

Proposed Resource Management Plan

No additional wilderness study areas were identified through the planning analysis under Section 202 of FLPMA.

Forest Management

Under the preferred alternative, 26,663 acres of suitable commercial forest lands would be managed for multiple use and sustained yield. The annual allowable cut would be approximately 1.7 million board feet.

Rationale

The commercial forest land base has been reduced by 5,232 acres including 5,139 acres for TPCC withdrawals, 70 acres for a seed orchard and 23 acres for campground withdrawal.

The proposed annual harvest of approximately 1.7 MMBF has been determined on the basis of demand for saw timber and the ability of the forest resource to produce this harvest level on a sustained yield basis. This commercial forest land base has more potential on a sustained yield basis to provide for a greater timber harvest but only with intensive timber management and a greater investment in forest development.

Sales of firewood in the resource area would be continued on a limited basis because of the associated administrative costs and the fragmented, scattered parcel locations which makes location of tracts on the ground difficult.

Minerals Management

Leasables

Oil, gas and geothermal mineral exploration and development is open on 456,289 acres (94%) of the resource area.

Rationale

Since mineral leasing is a discretionary program it is felt that any special resource protection needed can be accommodated by either not offering leases or mitigation in lease agreements. Therefore, it has not been necessary to close or restrict areas to lease consideration. Site specific evaluation would be made with all lease proposals.

Locatables

Exploration and/or development for gold, silver, lead, zinc, gypsum, diatomite, etc. in the resource area is open on 456,281 acres (94%).

Rationale

With the exception of existing withdrawals administered by other agencies there are no additional withdrawal proposals in the Cascade Resource Management Plan.

Selection of Preferred Alternative

The surface management regulations at 43 CFR 3809 provide management the opportunity to protect resource values from undue degradation during mining exploration and development.

Salables

Sands, gravels and other salable minerals would be made available from three material sites and 16 free use sites.

Rationale

The plan recognizes a continuing demand for mineral materials and the policy to make these materials available where consistent with protection of other resource values.

The procedure for salables allows for protection of resource values through the sale agreement and for adequate site rehabilitation after the materials have been removed.

Paleontologic Resource Management

Paleontologic resources will be managed under current district guidelines.

Rationale

Prior to any action that might effect paleontologic resources the area would be evaluated for the existence of these values. Mitigation to protect these resources would be part of any proposals that might impair important values.

Cultural Resource Management

Nine sites will be protected through special designation and management.

Rationale

The preferred alternative identifies and provides protection for cultural resource values in accordance with existing laws, regulations and agreements with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Eight of the sites will be nominated for consideration on the National Register of Historic Places. One site is already listed.

Standard operating conditions and cultural site clearance procedures would be applied prior to project authorization and during the development process.

Fire Control Management

With the exception of identified prescribed burn areas, full fire suppression policy will apply to the resource area.

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Because of the resource values, soil erosion capability and proximity of public lands to cities, towns and private residences, full suppression efforts would be applied to all wildfires in the Cascade Resource Area. The only exception to full suppression would be for specific site locations identified as having potential for prescribed burning practices.

Provisions would be made to recognize resource values in planning prescribed burns to meet the objectives of all resource programs. Wildfire rehabilitation efforts would be planned with other resource value objectives in mind.

Special Designation

Areas/Sites

Special designations include the following; 5 Research Natural Areas, 9 National Register of Historic Places, 3 Special Recreation Management Areas, 2 Extensive Recreation Management Areas, 1 Wild and Scenic River, 3 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, 6 ORV play areas/parks, 4 Campgrounds, 3 Boat Launch Sites, 1 Picnic Site and 1 Interpretive Trail.

Rationale

In addition to the special designation mentioned under the threatened/endangered plant species section (research natural areas) and cultural resource management section (potential National Register sites), three areas qualify for special designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). These areas possess important resource values that are threatened or could be damaged by incompatible uses. The ACEC designation would serve to identify these areas as requiring special management attention. Special management is needed to maintain or improve existing resource condition.

No action to withdraw the areas from activities such as minerals, land transfer or agricultural development is deemed necessary. The regulations for leasable minerals and the surface management regulations for locatables would be adequate. The identification of the areas for retention in public ownership would prevent transfer of the lands under the various land laws. Disposal of all or portions of these areas would be allowed under the General Mining Law but would be unlikely due to low mineral potential.

MULTIPLE USE AND TRANSFER CLASSES

Management intensities for lands in the Resource Area are assigned to one of the following multiple use or transfer classes: moderate use class, limited use class, intensive use class, or transfer class.

Multiple use and transfer classes serve two purposes in this plan. The first is to describe overall resource opportunities and constraints by indicating what level of resource production and use is appropriate, what intensity of management is needed, whether there are sensitive and significant resources which must be protected, and whether BLM would transfer

public lands from its jurisdiction. The second is to provide a basis for developing specific resource management objectives and actions for each multiple use area with general purpose and policy statements.

Prior to undertaking or approving any proposed resource management action on public lands in the Resource Area, BLM will ensure that such action is consistent with the purposes and policies of the multiple use or transfer class or classes involved and that adequate public involvement is obtained.

Public lands are placed in the multiple use or transfer class that best reflects the specific resources and management priorities for the area. A description of these classes and their purposes, policies and the management areas' goals and guidelines are as follows:

Moderate Use Class

The purpose of a moderate use class is to delineate public lands which are suitable for a wide variety of existing and potential use.

The general policies for managing a moderate use class are to provide for the production and use of forage, timber, minerals and energy, other consumptive resources, and recreation while maintaining or enhancing natural systems. These areas will be managed for a moderate intensity of use. These areas will generally be available for production and use of consumptive resources, subject to BLM standard operating procedures and other controls as needed. Sensitive and significant resource values, however, will be protected consistent with federal and state law.

Public lands in a moderate use class are to be retained in federal ownership. Management areas covered by the moderate use class and their goals and guidelines are as follows:

M-1 General Rangeland Management Area

Description: Consists primarily of grassland and shrubland with minor inclusions of forest. It includes wet meadows, lands adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams, ponds, bogs, marshes, seeps, and springs, wildlife and fisheries habitat (including crucial habitat). It also includes lands for visual and recreational enjoyment, watershed and water quality protection, dry parks, and open grassland and shrubland varying in size from a few to thousands of acres. These lands provide wildlife, wild horse and livestock forage.

Goals and Guidelines: Emphasis will be on maintaining or enhancing forage production for livestock, wild horses, and wildlife while maintaining site productivity, water quality, and stream stability and providing for other uses. Utility ROW development will be allowed. Public lands within this area will be retained. ORV recreation use will be designated as limited, open or closed depending on specific situations in this area. Range management practices will include special measures to protect riparian values. Mineral activities will be fully allowed.

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M-2 General Forest Management Area

Description: Consists of commercial forest lands of varying physical environments classified as suitable for sustained yield timber management through Timber Production Capability Classification (TPCC). It also includes nonsuitable commercial forest land as well as woodland withdrawn from timber management as a result of TPCC Classification. These areas may include cliffs, caves, rock outcrops, talus, and mature stands of timber growing on sites with severe limitations.

Goals and Guidelines: 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, stream stability, and unique features for wildlife habitat, and providing for other uses. Livestock grazing generally will continue where use currently exists. Utility ROWs development will be allowed. A broad range of timber production activities will be permitted. Timber and range management practices will include special measures to protect riparian and other resource values found in this area. Public lands within this area will be retained in public ownership. ORV recreation use will be designated as limited, open or closed depending on specific situations in the area. Mineral activity will be fully allowed.

Intensive Use/Development Class

The purpose of an intensive use/development class is to delineate areas suitable for large scale or intensive use and development.

The general policies for managing an intensive use/development class are to provide for existing and projected demands for large scale or intensive use and development. These areas will be managed for a high intensity of use. These areas will be reserved for major or high density recreation sites or facilities, ORV intensive use areas, large scale or high intensive mineral or energy extraction operations, military use areas, or major utility installations. Because of the potential for conflict with other uses in these areas, some uses may not be permitted. Protection of sensitive and significant resources, however, will be ensured consistent with federal and state law. Public lands in an intensive use/development class will be retained in federal ownership but would be subject to federal mining laws governing patent unless withdrawn from mineral entry by the Secretary of Interior or by Congressional action.

I-1 Mineral Production Area

Description: Consists of lands for active or recently active mineral extraction and processing operations and the immediate surrounding vicinity.

Goals and Guidelines: Emphasis will be on providing for mineral production while protecting important wildlife values, restoring water quality and rehabilitating site productivity and stream stabilization through reclamation. Livestock grazing will not be permitted in areas where conflicts would exist. Utility ROW development will be allowed. Timber management activities will be unlikely. These lands generally will remain in

public ownership unless mineral values warrant patenting. ORV recreation use will be limited or closed.

I-2 Developed Recreation Area

Description: Consists of existing and potential recreation use areas that provide developed, minimal, or no facilities to support high density recreation activities.

Goals and Guidelines: Emphasis will be on maintaining and enhancing recreation sites while maintaining water quality, stream stability and important wildlife values. Livestock grazing may be permitted. Utility ROW development generally will not be permitted. Timber management activities 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 or if a safety hazard exists. Timber, range, and recreation management practices will include special measures to protect riparian values. Public lands within this area will remain in public ownership. ORV recreation use generally will be open for designated ORV areas but may be limited or closed at other developed sites.

Limited Use Class

The purpose of a limited use class is to delineate public lands where strict environmental controls are required to protect sensitive and significant resources.

The general policies for managing a limited use class are to fully protect and enhance sensitive and significant resources, while providing for other compatible uses. These areas will be managed for relatively low intensities of use and with strict environmental controls to protect sensitive and significant values. A limited use class may be closed to or contain restrictions on ORV use, mineral and energy exploration and development, forest management practices, location of utility ROWs and installations, livestock grazing, or any other potentially conflicting use. Public lands in a limited use class will be retained in public ownership.

L-1 Historical, Cultural or Paleontologic Sites/Areas

Description: Consists of scattered sites on BLM lands that are of historic, cultural or paleontologic significance.

Goals and Guidelines: Emphasis will be on protection of these values. Livestock grazing generally may be permitted where established. Utility ROW development generally will not be permitted. Timber management activities will be prohibited on those sites added to the National Register of Historic Places. Withdrawal from mineral entry may be sought and limitations on other mineral operations may be imposed. Public lands within these areas will remain in public ownership. ORV recreation use may be either limited or closed depending on the values needing protection.

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L-2 Special Management Areas

Description: Areas distinguished by special, unique, or natural characteristics which require some form of special management. Designations include Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Research Natural Areas, Special Recreation Management Areas, Wild and Scenic River, and Wild Horse Herd Areas.

Goals and Guidelines: 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 may be permitted but in some cases adjusted where already established. Utility ROW development generally will not be permitted. Timber management activities will be allowed if consistent with site-specific management goals. Withdrawal from mineral entry and other limitations may be sought. Public lands in these areas will remain in public ownership. ORV recreation use will be open, limited or closed depending on the management objectives for the specific sites.

Transfer Class

The purpose of a transfer class is to delineate public lands available for transfer out of federal ownership.

A transfer class is the only class in which public lands may be transferred out of federal ownership under this plan. Public lands declared eligible for transfer by their inclusion in this category are subject to detailed consideration prior to the final decision regarding transfer. Transfer classes are delineated in response to specific demands and needs identified during the planning process, such as agricultural development, community expansion, and other transfers, including transfers to the State of Idaho. Transfer classes will be managed on a custodial basis until transferred from federal jurisdiction. New public investments in these lands will generally be kept to a minimum.

Categories for Transfer

Lands available for transfer will be assigned to one of four categories. These categories are:

T-1: Sale Only - These lands may be designated for:

- Direct Sale - one party pay fair market value,
- Competitive Sale - open bid with highest bidder awarded offered lands,
or
- Modified Competitive - adjacent landowner can meet highest bid and get offered lands.

T-2: Sale or Exchange - Same as T-1 or a land trade with another public agency or a private landowner.

T-3: Exchange Only - These lands generally are offered only if equal or better lands can be received by the BLM to meet various program objectives, i.e., wildlife habitat, recreational access.