

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

PUBLIC REVIEW

In the draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS), alternative management plans were evaluated, and a preferred plan was selected. The document was sent out for public review between December 1984 and March 1985. The comments that were received helped shape the proposed plan. This document publishes the comments, and details how the comments were integrated into the proposed plan.

Suggestions for Review

The document is organized for several levels of review.

1. If a brief overview of the proposed RMP and final EIS is desired, you should review the Summary. **Substantial changes from the draft are highlighted in bold print.**
2. If a detailed study of the proposed resource management plan is desired, you should review the section entitled Text Changes in the proposed RMP in Chapter 8 of this document as well as the referenced sections of the draft RMP/EIS. The proposed RMP is highlighted with a gray background.
3. If a particular issue is of concern, you should review Chapter 7 in this document to see how the comments addressed the issue. The Responses to Comments and Letters section of Chapter 7 is organized by resource topic.

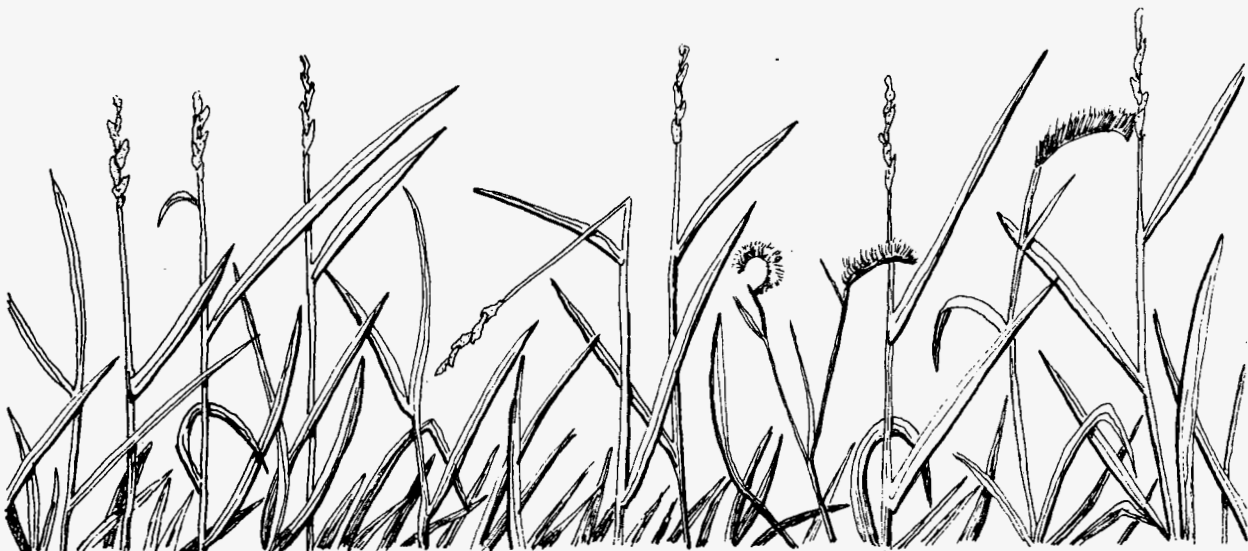
HOW THE PROPOSED GARNET RMP AND FINAL EIS IS ORGANIZED

This document is designed as a continuation of the draft RMP/EIS document. The proposed RMP and final EIS for the Garnet Resource Area is a combination of both documents. The table of contents lists which sections can be found in this document and which are found in the draft document.

CHANGES TO THE DRAFT RMP/EIS

Chapter 8 contains the changes to the draft RMP/EIS that resulted from consultation and public comment. **These changes are highlighted in bold print.**

Appendix T of this document contains corrections to the text of the draft RMP/EIS that are needed due to production errors.



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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David R. Baker, Project Manager, Garnet Resource Area Office, 3255 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, Montana 59801; Telephone (406) 329-3914.