

Description of Alternatives

ALTERNATIVE B

The emphasis in this alternative is on an intermediate level of development and a higher intensity of management than our current management level.

The objective of the alternative would be to emphasize the use and development of public land resources, especially commodity resources such as livestock grazing, timber harvest, mineral and energy development, etc. Management would favor higher livestock levels, more range improvements, more timber and other forest product offerings, increased land disposal for agricultural development and increased transfer of isolated or difficult to manage parcels out of federal ownership.

Management would comply with minimal standards acceptable for environmental protection while still operating within the framework of multiple-use and sustained yield (guidance common to all alternatives).

Motorized vehicle access and related recreation use would receive priority over primitive/dispersed recreation. Minimal restriction would be placed on ORVs.

The Payette River (8 miles-South Fork) would be recommended for National Wild and Scenic Rivers study as a recreation river. Opportunities for increased river use (float and power boating) would be encouraged and provided for.

The Four Mile Wild Horse Herd Area would be the only herd area managed.

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

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

<u>312,211</u> acres Moderate,	<u>2,821</u> acres Intensive
<u>131,945</u> acres Limited,	<u>40,489</u> acres Transfer

Livestock Resources

Objectives

Manage 425,144 acres of rangeland to provide forage for livestock and wild horses.

Livestock AUMs: 72,571 Active Pref., 66,424 Licensed
61,872 5 yr., 71,076 20 yr.

Wild Horses-Numbers: 4 Mile 10 Initial, 20 20 yr.
West Crane Creek 12 Initial, 0 20 yr.

Wild Horses-AUMs: 20 yrs: 4 Mile 240; West Crane Creek 0

Actions

Stock Driveways: 40,763 existing maintained, 22,237 existing eliminated
(acres) 627 new added, 41,390 total available

Vegetative Manipulation:

5 yrs - 6,000 acres burn, spray and/or seed; 2,000 acres disc'd & seed
20 yrs - 23,400 acres burn, spray and/or seed; 3,000 acres disc'd & seed

Projects: 148 mi. fence, 20 water developments, 12 mi. pipelines

Activity Plans: 7 existing AMPs/CRMPs to be reviewed and updated.
18 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 ResourcesObjectives

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 ResourcesObjectives

Protect candidate and sensitive plants.

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

Improve the general condition on 28% of all fair condition and 8% of all good condition rangeland.

Change or improve condition on 25% of the poor condition rangeland and maintain existing condition on all other rangelands.

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.

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Exclude surface and subsurface ROWs in those areas known to contain candidate or sensitive plants.

Adjust livestock grazing practices in allotments that could shift to a lower condition class if present practices were to continue.

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 shown:

Special Management Area	Designations	Acres	Minerals (acres)			ROW Avoidance (acres) 3/			ORV Use (acres)		
			Locat-ables	Lease-ables	No Surf	0	Surf	Sub	0	L	C
			With-drawal	Clo-sed							
1. Lost Basin Grassland 1/	RNA	65	0	0	0	0	65	65	0	65	0
2. Rebecca Sandhill 1/	RNA	410	0	0	0	0	410	410	0	410	0
3. Sand Hollow 2/	None	500	0	0	0	0	500	500	0	500	0
4. Summer Creek 2/	RNA	240	0	0	0	0	240	240	0	240	0
5. Peraphyllum Rock	None	40	0	0	0	0	40	40	0	40	0
6. Beacon Hill	None	20	0	0	0	0	20	20	0	20	0
7. Sagebrush Hill	None	10	0	0	0	0	10	10	0	10	0
8. Buckwheat Flats	RNA	200	0	0	0	0	200	200	0	200	0
9. 4th July Meadow	None	100	0	0	0	0	100	100	0	100	0
10. Sand Capped Knob	None	40	0	0	0	0	40	40	0	40	0
11. Goodrich Creek 1/	RNA	440	0	0	0	0	440	440	0	440	0
12. Pearl Site	None	400	0	0	0	0	400	400	0	400	0
13. Prostrate Ceanothus	None	80	0	0	0	0	80	80	0	80	0

1/ Exclude or limit livestock grazing.

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

3/ 0 = Overhead; Surf = Surface; Sub = Subsurface.

Projects: 6 mi. fencing

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.

Wildlife Resources

Objectives

Manage 181,640 acres of elk habitat, 274,810 acres of deer habitat and 3,960 acres of antelope crucial winter habitat and provide forage to support proposed populations of these animals.

Manage 183,020 acres of sage grouse habitat to improve brooding and nesting habitat.

Improve 22,262 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>7,256</u> Elk,	<u>41,956</u> Deer,	<u>1,800</u> Antelope
Expected Population:	<u>188</u> yrlong Elk,	<u>913</u> yrlong Deer,	<u>100</u> yrlong
	<u>1,250</u> winter Elk,	<u>7,750</u> winter Deer,	Antelope

Actions

Vegetative Manipulation: 9,764 acres Shrub, Grass & Forb Seeding
7,672 acres Burn, Disc & Seed
2,006 acres Interseed,
2,820 acres Special Project Seeding

Projects: 20 mi. fence, Guzzlers - 1

Activity Plans: HMP for Curlew, Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse; and deer and elk (Boise Front).

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

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

Riparian and Aquatic Resources

Objectives

Improve the condition of 9 stream miles of riparian habitat. Continue present management on 101 stream miles of riparian habitat.

Improve the condition of 10 miles of aquatic habitat and continue present management on 58 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 habitats.

Projects: 10 mi. fencing, 6 mi. instream work
6 mi. of stream bank planting

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Lands and Realty

Objectives

Identify for transfer from federal ownership 40,489 acres of public lands (563 acres through sale (T1); 33,409 acres through sale or exchange (T2); 5,957 acres through exchange; and classify 560 acres for potential DLE/CA development (T4). Retain 446,977 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.

Cultural Resources

Objectives

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.

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

^{1/} National Register of Historic Places.

^{2/} O = Overhead; S = Surface; Sub = Subsurface.

^{3/} National Register of Historic Places (existing).

^{4/} Acreage to be determined by National Register determination process.

^{5/} O = Open; L = Limited; C = Closed.

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

Recreation Resources

Objectives

Provide or enhance recreation at 20 areas.

Provide for ORV recreation activity on public lands.

Manage 2,600 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 339,552 acres, limited (to existing or designated roads and trails) on 147,329 acres and closed on 585 acres.

ORV recreation activity will remain open on the 31,695 acres and limited on 9,720 acres of lands proposed for transfer until lands are transferred.

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

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Designate and manage 20 areas as follows:

Sites	Special Management Areas		Minerals (acres)			ROW 1/			ORV (acres) 2/		
			With-drawal	Clo-sed	No Surf.	0	Surf	Sub.	0	L	C
Type	Acres										
1. Cascade Uplands <u>3/</u>	ERMA	334,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	306,566	26,921	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 <u>5/</u>	SRMA	40,000	0	0	0	0	<u>4/</u> 0	0	0	39,777	0
5. Wild Horse	Campground	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	2
6. Steck	Campground <u>6/</u>	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 R. Corridor <u>7/</u>	SRMA/WSR	19,000/ (8 mi.)	2,600	0	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	16,384	2,600	0
10. North Fork	Campground <u>6/</u>	10	0	0	10	10	10	0	0	0	10
11. Garden Valley	Boat Launch	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
12. South Fork	Campground <u>6/</u>	3	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	3
13. Chief Parrish	Picnic Site	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	2
14. Boise Front <u>8/</u>	SRMA/ACEC	12,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,995	0
15. Hulls Gulch	Interpret. Trail	5	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	5
16. Treasure Valley <u>9/</u>	ERMA	72,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	68,320	0
17. Little Gem	Cycle Park	3,000	0	0	0	0	500	0	2,100	900	0
18. Dewey	Play Area	30	0	0	30	0	30	0	30	0	0
19. Parma	Play Area	10	0	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	0
20. 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 Snake River, Steck, Weiser Dunes and Wild Horse.

6/ Exclude or limit livestock grazing.

7/ Specific constraints covered under North Fork, Garden Valley, South Fork and Chief Parrish.

8/ Specific constraints covered under Hulls Gulch.

9/ Specific constraints covered under Little Gem, Dewey and Parma.

Projects: Water and/or Sanitary facilities 6, launch ramp 3,
Access 6

Activity Plans: RAMPs for 3 SRMAs.

Forest Resources

Objectives

Manage 25,642 acres of suitable commercial forest land for timber management and harvest.

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

Manage 6,253 acres of forest lands under CFL set asides. This includes 4,923 acres for TPCC withdrawal, 70 acres for seed orchard withdrawal, 1,240 acres for National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and 20 acres for campground withdrawal.

Provide an annual harvest of approximately 1.7 MMBF.

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

Actions

Projects: Build 68 mi. of forest access road (3.4 miles 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 150-700 acres annually.

Mineral Resources

Objectives

Make available 456,281 acres (94% of area) available for locatable exploration and development and 456,289 acres (94% 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.

Description of Environment

Actions

Leasables (acres)			Locatables (acres)		Salables (acres)	
Open	Closed	No Surface Occ.	Open	Withdrawn	Available	Unavailable
456,289	31,177	3,841	456,281	31,185	95	0