road closure gates. The 12 existing walk-in hunting areas would continue, and an effort would be made to establish four additional areas.

The Garnet Ghost Town would continue to be managed cooperatively with the goal of fully implementing the Garnet Ghost Town Management Plan. The existing network of snowmobile trails would be maintained including the Garnet National Winter Recreation Trail. Cross-country ski trails would be developed in the vicinity of Garnet.

Efforts would be made to acquire additional public access to key tracts of public land along the Blackfoot and Clark Fork rivers.

About 10,200 acres would be managed with primary emphasis on maintaining scenic quality (MA 12) including lands along the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers, Flint Creek, Rock Creek, and Bear Gulch.

Alternative E (Preferred)

Alternative E incorporates portions of the other four alternatives and generally represents a middle-ground approach to issue resolution. This alternative balances competing demands by making public lands available for a wide variety of resource uses while protecting and enhancing important and sensitive environmental values. Management area allocations are summarized in Table 2-10 and illustrated on the Alternative E Management Areas map in the map packet.

TABLE 2-10

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT AREA ALLOCATIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE E

Management Area	Acres	% of Resource Area
1. Riparian Protection Zone	1,000	0.7
2. Riparian Multiple Use Zone	2,500	1.7
3. General Forest Management	36,900	25.3
4. Elk Summer and Fall Habitat Components	8,300	5.7
5. Big Game Summer and Fall Range	48,850	33.5
6. Big Game Winter Range	23,300	16.0
7. Noncommercial Forest & TPCC Withdrawn Commercial Forest	5,800	4.0
8. Areas Recommended For Wilderness Designation	520	0.4
9. Special Management Areas	8,140	5.6
10. Developed and Undeveloped Recreation Sites	41	0.1
11. Historical and Cultural Sites	160	0.1
12. Visual Corridor	7,850	5.4
13. Nonforest Habitat	1,300	0.9
14. Mineral Production Area	1,000	0.7

The response to each issue and needed decision is based on the full range of resource potentials and conditions as well as legal and policy requirements and social and economic considerations.

Renewable Resources

Under Alternative E, 105,020 acres of CFL would be available for harvest. This represents 93 percent of the total CFL. A total of 1,352 acres of CFL would be harvested annually, yielding 7,030 mbf of timber per year. There would be 10.5 miles of road construction each year.

Most of the CFL acreage that would be set aside from harvest is located within the Wales Creek, upper Gallagher Creek, and Cottonwood Meadows areas where 6,620 acres of CFL would be unavailable for harvest because of special management considerations. A total of 2,080 acres of CFL would be set aside or allocated to restrictive timber management to protect or maintain riparian and watershed values elsewhere in the resource area. An additional 280 acres of CFL would be set aside within one area recommended for wilderness designation, and 400 acres would be set aside within mineral production areas. A total of 62,700 acres of CFL would be allocated to restrictive timber management primarily to protect or enhance important wildlife habitat values.

The level of intensive timber management would remain the same as Alternative A. Prescribed fire would be prohibited on 5,020 acres primarily within developed and potential recreation sites and adjacent to stream channels. Pesticide application would be prohibited on 4,000 acres within the recommended wilderness area and riparian areas.

A total of 33,770 acres would not be leased for livestock grazing (see Table 2-11). These include 27,200 acres currently closed, and additional acreage in the Elk Creek, Pearson Creek, and Quigg Peak areas. A total of 111,890 acres would remain available for livestock use. The total authorized livestock use would increase to 6,245 AUMs or 5 percent above current licensed use.

TABLE 2-11

TRACTS TO REMAIN UNLEASED FOR LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Name	Acreage
Chamberlain Creek	5,760
Wales Creek	7,820
Gallagher Creek	3,420
Cottonwood Creek	3,040
Yourname Creek	7,160
Quigg Peak	520
Elk Creek East	4,480
Pearson Creek	1,570
Total	33,770

Target stocking levels for individual allotments are indicated in Appendix I. No allotments would be adjusted downward. Target stocking levels for allotments to be adjusted upward would be based on current grazing capacity estimates, considering vegetative condition ratings and applicable SCS production estimates.

Nine of the ten existing AMP allotments would remain under intensive grazing management. One existing AMP allotment, Devil Mountain (7201), would be placed under custodial management since the allotment boundaries have been modified to exclude livestock use from much of the original AMP area, and resource conditions are satisfactory on the remaining grazed acreage.

In addition, 11 other allotments would be placed under intensive management (see Table 2-12). Thus, a total of 81,294 acres would be affected by intensive grazing management. All new AMPs would be based on allotment specific multiple use management objectives addressing identified resource opportunities and conflicts. Future management actions would be designed to meet these objectives. Management opportunities and objectives for I allotments and implementation priorities are identified in Appendix M.

TABLE 2-12

NEW AMP ALLOTMENTS PROPOSED UNDER ALTERNATIVE E

Allotment Number and Name	Acreage
7101 Bonita-Clinton-Potomac	12,143
7102 Weaver	4,410
7104 Lund #1	8,942
7105 McMahon	1,460
7106 Iverson	3,937
7108 Lund #2	3,518
7109 Semenza #1	5,908
7219 Mannix	2,000
7221 Murphy	1,103
7312 H. Luthje	2,866
7324 Collins	1,362
Total Acreage	47,649

Management changes for proposed AMP allotments would include the implementation of grazing systems and an increase in resource monitoring. Range improvements and treatments that would be needed to fully implement existing and proposed AMP allotments include 75 miles of fence, 25 cattleguards, 38 spring developments, 4 miles of pipeline, and 300 acres of weed control.

Special Attention Resources

The 520-acre Quigg West WSA would be recommended for wilderness designation contingent on the Forest Service wilderness recommendation for Quigg. Timber harvest, road construction, mineral entry, mineral leasing, and motorized vehicle use would be prohibited. A wilderness management plan would be prepared in accordance with BLM wilderness management policy. WSA boundaries and alternative wilderness recommendations are displayed on individual WSA Boundary maps.

Twenty acres in Rattler Gulch would be designated as an ACEC for its educational value and withdrawn from mineral entry as a means of protecting a unique limestone feature from possible mineral development.

A total of 3,500 acres would be managed primarily to maintain or enhance a variety of riparian habitat values. All other riparian habitat would be managed under Standard Operating Procedures designed to maintain site productivity, water quality, and streambank stability.

A total of 80,450 acres would be managed primarily to emphasize big game habitat including elk summer and fall habitat components, big game summer and fall range, and big game winter range while providing for timber harvest. These areas are in addition to the 8,660 acres allocated to wilderness and other special management where management emphasis would include the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat values. An additional 5,800 acres of noncommercial forest and TPCC withdrawn commercial forest land would be managed with emphasis on maintaining old-growth and mature forest habitats and unique features for wildlife use.

Nonrenewable Resources

Under Alternative E, 205,066 acres of federal minerals in the resource area would be available for oil and gas leasing. Of this total, 84,076 acres would be leased with special stipulations, and 8,180 acres would not be available for surface occupancy. All land recommended for wilderness designation would be closed to oil and gas leasing pending congressional action. Areas affected by seasonal restriction and stipulations prohibiting surface occupancy consist largely of special management areas and existing and potential road closure areas where wildlife habitat values are important.

All existing powersite and power project withdrawals, totalling 1,300 acres, would remain in effect under this alternative. All other withdrawals would be recommended for revocation. Important cultural and historic sites, 160 acres, and 20 acres proposed for ACEC designation would be recommended for withdrawal under Section 204 of FLPMA. All land recommended for wilderness designation would be withdrawn under Section 4(c)(3) of the Wilderness Act.

Land Ownership and Administration

A number of retention zones would be identified, where public lands generally will be retained in public ownership (see Proposed Retention Zones map in map packet). About 126,872 acres would be located within retention zones. All other public lands would be considered for either retention or disposal through transfer, exchange, or sale. The preferred method for disposal would be to exchange for lands within a retention zone.

A total of 127,500 acres would be available for further consideration and possible routing of major utility and transportation rights-of-way. About 17,620 acres associated with riparian areas, important recreation, historic and cultural sites, and other special management areas would be identified as avoidance areas where rights-of-way would be discouraged. All land recommended for wilderness and ACEC designation would be excluded from corridor development.

The level of public and administrative access to public lands would increase. New public access would be sought for an additional 9,500 acres, and administrative access would be sought for an additional 8,150 acres. A total of 8,090 acres would remain legally inaccessible for either public or administrative purposes.

Withdrawals would be managed as discussed under Alternative A.

Recreation, Cultural, and Aesthetic Resources

Under Alternative E, 131,919 acres would be available, on a restricted basis, for roaded and/or motorized recreation. The restrictions generally would take the form of seasonal closures and/or limiting use to specific roads and trails. A total of 5,040 acres in the Ram Mountain and Karshaw Mountain areas are roaded but would not be available for motorized recreation. The remaining 8,660 acres would be available for roadless, nonmotorized recreation; most of this acreage is located within areas recommended for wilderness designation or requiring other forms of special management.

A total of 41 developed and undeveloped recreation sites would be identified primarily for the protection of their recreation values. These are generally located near water and/or road closure gates. The 12 existing walk-in hunting areas would continue, and an effort would be made to establish four additional areas.

Garnet Ghost Town would continue to be managed cooperatively with the goal of fully implementing the Garnet Ghost Town Management Plan. The existing network of snowmobile trails would be maintained including the Garnet National Winter Recreation Trail. Cross-country ski trails would be developed in the vicinity of Garnet.

Efforts would be made to acquire additional public access to key tracts along the Blackfoot and Clark Fork rivers.

A total of 7,850 acres would be managed with primary emphasis on maintaining scenic quality (MA 12) including lands along the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers, Flint Creek, and Rock Creek.

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

Tables 2-13 and 2-14 summarize range improvement and treatment costs, and projected changes in vegetative condition and classification for each alternative.

Tables 2-15 and 2-16 summarize the management area allocations and resource allocations and outputs that would occur under each alternative. Table 2-17 summarizes the environmental consequences expected under each alternative. For additional information regarding the environmental effects of each alternative, refer to the Environmental Consequences chapter.

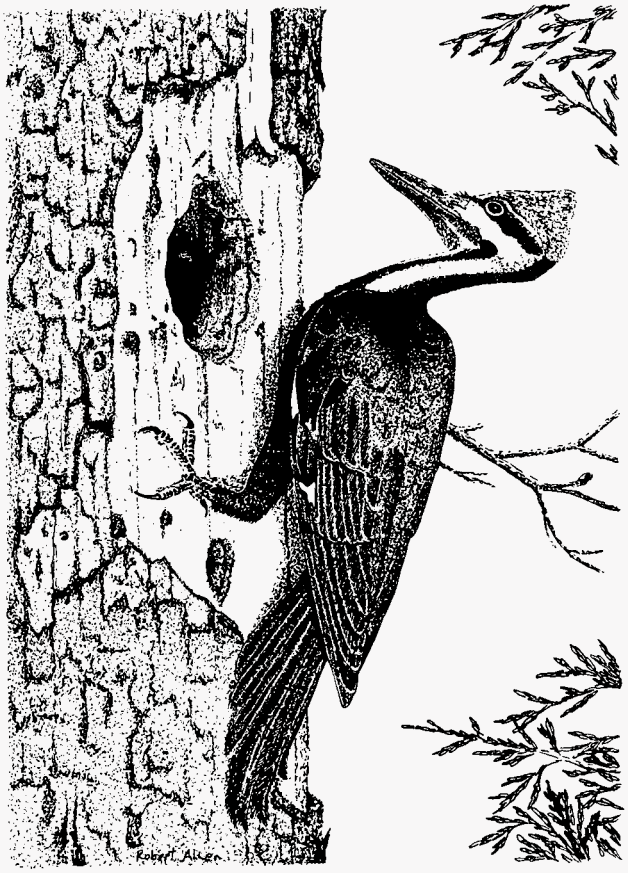


TABLE 2-13

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES:
RANGE IMPROVEMENTS, TREATMENTS, AND COSTS

Improvement/Treatment	Alternatives A	B	C	D	E
Fence (mi)	22	104	82	82	75
Cattleguards (no)	7	32	22	22	25
Springs (no)	25	69	0	0	38
Pipeline (mi)	2	4	0	0	4
Weed Control (ac)	200	500	0	0	300
Total Installation Cost for all Improvements	$217,400	$829,000	$465,000	$465,000	$585,600
20-yr Maintenance and Replacement Cost	$363,600	$548,660	$448,080	$448,080	$466,710
Total Cost[1] (20 years)	$581,000	$1,377,660	$913,080	$913,080	$1,052,310

[1]Range improvement and maintenance costs typically are shared by the BLM, the affected grazing permittees, and in some cases other agencies or landowners. The cost figures shown above represent a total estimate for all costs to all parties.

TABLE 2-14

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES:
PROJECTED LONG-TERM CHANGES IN
VEGETATIVE CONDITION/CLASSIFICATION

Condition/ Classi-fication	Present Situation		Alternatives A		B		C		D		E	
	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%
Excellent	11,974	8	11,974	8	11,974	8	23,934	16	23,934	16	11,974	8
Good	25,005	17	31,525	22	36,704	25	23,696	16	23,696	16	39,057	27
Fair	14,325	10	7,918	5	3,923	3	4,989	3	4,989	3	1,588	1
Poor	1,336	1	1,223	1	39	T	21	T	21	T	21	T
Waste	69,802	48	29,086	20	19,382	13	14,325	10	14,325	10	31,796	22
Unclassified	11,068	8	28,134	19	31,338	22	46,195	32	46,195	32	27,974	19
Logged	12,150	8	35,800	25	42,300	29	32,500	22	32,500	22	33,250	23
Total	145,660	100	145,660	100	145,660	100*	145,600	100	145,600	100	145,600	100

*Note—due to rounding off this column may not total 100 percent.

TABLE 2-15

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES: MANAGEMENT AREA ALLOCATIONS (in acres)

Management Area	Alternatives A (No Action)	B	C	D	E (Preferred)
Riparian Protection Zone	760	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
Riparian Multiple Use Zone	640	0	3,300	4,100	2,500
General Forest Management	63,460	112,000	32,000	32,750	36,900
Elk Summer and Fall Habitat Components	640	0	8,650	10,000	8,300
Big Game Summer and Fall Range	11,800	0	27,350	39,500	48,850
Big Game Winter Range	19,500	0	25,200	25,500	23,300
Noncommercial Forest and TPCC Withdrawn Commercial Forest	9,500	22,000	5,300	5,300	5,800
Areas Recommended for Wilderness Designation	0	0	27,737	14,350	520
Special Management Areas	28,457	0	2,400	440	8,140
Developed and Undeveloped Recreation Sites	40	0	61	61	41
Historical and Cultural Sites	160	160	160	160	160
Visual Corridor	6,500	0	10,200	10,200	7,850
Nonforest Habitat	3,200	10,500	1,300	1,300	1,300
Mineral Production Area	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

TABLE 2-16

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES: RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS AND OUTPUTS (in acres unless otherwise indicated)

Allocation/Output	Alternatives A (No Action)	B	C	D	E (Preferred)
RENEWABLE RESOURCES					
Total CFL Available for Harvest	87,920	112,000	87,930	101,130	105,020
CFL Restricted[1]	22,460	0	49,430	61,880	64,720
Other Restricted[2]	8,518	11,542	8,518	8,518	8,518
CFL Nonproblem	56,942	100,528	29,972	30,732	31,980
Total CFL Set Aside	24,540	400	24,540	11,330	7,440
Estimated Allowable Harvest (mbf/yr)	6,370	8,560	5,960	6,780	7,030
New Roads (mi/yr)	9.6	12.9	9.0	10.2	10.5
Total P.L. Available for Livestock Grazing	118,460	145,660	107,530	107,530	111,890
P.L. Under Intensive Grazing Management	35,663	95,532	85,026	85,026	81,294
AMP Allotments (no)	10	24	28	28	20
Total P.L. Excluded From Livestock Grazing	27,200	0	38,130	38,130	33,770
Livestock Forage Target (AUMs)— short-term	5,930	9,211	3,595	3,595	6,245
— long-term	6,981	11,662	4,232	4,232	8,013

Allocation/Output	Alternatives A (No Action)	B	C	D	E (Preferred)
SPECIAL ATTENTION RESOURCES					
Total P.L. Recommended for Wilderness Designation	0	0	27,737	14,350	520
Total P.L. Designated as ACEC	0	0	20	20	20
Total P.L. with Wildlife Habitat Emphasis (wildlife goals) ac.	74,500	32,500	102,237	101,490	99,710
Riparian Habitat with Wildlife and Watershed Mgmt Emphasis (MA 1,2)	1,400	0	4,300	5,100	3,517
Riparian Habitat with Watershed Mgmt Emphasis Only (MA 3-13)	4,678	6,078	1,778	978	2,561
Riparian Habitat Within Mineral Production Areas (MA 14)	98	98	98	98	98
Unsatisfactory Riparian Habitat Targeted for Improvement thru Intensive Grazing Mgmt	2,038	3,585	3,603	3,603	3,094
Unsatisfactory Riparian Habitat Not Targeted for Improvement thru Intensive Grazing Mgmt	2,166	619	601	601	1,110
Satisfactory Riparian Habitat Targeted for Maintenance thru Intensive Grazing Mgmt	637	808	637	637	637
Big Game Winter Range Targeted for Improvement through Intensive Grazing Management	3,290	5,450	5,929	5,929	5,370
NONRENEWABLE RESOURCES					
Total P.L. Available for Oil and Gas Leasing	205,586	205,586	177,849	191,236	205,066
Surface Occupancy Permitted with Standard Stipulations	135,372	205,426	109,239	112,086	112,810
Surface Occupancy Permitted with Seasonal Restrictions	36,874	0	66,050	78,550	84,076
No Surface Occupancy	33,340	160	2,560	600	8,180
Total P.L. Closed to Oil and Gas Leasing	0	0	27,737	14,350	520
Total Federal Minerals Open to Mineral Entry	203,850	203,850	176,093	189,480	203,310
Total P.L. Withdrawn from Mineral Entry	1,460	1,460	29,217	15,830	2,000

Allocation/Output	Alternatives A (No Action)	B	C	D	E (Preferred)
LAND OWNERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION					
Total P.L. within Retention Areas	145,660*	126,872	126,872	126,872	126,872
Total P.L. within Areas Considered for Exchanges and Sales	0*	18,788	18,788	18,788	18,788
Total P.L. to be Excluded from Utility and Transportation Corridor Development	0	0	27,757	14,370	540
Total P.L. to be Avoided by Corridor Development	30,060	160	12,253	11,640	17,620
Total P.L. Available for Further Consideration for Corridor Development	115,600	145,500	105,650	119,650	127,500
*Alternative A assumes a continuation of the existing land ownership pattern for analysis purposes.					
RECREATION, CULTURAL, AND AESTHETIC RESOURCES					
Total P.L. Available for Roadless Nonmotorized Recreation	28,460	0	30,137	14,790	8,660
Total P.L. Available for Roaded and/or Motorized Recreation	107,720	145,660	106,022	121,369	131,919
Total P.L. Roaded but not Available for Motorized Recreation	9,440	0	9,440	9,440	5,040
Total P.L. Protected for Recreation Sites	40	0	61	61	41
Total P.L. with Visual Resource Management Emphasis	6,500	0	10,200	10,200	7,850
Total P.L. with Historic and Cultural Resource Mgmt Emphasis	160	160	160	160	160

[1]CFL within MAs 2, 4, 5, 6, and 10; timber harvest permitted but restricted by special multiple use considerations.

[2]TPCC restricted or, in some cases, both TPCC restricted and restricted by MA guidelines.

P.L. — Public Land

TABLE 2-17

SUMMARY OF THE IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES ON RESOURCES

A No Action	B Production	C Protection	D Partial Wilderness	E Proposed Action
Air Quality. Project construction on approximately 1,275 acres/year and slash burning in the resource area will cause a decrease in localized air quality.	Air Quality. Project construction on approximately 1,730 acres/year and slash burning in the resource area will cause a decrease in localized air quality.	Air Quality. Project construction on approximately 1,170 acres/year and slash burning in the resource area will cause a decrease in localized air quality.	Air Quality. Project construction on approximately 1,375 acres/year and slash burning in the resource area will cause a decrease in localized air quality.	Air Quality. Project construction on approximately 1,425 acres/year and slash burning in the resource area will cause a decrease in localized air quality.
Soil and Water. Watershed conditions will improve on 6,746 acres resulting in a long-term decrease in soil compaction and erosion along with a long-term increase in streambank stability, ground cover, vegetative productivity, and water quality. Road construction totaling 9.6 miles/year will cause short-term increases in sediment production in streams.	Soil and Water. Watershed conditions will improve on 12,996 acres resulting in a long-term decrease in soil compaction and erosion along with a long-term increase in streambank stability, ground cover, vegetative productivity, and water quality. Road construction, which will increase to 12.9 miles per year, will cause short-term increases in sediment production in streams.	Soil and Water. Watershed conditions will improve on 23,926 acres resulting in a long-term decrease in soil compaction and erosion along with a long-term increase in streambank stability, ground cover, vegetative productivity, and water quality. Road construction, which will increase to 9.0 miles per year, will cause short-term increases in sediment production in streams.	Soil and Water. Watershed conditions will improve on 23,926 acres resulting in a long-term decrease in soil compaction and erosion along with a long-term increase in streambank stability, ground cover, vegetative productivity, and water quality. Road construction, which will increase to 10.2 miles per year, will cause short-term increases in sediment production in streams	Soil and Water. Watershed conditions will improve on 15,409 acres resulting in a long-term decrease in soil compaction and erosion along with a long-term increase in streambank stability, ground cover, vegetative productivity, and water quality. Road construction, which will increase to 10.5 miles per year, will cause short-term increases in sediment production in streams.
Energy and Minerals. The removal of some withdrawals and release of the WSAs will cause a long-term increase in opportunities for mineral exploration. The seasonal closure of roads in the resource area will cause short and long-term impacts by restricting access to 36,874 acres of public land. No surface occupancy on 33,340 acres will cause a long-term decrease in the opportunities for oil and gas exploration.	Energy and Minerals. The removal of some withdrawals and release of WSAs will cause a long-term increase in opportunities for mineral and energy exploration. Some land exchanges may cause long-term increases in the amount of land having private ownership over public minerals and associated problems. The formal withdrawal of up to 160 acres at historic mining sites will cause a long-term decrease in opportunities for mineral exploration.	Energy and Minerals. Wilderness designation for 27,737 acres will cause long-term impacts by excluding energy and mineral exploration and development. The seasonal closure of roads in the resource area will cause short and long-term impacts by restricting access to 66,050 acres of public land. Some land exchanges may cause long-term increases in the amount of land having private ownership over public minerals and associated problems.	Energy and Minerals. Wilderness designation for 14,350 acres will cause long-term impacts by excluding energy and mineral exploration and development on areas of low and medium potential. The seasonal closure of roads in the resource area will cause short and long-term impacts by restricting access to 78,550 acres of public land. Some land exchanges may cause long-term increases in the amount of land having private ownership over public minerals.	Energy and Minerals. Wilderness designation for 520 acres will cause long-term impacts by excluding energy and mineral exploration and development on areas of low energy and medium mineral potential. The seasonal closure of roads in the resource area will cause short and long-term impacts by restricting access to 84,076 acres of public land. Some land exchanges may cause long-term increases in the amount of land having private ownership over public minerals.

	The continuance of 1,300 acres in powersite withdrawals will cause a short-term or possibly a long-term (depending on withdrawal review recommendations) decrease in opportunities for mineral exploration.	The removal of some withdrawals will cause a long-term increase in opportunities for mineral and energy exploration. The creation of an ACEC to protect a unique geologic site will allow its continued use by educational institutions.	The removal of some withdrawals will cause a long-term increase in opportunities for mineral and energy exploration. The creation of an ACEC to protect a unique geologic site will allow its continued use by educational institutions.	The removal of some withdrawals will cause a long-term increase in opportunities for mineral and energy exploration. The creation of an ACEC to protect a unique geologic site will allow its continued use by educational institutions.
Lands. The present scattered land pattern and access limit effective use and management of resources. Withdrawal removal will cause a long-term increase in resource use on 500 acres of public land. Restricting transportation and utility corridors to 75% of the resource area will cause a long-term decrease in possible corridor routes.	Lands. Land base adjustment allows consolidation of public lands and acquisition of important resource values. Providing access to an additional 9,500 acres of public land allows greater public use and improved management. Removal of withdrawals will cause a long-term increase in resource use and make the land available for land base adjustment.	Lands. Land base adjustment allows consolidation of public lands and and acquisition of important resource values. Providing access to an additional 9,500 acres of public land allows greater public use and improved management. Removal of withdrawals will cause a long-term increase in resource use and make the land available for land base adjustment. Restricting transportation and utility corridors to 73% of the resource area will cause a long-term decrease in possible corridor routes.	Lands. Land base adjustment allows consolidation of public lands and acquisition of important resource values. Providing access to an additional 9,500 acres of public land allows greater public use and improved management. Removal of withdrawals will cause a long-term increase in resource use and make the land available for land base adjustment. Restricting transportation and utility corridors to 82% of the resource area will cause a long-term decrease in possible corridor routes.	Lands. Land base adjustment allows consolidation of public lands and acquisition of important resource values. Providing access to an additional 9,500 acres of public land allows greater public use and improved management. Removal of withdrawals will cause a long-term increase in resource use and make the land available for land use adjustment. Restricting transportation and utility corridors to 88% of the resource area will cause a long-term decrease in possible corridor routes.

A No Action	B Production	C Protection	D Partial Wilderness	E Proposed Action
Recreation. Timber harvest on 1,216 acres and 9.6 miles of road construction/year will have long-term impacts on dispersed recreation causing both a decrease in recreation opportunities associated with undeveloped land and an increase in motorized recreation. Mineral development could cause both a short and long-term impact by disturbing scenery and recreation sites. Special management for 28,500 acres will allow an increase in primitive recreation activity.	Recreation. Timber harvest on 1,660 acres and 12.9 miles of road construction/year will have long-term impacts on dispersed recreation causing both a decrease in recreation opportunities associated with undeveloped land and an increase in motorized recreation. Mineral, oil and gas, and possible transportation and utility corridor development could cause short and long-term impacts by disturbing recreation sites. Opening WSAs for multiple use would cause a long-term increase in seasonal motorized recreation and long-term decrease in primitive recreation.	Recreation. Timber harvest on 1,120 acres and 9 miles of road construction/year will have long-term impacts on dispersed recreation causing both a decrease in opportunities associated with undeveloped land and an increase in motorized recreation. Wilderness designation for 27,737 acres and special management for 2,400 acres will allow maintenance of existing primitive recreation activity and backcountry hunting opportunities. Mineral development could cause both a short and long-term impact by disturbing recreation sites.	Recreation. Timber harvest on 1,313 acres and 10.2 miles of road construction/year will have long-term impacts on dispersed recreation causing both a decrease in opportunities associated with undeveloped land and an increase in motorized recreation. Wilderness designation for 14,350 acres and special management for 440 acres will allow primitive recreation activity and backcountry hunting opportunities. Mineral development could cause both a short and long-term impact by disturbing recreation sites.	Recreation. Timber harvest on 1,352 acres and 10.5 miles of road construction/year will have long-term impacts on dispersed recreation causing both a decrease in opportunities associated with undeveloped land and an increase in motorized recreation. Wilderness designation for 520 acres and special management on 8,140 acres will allow primitive recreation activity. Mineral, oil and gas, and possible transportation and utility corridor development could cause short and long-term impacts by disturbing recreation sites.
Visual. Timber harvest on 1,216 acres/year, 9.6 miles of road construction per year, range developments, oil and gas leasing on 135,372 acres with standard stipulations, and possible utility corridor development on 115,600 acres will cause long-term impacts that bring about some evident changes in the landscape. Mineral development will cause short-term impacts that bring about evident changes in the landscape.	Visual. Timber harvest on 1,660 acres/year, 12.9 miles of road construction per year, range developments, oil and gas leasing on 205,426 acres with standard stipulations, mineral development on 20 to 40 acres/year and possible utility corridor development on 145,500 acres will cause short and long-term impacts causing changes in the landscape in visually sensitive areas.	Visual. Timber harvest on 1,120 acres/year, 9.0 miles of road construction per year, oil and gas leasing on 109,239 acres with standard stipulations, possible utility corridor development on 105,650 acres will cause long-term impacts that bring about some evident change in the landscape. Mineral development will cause short-term impacts that bring about evident changes in the landscape.	Visual. Timber harvest on 1,313 acres/year, 10.2 miles of road construction per year, oil and gas leasing on 112,086 acres with standard stipulations, possible utility corridor development on 119,650 acres will cause long-term impacts that bring about some evident change in the landscape. Mineral development will cause short-term impacts that bring about evident changes in the landscape.	Visual. Timber harvest on 1,352 acres/year, 10.5 miles of road construction per year, oil and gas leasing on 112,810 acres with standard stipulations, possible utility corridor development on 127,500 acres will cause long-term impacts that bring about some evident change in the landscape. Mineral development will cause short-term impacts that bring about evident changes in the landscape.

Management of 6,500 acres along the Clark Fork, Blackfoot, and Bear Gulch corridors emphasizing visual quality will result in maintenance of scenic quality.		Management of 10,200 acres along Clark Fork River, Blackfoot River, Bear Gulch, Flint Creek, and Rock Creek as scenic corridors will result in the maintenance of their scenic quality.	Management of 10,200 acres along Clark Fork River, Blackfoot River, Flint Creek, and Rock Creek as scenic corridors will result in the maintenance of their scenic quality.	Management of 7,850 acres along Clark Fork River, Blackfoot River, Flint Creek, and Rock Creek as scenic corridors will result in the maintenance of their scenic quality.
Cultural. Increased resource management activities will stimulate discovery of cultural sites in the resource area. Interpretive recreation programs will contribute to a long-term decrease in vandalism and unintentional trespass.	Cultural. Increased resource management activities stimulate discovery of cultural sites in the resource area. Interpretive recreation programs will contribute to a long-term decrease in vandalism and unintentional trespass.	Cultural. Increased resource management activites stimulate discovery of cultural sites in the resource area. Interpretive recreation programs will contribute to a long-term decrease in vandalism and unintentional trespass.	Cultural. Increased resource management activities stimulate discovery of cultural sites in the resource area. Interpretive recreation programs will contribute to a long-term decrease in vandalism and unintentional trespass.	Cultural. Increased resource management activities stimulate discovery of cultural sites in the resource area. Interpretive recreation programs will contribute to a long-term decrease in vandalism and unintentional trespass.
Wilderness. Grazing on 11,900 acres will cause short-term impacts on wilderness values by allowing the use of motorized vehicles on established trails for herd management and construction of range projects. Mineral exploration and development could cause short and long-term impacts to wilderness values by use of motorized vehicles and development at discovery sites including roads, drill pads, etc. Recreation restrictions on motorized vehicle use will protect solitude and naturalness values over most of the 27,737 acres of special management area. Recreational vehicles would be limited to only existing access roads.	Wilderness. Most of the 27,737 acres would be available for timber harvest; however, during the life of the plan, the acreage cut would be about 3,737 acres, causing a loss of naturalness and solitude. Timber harvest would create transitory range and allow grazing to increase on the 27,737 acres causing short and long-term impacts on wilderness values by expanding the need for motorized vehicles for herd management and construction of range projects. Energy and mineral exploration and development without special stipulations to protect solitude and natural values would cause short-term impacts, if no discoveries were made, from the use of motorized and seismic equipment. If discoveries were made, long-term impacts would result from access roads, drill pads, etc.	Wilderness. Wilderness values will receive protection on 27,737 acres of public lands allowing natural systems to continue with minimum impact from the development of other resources. Mineral development would be limited to existing 40 claims; oil and gas activity would be limited to existing leases and controlled by special stipulations. The impacts of development of these claims would be similar to Alternative A, but affect a limited amount of acreage.	Wilderness. A total of 13,387 acres would be available for timber harvest; however, during the life of the plan, the acreage cut would be about the same amount as Alternative B. Therefore impacts would be similar. Impacts from grazing would be the same as Alternative A. Energy and mineral exploration and development on 13,387 acres could cause short and long-term impacts to wilderness values by use of motorized vehicles and development at discovery sites including roads, drill pads, etc. Wilderness values will receive protection on 14,350 acres of public lands allowing natural systems to continue with minimum impact from the development of other resources.	Wilderness. A total of 19,617 acres would be available for timber harvest; however, during the life of the plan the acreage cut would be about the same amount as Alternative B. Therefore, impacts would be similar. The impacts of grazing would be the same as Alternative A. Energy and mineral exploration and development on 19,617 acres could cause short and long-term impacts to wilderness values by use of motorized vehicles and development at discovery sites including roads, drill pads, etc. Recreation restrictions on motorized vehicle use on 7,600 acres will protect solitude and naturalness values over most of the special management area.

A No Action	B Production	C Protection	D Partial Wilderness	E Proposed Action
Timber harvest restrictions will maintain the wilderness values on 27,737 acres of public lands allowing natural systems to continue with minimum impact from the development of other resources.	Utility and transportation corridor development in these areas could result in long-term impacts on solitude and naturalness by altering the landscape, if a line or roads were built. The development would draw motorized use to the corridor.		Utility and transportation corridor development would be considered for 13,387 acres and, if a line and roads were to be built, could result in long-term impacts on solitude and naturalness by altering the landscape.	Wilderness values will receive protection on 520 acres if the adjacent national forest is designated as wilderness. This would allow natural systems to continue with minimum impact from the development of other resources. Utility and transportation corridor development would be considered for 19,617 acres and, if a line or roads were to be built, could result in long-term impacts on solitude and naturalness by altering the landscape.
Forestry. The total CFL available for harvest is reduced by 22 percent over the long term due to special management of 24,540 acres. The timber yield on 22,460 acres of CFL will be reduced by 20 percent over the long term due to harvest restrictions that benefit wildlife. Protection of watershed values in areas of mixed ownership may cause 12 to 20-year delays in logging activities in certain drainages. Visual corridor management will impose additional restrictions on 6,500 acres.	Forestry. Forest productivity would be enhanced by comprehensive management of nearly all CFL thereby controlling outbreaks of forest infestations and improving stand structure. There would be no reduction in CFL for WSAs or special management areas, and no volume restrictions for wildlife habitat. Protection of watershed values in areas of mixed ownership may cause 12 to 20-year delays in logging activities in certain drainages. However, land adjustment programs could alleviate much of this impact by reducing scattered ownership.	Forestry. The total CFL available for harvest is reduced by 22 percent over the long term due to wilderness and special management of 24,540 acres of CFL. The timber yield on 49,430 acres of CFL will be reduced by 20 percent over the long term due to harvest restrictions that benefit wildlife. Protection of watershed values in areas of mixed ownership may cause 12 to 20-year delays in logging activities in certain drainages. However, land adjustment programs could alleviate much of this impact by reducing scattered ownership. Visual corridor management will impose additional restrictions on 10,200 acres.	Forestry. The total CFL available for harvest is reduced by 13 percent over the long term due to wilderness and/or special management of 14,790 acres of CFL. The timber yield on 61,880 acres of CFL will be reduced by 20 percent over the long term due to harvest restrictions that benefit wildlife. Protection of watershed values in areas of mixed ownership may cause 12 to 20-year delays in logging activities in certain drainages. However, land adjustment programs could alleviate much of this impact by reducing scattered ownership. Visual corridor management will impose additional restrictions on 10,200 acres.	Forestry. The total CFL available for harvest is reduced by 6 percent over the long term due to special management of 7,440 acres of CFL. The timber yield on 64,720 acres of CFL will be reduced by 20 percent over the long term due to harvest restrictions that benefit wildlife. Protection of watershed values in areas of mixed ownership may cause 12 to 20-year delays in logging activities in certain drainages. However, land adjustment programs could alleviate much of this impact by reducing scattered ownership. Visual corridor management will impose additional restrictions on 7,850 acres.

Range. The number of AUMs available for livestock grazing would remain at 5,930 AUMs over the short term. However, a 18 percent increase in livestock forage to 6,981 AUMs is predicted over the long term due to the creation of transitory range in logged areas. Vegetative condition will improve on 6,746 acres due to intensive range management. The spread of noxious weeds would be checked with herbicides along 3 miles of road per year.	Range. Management actions would have a short-term impact of increasing AUMs available for livestock grazing to 9,211 AUMs, a 55% increase. In the long-term the total increase would be 11,662 AUMs, a 97 percent increase. This would be the result of improved vegetative condition and increased timber harvest. Vegetative condition will improve on 12,996 acres due to establishment of AMP programs. The spread of noxious weeds would be checked along 4 miles of roads with herbicides and on 10 acres of spot treatment per year.	Range. In the short term, riparian habitat management would cause a 39 percent reduction in 3,595 AUMs available for livestock grazing. In the long term, AUMs for livestock grazing would increase to 4,232 but still would represent only a 29 percent reduction from the present level of use. Vegetative condition will improve on 23,926 acres due to riparian habitat management. Noxious weeds would spread in drainages and along roads if only biological controls were used.	Range. In the short term, riparian habitat management would cause a 39 percent reduction to 3,595 AUMs available for livestock grazing. In the long term, AUMs for livestock grazing would increase to 4,232 but still would represent only a 29 percent reduction from the present level of use. Vegetative condition will improve on 23,926 acres due to riparian habitat management. Noxious weeds would spread in drainages and along roads if only biological controls were used.	Range. In the short term, management actions would increase the AUMs available for livestock grazing by 5 percent over the present 5,930 AUMs increasing AUMs to 6,245. Over the long term, the total increase would be 35 percent increasing to 8,013 AUMs due to improved vegetative condition and increased timber harvest. Vegetative condition will improve on 15,409 acres due to establishment of AMP programs. The spread of noxious weeds would be checked with herbicides along 4 miles of roads per year.

A No Action	B Production	C Protection	D Partial Wilderness	E Proposed Action
Wildlife and Fisheries. Management activities on about 24,320 acres will cause long-term impacts to wildlife summer range by reducing security cover and old-growth timber stands, disturbing areas where young are reared, increasing social intolerance and forage competition with livestock, and increasing the destruction of habitat by road building and other resource development. Intensive grazing management will improve forage conditions on about 3,290 acres of big game winter range and on 2,038 acres of riparian habitat. Mineral development on about 98 acres, 1.5%, of riparian habitat will destroy habitat for many wildlife species, as well as disrupt stream beds. Short-term impacts to fisheries habitat will be caused when road construction at stream crossings disturbs stream beds. Long-term improvement, due to intensive grazing management, is expected along 3 miles of stream presently in suboptimum condition. Special management on 24,400 acres would maintain or slightly improve habitat quality over the long term.	Wildlife and Fisheries. Management activities on about 33,200 acres will cause long-term impacts to wildlife summer and winter range by reducing security cover, thermal cover, and old-growth timber stands; disturbing riparian sites and areas where young are reared; increasing social intolerance and forage competition with livestock; and increasing the destruction of habitat by road building and other resource development. Intensive grazing management will improve forage conditions on about 5,450 acres of big game winter range and on 3,585 acres of riparian habitat. Mineral development on about 98 acres, 1.5%, of riparian habitat will destroy habitat for many wildlife species, as well as disrupt stream beds. Short-term impacts to fisheries habitat will be caused when road construction at stream crossings disturbs stream beds. Long-term improvement, due to intensive grazing management, is expected along 8 miles of stream presently in suboptimum condition.	Wildlife and Fisheries. Management activities on about 22,400 acres will cause long-term impacts to wildlife summer range by reducing security cover and old-growth timber stands, disturbing areas where young are reared, increasing social intolerance and forage competition with livestock, and increasing the destruction of habitat by road building and other resource development. Intensive grazing management will improve forage conditions on about 5,929 acres of big game winter range and on 3,603 acres of riparian habitat. Mineral development on about 98 acres, 1.5%, of riparian habitat will destroy habitat for many wildlife species, as well as disrupt stream beds. Short-term impacts to fisheries habitat will be caused when road construction at stream crossings disturbs stream beds. Long-term improvement, due to intensive grazing management, is expected along 6 miles of stream presently in suboptimum condition.	Wildlife and Fisheries. Management activities on about 26,260 acres will cause long-term impacts to wildlife summer range by reducing security cover and old-growth timber stands, disturbing areas where young are reared, increasing social intolerance and forage competition with livestock, and increasing the destruction of habitat by road building and other resource development. Intensive grazing management will improve forage conditions on about 5,929 acres of big game winter range and on 3,603 acres of riparian habitat. Mineral development on about 98 acres, 1.5%, of riparian habitat will destroy habitat for many wildlife species, as well as disrupt stream beds. Short-term impacts to fisheries habitat will be caused when road construction at stream crossings disturbs stream beds. Long-term improvement, due to intensive grazing management, is expected along 8 miles of stream presently in suboptimum condition.	Wildlife and Fisheries. Management activities on about 27,040 acres will cause long-term impacts to wildlife summer range by reducing security cover and old-growth timber stands, disturbing areas where young are reared, increasing social intolerance and forage competition with livestock, and increasing the destruction of habitat by road building and other resource development. Intensive grazing management will improve forage conditions on about 5,370 acres of big game winter range and on 3,094 acres of riparian habitat. Mineral development on about 98 acres, 1.5%, of riparian habitat will destroy habitat for many wildlife species, as well as disrupt stream beds. Short-term impacts to fisheries habitat will be caused when road construction at stream crossings disturbs stream beds. Long-term improvement, due to intensive grazing management, is expected along 6 miles of stream presently in suboptimum condition.

	The sale of public lands could have adverse impacts on wildlife habitat if the lands were converted to uses not compatible with wildlife.	Wilderness, special management areas, and an emphasis on habitat management on 55,920 acres would maintain or improve habitat quality over the long term. The sale of public lands could have adverse impacts on wildlife habitat if the lands were converted to uses not compatible with wildlife.	Wilderness, special management areas, and an emphasis on habitat management on 55,920 would maintain or improve habitat quality over the long term. The sale of public lands could have adverse impacts on wildlife habitat if the lands were converted to uses not compatible with wildlife.	Wilderness, special management areas, and an emphasis on habitat improvement on 68,120 acres would maintain or improve habitat quality over the long term. The sale of public lands could have adverse impacts on wildlife habitat if the lands were converted to uses not compatible with wildlife.
Socioeconomic. Forest management has created 57 primary jobs in the private sector cutting, planting, and improving timber stands. Secondary jobs of processing the timber would also be created. Grazing management would contribute an increase in ranch income of less than one percent to lessees and permittees over the long term. PILT payments for BLM lands in Granite, Missoula, and Powell counties will continue at about $19,600 per year. Recreation on public lands will contribute at least $1,400,000/year to the local economy. The recreation opportunities provided enhance the western lifestyle which incorporates backcountry activities, hunting, and visiting historical sites. Mining on public lands will contribute jobs and money to the local economy.	Socioeconomic. Forest management would create 77 primary jobs in the private sector cutting, planting, and improving timber stands. Secondary jobs of processing the timber would also be created. Grazing management could contribute an increase in ranch income of up to two percent to lessees and permittees over the long term. PILT payments for BLM lands in Granite, Missoula, and Powell counties may be affected by land adjustment if lands from different counties are exchanged. Grazing permittees and lessees may also be affected by such adjustments. Recreation on public lands will contribute about the same opportunities as in Alternative A. Mining on public lands will contribute jobs and money to the local economy.	Socioeconomic. Forest management would create 53 primary jobs or four less than Alternative A in the private sector cutting, planting, and improving timber stands. Secondary jobs of processing the timber would also be created. Grazing management could reduce ranch income by as much as one percent to lessees and permittees over the long term. Mining in traditional areas will continue to provide jobs and money to the local economy. The withdrawal of 29,217 acres would preclude any future development and the number of jobs and money that could be generated from mineral exploration and development would not materialize. Recreation on public lands would be expected to contribute about the same opportunities as in Alternative A. Land adjustments would have similar impacts as in Alternative B.	Socioeconomic. Forest management would create 62 primary jobs in the private sector cutting, planting, and improving timber stands. Secondary jobs of processing the timber would also be created. Grazing management impacts would be similar to Alternative C. Mining in traditional areas will continue to provide jobs and money to the local economy. The withdrawal of 15,830 acres would preclude any future development. The effect on jobs and money, which could be generated, would be small. Recreation on public lands would be expected to contribute about the same opportunities as in Alternative A. Land adjustments would have similar impacts as in Alternative B.	Socioeconomic. Forest management would create 63 primary jobs in the private sector cutting, planting, and improving timber stands. Secondary jobs of processing the timber would also be created. Grazing management impacts would be similar to Alternative A. Recreation on public lands would be expected to contribute about the same opportunities as in Alternative A. Land adjustments would have similar impacts as in Alternative B. Mining in traditional areas would continue to provide jobs and money to the local economy. The withdrawal of 2,000 acres would preclude any future development. The number of jobs and money that would not be generated would be very small.

ALTERNATIVES ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED STUDY

The following alternatives were considered as possible methods of resolving specific issues in the Garnet Resource Area but were eliminated from detailed study due to technical, legal, and/or other constraints.

No Grazing

The elimination of livestock grazing from all public land was considered as a possible method of resolving grazing related issues. Based on interdisciplinary analysis during the criteria development step of the planning process, the no grazing alternative was eliminated from further study. The analysis of the No Grazing alternative is provided in Appendix N and is summarized below.

Resource conditions; including range vegetation, watershed, and wildlife habitat; do not warrant a resource areawide prohibition of livestock grazing. Public comments received during the issue identification and criteria development steps indicate a general acceptance of livestock grazing on public land provided that such grazing is properly managed.

The highly fragmented pattern of public land ownership in the resource area would necessitate extensive fence construction, at public expense, if livestock are to be effectively excluded from public land. Such fencing would not only be prohibitively costly but also would be likely to disrupt established patterns of wildlife movement, and could also affect public access.

In summary, implementation of a no grazing alternative is not considered to be feasible or necessary except in specific, localized situations where livestock use is incompatible with other important management objectives. Such situations have been identified in the plan under the discussion of unleased tracts (Chapter 2) and in Appendix I.

Maximum Unconstrained Alternatives

No alternatives that proposed maximum resource areawide production or protection of one resource at the expense of other resources were considered because this would violate the BLM's legal mandate to manage public land on a multiple use, sustained yield basis.

SELECTION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Each alternative considered in detail represents a comprehensive plan for managing all land and resources in the Garnet Resource Area. However, what differentiates one alternative from another is the way each of the issues would be resolved if that alternative were selected for implementation. Thus, selection of the preferred alternative was based largely on the effects of the alternative in resolving issues. Alternative E was selected as the preferred alternative, and the management direction for resolving each of the issues under Alternative E is summarized below.

Renewable Resources

Management Direction

The preferred alternative will result in an approximate 9 percent increase in the annual harvest (7,030 mbf) and an 11 percent increase in the acres harvested annually (1,352 acres). A total of 105,020 acres of CFL or 93 percent of the total CFL would be available for forest management. Minor amounts of CFL (7 percent or 7,440 acres) would be set aside from harvest in Wales Creek, Cottonwood Creek, upper Gallagher Creek, the Quigg West area, major riparian areas along the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers, and active mining areas scattered throughout the resource area.

Management restrictions, which reduce the forest volume harvested by an estimated 20 percent, will be applied to 64,720 acres or 62 percent of the available CFL. These restrictions are generally designed to emphasize wildlife habitat, watershed, and recreation considerations. These areas include the better blocked portions of public land and areas adjacent to Forest Service where objectives are feasible and compatible.

Prescribed fire would not be used on 5,820 acres along streams and within developed and undeveloped recreation areas. Pesticide use would be prohibited on 4,000 acres within riparian and wilderness areas. The remainder of the area would be considered for prescribed fire and pesticide use, to meet management objectives. Standard Operating Procedures developed for the protection of soils, water quality, scenic values, and wildlife habitat would continue to be applied.

For livestock grazing, there would be minor changes from current management. A total of 33,770 acres would be unavailable for livestock grazing primarily to maintain or enhance wildlife habitat or because of their general unsuitability for grazing. These areas include Wales, Yourname, Cottonwood Meadows, Chamberlain, and Elk creeks. Eighty-one percent of these lands are currently excluded from livestock grazing. AMPs are proposed for 20 allotments (9 existing and 11 new) which contain 57 percent of the public lands (81,294 acres). The initial livestock forage allocation target will be 6,245 AUMs and over the long term may rise to nearly 8,000 AUMs. Future upward or downward adjustments in livestock use would be based on monitoring studies.

Range improvements, treatments, and grazing systems would be implemented in accordance with current BLM policy and would be designed to achieve

specific multiple use objectives identified in the RMP for each allotment. Riparian habitat and winter range condition would be improved from unsatisfactory to satisfactory on 3,094 acres and 5,370 acres respectively.

Rationale

The preferred alternative provides for a balance between conflicting needs while allowing a 600 mbf increase in the annual level of harvest. The recognition and resolution of these conflicts is a central theme of this planning effort. Emphasis is shifted from large areas of CFL being unavailable for timber harvest to these acres being available but with provisions for enhancing or protecting important resource values. The emphasis is on overall multiple use. This should be achievable without serious adverse impacts to most resource values. Also, this alternative provides for significant improvement of vegetation, wildlife habitat, and riparian habitat conditions while causing minimal impacts to livestock use and other resources. Initial target stocking levels show an increase of 315 AUMs. Allotments needing the most attention and having the best potential to improve have been targeted for corrective action. This alternative attempts to manage livestock grazing to bring about the protection and improvement of environmental values.

Special Attention Resources

Management Direction

Quigg West would be recommended for wilderness designation contingent upon designation of the adjacent Forest Service Quigg unit. Key portions of Wales, Hoodoo, and Gallagher (7,600 acres) would become special management areas where development would be curtailed or restricted to protect important resource values. Those portions not included in special management areas (Yourname, lower Cottonwood, and lower Gallagher Creek) would be largely managed with emphasis on wildlife habitat considerations.

The preferred alternative would result in the designation of the 20-acre Limestone Cliffs in Rattler Gulch as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

The existing road closure program (areas) would be maintained. Closure of additional specific roads would be considered on a case-by-case basis. The Tenmile, Klondike, Warm Springs, and Pearson Creek areas would be high priority for future closures.

A total of 3,500 acres would be managed primarily for riparian values. All other riparian habitat would be managed under Standard Operating Procedures to protect watershed values. In addition, 5,800 acres consisting of noncommercial forest land containing important wildlife habitat with special habitat features, would be available primarily for wildlife use. A total of 88,550 acres would be managed with emphasis on wildlife habitat (winter range, special habitat features, summer/fall range, and special management areas).

Rationale

Quigg West WSA would make a logical addition to the Forest Service Quigg unit. There are few or no resource values forgone as the area is remote and rugged and would likely never be developed for uses that would conflict with wilderness values. Wales, Hoodoo, and Gallagher WSAs are similar to other areas within the resource area except they are undeveloped. Each contains its own combination of unique characteristics; however, each possesses significant resource conflicts primarily with mineral and timber. Their ecological qualities are well represented in existing wildernesses in this area. However, portions of these areas have unique and/or important values such as highly erosive soils, hot springs, wet meadows, etc. which in combination require special management. Special management areas are preferred because they allow management flexibility to protect and/or enhance resource values while still preserving their undeveloped status. Those portions not recommended as wilderness or special management areas contain high timber and/or potential mineral values and do not have the combination of unique or important values associated with the areas recommended for special management.

The Limestone Cliffs are a unique geologic feature used frequently by schools for studies and mapping purposes. The cliffs are within 200 yards of a limestone quarry and along the same geologic formation. They are subject to mineral entry, and quarrying would destroy their integrity. An ACEC designation would protect this educational resource and justify withdrawal from mineral entry.

Road and area closures are an effective and necessary method of mitigating impacts or managing conflicting resource values. The existing closure areas are achieving all or portions of the following objectives: providing wildlife security, reducing recreation conflicts, reducing road maintenance costs and needs, providing watershed protection, and enhancing recreation opportunities on adjacent private lands. The additional areas recommended for closures also would meet these objectives.

The preferred alternative would provide stated management direction for important riparian values, special habitat features (rock outcrops, caves, talus, and old-growth timber), and big game habitat without serious conflicts with other multiple resource values. Wildlife and habitat management is an important resource in western Montana and the Garnet Resource Area. This alternative seeks to balance habitat management with other competing resource values.

Nonrenewable Resources

Management Direction

Oil and gas leasing on slightly less than 100 percent of the federal minerals within the Garnet Resource Area would continue. The only area where no leasing would occur would be Quigg West. Stipulations prohibiting surface occupancy will be applied to 8,180 acres primarily within special management areas and other specific sites to protect resource values. Special stipulations, primarily directed as seasonal restrictions, would be imposed on 84,076 acres.

The preferred alternative identifies 2,000 acres or less than 1 percent of federal mineral estate to remain or be withdrawn from mineral entry. These areas include 1,300 acres in existing powersite and power project withdrawals, 520 acres in Quigg West, 20 acres at Limestone Cliffs, and 160 acres of cultural and historical sites (Coloma, Garnet, Blackfoot City, Beartown, Sand Park Cemetery, Reynolds City, etc.).

Rationale

Most of the resource area has a low to moderate potential for oil and gas, which is demonstrated by little past or present exploration activity. The use of standard or special stipulations can mitigate most potential impacts while continuing to allow the vast majority of the area to remain available for leasing. Leasing would not be consistent with wilderness designation for Quigg West. Also surface occupancy would not be consistent with the protection and management of unique or important values in the special management areas. The rationale for prohibiting surface occupancy is further explained in the previous Rationale section for Renewable Resources.

The preferred alternative would defer action on existing powersite and power project withdrawals until they are reviewed through the withdrawal review process, due for completion about 1990. Mining would not be consistent with wilderness designation for Quigg West. The area is remote and rugged, and the potential for mineral discovery is low. The rationale for withdrawal of the Limestone Cliffs was discussed under Special Attention Resources. Withdrawal of the scattered historical and cultural sites is necessary to preserve their integrity from surface disturbance. All other resource values can be adequately maintained by adherence to the BLM Surface Management Regulations.

Land Ownership and Administration

Management Direction

Retention in public ownership is recommended for 126,872 acres. The preferred alternative identifies 18,788 acres outside the retention area. Exchange is the preferred method of land adjustment. Nonfederal land with high public values would be acquired through exchange or the land pooling process, generally in the retention areas.

A total of 127,500 acres or 87 percent of the public land would remain available for further analysis and possible routing of rights-of-way (ROW). ROW would not be allowed on 540 acres in Quigg West and Limestone Cliffs and 17,620 acres would be identified for avoidance and generally be unavailable for ROW routing. The latter includes major riparian areas, special feature areas, special management areas, undeveloped recreation sites, and cultural sites.

Public access is proposed to approximately 124,100 acres or 85 percent of the public lands. Administrative access (not public access) to accomplish BLM objectives is proposed for 8,150 acres.

The land classifications on approximately 500 acres of river tracts and cultural sites would be lifted and the lands opened to the actions of the general land and mining laws. A formal withdrawal would be requested for protection of up to 160 acres of these acres involving such sites as Garnet Ghost Town, Coloma, Reynolds City, Blackfoot City, etc.

Rationale

The current land ownership pattern within the Garnet Resource Area is characterized by numerous small parcels that are inaccessible to the public, relatively difficult to manage, and often surrounded by thousands of acres of private land. The preferred alternative will allow land ownership adjustments to occur. This will result in improved management efficiency, fewer conflicts between the public and private landowners, and greater public benefits through improved access and consolidation of public land in retention areas.

The preferred alternative reflects the need to make public land available for major utility and transportation corridor development while avoiding, to the extent possible, the location of major facilities in areas of high public recreation use, high scenic and wildlife values, and residential areas. This alternative establishes general direction for corridor decisions yet preserves flexibility for adapting future decisions to changing public demands and resource conditions.

The majority of the public lands would have public access. In many instances public and resource values are not great enough to warrant public access. For example many of the tracts are small, very isolated, and without recreation values. The identified need for public access closely parallels the recommendation for lands to remain in public ownership. It remains essential in many instances for BLM to acquire administrative access on tracts outside the retention zone if needed to support other management actions.

Pre-FLPMA land classifications created de facto withdrawals of public land from disposal and mineral entry at a time when laws, policy, and regulation did not provide adequate protection. Current laws, policy, and regulation now provide adequate protection in most cases. The rationale for formal withdrawal on 160 acres is covered in the rationale for the Nonrenewable Resources.

Recreation, Cultural, and Aesthetic Resources

Management Direction

Under the preferred alternative, the 140,080 acres would be designated as limited for motorized vehicle use i.e., use restricted to existing roads and trails if they are identified as open. Some roads may be closed seasonally or yearlong depending upon management objectives. Snowmobiles would not be restricted to roads and trails but may be seasonally restricted from winter ranges. Quigg West and the Limestone Cliffs would be closed to motorized vehicle use.

Forty-one undeveloped recreation sites are identified for minimal management. These are scattered throughout the resource area and are generally associated or located near water or road closure gates. Resource management would emphasize keeping the sites in a condition to maintain their quality and use.

Under the preferred alternative the current network of snowmobile trails and National Winter Recreation Trail would be retained; cross-country ski trails would be laid out in the Garnet Ghost Town vicinity; access to tracts along the Blackfoot and Clark Fork rivers would be pursued; and no new outfitters and guides would be granted permits for hunting except in conjunction with adjoining Forest Service lands.

About 7,850 acres or 5.5 percent of the public lands would be managed to emphasize maintenance of scenic quality. These lands are located primarily along the Clark Fork, Blackfoot, and Flint Creek drainages as seen from major transportation routes.

Under the preferred alternative, Garnet Ghost Town would continue to be managed cooperatively. Key sites around Garnet such as Reynolds City, Beartown, Springtown, Summit Cabin, and Coloma, and at Blackfoot City would receive interpretive management; but preservation efforts, such as have occurred at Garnet, would not be undertaken. All significant sites would be managed for nonimpairment.

Rationale

The topography and vegetation in the Garnet Resource Area tend to naturally restrict vehicle use to roads and trails. This is the current situation as directed in previous management plans and appears to be working well. Snowmobiles generally need only be restricted from winter range or similar areas as future needs arise. Quigg West and the Limestone Cliffs will be closed to vehicle access to protect unique resource values. This alternative balances the need for public access to public land and resources with the protection of important amenity values. It also allows for flexibility to adjust future access decisions based on changing public demands and resource conditions.

There are many undeveloped recreation sites in the resource area. Under the preferred alternative, the sites receiving the greatest use will be managed for their recreation value while allowing for multiple use such as restricted timber harvest and livestock grazing. These sites average less than one acre each.

Recreation use continues to grow rapidly in western Montana; which has the state's highest demand for nonmotorized trails, second highest demand for camping and cross-country ski areas, and fourth highest demand for motorized vehicle trails. The preferred alternative meets these demands yet, where necessary, protects important resources. The two existing licensed outfitters and guides use public land in conjunction with the adjoining Forest Service. However, because of the scattered land ownership pattern, the desire by adjacent landowners not to allow commercial outfitters and guides, and heavier public use of public lands; no new permits for commercial outfitters and guides will be issued unless in conjunction with Forest Service lands or upon concurrence of the adjoining landowners. This allows the flexibility to assess demands for permits other than hunting on a case-by-case basis.

The preferred alternative would maintain the scenic quality along major transportation routes, scenic highways, and Blue Ribbon trout streams while continuing to allow multiple use. The greatest conflict occurs with timber harvest but less than 43 percent of these areas are commercial forest land. The timber can still be harvested but the silvicultural treatments may have to be adjusted to mitigate the impacts to scenic quality.

The resource area is rich in cultural history especially as it relates to mining. Garnet Ghost Town receives approximately 12,000 visitors annually and is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. In the past, the BLM was solely responsible for preserving the town. Under a cooperative agreement, the BLM will share the responsibility with the Garnet Preservation Association. Such cooperation will continue to ensure the continued preservation of this important historic town. Nearby mining towns vanished long ago or were not capable of being preserved to the degree of Garnet. Nonetheless they are historically important. Under the preferred alternative, these sites would receive interpretive management but not preservation management.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The decisions outlined in the Garnet RMP will be implemented over a period of ten years or more, depending on the availability of funding and staff. The effects of implementation will be monitored and evaluated on a periodic basis over the life of the plan. The general purposes of this monitoring and evaluation will be:

To determine if an action is fulfilling the purpose and need for which it was designed or if there is a need for modification or termination of an action;

To discover unanticipated and/or unpredictable effects;

To determine if mitigative measures are working as prescribed;

To ensure that decisions are being implemented as scheduled;

To provide continuing evaluation of consistency with state and local plans and programs; and

To provide for continuing comparison of plan benefits versus costs including social, economic, and environmental.

A specific monitoring plan will be written for the forestry, wildlife, watershed, and range programs. This plan will provide a framework for choosing the study methods that will provide the information needed to issue and implement specific management decisions which effect watershed, wildlife, and range. Monitoring efforts will focus on allotments in the I category. For the range program, methodologies are available for monitoring vegetative trend, forage utilization, actual use (livestock numbers and periods of grazing), and climate. The data collected from these studies will be used to evaluate current stocking rates, to schedule pasture moves by livestock, to determine levels of forage competition, to detect changes in plant communities, and to identify patterns of forage use. Some of the methodologies that could be used include Daubenmire canopy transects, key forage plant utilization transects, aerial and ground reconnaissance of animal numbers and grazing patterns, actual use questionnaires, and low altitude aerial photography transects.

Priorities for monitoring grazing allotments will be established in this plan. The methodology and intensity of study that is chosen for a particular allotment will be determined by the nature and severity of the resource conflicts that are present in that allotment.

For the wildlife program, monitoring will be directed at the biotic resource components using both temporary and permanent studies. The findings from these studies can be used to monitor responses in habitat condition and trend; monitor forage availability, composition, and vigor; monitor changes in cover and habitat effectiveness; and monitor habitat management objectives.

Some of the methodologies that are available include: Daubenmire canopy coverage transects, modified browse canopy coverage transects, woody riparian surveys and photo plots, range site condition ratings, height/weight grazed plant method, color infrared aerial photography, pellet group transects, fisheries species composition and populations surveys, and nongame bird and small mammal plots.

Watershed program monitoring will involve BMP evaluation, channel cross section, stream channel stability, water quality, soil erosion, soil moisture, and soil compaction. Bench mark watersheds have been established on plutonic, volcanic, and hard sedimentary rock basins to measure runoff and sediment production as well as appropriate water chemical and physical properties. Soil moisture and compaction plots have been established to evaluate some aspects of timber management. Soil erosion plots and channel cross section evaluations will be used, as necessary, to monitor sediment production.

The timber management program will be monitored on a stand basis to determine the need and timing of silvicultural treatments. The forest land management program will be monitored to ensure compliance with MA objectives.

Specific monitoring plans for other programs will be developed if the need arises. The data collected from the monitoring and evaluation process will be analyzed and fed back into the decision making process. This will provide information regarding the effects of the land use decisions, the adequacy of mitigation methods, etc. If monitoring indicates that significant unexpected adverse impacts are occurring or that mitigating measures are not working as predicted, it may be necessary to amend or revise the RMP. Conversely, if implementation and mitigating efforts are highly successful, monitoring and evaluation efforts may be reduced.