

**GARNET RESOURCE AREA**  
**PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**  
**1985**

**LEAD AGENCY:** U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

**TYPE OF ACTION:** Administrative

**JURISDICTION OF ACTION:** Missoula, Granite, and Powell Counties, Montana

**ABSTRACT:** The draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS), which is incorporated into this final EIS by reference, addresses future management options for approximately 145,660 surface acres and 213,385 acres of federal mineral estate administered by the Bureau of Land Management through its Garnet Resource Area office in Missoula, Montana. The plan primarily focuses on resolving key resource management issues. These issues include: renewable resources; nonrenewable resources; special attention resources; land ownership and administration; and cultural, aesthetic, and recreation resources.

Five RMP alternatives are considered in detail in this document, which incorporates by reference much of the material presented in the draft RMP/EIS. Alternative E, the proposed resource management plan, represents a balance between resource production and environmental protection. Alternative A, the no action alternative, is a continuation of present management direction. Alternative B, resource production, represents an emphasis on making public land and resources available for use and development. Alternative C, environmental protection, represents an emphasis on maintaining or improving important environmental values. Alternative D, partial wilderness, represents an emphasis similar to C, with only portions of the wilderness study areas recommended for designation. When the RMP is finalized, it will provide a comprehensive framework for managing and allocating public land during the next ten or more years. The proposed RMP and final EIS will also provide the basis for wilderness recommendations by the Secretary of the Interior regarding final designation by Congress. These recommendations will be incorporated into a wilderness study report and accompanying environmental impact statement. The draft RMP/EIS and its accompanying map supplement should be used in conjunction with this final EIS, which contains modifications and corrections to the draft and the comments received during the public review process.

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