

ALTERNATIVE C

The objective of this alternative is to emphasize the protection and enhancement of the natural environment. Preservation of natural systems and nonconsumptive resource uses would be favored by management actions.

Commercial forest lands identified for exchange (T5) would only be considered for exchange with lands in Idaho that contain such nationally significant resource values as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, historic, cultural, paleontologic, endangered species habitat or crucial wildlife habitat that can be managed by the BLM or other commercial forest land of equal value that would improve BLM management.

Dispersed recreation activities would be encouraged instead of developed or motorized use. More restrictions would be placed on access to the public lands.

The Box Creek Wilderness Study Area would be designated and managed as an outstanding natural area.

The Payette River (14 miles) would be recommended for study as an addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as a recreation river. Float boat activity would be favored over power boat use, and access to the river would be limited. The maximum acreage authorized for protection under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act would be recommended for designation.

Areas of special interest or fragile environments would be given special designation such as Research Natural Areas and ACEC.

The 487,466 acres of public lands would be placed into one of four multiple use or transfer categories as follows:

<u>307,436</u> acres Moderate,	<u>3,321</u> acres Intensive
<u>159,385</u> acres Limited,	<u>17,324</u> acres Transfer

Livestock ResourcesObjectives

Manage 459,824 acres of rangeland to provide forage for livestock and wild horses.

Livestock-AUMs:	<u>72,571</u> Active Pref.,	<u>66,424</u> Licensed
	<u>47,345</u> 5 yr.,	<u>53,643</u> 20 yr.

Wild Horses-Numbers:	4 Mile	<u>10</u> Initial,	<u>20</u> 20 yr.
	West Crane Creek	<u>12</u> Initial,	<u>30</u> 20 yr.

Wild Horses-AUMs:	20 yrs. -- 4 Mile	<u>240</u> ;	West Crane Creek	<u>360</u>
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Description of Alternatives

Actions

Stock Driveways: 0 existing maintained, 63,000 existing eliminated
(acres) 0 new added, 0 total available

Vegetative Manipulation:

5 yrs - 3,000 acres burn, spray and/or seed; 1,500 acres disc'd & seed
20 yrs - 13,000 acres burn, spray and/or seed; 6,000 acres disc'd & seed

Projects: 79 mi. fence, 9 water developments, 6 mi. pipelines

Activity Plans: 7 existing AMPs/CRMPs to be reviewed and updated.
12 AMPs will be prepared.

Livestock grazing will continue and may be adjusted on currently grazed public lands classified for transfer until these lands are transferred.

Special Considerations

Seed mixtures on vegetative manipulations will include grass, forb and shrub species that will benefit both livestock and wildlife.

Watershed Resources

Objectives

Provide special designation and management for the Boise Front area (12,000 acres).

Actions

Designate 12,000 acres of the Boise Front as an ACEC and prepare/update the following activity plans - HMP, RAMP.

Vegetative Resources

Objectives

Protect candidate or sensitive plants.

Protect and manage 13 specific sites containing candidate, sensitive, or uncommon plants or valuable plant communities.

Improve general condition on 35% of all fair and 38% of all good condition rangeland.

Change or improve condition on 16% of the poor condition rangeland and maintain condition on remaining.

Actions

Develop and implement management actions for areas found containing candidate or sensitive plants. Fence selected areas where harmful disturbance is likely. Monitor suspected areas.

Exclude surface and subsurface ROWs in those areas known to contain candidate or sensitive plants. Include no surface occupancy stipulations in all mineral leases.

Adjust livestock grazing practices and reduce livestock preferences in allotments in poor and fair condition.

Mechanically treat (through range and wildlife projects) areas of poor and fair condition rangeland that possess a high return potential.

Designate and/or manage 13 areas as follows:

Special Management Area	De-signations	Acres	Minerals (acres)			ROW Avoidance (acres) 1/			ORV Use (acres)		
			Locat-ables	Leasables		O	Surf	Sub	O	L	C
				With-drawal	Clo-sed						
1. Lost Basin Grassland <u>2/</u>	RNA	65	65	0	65	0	65	65	0	0	65
2. Rebecca Sandhill	RNA	410	410	0	410	0	410	410	0	0	410
3. Sand Hollow <u>3/</u> <u>2/</u>	None	500	0	0	500	0	500	500	0	500	0
4. Summer Creek <u>3/</u>	RNA	240	240	0	240	0	240	240	0	0	240
5. Paraphyllum Rock	None	40	0	0	40	0	40	40	0	0	40
6. Beacon Hill	None	20	0	0	20	0	20	20	0	20	0
7. Sagebrush Hill	None	10	0	0	10	0	10	10	0	0	10
8. Buckwheat Flats	RNA	200	200	0	200	0	200	200	0	0	200
9. 4th July Meadow	None	100	0	0	100	0	100	100	0	0	100
10. Sand Capped Knob	None	40	0	0	40	0	40	40	0	0	40
11. Goodrich Creek <u>2/</u>	RNA	440	440	0	440	0	440	440	0	0	440
12. Pearl	None	400	0	0	400	0	400	400	0	400	0
13. Prostrate Ceanothus	None	80	0	0	80	0	80	80	0	80	0

1/ 0 = Overhead; Surf = Surface; Sub = Subsurface.

2/ Exclude or limit livestock grazing.

3/ No water or salt blocks in area or on ridgeline.

Projects: 6 mi. fencing
5 acres for interpretive signing

Activity Plans: Incorporate management needs for candidate and sensitive plant species in all activity plans where plants are known.

Prepare five Research Natural Area Management Plans.

Description of Alternatives

Wildlife Resources

Objectives

Manage 185,080 acres of elk habitat, 276,890 acres of deer habitat and 4,400 acres of antelope crucial winter habitat and provide forage to support proposed populations of these animals.

Manage 186,900 acres of sage grouse habitat to improve brooding and nesting habitat.

Improve 23,912 acres of wildlife habitat through new seeding and interseeding existing areas and shrub plantings.

Provide special management on 61,000 acres of curlew and 32,960 acres of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse habitats to improve populations of these sensitive species.

Maintain existing habitats for other wildlife species.

Wildlife Unit Months:	<u>7,836</u> Elk,	<u>45,312</u> Deer,	<u>2,400</u> Antelope
Expected Population:	<u>203</u> yrlong Elk,	<u>986</u> yrlong Deer,	<u>200</u> yrlong
	<u>1,350</u> winter Elk,	<u>8,370</u> winter Deer,	Antelope

Actions

Vegetative Manipulation:	<u>10,387</u> acres Shrub, Grass & Forb Seeding,
	<u>8,295</u> acres Burn, Disc & Seed,
	<u>2,230</u> acres Interseed,
	<u>3,000</u> acres Special Project Seeding

Projects: 10 mi. fence, 3 Guzzler

Activity Plans: HMP for Curlew, Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse; deer and elk on Boise Front and Oxbow Reservoir.

Designate 61,000 acres of curlew habitat and 4,200 acres of sharp-tailed grouse habitat as ACECs.

Special Considerations (rehabilitation, seed mixture, seasonal restrictions, ORV restrictions)

Riparian and Aquatic Resources

Objectives

Improve the condition of 12 stream miles of riparian habitat. Continue present management on 107 stream miles of riparian habitat.

Improve the condition of 23 miles of aquatic habitat and continue present management on 57 miles of aquatic habitat.

Actions

Adjust livestock grazing practices on riparian areas in allotments where riparian/aquatic projects are proposed.

Incorporate riparian pastures, grazing systems, and/or special measures in AMPs to improve all riparian and aquatic habitat.

Projects: 13 mi. fencing, 9 mi. in stream work
15 mi. of stream bank planting

Lands and RealtyObjectives

Identify for transfer from federal ownership 17,324 acres of public lands (243 acres through sale (T1) and 5,775 acres through exchange (T3) and 11,306 acres through special exchange (T5)). Retain 470,142 acres of public lands in federal ownership.

Actions

Initiate clearance actions (cultural, wildlife, paleontologic, etc.) on lands to be transferred. Provide 2-year notifications to livestock permittees once the final decision to transfer has been made.

Lands identified T5 will only be available for exchange for lands determined to be of national significance, endangered or crucial wildlife habitat or commercial forest lands of equal or better value that would improve resources management of BLM lands. The total of 11,306 acres in this category includes 5,108 acres of commercial forest land.

Cultural ResourcesObjectives

Protect, through special designation and management, areas with significant cultural values.

Actions

Nominate eight sites to the National Register of Historic Places and manage as shown below.

Surface and subsurface ROWs will be routed to avoid cultural sites.

Description of Alternatives

Sites	NR 1/ Acres	Minerals (acres)			ROW Avoidance (acres) 4/			ORV Use (acres) 5/		
		Locatables	Leasables		0	S	Sub	0	L	C
		Withdrawal	Closed	No Surf						
1. Placerville Townsite 2/	8	8	0	8	0	8	8	0	8	0
2. Grays Creek	40	3/	0	3/	0	3/	3/	0	40	0
3. Indian Creek	20	3/	0	3/	0	3/	3/	0	20	0
4. Milk Creek	20	3/	0	3/	0	3/	3/	0	20	0
5. Cabin Creek	20	3/	0	3/	0	3/	3/	0	20	0
6. Quartzburg	386	3/	0	3/	0	3/	3/	0	386	0
7. Centerville	516	3/	0	3/	0	3/	3/	0	516	0
8. Pioneer ville	581	3/	0	3/	0	3/	3/	0	581	0
9. Mineral	429	3/	0	3/	0	3/	3/	0	429	0

- 1/ National Register of Historic Places.
- 2/ National Register of Historic Places (existing).
- 3/ Acreage to be determined by National Register nomination process.
- 4/ 0 = Overhead; S = Subsurface; Sub = Subsurface.
- 5/ 0 = Open; L = Limited; C = Closed.

Projects: 5 mi. fencing
 Activity Plans: CRMP (9)

Recreation Resources

Objectives

Provide or enhance recreation at 22 areas.

Provide for ORV recreation activity on public lands.

Manage 4,500 acres of public lands along the Payette River as a Wild and Scenic River (recreation river category).

Actions

Designate ORV recreation activity as open on 3,276 acres, limited (to existing or designated roads and trails) on 481,620 acres and closed on 2,570 acres.

Manage 17,324 acres of public lands recommended for transfer as limited, to designated or existing roads and trails for ORV recreation, until lands are transferred.

Recommend the study of 14 miles of Payette River (6 miles North Fork, 8 miles South Fork) for possible inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as a recreation river.

Designate and manage 22 areas as follows:

Sites	Special Management Area		Minerals (acres)			ROW 1/ Avoidance (acres)			ORV (acres) 2/		
			Locat-ables	Lease-ables	No						
	Type	Acres	With-drawal	Clo-sed	Surf.	0	Surf	Sub.	0	L	C
1. Cascade Uplands ^{3/}	ERMA	334,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	330,490	0
2. Weiser River	Boat Launch	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
3. Clay Peak	Cycle Park	948	0	0	948	0	948	948	436	0	512
4. Oxbow Brownlee ^{5/}	SRMA	40,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39,777	0
5. Wild Horse	Campground ^{6/}	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	2
6. Steck	Campground ^{6/}	11	0	0	11	11	11	0	0	0	11
7. Weiser Dunes	Play Area	200	0	0	200	0	200	0	200	0	0
8. Snake River	Boat Launch	10	0	0	10	10	10	0	0	10	0
9. Payette River ^{7/} Corridor	SRMA/WSR	19,000/ (4,500/ 14 mi.)	4,500	4,500	0	4,500	4,500	4,500	0	19,000	0
10. Box Creek ^{8/}	ONA	440	440	0	440	440	440	440	0	0	440
11. North Fork ^{6/}	Campground	10	0	0	10	10	10	0	0	0	10
12. Garden Valley	Boat Launch	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
13. South Fork ^{6/}	Campground	3	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	3
14. Chief Parrish Site	Picnic	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	2
15. Boise Front ^{9/}	SRMA/ACEC	12,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,995	0
16. Hulls Gulch	Interpret. Trail	5	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	5
17. Treasure Valley ^{10/}	ERMA	72,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	67,820	0
18. Little Gem	Cycle Park	3,000	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	0	2,100	900	0
19. Dewey	Play Area	30	0	0	30	0	30	0	30	0	0
20. Parma	Play Area	10	0	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	0
21. Pickles Butte	Play Area	500	0	0	500	0	500	0	500	0	0
22. Birds of Prey	Natural Area	640	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	640	0

^{1/} 0 = Overhead; Surf = Surface; Sub = Subsurface.

^{2/} 0 = Open; L = Limited; C = Closed.

^{3/} Specific constraints covered under Weiser River and Clay Peak.

^{4/} Except for Electrical Transmission Towers in Existing ROW.

^{5/} Specific constraints covered under Steck, Weiser Dunes and Wild Horse.

^{6/} Exclude or limit livestock grazing.

^{7/} Specific constraints covered under Box Creek, Garden Valley, South Fork and Chief Parrish.

^{8/} Allow no harvest of timber or wood products. Protect free flow of Box Creek.

^{9/} Specific constraints covered under Hulls Gulch.

^{10/} Specific constraints covered under Little Gem, Pickles Butte, Dewey and Parma.

Designation of Alternatives

Projects: Water and/or sanitary facilities - 7, launch ramp - 3,
access - 7

Activity Plans: RAMPs for Oxbow-Brownlee, Payette River Corridor, and
Boise Front.

Forest Resources

Objectives

Manage 20,026 acres of suitable commercial forest land for timber management and harvest.

Allow firewood harvesting (commercial and noncommercial) on forest lands.

Manage 11,869 acres of forest lands under CFL set asides. This includes 4,628 acres for TPCC withdrawal, 70 acres for seed orchard withdrawal, 1,748 acres for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 20 acres for campground withdrawal, 5,108 acres for special land exchange and 295 acres for outstanding natural area.

Provide an annual harvest of approximately .5 MMBF.

Obtain access to suitable commercial forest lands through acquisition when necessary for program management.

Actions

Projects: Build 20 mi. of forest access road (1 mile annually)
Acquire access on one to two areas

Activity Plans: Timber Management Plans

Special Considerations

Harvesting of suitable commercial forest land will generally be through selective cutting practices. Any clearcutting will be limited to a size of 40 acres or less. Timber harvest would occur on approximately 50-200 acres annually.

Mineral Resources

Objectives

Make 452,677 acres (93% of area) available for locatable exploration and development and 454,389 acres (93% of area) for leasable mineral exploration and development.

Continue making available salable minerals from three material sale sites and 16 free-use sites as needed.

Actions

Leasables (acres)			Locatables (acres)		Salables (acres)	
Open	Closed	No Surface Occ.	Open	Withdrawn	Available	Unavailable
454,389	33,077	7,726	452,586	34,880	95	0